



The Mary Baker Eddy Library

Cross Family Papers, 1885-1951, 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: Cross Family Papers

Collection Number: LSC015

Creator: Cross Family

Date: 1885-1951, n.d.

Extent: 1.6 LF

Language: Materials primarily in English.

Acquisition Information

Gifts, 1971 and purchase, 1986.

Access

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

Restrictions

The collection is subject to applicable copyright laws.

Processing Information

Sarah Schelde, Processing Assistant; supervised by Shanna Lee Smith, Archivist; August 2018.

Additional processing by Joy Clower, Archival Assistant; September–October 2024.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Cross Family Papers, LSC015, The Mary Baker Eddy Library.

Biographical Note

Ellen E. Cross (1843–1932)

Ellen E. Cross was born on May 2, 1843 in Littleton, New Hampshire, and died in Baltimore, Maryland. She was the daughter of Frederick Alanson Cross (1807–1905) and Mary Evelyn Snell Cross (1812–1876). She had one sibling, Charles Albert Cross (1848–1911).

Ellen Cross spent her early childhood years in Littleton, where her father owned a hotel. When she was six, the family moved to nearby Waterford, Vermont, where her father purchased a 125-acre farm that he owned until his death. Prior to her interest in Christian Science, she "kept house" on the farm.

Ellen Cross was a student of Mary Baker Eddy, attending three of her classes: Primary (November 16, 1885), Normal (February 22, 1886), and Obstetrics (October 15, 1888). She joined the Christian Scientist Association in November 1884 and became a member of The First Church of Christ, Scientist in October 1892. She first practiced Christian Science in Binghamton, New York, where she was a member (as well as a president) of the Binghamton Christian Scientist Association (a chapter of the National Christian Scientist Association). In May 1886, at Eddy's request, she moved to Syracuse, New York, and (together with others) chartered the Syracuse Academy of Christian Science. This organization, and others like it, was responsible for accurately teaching and promoting Christian Science.

Around 1893 Ellen Cross moved to Baltimore, Maryland, where she was an active member of the local Christian Science movement, helping found First Church of Christ, Scientist, Baltimore in 1894 and later serving as a Reader of Second Church of Christ, Scientist, Baltimore in 1898.

On August 16, 1903, Eddy requested that Ellen Cross join her household staff in Concord, New Hampshire (see L19527, Outgoing Correspondence, The Mary Baker Eddy Collection). She remained there a short time. Later she returned to her home in Baltimore, where she spent the remainder of her life working as a Christian Science practitioner.

For many years Ellen Cross's brother, Charles, owned and operated C.A. Cross & Co, a wholesale grocer in Fitchburg, Massachusetts. In 1876 he married Sarah Frances Wright (1861–1931), and they had several children, including Walter Snell Cross (1881–1971).

Walter Snell Cross (1881–1971)

Walter Snell Cross was born March 5, 1881, in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, the son of merchant Charles Albert Cross and Sarah F. Wright Cross. He attended Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, and then Yale University (graduating in 1904), where he played a number of sports and was involved in a variety of extracurricular activities. 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, Walter Cross mentioned having been familiar with Christian Science since childhood. He also mentioned 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 Cross.

In February 1905, he took one of his aunt's classes in Christian Science. Eventually he left his job in order to practice Christian Science full time. He joined The Mother Church on November 7, 1905, and became a practitioner listed in *The Christian Science Journal* in 1907—an occupation he filled for the next 64 years, until the time of his death. He also served as Christian Science Committee on Publication for the state of Maryland, as well as at First Church of Christ, Scientist, Baltimore, as a First Reader and member of the trustee board.

Walter Cross was one of the first Christian Science military chaplains. On June 1, 1918, he received his commission and became a United States 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, Walter Cross moved back to Massachusetts, where he became a member of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Fitchburg. He married Ruth Chadwick Crosby, herself a Christian Scientist from that city. In April 1923 he was appointed to the Bible Lesson Committee for The Mother Church, a role he served in for decades. He was also 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 Cross Family Papers consist primarily of correspondence, receipts, manuscripts, and a scrapbook. The materials in this collection are organized into two series.

