

News

An Extraordinary Life *Now on Screen*

“How did all of this come about?” is a question posed at the beginning of a new orientation video at The Mary Baker Eddy Library. The question refers to the physical environment at the Christian Science Plaza, which surrounds visitors coming into the Library. The answer involves telling the story of Mary Baker Eddy, and so begins the eight minute film *Mary Baker Eddy: An Extraordinary Life*, which debuted in the Hall of Ideas in late January.

After describing the many activities taking place at the headquarters of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, including at the Library, the video explains that all of this had its origin in the most inconspicuous of circumstances with a woman who was often on her own and of little means. In unfolding the drama and accomplishments of her life, the film connects The Mother Church, *The Christian Science Monitor*, and the Library with the story of Mary Baker Eddy.



Visually, the content consists of rolling images of objects, documents, and photographs, most from the Library's collections, along with contemporary shots of the Library and the Christian Science Plaza. While revealing a life and career defined by profound transformation and accomplishment, the video's narration favors a measured and straightforward tone.

The idea, script, and production of the video all occurred in house through a Library team, consisting of Jonathon Eder, Sherry Darling, Lesley Pitts, M. J. Pullins, and Mark Thayer, together with production help from Morgan

Anderson and Noel Flatt of Broadcast and Multimedia Production Services at the Church. Randye Kaye, a voiceover professional from the New York City area, provided the narration.

The video concludes the story of Mary Baker Eddy with her founding of *The Christian Science Monitor* in her 87th year. In closing it offers this quotation from *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*: “Thus the dawn of ideas goes on, forming each successive stage of progress,” encouraging visitors to explore further this “extraordinary life” and the themes of transformation and progress through the Library's collections and exhibits.

Winter 2009 Issue

This periodic newsletter is provided to promote awareness of The Mary Baker Eddy Library, its exhibits, programs, and activities, to current and potential Library patrons and supporters.

Mission Statement

“The Mary Baker Eddy Library provides public access and context to original materials and educational experiences about Mary Baker Eddy’s life, ideas, and achievements, including her Church. The Library promotes exploration and scholarship through its collections, exhibits, and programs.”



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News

Mapparium Cleaning and Restoration has History

As a Boston landmark, the Mapparium is a one-of-a-kind treasure. So much so, that the delicate task of cleaning each of the 608 stained glass panels has been featured in *Life* magazine and *National Geographic*.

“Brightening with each swipe of a workman’s cloth, stained glass in the...Mapparium in Boston, Massachusetts, shows political boundaries and coastlines charted after millennia of mapmaking.”—from “Revolution in Mapping,” *National Geographic*, February 1998.



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Programs & Exhibits

“A Holy Book and a Family Treasure” *Now on Exhibit*

As a child the book I loved best was the Bible. After school when the other children were at play, I would steal home and taking my precious Bible I would seat myself in the rocker and while I rocked I read the Psalms of David or the life of the Master.

—Mary Baker Eddy [A11416]

History tells us that family Bibles play a significant role in American culture. Using historic Bibles and photographs from the Library’s collections, this exhibit explores how family Bibles have been used over the centuries to record births, marriages, and deaths. They are used at these significant events as well as in the daily reading and prayer of many families. Commonly, these Bibles are handed down from generation to generation.

The Baker family Bible, according to family tradition, was purchased by Mary Baker Eddy’s grandparents, Joseph Baker and Maryann Baker, with their savings after they had married and established a home in Bow, New Hampshire. The Bible was later handed down to their son, Mark Baker, Mary Baker Eddy’s father.

The Baker Bible, over two centuries old, was printed in 1795 in Edinburgh, Scotland, by Mark and Charles Kerr. Mary Baker Eddy spoke of this “great old Bible” to Irving Tomlinson, a member of her household [A11437]. She recalled that her father, Mark Baker, read from it at morning and evening devotions.

Mary Baker Eddy shared her father’s love of the Bible throughout her life. Within its pages she found the principles upon which Christian Science was founded. Eddy would later write, “The Bible was my only textbook” [*Science and Health*, p. 110].

