

Evan Milton Crane

Evan Crane was born in November 1834 in Muskingum, Ohio. He was the fifth of seven children of George Crane and Amanda Mann Fellows. The family was living in Salt Creek, Muskingum, Ohio, in 1840.¹ Evan was a laborer in 1850, living with his parents in Salt Creek.² His father died that year, and the family drops off the records for twenty years.

In 1870, Evan was a miner, living in Virginia City, Storey, Nevada.³ He married Lois Elizabeth Dewey in 1876 in Bullionville, Lincoln, Nevada. They had four children (three of whom were born in Silver Reef).⁴ The family moved to Silver Reef, Washington, Utah Territory, where Evan was the mine superintendent of the Leeds Mining Company in 1879.⁵ On the 1880 census, Evan was a miner, living with his wife, two children, mother-in-law, and two brothers-in-law in Silver Reef.⁶ Evan did work for the Toquerville Mining Company and had evidently not been paid. A sheriff's sale of the Morning Star and Toquerville claims were sold to pay him.⁷

Evan was the superintendent at the Eugene mill in Contention City, Cochise, Arizona (near Tombstone) in 1881.⁸ His wife and three children (the youngest only a month old) took the train from Arizona to California later that year.⁹ He joined them in 1883.¹⁰ Evan was registered to vote in Los Angeles County, California, from 1884-1896. During this time, they lived in Cienega and then Burbank.¹¹ Evan served as election judge, inspector, and clerk in Burbank Township several times between 1892 and 1905.¹²

E M Crane gave nineteen samples of argentiferous sandstone, petrified wood, clay, and fossil plants from the Leeds, Christie, Stormont, Walker & Barbee, and Thompson & McNally mines to the State Museum of California. Some of the sandstone samples had fossil plants, lignite, azurite, and free silver.¹³ On the 1900 census, he was a farmer, living with his wife, three children, and his mother-in-law in Los Angeles, California.¹⁴ In 1904, he was a defendant in an injunction brought by the city of Los Angeles against 164 ranchers in the San Fernando Valley. The injunction sought to prohibit them from using water from underground or surface waters from the Los Angeles River. They could use water for domestic purposes or for watering livestock, but not for large irrigating enterprises.¹⁵

¹ United States Census, 1840.

² United States Census, 1850.

³ United States Census, 1860.

⁴ *Familysearch.org*

⁵ *Silver, Sinners and Saints*, by Proctor and Shirts, 1991, p. 171.

⁶ United States Census, 1880.

⁷ *Silver, Sinners and Saints*, by Proctor and Shirts, 1991, p. 189.

⁸ *Arizona Weekly Citizen*, 20 March 1881, p. 1; Arizona Voter Registrations, 1866-1955.

⁹ *Los Angeles Herald*, 27 October 1881, p. 2.

¹⁰ *Los Angeles Herald*, 3 March 1883, p. 3.

¹¹ California Great Registers, 1866-1910; California Great Registers, 1866-1898; US City Directories, 1822-1995; Los Angeles California City Directories, 1888-1890.

¹² *Los Angeles Times*, 29 October 1892, p. 12; 27 May 1894, p. 11; 3 November 1902, p. 10; 7 November 1904, p. 12; 31 May 1905, p. 19; *Los Angeles Herald*, 12 November 1897, p. 14; 15 November 1897, p. 6.

¹³ Catalogue of the State Museum of California, 1888, pp. 161-162.

¹⁴ United States Census, 1900.

¹⁵ *Los Angeles Times*, 27 August 1904, p. 14.

In 1906, the family moved to Highland Park, Los Angeles, California.¹⁶ Evan died 6 October 1907 in Los Angeles, California¹⁷ and was buried in the Rosedale Cemetery.¹⁸ Lois was living with her two unmarried daughters in Burbank, Los Angeles, California, in 1910 and 1920.¹⁹ She lived with her sister and nephew in Burbank in 1930. She died 1933 and was buried in the Rosedale Cemetery in Los Angeles.²⁰



(Image from *Findagrave.com*)

Research by Elaine Young, 2016

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¹⁶ *Los Angeles Times*, 23 September 1906, p. 81.

¹⁷ California Death Index, 1905-1939.

¹⁸ *Findagrave.com*

¹⁹ United States Census, 1910, 1920; *Los Angeles Times*, 26 April 1908, p. 104.

²⁰ California Death Index, 1905-1939; *Findagrave.com*