

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

**Dave Crocker Historical Manuscript & Document Collection
MS. 96**

Extent: 4 clamshell boxes + 1 oversized box

Scope and Content Note: The collection consists of historical manuscripts and documents, including store ledgers and accounts, business transactions, journals, voting lists, court transactions, justice records, political writings, (deeds for property, saltworks, pews, wharfs, and piers), wills, writs, letters, receipts, correspondence, etc. **This is an open collection.**

Historical and Biographical Information: Dave Crocker is a Barnstable Village native, and though he now resides in Mashpee, his Barnstable roots go back many generations.

William Crocker
|
Loring Crocker, Sr.
|
Loring Crocker Jr.
|
Alfred Crocker, Sr.
|
Alfred Crocker, Jr.
|
John H. Crocker
|
Dave Crocker

Dave Crocker's family can be traced back to the Pilgrims. When his father John died in 1997, Dave discovered a collection of hundreds of historic photographs, documents, manuscripts, and artifacts, which have been passed down through the generations of the Crocker family. Much of the collection centers on documents related to Barnstable Village and the Town of Barnstable, neighboring towns, the County court system, and related Cape Cod history. Close relatives of the Crocker family were trusted office holders, such as Abner Davis (a very early Justice of the Peace), his son Lothrop Davis, who preceded him, as well as Daniel Crocker and Alfred Crocker Sr., both early Clerks of the Superior Court in Barnstable. It is surmised that these men made duplicates of the court documents for safekeeping, because many of these original documents would have been destroyed in the fire of 1827 that destroyed the original courthouse. Luckily for us, the Crocker men were packrats, and never threw anything away!

The Crockers resided in the house that is located at the northwest corner of Main Street and Mill Way in Barnstable Village. During his youth, Dave spent many hours speeding up and down the dunes of Sandy Neck before the vehicle restrictions applied – he owned many beach buggies and

explored the Sandy Neck dunes frequently. He was personally acquainted with the owner of the Sandy Neck Girl's camp and their staff. Dave has been instrumental in the restoration of the Sandy neck lighthouse. The lightkeeper's log, which is part of this collection, is an invaluable piece of Barnstable history.

Related Material: In addition to this collection, the Sturgis Library has other collections that contain items purchased from or donated by Dave Crocker. They include the Cape Cod Post Card Collection (MS.76), the Barnstable Woman's Club Collection (MS. 79), the Schooner Bloomer collection (MS. 89) , and the Barnstable County Fair Collection (MS. 97).

Access: Unrestricted. Credit Sturgis Library archives for publication.

Acquisition: Purchased from Dave Crocker, 2008-2010.

Processed by: Lucy Loomis, March 2010.

Contents: The collection is divided into two series:

SERIES I: Manuscripts Collection

SERIES II: Documents Collection

Series I	Box 1	Fldr 1	Index to Barnstable Probate Records 1686-1838
		Fldr 2	Transcribed Records, Town of Barnstable circa 1650 – 1820
		Fldr 3	Records of the Barnstable [Book] Review Club 1830s – 1845
		Fldr 4	Journal of the Beach Point Light Lighthouse Sandy Neck 1833 – 1844 by Captain Henry Baker, Lighthouse Keeper
		Fldr 4a	Enclosures: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Article from June 23, 1988 edition of <i>Summerscape</i>, a supplement to the <i>Barnstable Patriot</i> newspaper• Photocopied postcard with image of lighthouse• List of Sandy Neck Lighthouse keepers
		Fldr 5	F.(Ferdinand) G. Kelly List of Properties, Receipts, etc. 1840s – 1921
		Fldr 6	Book of Census 1855 + statistical information taken by D. S. Marchant, 6 School Districts, August – September 1855. <i>Copied November 1937 by James F. McLaughlin, Consulting Engineer, Hyannis, MA</i>

MS. 96 (Continued)

Series II – Documents Collection

This collection consists of documents, court records, deeds, correspondence, writs, legal papers, receipts, etc. **It is currently in processing (7/20/2010).**