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

Series II. Ellen E. Cross Papers, 1885-1932, n.d.

Series I, the Walter S. Cross Papers, 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 Walter 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 Walter Cross authored during his time serving this committee; and a number of newspaper clippings featuring articles by and about him.

The scrapbook, which Walter Cross described 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 Walter Cross spent most of his time as chaplain; cultural aspects (including poems and songs); Christian Science wartime activities (including Walter Cross's work as chaplain); and general Christian Science news from the home front. Photographs are mostly small, and subjects include soldiers, civilians, street views, buildings (including of the Christian Science War Relief Depot in Le Mans), and social scenes.

Series II, the Ellen E. Cross Papers, primarily contains correspondence, form letters, and receipts. There are also newspaper clippings, manuscripts, two versions of her will, as well as lists and personal notes. Items are arranged in three folders, with undated items at the end of each folder.

Correspondence is primarily between Ellen Cross and family members, as well as Ann M. Otis, another student of Mary Baker Eddy's. Correspondence with Otis (dated November and December 1892) relates to a fundraising effort to support Mary Baker Eddy's legal costs. There is also one draft or copy of a letter (dated November 13, 1889) that Ellen Cross wrote to Eddy. The version of this letter received by Eddy exists in the Library's collection as 194.32.024.

Form letters include notices relating to the Massachusetts Metaphysical College and the General Association of Teachers. Receipts record payment of Ellen Cross's annual dues to the Christian Scientist Association, monthly pew rentals at The First Church of Christ, Scientist, Boston, and payments to the Christian Science Publishing Society. There are five receipts from the Massachusetts Metaphysical College, showing payment in 1886 for copies of *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*.

Personal notes and essays are included, as well as two versions of Ellen Cross's will—a fragment of a March 4, 1914 copy, and an undated version. Four newspaper clippings with her obituary are included in this series, all dated November 11–12, 1932.

Separated Materials

Some correspondence to or from Ellen Cross that came with the donation was subsequently removed and placed into the Mary Baker Eddy Collection, Outgoing Correspondence. Photos that came with the donation were also removed and placed in LSC006, the Historic Photographs Collection.

A significant number of printed materials that came in with the donation were subsequently removed and may exist elsewhere in the Library's collections.

Related Collections

Additional materials on Ellen Cross and Walter Cross can be found in the Mary Baker Eddy Collection, within Incoming Correspondence and Outgoing Correspondence.

The Library has a book that Bliss Knapp inscribed to Walter Cross, located in the Inscribed Books Collection (IB0081).

Series I, Walter S. Cross Papers

File Unit:

01 CONTAINER Box 1, Scrapbook and Associated Materials, 1919

<i>Item:</i>	<i>Date:</i>	<i>Creator:</i>	<i>Recipient (if applicable):</i>
LSC015.SB01	1919/05/09	Cross, Walter S.	

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]

02 CONTAINER Box 2, General Papers, 1915-1951, n.d.

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

Item:	Date:	Creator:	Recipient (if applicable):
01	1915/05/15		
newspaper clipping; from <i>The Evening Sun</i> (Baltimore), letter from Walter Cross to the editor regarding an article written about the death of a child from a Christian Science family due to scarlet fever			
02	1915/08/17		
newspaper clipping; from <i>The Baltimore Sun</i> , letter from Walter Cross to the editor regarding state medical law and its relation to Christian Science, in response to a misleading article			
03	1916/09/27		
newspaper clipping; from <i>The Baltimore American</i> , letter from Walter Cross in response to another letter dealing with aspects of Christian Science teaching			
04	1916/11/15	Cross, Walter S.	
<i>Annual Report of the Christian Science Committee on Publication for the State of Maryland from November 1, 1915, to October 31, 1916</i>			
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			
05	1918/06/20	Cross, Walter S.	Cross, Ellen E.
Telegram; regarding a cat and 'Charlie'			
06	1918/06/27	Cross, Walter S.	Cross, Ellen E.
Telegram; requesting shirts			
07	1919/01/01	Cross, Walter S.	Cross, Ellen E.
Handwritten letter, signed; regarding Walter Cross's division's next movements, New Years celebrations, and his work			

