

Collection #
P 0668

**LEFEVRE J. CRANSTONE
GREETING CARDS, CA. 1960S**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

**VOLUME OF
COLLECTION:** 1 graphics folder

**COLLECTION
DATES:** ca. 1960s

PROVENANCE: Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA

RESTRICTIONS: None

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**REPRODUCTION
RIGHTS:** Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection
must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

**ALTERNATE
FORMATS:**

**RELATED
HOLDINGS:** Lefevre J. Cranstone Watercolor Paintings P 0432

**ACCESSION
NUMBER:** 1962.1214

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Lefevre James Cranstone was a nineteenth-century English artist known primarily for genre-style landscapes in watercolor and oil. (Genre is a style of art that depicts scenes from everyday life.) He was born 6 March 1822 in Hemel Hempstead, England. His parents were Joseph and Maria Lefevre of Staines in Middlesex County. He was enrolled ca. 1838 in Henry Sass's School of Art in Bloomsbury. After his eighteenth birthday, he entered the Royal Academy of Arts in London in April of 1840. Cranstone married Lillia Messenger on 4 July 1855 in Hemel Hempstead. They had three children: William, Beatrice Lillia, and Frederick George. His wife established a boarding school where Cranstone taught art and drawing to the students.

From September 1859 to July 1860, Cranstone traveled to America with his younger brother Alfred for a stay of ten months. During his stay he documented his trip with a series of pen and ink and wash sketches. He and his brother visited relatives in Richmond, Indiana, from December 1859 to January 1860. Upon his return to Hemel Hempstead, Cranstone used his sketches to produce detailed watercolor and oil paintings. He continued working and teaching art at his wife's school in the years following his return from America. Their eldest son William became a doctor, and he and his wife Ellen Kent planned a move to Australia. Cranstone's wife Lillia died in October of 1882 and shortly afterward the entire family moved to Australia. While in Australia, Cranstone continued to work creating drawings, and paintings of local landscapes. Cranstone died 22 June 1893, and is buried in Brisbane, Australia.

Located in Wayne County on the eastern bank of the east fork of Whitewater River, Richmond, Indiana, was a growing and prosperous city in the late 1850s. It was first plotted in 1816 and by 1840 was designated a city. It became recognized as one of the state's leading industrial and marketing centers. This was due to the development of the National Road which ran east and west through Richmond's Main Street, and the construction of a bridge over the Whitewater River. The National Road became the most important highway for travelers moving west toward the Mississippi River. The arrival of the first railroad in 1853 with passenger and freight services brought more growth and development. By the late 1850s the population had grown to more than six-thousand and was continuing to expand with a steady influx of new immigrants from the east.

Sources:

Copied from the P 0432 Lefevre J. Cranstone Watercolor Paintings collection guide

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The three greeting cards contained in this collection are reprints of three paintings Cranstone made from sketches he produced during his time in Richmond, Indiana, in the winter of 1859-1860. The original paintings can be found in the collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Five of the original watercolor sketches are contained in the Indiana Historical Society's collections (P 0432), and the Lilly Library at Indiana University Bloomington owns 296 of the sketches.

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Greeting cards, ca. 1960s

CONTAINER

Graphics,

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