

## Biography of James Crate

Crate, James, Buffalo, was born in Detroit, Mich., June 3, 1836, and when three years of age removed to Buffalo with his parents, where he has since lived. In 1865 the firm of Taylor & Crate was organized, which is today one of the leading lumber firms of the city. Mr. Crate was married March 9, 1897, to Miss Ella F. Pryor of Buffalo.

Source:

Our County and its people

A descriptive work on Erie County, New York

Edited by: Truman C. White

The Boston History Company, Published 1898

*Marriage date has to be in error; it cannot be later than about 1877. At his death, in 1903, they had a 23-year-old child. See below. -GY*

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The death of James Crate, of the firm of Taylor & Crate, which occurred on the 4th inst., has occasioned expressions of regret from all over the country. He had many friends both in and out of the trade here, all of whom pay homage to his career, both as a business man and public-spirited citizen. He leaves a wife and three daughters to mourn his loss.

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## DEATH OF A PIONEER

The news of the death of James Crate, president of the firm of Taylor & Crate Buffalo, N. Y. wholesalers of hardwoods, which occurred on April 4, was received by the trade all over the country with great sorrow and regret. It was a sudden ending, due to heart trouble, of an active, honorable and successful life. Mr. Crate was born in Detroit, Mich., in 1836. In 1865 he entered into partnership with F. W. Taylor, whose death occurred in 1899, under the firm name of Taylor & Crate. Soon after Mr. Taylor's death the business was turned over to the corporation of Taylor & Crate, and Mr. Crate was elected president, which position he has held ever since, though of late years the active management of the business has been in the hands of Messrs. Horace F. Taylor as secretary and Horace C. Mills as treasurer. The firm has occupied a commanding position in the trade for many years, and has always been considered one of the heaviest handlers of hardwoods in the business.

At a called meeting of the Buffalo Lumber Exchange, the following resolutions upon the death of Mr. Crate were adopted, and which, we may add, are concurred in by the trade at large:

Buffalo. N. Y., April 6 1903.

It is with great sorrow and regret that the members of the Buffalo Lumber Exchange have learned of the sudden death of James Crate, one of its oldest members. In this loss the members of this Exchange feel most deeply this dispensation. He was a true friend, one whom we have always valued for his wise counsels and good judgment, ready to recognize the right and deprecate the wrong, Therefore, be it resolved that a copy of the expression of our sorrow, embodied in the above, be sent to his family, and that we extend to them our heartfelt sympathies in their bereavement.

JOHN S. NOYES,  
Chairman

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Buffalo has always been on the map in hardwood lumber circles. Almost at the beginning, Buffalo became known to the consumer and producer of hardwood lumber by reason of it being the headquarters of two of what are now the oldest hardwood institutions in the country— Taylor & Crate and Scatcherd & Son. They are both doing business at the old stand and are numbered with the other progressive hardwood firms of a progressive city. The elder Scatcherd is gone and also both the Messrs. Taylor and Crate comprising the original firm. Of the latter firm, Mr. Horace C. Mills, who has been connected with the firm for about a quarter of a century, is one of the presiding chiefs. Messrs. Horace and James Taylor are also active members of the firm.

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### **James Crate Divided His Property Among Relatives.**

James Crate's will was filed with Surrogate Marcus for probate yesterday. Mr. Crate died on April 4th. He was a wealthy lumber dealer and a member of the firm of Taylor & Crate. The estate is valued at \$600,000.

The real property was listed as worth "\$20,000 and upward" and the personal property "\$15,000 and upward." The will was dated on November 17, 1901. Besides the widow, Ella F. Crate, there are three daughters, fourteen, nineteen and 23 years old, and an adopted daughter, Mrs. Mary C. Mills of No. 33 Johnson's Park.

Mrs. Crate will get \$50,000, the home at No. 272 Linwood Avenue, an annual income of \$5,000 for life and \$2,000 annually to spend on the children. Mrs. Mills will get \$2,600 and James W., Irving J. and Susie A. Mills, her three children, each will get \$600. Her husband, Horace C. Mills, is named as one of the executors and will get \$5,000 for the service. Besides giving \$2,000 to the Buffalo Orphan Asylum, the will puts the estate into the executors' hands, providing that each of the Crate girls will get \$12,000 when married. The rest of the estate is to be equally divided among them when the youngest is 35 years old. Until then, they will get the income on their shares.

Mr. Crate had an interest in Plough and Co.'s business in Forest County, Pa. That firm owns much timber land and a railroad.

The executors, besides Mr. Mills, are Mrs. Crate, John D. Larkin and Norris Morey.

This is a photocopy of The Buffalo Express news article about the estate of recently-deceased James Crate. Parts of it are not clearly reproduced and are difficult to read. I have transcribed it above.

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Mrs. Crate will get \$50,000, the home at No. 272 Linwood avenue, an annual income of \$4,000 for life and \$2,000 annually to spend on the children. Mrs. Mills will get \$2,500 and James W., Irving J. and Busie A. Mills, her three children, each will get \$500. Her husband, Horace L. Mills, is named as one of the executors and will get \$5,000 for the service. Besides giving \$2,000 to the Buffalo Orphan Asylum, the will puts the estate into the executors' hands, providing that each of the Crate girls will get \$12,000 when married. The rest of the estate is to be equally divided among them when the youngest is 35 years old. Until then, they will get the income on their shares.

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