On display with the Baker Bible is Mary Baker Eddy’s book of Psalms, printed by the American Bible Society of New York in 1879. This copy of the Psalms is a remarkable example of Eddy’s deep study of the Scriptures. The book contains more than two hundred notations in her handwriting. She covered the end pages and margins with notes. These record dates next to Bible verses,

comments to mark the significance of a passage in relation to the events of the day, and her reflections on passages and their meaning to her. For example, one of the earliest dated notations next to Psalm 107 simply records the date “July 6 ’86.” Psalm 103 bears the reminiscence

that “My brother Albert raised me up from a sick bed by reading to me this Psalm.”

The exhibit is on display on the second floor outside Lending and Reference Services through March 15, 2009.

To learn how the Baker family Bible was conserved for this exhibit, see the Fall 2008 issue of the Library newsletter.



Baker family Bible on view through March 15.

News

First Night Fun

Once again the Library was a host destination for Boston’s First Night celebration. Despite the snowy weather, hundreds of visitors arrived at the Library to hear performances by Project STEP, Boston Art School for Chinese Music, and Kalfou (featuring members of Zili Misik). In addition to enjoying the wonderful music, families followed our scavenger hunt through our exhibits, ending with a well-earned cup of hot chocolate and sugar cookies in Quotes® café. Face painting, crown making, and the poetry wall were all hits! All Library events were made possible through a generous donation from Eastern Insurance.



News

The Library Web Site Gets a Makeover

The Library is thrilled to launch its Web site redesign at www.marybakereddylibrary.org. Easily navigated and now updated, the “new” Web site allows the Library to feature online exhibits and up-to-date information on Library programs.

Already new on the site are finding aids in PDF format to some of the Library’s historic collections, such as the Reminiscence File, Mary Baker Eddy’s incoming correspondence, and Calvin Frye’s library, among others (see [Collections > Holdings](#)).

Past programs are also available for download on the Web site, including “One Working Band: Music in Mary Baker Eddy’s New England,” the holiday celebration and discussion of congregational singing; the popular “Meet the Author” talk with former Library Fellow Heather Curtis discussing her book, *Faith in the Great Physician: Suffering and Divine Healing in American Culture, 1860-1900*; and “Varieties of Scientific Experience: Mary Baker Eddy, William James, and Other Honest Investigators of the Nineteenth Century.”

The Library’s goal for the Web site is to inform visitors about our exhibits and programs and to educate the public about Mary Baker Eddy. We are moving toward that goal with our redesign. We look forward to hearing your thoughts and suggestions for how to make the Web site even better to serve your needs! (Go to [About > Contact Us](#).)

Programs

“One Working Band”

On December 7, the Library hosted a program entitled “One Working Band: Music in Mary Baker Eddy’s New England.” The event focused on musical expression in the Episcopalian, Unitarian Universalist, and Christian Science traditions, particularly in the context of sacred song in nineteenth-century New England, and it combined panel discussion with performance, including audience participation.

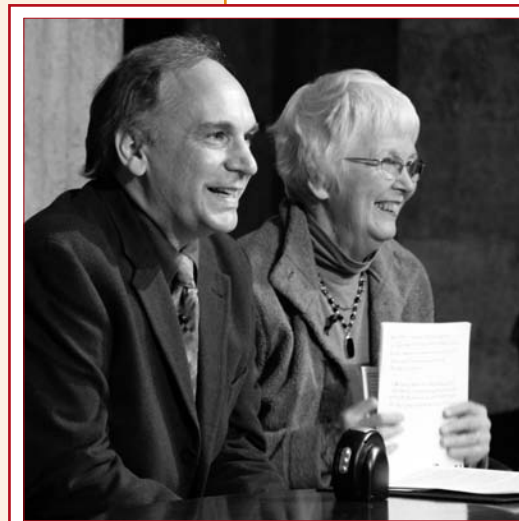
The program’s title, “One Working Band,” comes from a hymn by Samuel Johnson, an American hymnist and Transcendentalist, and is included in Christian Science, Unitarian Universalist, and Episcopalian hymnals. In preparing for the program, it became evident that these different musical

and spiritual traditions are in some ways like cousins, sharing a certain heritage, but each with their own unique purpose and identity. Variations in text and commonality in music come together as “One Working Band.”