Item:	Date:	Creator:	Recipient (if applicable):
08	1919/03/30	Cross, Walter S.	"Charlie"
Typescript letter, signed; discusses some tax/financial information, the recent first snowfall, Walter Cross's recent Christian Science services			
09	1919/04	Cross, Walter S.	Cross, Ellen E.
Envelope (fragment)			
10	1919/04/07	Cross, Walter S.	Cross, Ellen E.
Typescript letter, signed; discusses religion in the context of what Walter Cross has seen in the war/France, referencing <i>Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures</i> , and other specific aspects of Christian Science			
11	1919/04/29	Cross, Walter S.	"Charlie"
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 Walter Cross and others, his chaplain work, and aspects of Christian Science, including the Association, back home			
12	1919/07/11	Cross, Walter S.	Cross, Ellen E.
Radiogram; regarding the status of Walter Cross's trip back to the United States			
13	1923/12/11		Cross, Ellen E.
Envelope; says Committee on Publication, Baltimore, MD in left-hand corner, and says "Walter's War Letters" in pencil			
14	1928		Cross, Ellen E.
Envelope; says "Miscellaneous[sic] mostly about Walter" in pen/pencil on front			

Item:	Date:	Creator:	Recipient (if applicable):
15	1935/05/09, 1888/03/03	Rare Books; Eddy, Mary Baker Glover	Cross, Walter S.; Bates, Edward P.
handwritten letter, signed and typescript transcription of letter (enclosed); letter from the Rare Book Company regarding the potential purchase by Walter Cross of the enclosed (but original) Eddy-Bates letter, which mentions his aunt, Ellen E. Cross			
16	1950/06/05		
newspaper clipping; from <i>The Christian Science Monitor</i> , regarding Walter Cross serving as President of The Mother Church for 1950-1951			
17	1950/07		
photocopy of clipping; from <i>The Christian Science Journal</i> , regarding Walter Cross serving as President of The Mother Church for 1950-1951			
18	1951/06/15	Cross, Walter S.	
<i>The personal experience of Walter S. Cross in Christian Science For The Mother Church Records as requested by Miss Loveland</i>			
Typescript reminiscence, signed; discusses Walter Cross's experiences becoming a Christian Scientist and his work in Christian Science, including in World War I.			
19	03/19	Cross, Walter S.	"Charles G."
Handwritten letter, signed; discusses Walter Cross's finances, some news he has heard about mutual friends, his own work			
20	n.d.	Cross, Walter S.	"Charlie"
Typescript letter; asking "Charlie" to deposit \$100 in the bank when he receives Walter Cross's check			

Item:	Date:	Creator:	Recipient (if applicable):
21	n.d.	Cross, Walter S.	"Charlie"
Typescript letter, signed; discusses finances, responds to something Charlie wrote about a church meeting, mentions Mary Baker Eddy and the Bible			
22	n.d.	Cross, Walter S.	Cross, Ellen E.
Handwritten letter, signed; updating Ellen Cross about aspects of Walter Cross's life			
23	n.d.	Cross, Walter S.	Cross, Ellen E.
Handwritten letter, signed; mentioning that Walter Cross will be on his way tomorrow and discussing some supplies			
24	n.d.	Cross, Walter S.	
Handwritten letter, signed; appears to be missing some pages. Mentions a woman (Mollie) doing work for the Red Cross, Walter Cross's division being near Le Mans and possibly waiting for orders to go back to the United States, and other tidbits of his recent life			
25	n.d.	Cross, Walter S.	
Handwritten letter, signed; possibly missing a page (starts numbered as '2'). Discusses the conditions of the ship Walter Cross is on while coming back to the United States. Mentions Mollie, the Red Cross worker.			

Series II, Ellen E. Cross Papers

File Unit:

02	CONTAINER	Box 2, Correspondence and Form Letters - Manuscripts, Will, and Newspaper Clippings, 1885-1932, n.d.
02.02	CONTAINER	Folder 2, Correspondence and Form Letters, 1889-1930, n.d.

