Sturgis Library Archives

MS. 196
Dave Crocker Lecture Collection

Extent: 6 three-ring binders

Scope and Content Note: The collection consists of the text and images from a series of slide lectures presented by Dave Crocker at libraries, historical societies, and other organizations around the Cape. The lectures are peppered with Dave's signature sense of humor and many little-known facts about Barnstable and Cape Cod history.

Biographical and historical information: Dave Crocker is a historian who descends from many generations of Barnstable families. For more information on his lineage, see the finding aid for MS. 96: Dave Crocker Historical Manuscript and Document Collection.

Access: Unrestricted. Credit Sturgis Library Archives for publication purposes.

Acquisition: Gift of the Crocker family.

Processed by: Lucy Loomis, 2026.

Related collection(s):

- MS. 96: Dave Crocker historical manuscript & document collection (includes Log of the Beach Point Lighthouse on Sandy Neck)

CONTENTS:

1. Sandy Neck Camp

Includes over 100 photographs, scanned from slides, of the Sandy Neck Camp, along with the text of the lecture. The Camp was on property owned by the Lovell Family, who ran a small restaurant called The Barnstable House in a spot adjacent to the Sandy Neck Light. Constance Lovell, wife of Shirley Lovell, opened the Camp in the summer of 1930, and ran it through the mid-1950s. She advertised the Camp in New York, Boston, and New Jersey newspapers, inviting girls ages 6 to 12 to come to Cape Cod for the summer. Eventually she would accept children as young as two years old. The Camp also accepted boys. Activities included horseback riding, archery, swimming, boating, calisthenics, dune hiking, baseball, basketball, dramatics, crafts, and more. The remaining Camp buildings (many are no longer in existence) are now owned Mrs. Lovell's grandson Jack Hill.

2. *Sandy Neck Lighthouse, Sandy Neck History*, and the *History of Barnstable Harbor*

Includes three lectures in one binder.

- *Sandy Neck Lighthouse* includes a history of the building of the lighthouse and its deaccessioning, along with details on the restoration of the light. There are accompanying photos.
- *Sandy Neck* includes the history of Sandy Neck, including the cottage colony. There are accompanying photos.
- *History of Barnstable Harbor* includes the history the harbor, Blish Mill, saltworks, ships, Packet Mail, Scudder Wharf, the Freezer, Sandy Neck and the lighthouse, etc. There are no accompanying photos.

3. Cape Cod Canal

Includes the history of the building of the Cape Cod Canal and accompanying photos.

4. Stone Markers Along Route 6A

Includes the history of the placing of the numerous memorial and commemorative stone markers and plaques along Route 6Ain Barnstable and West Barnstable, with accompanying photographs.

5. The Codfish Plates of 1928

The story of a simple license plate design that became a total embarrassment to Massachusetts and made heads roll in the legislature. It illustrates how the power of one citizen's ire and affect a nation's response. Includes accompanying photographs.

6. Marconi's Wireless Station

Out on the cliffs of South Wellfleet are the remains of Marconi's wireless station. This is the story of how it got there, and what happened out there so long ago. Includes accompanying photographs.