



## **The Mary Baker Eddy Library**

Jessie C. H. Gorham Papers, 1895-1929, 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:** Jessie C. H. Gorham Papers

**Collection Number:** LSC014

**Creator:** Gorham, Jessie C.H.--c.1850-1930

**Date:** 1895-1929, n.d.

**Extent:** 0.25 LF

**Language:** Materials are in English.

### Acquisition Information

Donation, 1930.

### 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 Sarah Schelde, Processing Assistant, August 2018

### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Jessie C.H. Gorham papers, LSC014, The Mary Baker Eddy Library.

## Biographical Note

Jessie C. H. Gorham (c.1850–1930) was a Christian Science practitioner. She also assisted Mary Baker Eddy in editing and publishing *Miscellaneous Writings, 1883-1896*.

Gorham was most likely born in Monroe County, New York, in the 1850s. According to city directories, she lived in Rochester, New York, from about 1875 to 1889. Descriptions indicate that she was of Scottish descent. In Mary Baker Eddy's letters to Gorham, Eddy repeatedly addressed her as "Lassie" (L07976, L07978, L07979, L07981); she is also described as a "young Scottish Christian Scientist" in Robert Peel's *Mary Baker Eddy: Years of Authority*. However, her parents were most likely born in New York State as well. The 1850 census lists them as residing in the Monroe County town of Brighton.

Gorham's narrative in verse, "Christian Science's Advent and Early Progress in Rochester, New York" tells how she learned of Christian Science from Sarah A. Pine, a tenant in her home. This was during Pine's early work introducing Christian Science to Rochester in the 1880s. Pine eventually convinced Gorham to become her student. She went to Boston in 1889 for further study at the Massachusetts Metaphysical College.

Gorham became a member of The First Church of Christ, Scientist (The Mother Church) in July 1895 and was first listed as a Christian Science practitioner in 1903.

According to her reminiscences, Gorham started working at The Christian Science Publishing Society in October 1889—just two days after arriving in Boston. She performed "various duties requiring rapid and legible penmanship," including "a touch of aiding the editor, as well as Mrs. Eddy's newly installed publisher, on minor matters."

Eddy tested Gorham's editing skills with a few initial assignments and then asked her to help with the revision of Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures in late 1889, while she continued her work on *The Christian Science Journal*.

In September 1896 Eddy asked Gorham to work on *Miscellaneous Writings, 1883-1896* along with two other students. They clipped her articles from the *Journal* and pasted them on sheets of paper, leaving space for edits and revisions. Gorham copy edited the edited text and also arranged its type and spacing to match that of *Science and Health*. Eddy then reviewed and revised the articles (L07974). *Miscellaneous Writings* was first published in 1897.

In 1918 Gorham wrote her reminiscences, "Comeos Faithfully Cut from Crystalized Memories of Mary Baker Eddy." However, the inclusion of letters by Eddy that were in Gorham's possession in her account precluded its publication, since under the terms of Eddy's will, her letters were the property of The First Church of Christ, Scientist. In 1926 Gorham donated the letters to the church.

Jessie Gorham died on September 21, 1930.

## Scope and Content Note

The Jessie C. H. Gorham Papers has no series designation and is arranged into three folders of materials.

Folder 1 contains notes, drafts, writings, and clippings, with items grouped thematically. Folder 2 contains correspondence; with materials arranged chronologically. The collection is described at the item level. The Gorham papers consists of correspondence, as well as various writings both by Gorham and others; business papers related to Christian Science; financial documents; and some clippings.

The Notes, Drafts, Writings, and Clippings folder contains a wide range of materials, arranged thematically. These include two of Gorham's calling cards (one of which details her practitioner hours and location); a booklet Gorham received on becoming a Mother Church member in 1895; financial papers by Gorham (two lists of assets and expenses, three receipts, and five pages of mathematical tabulations in Gorham's handwriting); two newspaper clippings; and various writings by Gorham and others. These writings are largely drafts but also include a typed proof of her article "The God of Jacob" with handwritten edits, as well as bound versions of two of her writings. The majority of the writings are by Gorham but also include the draft of an article, "A. Lincoln," by Gorham Winslow; the poem "An Autumn Musing," by Laura E. Sargent; and a poem, "To Miss Gorham," by an unidentified author.