Item:	Date:	Creator:	Recipient (if applicable):
01	1889/09/23; 1889/10/29	Eddy, Mary Baker / Frye, Calvin A.	
<i>Massachusetts Metaphysical College</i>			
Printed notice of dissolution of Massachusetts Metaphysical College, printed notice about dissolution of Christian Scientist Association; associated envelope.			
02	1889/11/14	Cross, Ellen E.	Eddy, Mary Baker
Copy (or draft) of letter re dissolution of Massachusetts Metaphysical College			
03	1891/10/05	Campbell, Maurine R.	Cross, Ellen E.
Letter re legislation, October issue of <i>The Christian Science Journal</i>			
04	1892/11/08	Otis, Ann M.	Cross, Ellen E.
Letter re plan to raise money for Mary Baker Eddy's legal fees; associated envelope (envelope postmarked 1892/11/09)			
05	1892/11/28	Otis, Ann M.	Cross, Ellen E.
Letter re donations received in response to solicitation; associated envelope			
06	1892/12/07	Otis, Ann M.	Cross, Ellen E.
Letter re donation from Miss Whitesides			
07	1892/12/23	Otis, Ann M.	Cross, Ellen E.
Letter re status of donations and plans relating to the solicitation; associated envelope			

Item:	Date:	Creator:	Recipient (if applicable):
08	1901/10/03	Cross, Ellen E.	Student
Letter re "mental adultery" and metaphysics			
09	n.d.	The Christian Science Board of Directors	Cross, Ellen E.
<i>General Association of Teachers</i>			
Invitation card for 1st annual meeting of the General Association of Teachers on 1903/10/26			
10	n.d.	Stewart, Ida G.	Cross, Ellen E.
<i>General Association of Teachers</i>			
Invitation card for 2nd annual meeting of the General Association of Teachers on 1904/10/24			
11	1905/08/24	Students of Ellen E Cross	Cross, Ellen E.
Letter re first lecture of Hermann S. Hering			
12	1908/07/03	Stewart, Ida G.	Cross, Ellen E.
Printed notice of dissolution of General Association of Teachers			
13	1930/07/15	Raphael and La Rue	Cross, Ellen E.
Letter re car payments; with associated envelope			
14	1930/08/06	Raphael and La Rue	Cross, Ellen E.
Letter re family trouble, change of address			
15	1889/10/03	Frye, Calvin A.	Cross, Ellen E.
Empty envelope, postmarked Somerville Station			

Item:	Date:	Creator:	Recipient (if applicable):
16	1892/12/02	Unknown	Cross, Ellen E.

Empty envelope, postmarked Concord, NH

17	n.d.	Unknown	Cross, Ellen E.
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Empty envelope, sent via American Express Company, Concord, NH

18	n.d.	Eddy, Mary Baker	Cross, Ellen E.
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Printed notice suggesting dissolution of Christian Scientist Association of the Massachusetts Metaphysical College

02.03	CONTAINER	Folder 3, Receipts and Donation Forms, 1885-1899, n.d.	
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Item:	Date:	Creator:	Recipient (if applicable):
01	1885/04/15	Christian Scientist Association	Cross, Ellen E.

Receipt re quarterly dues

02	1886/04/14	Massachusetts Metaphysical College	Cross, Ellen E.
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Receipt for 12 copies of *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*

03	1886/05/24	Massachusetts Metaphysical College	Cross, Ellen E.
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Receipt for 12 copies of *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*

Item:	Date:	Creator:	Recipient (if applicable):
04	1886/06/26	Massachusetts Metaphysical College	Cross, Ellen E.
Receipt for 12 copies of <i>Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures</i>			
05	1886/07/31	Massachusetts Metaphysical College	Cross, Ellen E.
Receipt for 12 copies of <i>Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures</i>			
06	1886/08/16	Massachusetts Metaphysical College	Cross, Ellen E.
Receipt for 12 copies of <i>Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures</i>			
07	1887/03/30	The Christian Science Publishing Society	Cross, Ellen E.
Receipt for charges paid			
08	1887/07/01	Christian Scientist Association	Cross, Ellen E.
Receipt re quarterly dues			
09	1888/05/10	Eddy, Mary Baker	Cross, Ellen E.
Receipt showing paid in full			
10	1889/09/28	The Christian Science Publishing Society	Cross, Ellen E.
Receipt for advertising Syracuse Academy of Christian Science			

