

# WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street  
Worcester, Massachusetts

## ARCHIVES 1978.52.7

Crane, Ellery Bicknell Papers (1836-1925)

Processd by Jaime Bedard  
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## **Collection Information**

Abstract : Miscellaneous notes and essays regarding Worcester residents, infrastructure, businesses, government, educational institutions, and cultural histories, etc. In addition, the collection includes Crane's personal ledgers and cash books.

Finding Aid : Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository.

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance: Received in 1978, processed in June 2011.

MARC Access : Collection is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings

### **Historical/Biographical Notes**

Ellery Bicknell Crane, born in Colebrook, New Hampshire in 1836, was the son of Robert Prudden and Almira P. Crane. In 1837 the family moved to Beloit, Wisconsin where Ellery attended both public and private schools and subsequently enrolled in the preparatory department at Beloit College. He was married to Salona Aldrich Rawson in 1859. After traveling to California and across the Isthmus of Panama, Crane moved back East to work as a bookkeeper and salesman for a Boston lumber dealer in 1862. Crane moved to Worcester in 1867, where he founded his own lumber dealing business with partner John French. After Crane bought out French's interest, he ran the company on his own until it was burned down on July 8, 1900. At this time Crane resigned from the lumber business and began his career as a genealogical and historical researcher. He was elected to be Librarian of the Worcester Historical Society, a position he held for fifteen years. Crane was also president of the Society for several years, as he was an integral part of its founding.

### **Scope and Content**

The collection contains miscellaneous notes and essays regarding Worcester residents, infrastructure, businesses, government, educational institutions, and cultural histories, etc. In addition, the collection includes Crane's personal ledgers and cash books.

## Series Descriptions

Series 1: Uxbridge Academy History and Reunion

Series 2: Essay Against the Majority Report of the 1897 Tax Commission

Series 3: Notes on Nathan Webb, Reverend in Uxbridge, MA

Series 4: Taverns and Stage Lines Around Beloit, Wisconsin

Series 5: Notes on the Worcester Railway

Series 6: Settlement of Beloit, Wisconsin

Series 7: Worcester Historical Society Publication of Proceedings

Series 8: Notes on Christianity and Native Americans

Series 9: Notes on the Worcester Coal Mine

Series 10: Mendon, MA Monument Dedication (1901)

Series 11: Founding of Worcester Society of Antiquity

Series 12: Worcester Historical Society Finances and Proceedings

Series 13: Early Residents of Oxford, MA

Series 14: Taverns and Stage Routes from New York to Worcester County

Series 15: Timothy Bigelow and the American Revolution

Series 16: Notes on the Blackstone Canal

Series 17: Family Name/Genealogy Research

Series 18: Genealogical Notes on Early Residents of Park, South and Green Street

Series 19: Historical Essays and Notes

Series 20: Miscellaneous Notes and Papers

Series 21: Express Receipts

Series 22: Ledger Book of Expenses 1900

Series 23: Letter Book 1886

Series 24: Letter Book 1882-1886

Series 25: Oversized Volumes

Crane, Ellery Bicknell Papers (1836-1925)

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Series 1, Uxbridge Academy History and Reunion

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	1978.52.7.1	History of Uxbridge Academy's founding and an account of the Reunion of alumni (1895)

Crane, Ellery Bicknell Papers (1836-1925)

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Series 2, Essay Against the Majority Report of the 1897 Tax Commission

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	2	1978.52.7.2.1	Essay disputing the decisions of the 1897 Tax Commission, particularly its decision to redistribute tax burdens to benefit the assets of the rich and place a larger burden on the working classes

Crane, Ellery Bicknell Papers (1836-1925)

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Series 3, Notes on Nathan Webb, Reverend in Uxbridge MA

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	3	1978.52.7.3.1	Notes on the death of a judge Rawson from Ramington, RI written by Reverend Webb
1	3	1978.52.7.3.2	Notes discussing Webb's signing of the document "The Testimony and Advice of an Assembly of Pastors of Churches in New England" in 1743; he was one of seventy ministers to sign
1	3	1978.52.7.3.3	"Will of Rev. Nathan Webb 1764-1772"
1	3	1978.52.7.3.4	Extracts from the will of Reverend Nathan Webb
1	3	1978.52.7.3.5	Letter to Daniel Seagrave from A.J. Adams discussing the Old Congregational Church where



