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THE CENTENARY OF A GREAT AMERICAN WOMAN, MARY BAKER EDDY



Birthplace and childhood home of Mary Baker Eddy, Bow, near Concord, New Hampshire.



Granite Pyramid Memorial marking birthplace of Mary Baker Eddy at Bow.

On July 25th the thought of hundreds of thousands of earnest Christian people will turn in loving memory toward the little town of Bow, New Hampshire, where one hundred years ago was born the child who later became known to the world as Mary Baker Eddy, the founder and discoverer of the most remarkable of all modern spiritual movements.

A few years ago a writer in a great London magazine, when commenting on Mrs. Eddy's "strength of character mingled with extraordinary tenderness for humanity," said her "one paramount impulsion has ever been the good of mankind."

While only the sober estimate of posterity can rightly estimate the work of the human figures that pass across the world stage, the world is now inclined to accept the view of some of its more thoughtful leaders that among the great and good women of history, none will have a more enduring place than Mary Baker Eddy.

Born of sturdy Scotch-English ancestry, her forbears were among those who carved the mighty American nation out of the wilderness. Apparently of that high type of character which with deliberation chooses the spiritual things of life, Mrs. Eddy placed a pathway of light along which have traveled with joy and gratitude millions of human beings. At an age when the average person counts his best work finished, Mrs. Eddy began her greatest effort, and unlike other spiritual leaders of history, she lived to see her teachings established as a recognized influence for good in the world.

Mrs. Eddy's ancestry includes some of the most distinguished families of England and Scotland. A direct ancestor was a daughter of a king of Scotland, and so her line is connected with the present royal house of Great Britain, and thus according to some authorities, straight back to David, king of Israel.

It was on February 4, 1866, at Swampscott, near Lynn, Mass., that Mrs. Eddy experienced a remarkable spiritual healing from the effects of a fall which had been pronounced fatal. This experience, with further Scriptural study, led to her discovery that all causation is mind and all effects mental phenomena, and that there is a definite spiritual law which, understood, governs all human affairs. She spent the next nine years in working out, proving, and teaching the truth of her discovery, and then published her book, "Science and Health," in 1875. In June of the same year she opened regular services at her home in Lynn, and gave to the little group who there worshipped with her, the name "Christian Scientists." These students commenced at once to practice Christian Science healing, and from that day to this the healing of the sick and the regenerating of the sinful have constituted the practical ministry of Christian Science. In June, 1878, Mrs. Eddy began her Christian Science work in Boston, and on Patriots' day, April 19, 1879, she formally organized the first Christian Science church which she declared was "designed to commemorate the word and works of our Master, which should reconstitute primitive Christianity and its lost element of healing."

There followed the establishment of a college for the teaching of the new Science, and in 1883 the publication of the first of the influential periodicals which have helped so tremendously to spread the teachings of Christian Science. Ten years after founding her church in Boston, Mrs. Eddy returned to her native state of New Hampshire and established her home at Concord, almost within sight of her childhood home at Bow.

There followed a period of almost twenty years of retirement at her beautiful estate, "Pleasant View." There her time and thought were given to further spiritual research and plans for the further extension of the great religious Movement she had established and in which she held the honored title of Pastor Emeritus. Perhaps her most important accomplishment during this period was the development of a code of rules to govern the members of her church and to provide for its orderly and continuous extension. These rules or "by-laws," together with certain other important matter, are contained in the church "Manual." The provisions of this "Manual" are jealously guarded by Christian Scientists because they consider that it embodies the essential requirements for guiding them individually and collectively and insuring the ultimate understanding and acceptance of Christian Science by the world at large. In fact, some Christian Scientists believe that this manual is designed to identify and protect the progressive minority in each successive stage of the development of the church body and to stimulate the more rapid unfolding of each advancing footstep in the line of spiritual evolution. Some also believe that a system that will insure the successful accomplishment of these results when honestly and intelligently applied to a collective body or community, means far more than at first appears on the surface; in fact, that Mrs. Eddy has evolved a scientific system which will ultimately affect all human government and organization and insure the world's progress on a definite and practical basis by impelling the more rapid dawn of each succeeding stage of progressive unfolding and the stimulation of the long and bitter struggles which have always obstructed humanity's advancing footsteps.