<i>Item:</i>	<i>Date:</i>	<i>Creator:</i>	<i>Recipient (if applicable):</i>
11	1892/10/08	The Christian Science Board of Directors	Cross, Ellen E.
Acknowledgment letter for donation			
12	1893/12/08	National Christian Scientist Association	Cross, Ellen E.
Receipt for annual dues			
13	1894/01/30	The Christian Science Publishing Society	Cross, Ellen E.
Receipt for payment, as well as notice that the publisher has been instructed to close all accounts			
14	1894/09/10	Eastaman, Mary F.	Cross, Ellen E.
Receipt for donation from the Treasurer of The First Church of Christ, Scientist (Boston)			
15	1895/01/17	The Christian Science Board of Directors	Cross, Ellen E.
Receipt for donation re window			
16	1896/09/01	Knapp, Ira O.	Cross, Ellen E.
Receipt for pew rental at The First Church of Christ, Scientist Boston, MA			
17	1896/10/26	Knapp, Ira O.	Cross, Ellen E.
Receipt for pew rental at The First Church of Christ, Scientist Boston, MA			

<i>Item:</i>	<i>Date:</i>	<i>Creator:</i>	<i>Recipient (if applicable):</i>
18	1897/03/10	Knapp, Ira O.	Cross, Ellen E.
Receipt for pew rental at The First Church of Christ, Scientist Boston, MA			
19	1897/09/07	Knapp, Ira O.	Cross, Ellen E.
Receipt for pew rental at The First Church of Christ, Scientist Boston, MA			
20	1898/06/06	Knapp, Ira O.	Cross, Ellen E.
Receipt for pew rental at The First Church of Christ, Scientist Boston, MA			
21	1898/09/19	Knapp, Ira O.	Cross, Ellen E.
Receipt for pew rental at The First Church of Christ, Scientist Boston, MA			
22	1899/09/26	Knapp, Ira O.	Cross, Ellen E.
Receipt for pew rental at The First Church of Christ, Scientist Boston, MA			
23	1918/09/01	Cross, Ellen E.	
Handwritten listing of payments and charges re Raphael			
24	1928/05/12	Cross, Ellen E.	
Handwritten listing of payments and charges re Raphael			
25	n.d.	Cross, Ellen E.	
Handwritten listing of payments and charges re Raphael			

Item:	Date:	Creator:	Recipient (if applicable):
01 <i>Apathy</i> Handwritten essay	1905/06/08	Cross, Ellen E.	
02 <i>The Vision of Joseph Hoag</i> Handwritten transcription, with associated envelope	1912/08/13	Graham, Elizabeth J.	Cross, Ellen E.
03 <i>The Vision of Joseph Hoag</i> Handwritten transcription	1913/03/21	Graham, Elizabeth J.	Cross, Ellen E.
04 Fragment of Last Will and Testament of Ellen E. Cross, and photocopy of this document	1914/03/04	Cross, Ellen E.	
05 <i>Rites Tomorrow for Miss Ellen E.. Cross</i> Newspaper clipping	1932/11/11	The Baltimore Post	
06 <i>Obituary: Miss Ellen E. Cross</i> Newspaper clipping	1932/11/12	The Baltimore Sun	
07 <i>Ellen E. Cross Passes Away</i> Newspaper clipping	1932/11/11	The Baltimore News	

<i>Item:</i>	<i>Date:</i>	<i>Creator:</i>	<i>Recipient (if applicable):</i>
08	1932/11/12	Baltimore Evening Sun	
<i>Miss Ellen E. Cross' Funeral Tomorrow</i>			
Newspaper clipping			
<hr/>			
09	n.d.	Unknown	
List of documents			
<hr/>			
10	n.d.	Cross, Ellen E.	
Last Will and Testament of Ellen E. Cross			
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11	n.d.	Cross, Ellen E.	
<i>Light</i>			
Handwritten essay			
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12	n.d.	Cross, Ellen E.	
<i>Spinoza</i>			
Handwritten essay			
<hr/>			