The panel included Dr. Linda Clark, Professor Emeritus of Sacred Music at Boston University School of Theology and Director of Music at Grace Episcopal Church in Newton Corner, MA; Dr. Leo Collins, archivist and former music director of First Church (Unitarian Universalist) in Boston; and Judy Huenneke, Senior Research Archivist at the Library. The performers were Eric Huenneke, Organist at First Parish Church (Unitarian Universalist) in Concord, MA, and Dilshad Khambatta-Eames, a soloist at Third Church of Christ, Scientist, Boston.

Jonathon Eder, Administrator of Lending and Reference Services, moderated the event.

A video recording of the event is available on our Web site.

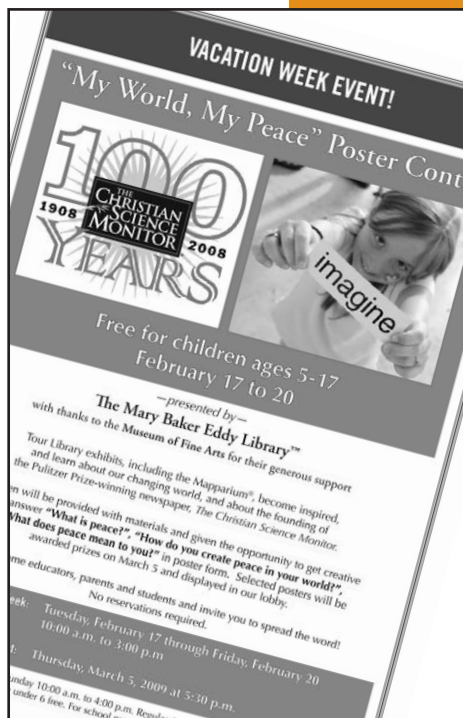


Moderator Jonathon Eder
with panelist Dr. Linda Clark.

Programs

School Vacation at the Library

During Boston Public Schools' February vacation week, the Library invited students to participate in a poster contest on the theme of "My World, My Peace," to celebrate the centennial of *The Christian Science Monitor*. After viewing the Mapparium and learning about the founding of the *Monitor*, the students were asked to consider the following questions: "What is peace?" "How do you create peace in your world?" "What does peace mean to you?" Select posters were hung in the Library's glass Atrium and the winners of the contest will be announced at a March 5 reception. Prizes for the winning posters include a free Library tour for the student's class, a one-year subscription to the *Monitor* for the student's school, as well as generously donated admission passes to the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, where winners can continue their artistic explorations.



For the April vacation week (April 21-24), the Library will be offering a children's program to complement our new music exhibit, *All in Harmony*. Students of all ages will create their own poems, be introduced to nineteenth-century music in the context of Mary Baker Eddy's life, and learn about putting words to music. Activities will also include instrument making and paper "antiquing."

So, why is the local library so important at this moment in time? Libraries provide peaceful environments ideal for personal growth and inspiration. Lending and Reference Services (LARS) on the second floor of The Mary Baker Eddy Library offers such a contemplative setting. Here patrons are able to conduct their research in a quiet and supportive location.

Aside from being a quiet place for reflection, local libraries also offer services that directly address patrons' needs. LARS provides public access computers and printers that can be used to search the Internet for job opportunities and housing options. Print-outs from the public access terminals and copies made on our public photocopier are available at minimal cost.

Access to informational materials is of primary concern for patrons. The Mary Baker Eddy Library borrower's card comes with significant benefits and is free of charge. Public access computers in LARS allow patrons to search our online catalogue (MABEL) for resources that might provide inspiration during difficult times. But the search for materials does not stop there. Through interlibrary loan (provided to Mary Baker Eddy Library card holders), our reference librarians will help you find materials to borrow from institutions across the US.

While an increasing number of library patrons are visiting their local libraries for access to a quiet environment, materials, and technology, visitors are also increasingly seeking help from professional library staff. Librarians are finding ways to meet these new and urgent needs of their patrons. The staff in LARS are readily available to assist with your research by phone, email, and in-person visits.

Contact Lending and Reference Services at 617-450-7325 or reference@mbelibrary.org.

Lending and Reference Services

Libraries See Increase in Use

Libraries across the United States are reporting dramatically increased patronage. Since the beginning of the recent financial crisis, news stories have appeared in national newspapers, magazines, or news broadcasts, all hailing the importance of library services.



