



**DEDICATION**  
**ALBERT CRANE MEMORIAL**  
**THOMAS CRANE PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS**

# PROGRAM

## ALBERT CRANE MEMORIAL WING DEDICATION

### CALL TO ORDER

D. FOSTER TAYLOR, Trustee

### DEDICATION CEREMONY

L. PAUL MARINI, presiding  
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

### INVOCATION

REVEREND ROLAND W. NYE  
Wollaston Congregational Church  
President of the Quincy Council of Churches

### UNVEILING BRONZE TABLET

MAYOR DAVID S. MACINTOSH

### PRAYER

RABBI EPHRAIM GREENBERG  
Temple Beth El

### ADDRESS

DR. WALTER M. WHITEHILL  
Librarian, Boston Athenaeum

### BENEDICTION

RIGHT REVEREND WALTER J. LEACH  
Pastor of St. Ann's Church, Wollaston



NOVEMBER 15, 1952

THOMAS CRANE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS



GALEN W. HILL  
LIBRARIAN, 1926-1952

*"More and more in my years of association with the THOMAS CRANE PUBLIC LIBRARY, I have come to consider ALBERT CRANE as the real hero of the story of the Library and to feel that adequate recognition has never been given to the man who made the present institution possible. Rightly the library is a memorial to THOMAS CRANE and properly it bears his name, but the name ALBERT is not even the name of a fund. As time goes on the name will be forgotten unless one goes to the record. I recommend that the new building be given the name THE ALBERT CRANE MEMORIAL and that a tablet be set in some suitable place in recognition of Albert Crane, the greatest benefactor and the most important personage in the history of this public library."*

Excerpt from THE LIBRARIAN'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1951

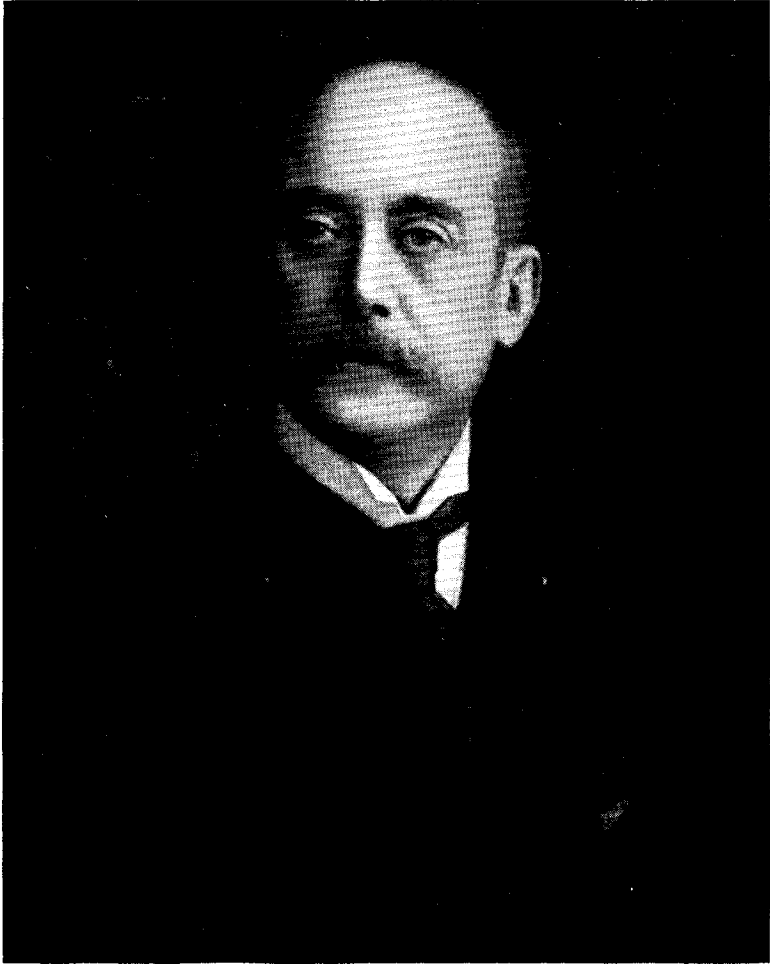


The Trustees take great pride in carrying out the recommendations of the late librarian, GALEN W. HILL, and regret that he was called to his reward before he could see his recommendations become an accomplished fact.

We pay tribute today to our great benefactor, and we likewise pay tribute to a beloved librarian whose memory will always be associated with the growth and development of the THOMAS CRANE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

#### *Trustees*

L. PAUL MARINI, *Chairman*  
MISS GEORGIANA LANE, *Secretary*  
MRS. HARRY N. THOMAS  
MISS CLARA E. THOMPSON  
JAMES S. COLLINS  
D. FOSTER TAYLOR



ALBERT CRANE  
1842 † 1918

## YOUR LIBRARY — Its 81 Years of Service to the Citizens of Quincy

**I**T WAS in the annual March meeting 1871 that the voters of the town of Quincy voted the proceeds of the dog tax plus a sum to pay for heat, light, and the salary of a librarian for the establishment of a public library. Cautiously they voted an additional \$2,500 to be paid only if a like amount be raised by private subscription. In amounts from a few pennies to \$200 the challenge was met, and Quincy's first library was opened in Adams Academy on December 11, 1871. In 1874 the new library was moved to a recently vacated church building on Hancock Street and Revere Road where it remained until, in 1882 on its present site, it became the Thomas Crane Public Library.

Briefly, this is the story, common enough in those early days of the nineteenth century in America, the story of the industrious apprentice, Thomas Crane of Quincy, young journeyman granite cutter who arrived in New York City in 1829 and found employment in a stone yard. He saved his money, bought out the yard, and invested his profits from a rapidly expanding business in uptown New York real estate. He died in 1875 leaving a very considerable fortune. He never lost his love for Quincy and visited the town many times during his career. At the time of his death, his family consisted of his widow, Mrs. Clarissa Crane, and two sons, Albert and Benjamin Franklin Crane.

