



## **The Mary Baker Eddy Library**

Walter S. Cross Papers, 1915-1951, n.d.

a finding aid

200 Massachusetts Ave.  
Boston, MA 02115  
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## Collection Description

<i>Collection #:</i>	LSC015
<i>Collection Title:</i>	Walter S. Cross Papers
<i>Creator:</i>	Cross, Walter S. (Walter Snell)
<i>Date:</i>	1915-1951, n.d.
<i>Extent:</i>	0.50 LF
<i>Provenance:</i>	Gifts, 1971 and purchase, 1986.
<i>Access:</i>	The collection is open for research and available to the public during research room hours.
<i>Restrictions:</i>	The collection is subject to applicable copyright laws.
<i>Language:</i>	Materials primarily in English.

## Biographical Note

Walter S. Cross (Walter Snell) was born March 5, 1881, in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, the son of merchant Charles Albert Cross (b. 1848) and Sarah F. Wright Cross. He attended Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, and then Yale University, where he played a number of sports and was involved in a variety of extracurricular activities, graduating in 1904 with a Bachelors of Arts.

After college he worked for two years at the Henneman Coffee Roasting Company of Fitchburg, before moving to Baltimore in October 1906.

In his reminiscence, Cross mentions having been familiar with Christian Science since childhood. He also mentions having received Christian Science treatment “without any pronounced apparent improvement.” After college, however, his interest in Christian Science evidently increased, such that during a 1905 business trip to Baltimore he consulted his aunt, Ellen E. Cross (1843–1932). A teacher and practitioner of Christian Science, she attended three classes taught by Mary Baker Eddy: Primary (November 16, 1885), Normal (February 22, 1886), and Obstetrics (October 15, 1888). Ellen was also president of the Christian Science Association No. 21 and a founding member of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Baltimore, Maryland.

Soon after 1905, Walter Cross took one of Ellen Cross's classes in Christian Science. Eventually he left his job to dedicate himself to practicing Christian Science full time. He joined The Mother Church on November 7, 1905 and became a practitioner listed in *Vocalic and U&A; & A; ~ !; æ* in 1907—an occupation he would fill for the next 64 years, until the time of his death in 1971. He also served as Christian Science Committee on Publication for the state of Maryland, on the Board of Trustees for First Church of Christ, Scientist, Baltimore, and as First Reader of that church.

Walter Cross was one of the first Christian Science military chaplains. On June 1, 1918, he received his commission and became an Army Chaplain with the 89th and 27th divisions during World War I. He was also affiliated with the Christian Science War Relief Depot in Le Mans, France. In 1919, he compiled a scrapbook documenting his wartime experience there.

After the war, Cross moved back to Fitchburg, where he became a member of the city's First Church of Christ, Scientist. He married Ruth Chadwick Crosby, herself a Christian Scientist from Fitchburg. In April 1923 he was appointed to the Bible Lesson Committee for The Mother Church, a role in which he would serve for decades. He served as President of The Mother Church from June 1950 to June 1951.

Walter Cross died on June 8, 1971, in Brookline, Massachusetts.

### Scope and Content Note

The Walter S. Cross Papers has no series designation and is arranged into one folder and a scrapbook (with a folder of associated materials). The materials in Folder I, General Papers, are arranged chronologically. The collection is described at the item level. The General Papers contain correspondence (mainly wartime letters and telegrams written by Cross); a reminiscence of his experiences in Christian Science; a printed "Annual Report of the Christian Science Committee on Publication for the state of Maryland from November 1, 1915 to October 31, 1916," which Cross authored during his time serving this committee; and a number of newspaper clippings featuring articles by and about him.

The scrapbook, described by Cross as "1st World War Memories," mainly contains newspaper clippings and photographs, with some additional materials. The clippings detail actions of the 27th Division, in which Cross spent most of his time as chaplain; cultural aspects (including poems and songs); Christian Science wartime activities (including Cross's work as chaplain); and general Christian Science news from the Home Front, including the court trial of *U.S. v. [redacted]*. Photographs are mostly small (except for one large image of a soldier, not identified as Cross). Subjects include soldiers; civilians; street views; buildings (including of the Christian Science War Relief Depot in Le Mans); and social scenes. Other materials include a postcard celebrating the World War I Armistice, with a message from King George V; a telegram from Etta Gilbreath of Baltimore to Cross, dated June 5, 1919; and an envelope with printed French text, used for note taking.

In addition to the materials in this collection, the Library has a book that Bliss Knapp inscribed to Cross, located in the Inscribed Books Collection (IB0081).

Box 1, General Papers, Scrapbook and Associated Materials, 1915-1951

**Item:** LSC015.SB01 Chaplain Walter S. Cross, 1st World War Memories Scrapbook, folder of associated loose materials from scrapbook; contains newspaper clippings, photographs, a telegram, a postcard, and some other materials

[Blank pages of scrapbook were not scanned. Loose associated materials included at end of the scrapbook]

**Date:** 1919/05/09

**Creator:** Cross, Walter S.

**Recipient:**

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Folder 1, General Papers, 1915-1951, n.d.