Programs

Upcoming Program on Spirituality and Nursing

Make a note in your calendars for 7:00 p.m. on Thursday evening, March 26, when the Library will be hosting an event including internationally-acclaimed speaker and nursing theorist Dr. Jean Watson. The program, *Nursing's Spiritual Roots in Contemporary Practice*, will serve as an opportunity to celebrate one hundred years of Christian Science nursing. Mary Baker Eddy established a *Church Manual* provision for this activity in November 1908.

The program will explore the deep spiritual roots in the history of nursing care, particularly in the work and ideas of Florence Nightingale, and address the importance of

reconnecting those roots to the overall landscape of nursing care in society today. Dr. Watson will speak on her specialty of nursing as a caring science; Professor of Nursing Margaret Burkhardt will address holistic nursing; and Linda Kohler, who is supervisor of Christian Science nursing activities worldwide, will discuss the role and history of Christian Science nursing.

If caring is to be sustained, those who care must be strong, courageous, and capable of inner love, peace, and joy—both in relation to themselves and to others.
—Jean Watson

The nurse should be cheerful, orderly, punctual, patient, full of faith, —receptive to Truth and Love.
—Mary Baker Eddy



Historic photographs of Christian Science nurses from the E. O. Williams scrapbook bookend guest speaker, Dr. Jean Watson.

Exhibits

New Exhibit Opening in Spring

Mary Baker Eddy's home was often filled with music. It offered her household both entertainment and inspiration as they gathered around the piano to sing hymns or listened to a popular standard on the Victrola.

The next main exhibit at the Library, *All in Harmony*, will highlight the role of music in Mary Baker Eddy's life and display items from the Library's collections, including her piano, pianola (player piano), Regina music box, Victrola (record player), and related



Mary Baker Eddy's Victrola and Prescott upright grand piano.

materials. Reminiscences and Mary Baker Eddy's correspondence and published writings offer numerous details about the music she enjoyed and how the principles of harmony and discord served as metaphors in her explanation of Christian Science.

The exhibit will also examine Eddy's love of music within the context of nineteenth-century musical tastes and practices. Come to the Library this April to learn how Mary Baker Eddy was not the only person to love the popular ballad "Home Sweet Home."

Research Room

Query of the Quarter

At The Mary Baker Eddy Library, we are constantly working to expand our knowledge of the context of our collections. Oftentimes the impetus for further research comes from an interesting question we have received. Sometimes, we find a small clue in the course of our daily work and decide to pursue it further.

Recently, we became curious about a draft manuscript in Calvin Frye's handwriting with Mary Baker Eddy's corrections [A10392B]. The manuscript records the fascinating account of a young heir to an earldom who became a hopelessly irresponsible drunkard. In desperation, his parents sent him to the American West; he was followed by his sister, who hoped still to reform him. Years later, the dowager Countess came to America to seek out her son and arrived at his ranch to find that he had made a complete recovery. When she asked about the cause of this complete turnaround, the sister showed her mother a copy of *Science and Health*. The heir became Count in due time, and on a trip to the United States a few years later, the dowager Countess visited Mary Baker Eddy to tell her the story and thank her in person.

The original story was labeled "Lady Arlie's Story." We wanted to see if we could locate anything in our collections to verify this remarkable account. The first breakthrough came when we found an undated letter from the Dowager Countess of Airlie, Lady Griselda Ogilvy, in our Incoming Correspondence collec-

tion. Lady Airlie wrote in the letter of her time spent in Colorado and her desire to visit Mary Baker Eddy in Boston [IC640 Airlie]. Our next find was in the postscript to an outgoing letter Mary Baker Eddy wrote on October 24, 1886, mentioning that a Countess had paid her a second visit the previous day [F00427].

