

**Sturgis Library Archives  
Town and Local History Collection**

**Crocker Family Papers  
MS. 102**

**Extent:** 5 boxes

**Scope and Content Note:** The collection consists of letters, legal papers, financial records, photographs, and miscellaneous documents of the family of Nathan Henry (aka Henry) Crocker. They date from approximately 1850 into the early 1900s. Most of the letters and papers are addressed to or were collected by Henry Crocker. The correspondence gives an intimate look at a middle class family in Sandwich from the rural quiet of the 1850s, through the Civil War and into the late Victorian period. The letters chronicle the Crocker family down through the decades as the children grow from youngsters to adults, with all the success and turmoil involved in the journey, and as the older family members die. The village life of Sandwich is documented as it revolves around the Crocker family and their friends.

**Biographical and historical note:** The Crocker family lived in the 18<sup>th</sup> century home now known as “The Lindens,” so named for the two Linden trees which grow in the front yard. The Crocker Family papers include correspondence which begins in 1850, most addressed to [Nathan] Henry Crocker, who had just taken an apprenticeship in Boston from Mr. Leonard Ware. The correspondence continues through the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Henry’s grandfather was Jesse Boyden, a surveyor who is known for the first proposed Cape Cod canal. The letters are written by Henry’s mother Harriet E. Crocker, his brothers William and Ariel, and his sister Harriet M. Crocker, as well as by extended family and friends. There are also a number of letters from Henry to his family members in Sandwich, and papers relating to family finances and bills, social and cultural activities, legal transactions, and diaries. Photos depict children, family, friends, houses, and local scenes.

Family tree:

Nathan N. Crocker m. Harriet E. Crocker (daughter of Jesse & Esther Boyden)

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Nathan Henry Crocker m. Cornelia Lincoln, 1869

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Harry H. & Lincoln

Nathan Henry Crocker’s siblings were William B., Ariel, and Harriet M. Crocker.

**Access:** Unrestricted. Credit Sturgis Library archives for publication.

**Acquisition:** Acquired from Ryan Cooper, 2006.

**Processed by:** Marcella Curry and Lucy Loomis, 2011-2013.

**Arrangement:** Chronological

*See page 2 for contents.*

**Box 1**

**Assorted Crocker family papers**

- Fldr 1 Biographical notes, vital records, and listing of contents of selected letters in collection
- Fldr 2 Calling cards and invitations, 1860-1911
- Fldr 3 Diaries (6) 1885-1900 + 1 undated notebook
- Fldr 4 Financial Records
  - A. Balance sheets 1850-1861
  - B. Receipts 1854-1939
  - C. Statements 1855-1885
  - D. Stocks 1912
- Fldr 5 Legal records – wills, trusts, etc. 1856-1939
- Fldr 6 Miscellaneous records
  - A. Announcements 1854-1881
  - B. Envelopes showing addresses
  - C. Ephemera
  - D. Letter lists 1850-1853
  - E. Miscellany
  - F. Military Service 1863, 1909
  - G. Poetry
- Fldr 7 Photographs (most undated, subject not identified)
- Fldr 8 Undated records/letters to:
  - A. Brother
  - B. Connie
  - C. Harry
  - D. Hattie
  - E. Henry
  - F. Miscellaneous
  - G. Mother
  - H. Mr. Crocker
  - I. Mrs. Crocker
  - J. Sister

**Box 2**

**Letters 1809-1855**

- Fldr 1 1809-1838
- Fldr 2 1850
- Fldr 3 1851



**Box 5**

**Letters 1870-1900s**

Fldr 1	1870
Fldr 2	1871
Fldr 3	1872
Fldr 4	1873
Fldr 5	1874
Fldr 6	1875
Fldr 7	1876
Fldr 8	1877
Fldr 9	1878
Fldr 10	1879
Fldr 11	1880s
Fldr 12	1890s
Fldr 13	1900s