In 1880 Mr. Charles F. Adams, Jr., one of the four sons of the Ambassador Charles Francis Adams, then chairman of the trustees of the QUINCY PUBLIC LIBRARY, received a letter from MR. ALBERT CRANE of New York City. MR. CRANE, representing his mother, his brother, and himself, inquired if the town of Quincy and the trustees of the library would consider favorably a proposal that the Crane family erect and present to the town a memorial library building to be called the THOMAS CRANE PUBLIC LIBRARY. The offer was accepted by the town at an adjourned town meeting and by act of the General Court, Chapter 202, Acts of 1880, the Trustees of the THOMAS CRANE PUBLIC LIBRARY of the town of Quincy were incorporated to take and to hold real and personal estate which may be given or bequeathed

to it for the benefit of the public library of said town of Quincy; also to have general care and control of such public library and the grounds, including the moneys appropriated therefor by said town. The architect chosen by the donors was Henry Hobson Richardson, then and still regarded as the foremost architect of his era, and the CRANE LIBRARY is generally considered his masterpiece in the library field. The building was completed and dedicated on May 30, 1882. This may be the proper place to correct a very common misapprehension. Though it bears his name, the THOMAS CRANE PUBLIC LIBRARY was *not* the gift of Thomas Crane; it is the memorial to him presented to Quincy by his heirs seven years after his death.

Benjamin Franklin Crane died in 1889 and Mrs. Clarissa Crane in 1895. A memorial tablet to Mrs. Crane and a portrait of Frank Crane, as he was called, are on the walls of the original building. Albert Crane, the surviving heir, as we shall see, continued his interest in the library and became its chief benefactor. He was the active agent and probably the leading spirit in the original gift and undoubtedly had in mind the plans which were soon to become realities.

The CRANE LIBRARY in 1882 occupied a comparatively narrow strip of land extending through from Washington Street to Spear Street. Occupying what is now lawn on the northwest side were three buildings on Washington Street and two on Coddington Street. Feeling that the library, "an architectural gem of the first water" needed a more adequate and appropriate setting, ALBERT CRANE gradually purchased these properties and deeded each piece to the Thomas Crane Public Library. To secure more elbow room on the southeast side, he purchased two buildings on Washington Street and one on Spear Street and transferred these to the corporation.

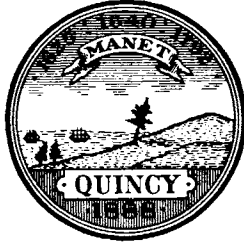
By frequent visits and by letters, Mr. Crane continued to keep in personal touch with the library trustees. In 1907 realizing that after sixteen years the original building was outgrown, he offered to enlarge the structure by the erection of an ell on the rear to house book stacks and offices on the main floor and a much needed Children's Room in the basement. The cost of this extension was never revealed but must at least have equalled that of the original building.

Albert Crane died September 21, 1918. By the terms of

his will an unrestricted bequest amounting to \$34,150 was left to the Trustees of the THOMAS CRANE PUBLIC LIBRARY and named the CRANE MEMORIAL FUND. From this fund came the money for the erection of the Parkway Branch Library in West Quincy in 1921 and of the Wollaston Branch Library in 1922. Another clause in Mr. Crane's will established a trust under which the income from certain parcels of New York City real estate was to be paid to his widow during her life, and at her death the principal to be distributed two-thirds to the Trustees of the THOMAS CRANE PUBLIC LIBRARY of Quincy and one-third to the Chapin Home for the Aged in New York City. Mrs. Crane died in 1936 and the library received as its share of the distribution approximately \$164,000. In the clause of his will which set up the trust, Mr. Crane indicated that the principal or any part of it could be "expended upon the erection of a new building" or "the extension or improvement of the present buildings." So the Trustees considered the way clear for the much needed new additional building which, with the aid of a grant from the U. S. Public Works Administration, was completed in 1939. At the present time there is still a balance of \$40,000 in the Crane Memorial Fund that remains of the investments made by Thomas Crane's heirs, principally ALBERT CRANE, for the benefit of Quincy through the THOMAS CRANE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Many towns and cities have had memorial buildings erected by families whose interest has lapsed with the completion of the memorial. ALBERT CRANE could have considered his obligations ended at the dedication of the original THOMAS CRANE PUBLIC LIBRARY in 1882, but he went on far beyond the call of duty to spread his benefactions through his life and beyond his death. No one will ever know the exact monetary value of the gifts of ALBERT CRANE to Quincy through the Crane Library. He did not intend it should be known but it must have been a third of a million dollars. Reading over Mr. Crane's letters, one gathers three definite impressions: his understanding of the purposes and values of the public library in community life, his appreciation of the artistic and aesthetic exemplified in the architecture of the building in the spacious and attractive setting he provided and in his insistence that the surroundings be kept natural and free of the intrusion of extraneous objects, and third by his foresight in envisioning the future of Quincy and its public library.

—GALEN W. HILL



CITY OF QUINCY

DAVID S. MACINTOSH  
*Mayor*

WILLIAM J. DEEGAN, JR.  
*City Manager*



THOMAS CRANE PUBLIC LIBRARY

L. PAUL MARINI, Chairman  
MISS GEORGIANA LANE, Secretary  
MRS. HARRY N. THOMAS  
MISS CLARA E. THOMPSON  
JAMES S. COLLINS  
D. FOSTER TAYLOR

Trustees of the THOMAS CRANE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Miss Gertrude F. Callahan, *Librarian*