The more information we gathered, the better we were able to explore the Earldom of Airlie and its connection to Christian Science. It seems likely now that the young man who righted himself through Christian Science was not the heir but his younger brother,

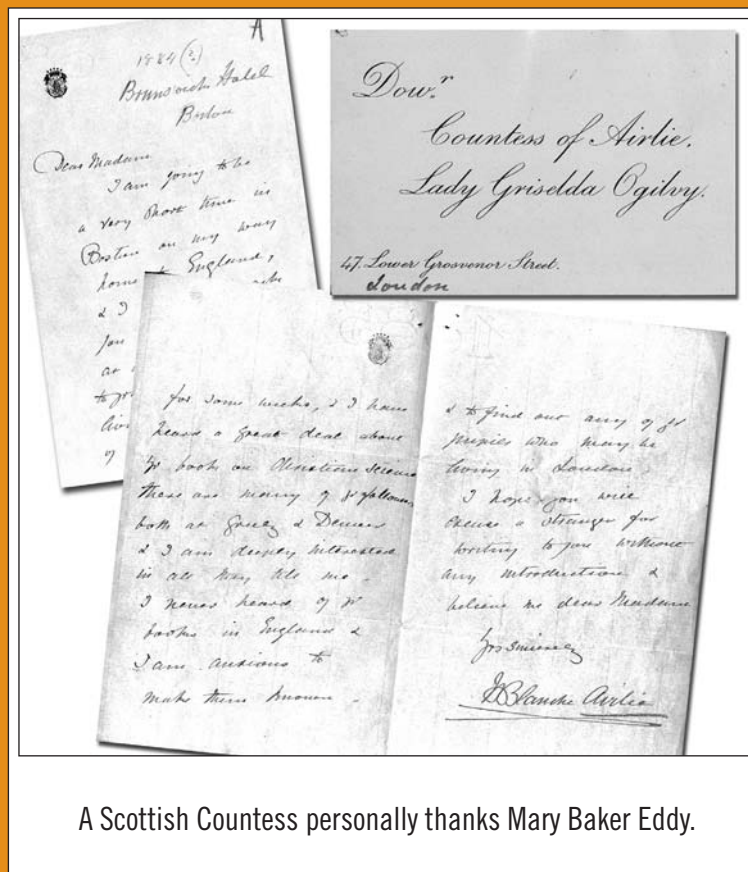
the Honorable Lyulph Gilchrist Stanley Ogilvy, who moved to Colorado to manage the family's ranch along with his younger sister.

The Ogilvy connection to Christian Science did not end with this meeting, however; during the First World War, the Earl of Airlie was serving in the trenches when he had what he called a "trying experience"—and began to pray. Christian Science answered his need, and he emerged from the war a deeply committed and religious man. He wrote about his experiences in a testimony in the June 8, 1940 issue

of the *Christian Science Sentinel*, and indicated that he had been aware of Christian Science throughout his childhood, but had never called it into practice until that moment.

Lord Airlie—along with fellow Christian Scientist Lord Astor—spoke frequently in the House of Lords about his faith, and worked tirelessly to incorporate Christian Science accommodations into various medical and nursing bills passed in Britain over the years. He also corresponded regularly with the British Committee

—continued



A Scottish Countess personally thanks Mary Baker Eddy.



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Research Room

Query of the Quarter—continued

on Publication, and raised all his children in Christian Science.

The Ogilvys' family story provides fascinating insight into the history and growth of Christian Science in both the American West and the United Kingdom. By following their story through our collections, we were able to expand our understanding of the patterns of the movement.

Do you have an historical question? Need a copy of an archival document? Want information on donating manuscripts or artifacts? **Contact the Research Room at research@mbelibrary.org or 617-450-7218.**

Upcoming Programs and Events

<p>March 26 7 p.m.</p>	<p>NURSING'S SPIRITUAL ROOTS IN CONTEMPORARY PRACTICE Jean Watson, Ph.D., RN, Margaret Burkhardt, Ph.D., RN, and Linda Kohler, supervisor of Christian Science nursing activities worldwide, discuss the spiritual foundations of nursing care. \$5 admission, call 617-450-7200 for reservations.</p>
<p>April 1</p>	<p>ALL IN HARMONY EXHIBIT OPENS Featuring the role of music in Mary Baker Eddy's life.</p>
<p>April 21 through April 24 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.</p>	<p>MY VOICE, MY SONG Free admission for students 17 and under. Write poems, create instruments, and set poetry to music.</p>
<p>April 25 2 p.m.</p>	<p>ALL IN HARMONY PROGRAM Learn about the new exhibit and listen to local music groups. For all the family.</p>
<p>June 6 through June 8 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.</p>	<p>ANNUAL MEETING Extended Library and Research Room hours and special programs. See the Library Web site.</p>

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