Sturgis Library Archives

MS. 198
Benjamin Franklin Crosby Collection

Extent: 1 clamshell box

Scope and Content Note: The collection consists of letters dating from 1898-1900, written by Benjamin Franklin Crosby, as well as notes, photographs, a genealogy, and other documents. In addition, there is a scrimshaw whale tooth with a carved image of a young Civil War soldier, purportedly made by Benjamin Franklin Crosby during the War.

Biographical and historical information:
Benjamin Franklin Crosby was born in 1846 and died in 1900. He enlisted in the military at age 16 and served in the Civil War. One note in folder 3 states that he was a military guard at the Ford Theater the night that Abraham Lincoln was shot. He married Lydia Adelaide McCollum, and they had five children. He was the Captain/Master of a number of sailing coasters, usually three-masted schooners, engaged in hauling coal and ice along the eastern seaboard. In 1882 he was listed as the Master of the Annie J. Pardee which is pictured in folder 3. In 1900 he was Master of the schooner J. W. Linnell and perished in a fire onboard the ship at the age of 54.

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

Acquisition: Gift of Patrick Loughran of West Barnstable, a descendant of Benjamin Franklin Crosby.

Processed by: Lucy Loomis, April 2025.

Related collection(s):

CONTENTS:

Fldr 1
- Crosby Genealogy by Virginia Crosby, 1977
- "Captain Crosby: Success at Sea, Felled by Fire" by Jim Gould, 2011

Fldr 2
- 2 photographs of Crosby, one as a young man, and one in his 30s or 40s
- A reprinted photo of the Crosby Homestead, Main Street, Cotuit, 1887
- A photo of the ship Annie J Pardee in drydock
- An invitation to Crosby's 25th wedding anniversary

Fldr 3	• BF Crosby letters and other documents
Fldr 4	• Scrimshaw whale tooth with carved image of young soldier, made by Crosby