Correspondence includes both original letters (as well as drafts and early copies), as well as a bound volume titled *Letters from Mary Baker Eddy to Jessie C. H. Gorham, 1890-1903*, made on the donation of Gorham's originals to The Christian Science Board of Directors in 1926 and now part of The Mary Baker Eddy Outgoing Correspondence. The letters in this volume are both personal and professional. They detail Gorham's copy editing work for Eddy, particularly on *Miscellaneous Writings, 1883-1896*, as well as Gorham's own articles and work for the *Journal*.

The loose letters present in the Correspondence folder date from 1902 to 1926 and cover a variety of topics. Of particular note are a series of letters between Gorham and the Board of Directors between 1917 and 1920, regarding the inclusion of Eddy's letters in Gorham's reminiscence.

## Items separated from the collection and related collections

In addition to the materials in this collection, other materials of Gorham's exist in different collections, including Gorham's reminiscence, "Comeos Faithfully Cut from Crystalized Memories of Mary Baker Eddy," which is in the Reminiscence File, the Inscribed Books Collection (L19058), and Outgoing Correspondence (L07960-L08006; L09071; L10400-L10408, L10534, L10537-L10551; L18731, L02000B, L04053, and a poem (L08003) from Eddy to Gorham titled "To My Bard and Bonnet-Maker," which describes a hat Gorham likely made for Eddy.

The Art & Artifact Collection contains a French-style folding fan with hand-painted organza leaf, purported to have been Eddy's and possibly gifted to Gorham (1984.37.256); a sterling silver Christian Science souvenir spoon (1984.37.43); and a small photograph of a woman, possibly Gorham (P00866).

The Mary Baker Eddy Collection, Incoming Correspondence, contains 63 letters from Gorham to Eddy (281.42.001–281.42.063).

## Container Listing

**Box 01**      **Notes, Drafts, Writings, and Clippings; Correspondence; Bound Letter Copies, 1895-1929, n.d.**

**Box 01**      **Folder 1, Notes, Drafts, Writings, and Clippings, 1895-1929, n.d.**

01. "To The Members of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Mass.", Printed booklet, handwritten note, 1895/07/10

02. Calling card; says "Miss Jessie C. H. Gorham, C.S.", n.d.

03. Calling card; says "Miss Gorham", n.d.

04. Handwritten and typed receipt; from the Heater & Spratt Typewriter Company for \$20.00, 1923/09/14

05. Typescript statement of account and receipt; from the Heater & Spratt Typewriter Company for \$20.00, 1923/10/01

06. Typescript receipt; from John H. Pray & Sons Company (flooring company) for \$56.50, 1929/01/21

07. Handwritten list; regarding monthly bills from 1900/12/21 to 1903/12/31, n.d.

08. Monthly and Yearly Summary, Typescript list; regarding monthly assets and liabilities from 1903/01/30 to 1905/05/31, n.d.

09. Handwritten notes; math done on scrap paper., n.d.

10. Calling card; says "Thos. D. Sullivan" and "Furniture Dept. Jordan Marsh Company 1/26". Has J.C.H. Gorham typed twice on backside, n.d.

11. Atlantic-Pacific Air-News Service, Typescript poem; contains some handwritten corrections, n.d.

12. "Christian Science's Advent and Early Progress in Rochester, New York", Typescript poem; in pink booklet bound with pink ribbon, with additional white cover with pasted on picture of birds. Includes additional typescript copy/draft, n.d.

13. "The God of Jacob", Typescript article; proof with handwritten corrections, from unknown publication, n.d.

14. "Joseph's Coat", Typescript article; draft, n.d.
15. "Nocturn", Typescript poem, n.d.
16. To Mrs. Laura E. Sargent, Typescript poem; contains note referencing Sargent's *Sentinel* poem, possibly one above., n.d.
17. "Transformations", Typescript article; draft, n.d.
18. "Truth's Unfailing Guidance", Typescript prose; in pink booklet bound with pink ribbon. Includes additional typescript copy/draft, n.d.
19. "An Autumn Musing", Typescript poem; copy, published in *Sentinel* October 25/13., n.d.
20. "A. Lincoln", Typescript article; draft of article about President Lincoln. Includes newspaper clipping of portrait of Lincoln, c. 1907. Includes earlier draft., n.d.
21. "To Miss Gorham An Expression of Appreciation", Typescript poem, n.d.
22. Typescript reminiscence, unsigned; quoting Judge Hanna, n.d.
23. "A Calendar of Every Day and Date for Two Hundred Years," Newspaper clipping; about a perpetual calendar. Appears to be from *The Unique Monthly*, n.d.
24. Newspaper clipping; appears to be 2 different articles across 3 clippings, regarding the Next Friends suit, n.d.