**Item:** 01  
newspaper clipping; from *The Baltimore Sun* (Baltimore), letter from Cross to the editor regarding an article written about the death of a child from a Christian Science family due to scarlet fever

**Date:** 1915/05/15

**Creator:**

**Recipient:**

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**Item:** 02  
newspaper clipping; from *The Baltimore Sun*, letter from Cross to the editor regarding state medical law and its relation to Christian Science, in response to a misleading article

**Date:** 1915/08/17

**Creator:**

**Recipient:**

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**Item:** 03

newspaper clipping; from *Washington Post*, letter from Cross in response to another letter dealing with aspects of Christian Science teaching

**Date:** 1916/09/27

**Creator:**

**Recipient:**

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**Item:** 04 Annual Report of the Christian Science Committee on Publication for the State of Maryland from November 1, 1915, to October 31, 1916

typescript report; sent out to the manager of the Committees on Publication and the Christian Science churches and societies of Maryland regarding the activities of the past year

**Date:** 1916/11/15

**Creator:** Cross, Walter S.

**Recipient:**

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**Item:** 05

Telegram; regarding a cat and 'Charlie'

**Date:** 1918/06/20

**Creator:** Cross, Walter S.

**Recipient:** Cross, Ellen E.

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**Item:** 06

Telegram; requesting shirts

**Date:** 1918/06/27

**Creator:** Cross, Walter S.

**Recipient:** Cross, Ellen E.

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**Item:** 07

Handwritten letter, signed; regarding his division's next movements, New Years celebrations, and his work

**Date:** 1919/01/01

**Creator:** Cross, Walter S.

**Recipient:** Cross, Ellen E.

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**Item:** 08

Typescript letter, signed; discusses some tax/financial information, the recent first snowfall, his recent Christian Science services

**Date:** 1919/03/30

**Creator:** Cross, Walter S.

**Recipient:** "Charlie"

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**Item:** 09

Envelope (fragment)

**Date:** 1919/04

**Creator:** Cross, Walter S.

**Recipient:** Cross, Ellen E.

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**Item:** 10

Typescript letter, signed; discusses religion in the context of what he has seen in the war/France, referencing ~~USA) & NA) & P^@~~ and other specific aspects of Christian Science

**Date:** 1919/04/07

**Creator:** Cross, Walter S.

**Recipient:** Cross, Ellen E.

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**Item:** 11

Typescript letter, signed; discusses some finances, the movement of some war agencies out of France/Europe, a possible upcoming Christian Science 'party' being planned by him and others, his chaplain work, and aspects of Christian Science, including the Association, back home

**Date:** 1919/04/29

**Creator:** Cross, Walter S.

**Recipient:** "Charlie"

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**Item:** 12

Radiogram; regarding the status of his trip back to the United States

**Date:** 1919/07/11

**Creator:** Cross, Walter S.

**Recipient:** Cross, Ellen E.

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**Item:** 13

Envelope; says Committee on Publication, Baltimore, MD in left-hand corner, and says "Walter's War Letters" in pencil

**Date:** 1923/12/11

**Creator:**

**Recipient:** Cross, Ellen E.

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**Item:** 14

Envelope; says "Miscellaneous[sic] mostly about Walter" in pen/pencil on front

**Date:** 1928

**Creator:**

**Recipient:** Cross, Ellen E.

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**Item:** 15

handwritten letter, signed and typescript transcription of letter (enclosed); letter from the Rare Book Company regarding the potential purchase by Cross of the enclosed (but original) Eddy-Bates letter, which mentions his aunt, Ellen E. Cross

**Date:** 1935/05/09, 1888/03/03

**Creator:** Rare Books; Eddy, Mary Baker Glover

**Recipient:** Cross, Walter S.; Bates, Edward P.

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**Item:** 16

newspaper clipping; from *Christian Science Monitor*, regarding Cross as President of The Mother Church for 1950-1951

**Date:** 1950/06/05

**Creator:**

**Recipient:**

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**Item:** 17

photocopy of clipping; from *Christian Science Monitor*, regarding Cross as President of The Mother Church for 1950-1951

**Date:** 1950/07

**Creator:**

**Recipient:**

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**Item:** 18 The personal experience of Walter S. Cross in Christian Science For The Mother Church Records as requested by Miss Loveland

Typescript reminiscence, signed; discusses his becoming a Christian Scientist and his work in Christian Science, including in World War I.

**Date:** 1951/06/15

**Creator:** Cross, Walter S.

**Recipient:**

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**Item:** 19

Handwritten letter, signed; discusses his finances, some news he has heard about mutual friends, his own work

**Date:** 03/19

**Creator:** Cross, Walter S.

**Recipient:** "Charles G."

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**Item:** 20

Typescript letter; asking him to deposit \$100 in the bank when he receives Cross's check

**Date:** n.d.

**Creator:** Cross, Walter S.

**Recipient:** "Charlie"

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**Item:** 21

Typescript letter, signed; discusses finances, responds to something Charlie wrote about a church meeting, mentions Mary Baker Eddy and the Bible

**Date:** n.d.

**Creator:** Cross, Walter S.

**Recipient:** "Charlie"

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**Item:** 22

Handwritten letter, signed; updating her about aspects of his life

**Date:** n.d.

**Creator:** Cross, Walter S.

**Recipient:** Cross, Ellen E.

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**Item:** 23

Handwritten letter, signed; mentioning that he will be on his way tomorrow and discussing some supplies

**Date:** n.d.

**Creator:** Cross, Walter S.

**Recipient:** Cross, Ellen E.

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**Item:** 24

Handwritten letter, signed; appears to be missing some pages. Mentions a woman (Mollie) doing work for the Red Cross, his division being near Le Mans and possibly waiting for orders to go back to the United States, and other tidbits of his recent life

**Date:** n.d.

**Creator:** Cross, Walter S.

**Recipient:**

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**Item:** 25

Handwritten letter, signed; possibly missing a page (starts numbered as '2'). discussing the conditions of the ship he is on coming back to the United States, and mentions Mollie, the Red Cross worker

**Date:** n.d.

**Creator:** Cross, Walter S.

**Recipient:**

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