			Rev. Webb preached in Uxbridge
1	3	1978.52.7.3.6	Announcement of Reverend Nathan Webb's marriage to Ruth Adams in Uxbridge on November 23, 1731
1	3	1978.52.7.3.7	A brief sketch of the old homestead and mansion of Reverend Nathan Webb in Uxbridge, MA
1	3	1978.52.7.3.8	Introduction to brief biography of Reverend Webb
1	3	1978.52.7.3.9	Biological sketch of Reverend Nathan Webb
1	3	1978.52.7.3.10	"Owners of the Ancient Homestead of the Late Reverend Nathan Webb"

Crane, Ellery Bicknell Papers (1836-1925)  
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Series 4, Taverns and Stage Lines Around Beloit, Wisconsin

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	4	1978.52.7.4.1	Discusses the founding of Beloit, Wisconsin and the first public House "The Beloit House," and its first landlord, Mr. Shaler that worked for the Emigrating Company; discusses the places travelers stayed in the town and the transport lines that were available to travel northward and southward from Beloit or to Beloit, WI

Crane, Ellery Bicknell (1836-1925)  
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Series 5, Notes on the Worcester Railway

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	5	1978.52.7.5.1	Brief history of the concept of the street railway; discusses the Horse Railroad Company and its involvement in the Worcester Street Railway; contemplates how a street railway would benefit the industrial workers in Worcester; debates the financial struggles of building and sustaining a street railway
1	5	1978.52.7.5.2	Comparative list of prices for railways and stations in the area (c. 1878)

Crane, Ellery Bicknell Papers (1836-1925)  
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Series 6, Settlement of Beloit, Wisconsin

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	6	1978.52.7.6.1	Notes on the settlement of Beloit, Wisconsin; descriptions of the settlers first few years and their struggle for food, shelter, and comfort; descriptions of settlers success and Beloit's expansion via the economy and population size

Crane, Ellery Bicknell Papers (1836-1925)  
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Series 7, Worcester Historical Society Publication of Proceedings

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	8	1978.52.7.7.1	Notes describing the Committee on Publication and the proceedings in the early 1900s

Crane, Ellery Bicknell Papers (1836-1925)  
1978.52.7

Series 8, Essay on Christianity and Native Americans

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	8	1978.52.7.8.1	Discusses Indian conversion to Christianity, specifically Reverend John Eliot and his church; the development of Indian Praying Towns in both Worcester County and Middlesex County' Also the Awassamoa family of Indians and their integral role in King Phillip's War for Worcester residents; discusses Daniel Gookin's importance and the Nepnet Indians

Crane, Ellery Bicknell Papers (1836-1925)  
1978.52.7

Series 9, Notes on the Worcester Coal Mine

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
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1 9 1978.52.7.9.1 Discusses the profits, bargains, trade and business relations  
Worcester coal mine and the coal industry as a whole in the  
United States  
Crane, Ellery Bicknell Papers (1836-1925)  
1978.52.7  
Series 10, Mendon, MA Monument Dedication (1901)

Box # Folder # Accession # Description

1 10 1978.52.7.10.1 Crane's remarks at Mendon of the dedication of the  
monument to the victims of the Indian Massacre 1675

Crane, Ellery Bicknell Papers (1836-1925)  
1978.52.7  
Series 11, Founding of Worcester Society of Antiquity

Box # Folder # Accession # Description

1 11 1978.52.7.11.1 Describes historical information regarding the founding,  
and first three meetings of the Worcester Society of  
Antiquity

1 11 1978.52.7.11.2 Envelope containing photos of E.B. Crane Marked "Public  
Document"

1 11 1978.52.7.11.3 Miscellaneous notes on the Worcester Society of Antiquity  
building, and account funds

Crane, Ellery Bicknell Papers (1836-1925)  
1978.52.7  
Series 12, 1905 Worcester Historical Society Finances and Proceedings

Box # Folder # Accession # Description

1 12 1978.52.7.12.1 Notes on available funds, where funds are being allocated;  
additionally, the packet includes notes on various meetings'  
proceedings

Crane, Ellery Bicknell Papers (1836-1925)  
1978.52.7  
Series 13, Early Residents of Oxford, MA

Box # Folder # Accession # Description

1 13 1977.52.7.13.1 Details of the early residents in Oxford, MA including

Abial Atwood, Leonard Greene, Ebenezer Cutter, Reverend  
Abraham Hill, Jeremiah Learned, Theophilus Lilley,  
Stephen Streeter, and Joseph Green Esq.  
Crane, Ellery Bicknell Papers (1836-1925)  
1978.52.7

Series 14, Taverns and Stage Routes from New York to Worcester County

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	14	1978.52.7.14.1	Notes on the routes to get from Worcester to New York and comparisons of the transport and hospitality systems in New York and Worcester