In the 42 years since her first church was organized, Mrs. Eddy's teachings have spread throughout the world, through approximately two thousand distinct organizations, and have become a powerful influence in the lives of millions of people. The Christian Science publications, including the Christian Science Monitor, a daily newspaper of universally recognized excellence, carry their messages throughout the world.

The earthly pilgrimage of the venerable Founder of this great religious movement came to a close on December 3, 1910, and on that occasion appeared in the press of the world a remarkable tribute to the work of this great religious figure. Agreement or disagreement with her teachings had nothing to do apparently with the sincere appreciation expressed on every hand that this gentle American woman had lifted up a standard of conduct and character that had worked vastly in the improvement of the moral standards of the world. As an indication of the estimate in which she was held by those who knew her best, the city council of her home city, Concord, N. H., on this occasion passed a formal resolution declaring "that by the death of the Rev. Mary Baker Eddy the world has suffered an irreparable loss and the citizens of Concord the loss of an honored and a devoted friend of our city whose motto was 'to injure no man, but to bless all mankind.'"

That the citizenship of Mary Baker Eddy was of a high order may perhaps be gleaned from a sentence published in a Boston paper many years ago when Mrs. Eddy was asked for her political beliefs: "I have none in reality, other than to help support a righteous government, to love God supremely, and my neighbor as myself."

When one has climbed the beautiful hills of Bow rising from the beautiful waters of the Merrimack, he reaches the rolling uplands where stood the Baker homestead. Marking the birthplace today, like a silent, immovable sentinel, stands a great granite pyramid memorial hewn from the largest block of granite ever quarried in New Hampshire. It seems to appropriately symbolize the life work of Mary Baker Eddy which Christian Scientists believe to have been the discovery that principle is God and that Christianity and Science are in reality identical. On one of the bronze tablets on this memorial appear these words, quoted from Mrs. Eddy's writings:

"This truth is the rock which the builders rejected, but the same is become the head of the corner." This is the chief corner stone, the basis and support of creation, the interper-

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SHORT STORIES OF TOWN AND COUNTRY

The W. J. Clarks and J. Eakins have returned from a trip to Seattle.

Mrs. Nellie Barnett and son, Lemuel, who are spending the month with Salem relatives, were home for last week end.

Lieutenant and Mrs. C. J. Hanson of Vallejo, Cal., were here Friday last visiting Mrs. A. L. Spurr. The Hansons were returning from a motor trip to Vancouver, B. C.

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Locke and Mrs. Hallie Parish Hinges of Salem were guests of the L. Damons last Sunday.

Jack Tate, formerly with the Stewart Motor Co. here, but later at Dallas, has returned to Independence. Mr. Tate's friends are pleased to find him again connected with the Stewart Motor Co. as salesman.

The Word Butlers made a trip to Portland in their newly acquired Ford Sedan last week end.

Mrs. Ray Clark of Caldwell, Idaho, is the guest of her mother, Mrs. Stilwell, and sisters, Mrs. Frank Dickson and Miss Bessie Stilwell, at the Dickson home. Mrs. Clark was accompanied to Portland by friends and motored here for a visit with relatives.

The Independence Post American Legion held a most enjoyable session Thursday evening last week. Harry Ord, who represented the post at the convention in Eugene, gave a most interesting report of the proceedings. Dean Baughman told of his experiences in the World War. At each meeting of the post a member will relate his experiences in the late war. Mayor R. M. Walker will speak at the next meeting. A real feast closed the session.

Large 7-horse Twin Indian two-speed motorcycle and side car in first class running order; looks like new; will sell at a bargain; terms given. Call at Mrs. Shaffer's hotel, opposite S. P. depot.

The Big Meal of the Week

The Sunday dinner is the big meal of the week. Choice cuts of pork or beef, cut in various sizes to fit any family roaster, can be found here at all hours Saturday.

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Food for Thought

Take a Thousand Men--

At the age of 45

16 per cent are dead.
65 per cent are self-supporting
18 per cent are dependent on relatives and charity.
4 per cent have accumulated wealth and kept it.

At the age of 60

55 per cent are dependent on relatives and charity.

At the age of 65

87 per cent are dependent on relatives and charity.
8 per cent are self-supporting.

Note

A man's success depends on mental and physical efficiency, which in turn are largely dependent on good eyesight. 78 per cent of us have defective vision and don't know it. Don't guess any longer—know now! See an optical specialist.

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