## Container Listing

**Box 01**      **Box 1, Notes, Drafts, Writings, and Clippings; Correspondence; Bound Letter Copies, 1895-1929, n.d.**

**Box 01**      **Folder 2, Correspondence, 1902-1920, n.d.**

01. Gage, Mabel C., to Gorham, Jessie C.H., Handwritten letter; discussing Gorham's need to sign name in Book of Membership of First Church, Concord, N.H. 1902/01/30

02. Marcy, Mary E., to Gorham, Jessie C.H., Typescript letter, signed; requesting donations for the corner stone to be laid on July 16th. 1903/07/12

03. Gorham, Jessie C.H., to Eddy, Mary Baker, Typescript copy of letter; discussing a number of topics including Christian Science publications and the possibility of her becoming a Second Reader, 1908

04. Gorham, Jessie C.H., to Eddy, Mary Baker, Typescript copy of letter; discussing a number of topics including Christian Science publications, a new member of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, a visit with her former teacher Sarah A. Pine, 1909/05/08

05. Dittmore, John V., to Gorham, Jessie C.H., Typescript letter, signed; asking how much she will need to "meet your obligation on Saturday," 1909/11/03

06. Dittmore, John V., to Gorham, Jessie C.H., Typescript letter, signed; announcing the Christian Science Board of Directors will provide her with \$5 a week in financial support, 1910/04/16

07. Clark, Carrie D., to , Typescript letter, signed; recommending Gorham for membership at any branch church, 1912/05/11

08. Gorham, Jessie C.H., to Dittmore, John V., Typescript draft of letter with handwritten edits; requesting financial support from the Board, 1915/06/10

09. Gorham, Jessie C.H., to Dittmore, John V., Typescript draft of letter; explaining her financial situation and requesting financial support from the Board, 1916/11/08

10. Gorham, Jessie C.H., to Dittmore, John V., Typescript draft of letter; describing a manuscript she has been working on, with original letters from Eddy to her [most likely "Cameos"], 1917/08

11. Gorham, Jessie C.H., to Dickey, Adam H., Typescript draft of letter; describing her reminiscences which she prepared based on calls from the Directors. Asking Dickey personally for advice on its content and publication, 1918/07/08
12. Gorham, Jessie C.H., to The Christian Science Board of Directors, Typescript draft of letter; describing her reminiscences and asking for their thoughts and explaining her ideas for publication, 1918/10/07
13. Jarvis, Charles E., to Gorham, Jessie C.H., Typescript letter, signed; referring her to the Trustees under the Will of Mary Baker Eddy regarding the publication of Eddy's letters in her reminiscence, 1918/10/31
14. Dow, H.A., to Gorham, Jessie C.H., Typescript letter, signed; explaining Eddy's will precludes the publishing of private letters, based in state law, 1918/11/11
15. Dow, H.A., to Gorham, Jessie C.H., Typescript letter, signed; regarding the receipt of her letter of 1919/01/03, 1919/01/06
16. Dow, H.A., to Gorham, Jessie C.H., Typescript letter, signed; sharing message from Trustees that no more can be added to what was said in letter of 1918/11/11, 1919/01/20
17. Jarvis, Charles E., to Gorham, Jessie C.H., Typescript letter, signed; replying to her letter of 1919/10/23 on behalf of Christian Science Board of Directors, stating the Board cannot consider publication of her reminiscence based on decision of Trustees, 1920/01/07
18. Jarvis, Charles E., to Gorham, Jessie C.H., Typescript letter, signed; replying to her recent letter on behalf of Christian Science Board of Directors, regarding topic of subscriptions, 1921/12/15
19. Price, M.A., to Gorham, Jessie C.H., Handwritten letter; expressing the wish Gorham could see the Church and its organ [most likely in Rochester, New York], 02/22
20. Envelope; has stamp from American Express Company of Concord, N.H. and five seals on back. Addressed to Judge S.J. Hanna n.d.

**Box 01**

**Folder 3, Bound copies of letters, 1926**

01. Bound copies of letters originally sent from Eddy to Gorham. Book was made at Gorham's request at the time of donating the letters to the Archives. Bound in white Levant with gold tooled lettering. 1926