Crane, Ellery Bicknell Papers (1836-1925)  
1978.52.7

Series 15, Timothy Bigelow and the American Revolution

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	15	1978.52.7.15.1	Discusses Major Timothy Bigelow's role in the American Revolution, and in one encounter near Cambridge in particular where he was taken captive in the campaign; Timothy was a Major under Colonel Arnold

Crane, Ellery Bicknell Papers (1836-1925)  
1978.52.7

Series 16, Notes on the Blackstone Canal

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	16	1978.52.7.16.1	Accounts of Blackstone Canal mentions in the Worcester Spy and other press relate appearances; Debates over the necessity of the canal and how it will embitter Boston residents for fear of lost traffic; essentially examines the pros and cons of the canal's utility
1	16	1978.52.7.16.2	Scrap paper with list of dates that Worcester Spy mentioned the preliminary talks of the canal
1	16	1978.52.7.16.3	Notes on the P and W Railroad and its first routes taken
1	16	1978.52.7.16.4	Notes on towns the Blackstone Canal would affect and reach

1	16	1978.52.7.16.5	Notes on extending Blackstone Canal furthermore to Fitchburg; discussion occurred February 1829
1	16	1978.52.7.16.6	Notes on the commencement of building the Canal in 1825 and its specific directors of construction
1	16	1978.52.7.16.7	Notes on the Worcester and Providence Boating Company's involvement

Crane, Ellery Bicknell Papers (1836-1925)  
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Series 17, Family Name/Genealogy Research

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	17	1978.52.7.17.1	"Genealogy of the Crane Family"; family research dating back to the descendants in Great Britain
1	17	1978.52.7.17.2	Newspaper article to the Bicknell Family Association discussing heritage
1	17	1978.52.7.17.3	Continuation of Bicknell Family Association address
1	17	1978.52.7.17.4	Rough Draft of the newspaper article for the Bicknell Family Association (handwritten)

Crane, Ellery Bicknell Papers (1836-1925)  
1978.52.7

Series 18, Genealogical Notes on Early Residents of Park, South and Green Street

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	18	1978.52.7.18.1	Willard Brown and Mrs. Mary Bacon 1817 South Street
1	18	1978.52.7.18.2	1829 Green Street A.P Foster, P. Murrock, J.B. Allum, Lewis Brown, E. Haggetal, Artemas Ward
1	18	1978.52.7.18.3	Notes on the Ward property of Park Street
1	18	1978.52.7.18.4	1854 Residents of Park street including Foster

			relatives
1	18	1978.52.7.18.5	Joshua Rice, Abdiah Ward and Joseph Ward acreage in early 18 <sup>th</sup> century Park Street
1	18	1978.52.7.18.6	Buildings and residents on Main Street
1	18	1978.52.7.18.7	Notes on miscellaneous streets and items
1	18	1978.52.7.18.8	1862 Park Street residents
1	18	1978.52.7.18.9	Calculations of acreage and year
1	18	1978.52.7.18.10	Names and addresses of John Vose Dean's daughters and nieces
1	18	1978.52.7.18.11	Notes on Worcester Historical Society building location and aspects
1	18	1978.52.7.18.12	Homer Lee on West End Avenue
1	18	1978.52.7.18.13	Continued calculations
1	18	1978.52.7.18.14	Locations of various residents from 1860-1865, and 1915
1	18	1978.52.7.18.15	Location of children's homes of prominent Worcester street residents
1	18	1978.52.7.18.16	1829 South Street residents continued (list of 15)
1	18	1978.52.7.18.17	1840s and 1850's Park Street residents
1	18	1978.52.18.18	1844 Green Street residents
1	18	1978.52.7.18.19	Location of children's homes of prominent Worcester street residents
1	18	1978.52.7.18.20	Samuel Stowell of Hingham family tree and residencies (17 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup> centuries)
1	18	1978.52.7.18.21	Samuel Stowell of Hingham continued

1	18	1978.52.7.18.22	Green St. and South St. residents
1	18	1978.52.7.18.23	Cornelius Stowell (Clothier) on West Crown of South St.
1	18	1978.52.7.18.24	1762 John Stowell residence
1	18	1978.52.7.18.25	Family tree of Copricie Family 1863
1	18	1978.52.7.18.26	Park street residents
1	18	1978.52.7.18.27	1804 Cornelius Stowell residence
1	18	1978.52.7.18.28	“Park Street Material” Envelope

Crane, Ellery Bicknell Papers (1836-1925)  
1978.52.7  
Series 19, Historical Essays and Notes

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	19	1978.52.7.19.1	Ideas of Old Home Week In New England
1	19	1978.52.7.19.2	Historical notes on the fight between the English and the Indians at Narraganset, December 11, 1675
1	19	1978.52.7.19.3	Edited version of historical notes on the fight between the English and the Indians at Narraganset, December 11, 1675
1	19	1978.52.7.19.4	E.B. Crane's diaries of his travels west, containing mostly notes on Native Americans, weather, geography, etc.
1	19	1978.52.7.19.5	Deed to E.B. Crane's father's land in Beloit, Wisconsin
1	19	1978.52.7.19.6	December 22, 1917 letter from Robert Dellen Crane to Ellery Bicknell Crane regarding his book in the Crane Family
1	19	1978.52.7.19.7	Letter to Ellery from A. Fuller regarding his delayed response to previous letter

1	19	1978.52.7.19.8	Letter from Fuller Regarding his family in Worcester County documented in Crane's volumes of Worcester county family histories
1	19	1978.52.7.19.9	Letter from Marcus M. Aldrich in Mendon, MA regarding his family in Worcester County
1	19	1978.52.7.19.10	Check of sixty dollars to Ellis and Brush on June 4, 1900
1	19	1978.52.7.19.11	Letter regarding the Worcester Blackstone Valley St. Railroad (1897)
1	19	1978.52.7.19.12	Historical consulting correspondence of Crane with (1890) B. Chase
1	19	1978.52.7.19.13	Letter from Marcus M. Aldrich in Mendon, MA regarding his family in Worcester County
1	19	1978.52.7.19.14	Map of Suffolk County
1	19	1978.52.7.19.15	Timeline of "Incidents Connected with our Community" by Crane
1	19	1978.52.7.19.16	Map of Indian villages on Suffolk County Road
1	19	1978.52.7.19.17	Envelope Addressed "Ellery B. Crane 39 Salisbury St. Worcester, MA" c.1914
1	19	1978.52.7.19.18	Notes on preserving the Worcester Mechanics Association
1	19	1978.52.7.19.19	Worcester Mechanics Association notes for before the annual meeting
1	19	1978.52.7.19.20	Letter availing Crane's membership in Worcester Mechanics Association (1881)
1	19	1978.52.7.19.21	Letter from Ellery to Alfred A. Marcus regarding the 99 <sup>th</sup> birthday of Sir Moses Mortefiore Barts (1883)



Crane, Ellery Bicknell Papers (1836-1925)  
 1978.52.7  
 Series 20, Miscellaneous Notes and Papers

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	20	1978.52.7.20.1	Paper on the Worlds Fair by E.B. Crane
1	20	1978.52.7.20.2	Order form of Messrs. Briggs and Co. from 1867
1	20	1978.52.7.20.3	Notes on the map of the city of Worcester
1	20	1978.52.7.20.4	Envelope from the Peabody Museum of Harvard University to Ellery B. Crane
1	20	1978.52.7.20.5	Envelope to Crane as the Librarian of the Worcester Society of Antiquity
1	20	1978.52.7.20.6	Miscellaneous pages assembled by Crane and entitled "Notes" by him

Crane, Ellery Bicknell Papers (1836-1925)  
 1978.52.7  
 Series 21, Express Receipts

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	Book	1978.52.7.21.1	Book of Crane's Express Receipts from the 19 <sup>th</sup> century

Crane, Ellery Bicknell Papers (1836-1925)  
 1978.52.7  
 Series 22, Ledger of Expenses 1900

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	Book	1978.52.7.22.1	Book of Crane's expenses and budgeting in 1900

Crane, Ellery Bicknell Papers (1836-1925)  
1978.52.7  
Series 23, Letter Book 1886

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	Book	1978.52.7.23.1	Correspondence and notes by Ellery in the year 1886

Crane, Ellery Bicknell Papers (1836-1925)  
1978.52.7  
Series 24, Letter Book 1882-1886

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	Book	1978.52.7.24.1	Correspondence and notes by Ellery in the years 1882 to the end of 1885

Crane, Ellery Bicknell Papers (1836-1925)  
1978.52.7  
Series 25, Oversized Volumes

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
OVS	OVS	1978.52.7.25.1	Ledger, 1897-1898
OVS	OVS	1978.52.7.25.2	Ledger, 1899-1901
OVS	OVS	1978.52.7.25.3	Ledger, 1900-1901
OVS	OVS	1978.52.7.25.4	Journal, 1893-1901
OVS	OVS	1978.52.7.25.5	Day Book, 1899-1901
OVS	OVS	1978.52.7.25.6	Lumber Sales Account Book 1899
OVS	OVS	1978.52.7.25.7	Cash Book, 1897-1900
OVS	OVS	1978.52.7.25.8	Petty Cash Book, 1898-1901
OVS	OVS	1978.52.7.25.9	Monthly Balance Sheet Record Book, 1899-1900