

# Peter Crebassa Collection

## MS-034

Finding aid prepared by Daniel Michelson



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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections

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1400 Townsend Drive

Houghton, Michigan, 49931

906-487-2505

copper@mtu.edu

## Table of Contents

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<u>Summary Information</u> .....	3
<u>Biography</u> .....	4
<u>Collection Scope and Content Summary</u> .....	4
<u>Arrangement</u> .....	4
<u>Administrative Information</u> .....	4
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u> .....	5
<u>Collection Inventory</u> .....	7
<u>Inventory</u> .....	7

## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections
<b>Creator</b>	Crebassa, Peter, 1807-1898
<b>Title</b>	Peter Crebassa Collection
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1831-1891
<b>Extent</b>	0.45 cubic feet 1 manuscript box (legal size)
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Language of Material</b>	English and French
<b>Mixed materials [Box]</b>	1
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>Part Indian, part French, Peter Crebassa (1807-1898) was a fur trader and postmaster who spent most of his life in L'Anse. In addition to his business activities, Crebassa was responsible for bringing Father Frederic Baraga (later the first bishop of Upper Michigan) to Lake Superior in 1843. The collection consists primarily of business correspondence received by Peter Crebassa. It also includes some personal correspondence, outgoing correspondence, financial records, and several photographs.</p>

### Preferred Citation

MS-034, Peter Crebassa Collection, Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections, Houghton, Michigan.

## **Biography**

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Part Indian, part French, Peter Crebassa was born in 1807 in the Red River County of Canada. In 1829, he became the agent of the American Fur Company at Mackinac. Crebassa married Nancy Roussain in 1837 at La Pointe and the following year they settled in L'Anse. He became postmaster in 1852 and left the American Fur Company to create an independent trading post soon after. In addition to his business activities, Crebassa was responsible for bringing Father Frederic Baraga (later the first bishop of Upper Michigan) to Lake Superior in 1843. Peter Crebassa died in L'Anse in 1898.

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## **Collection Scope and Content Summary**

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The collection consists primarily of business correspondence received by Peter Crebassa. It also includes some personal correspondence, outgoing correspondence, financial records, and several photographs. The collection documents his involvement with the fur companies, Chippewa Indians, Catholic Missions, and federal government and offers a unique view of the relationships between these institutions as well as demonstrating the significance of the fur trade to the early settlement of Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

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## **Arrangement**

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Files are arranged chronologically.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections Mar 2014

### **Access**

Available for use in the Michigan Technological University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections.

### **Conditions Governing Use**

Various copying restrictions apply. Guidelines are available from Michigan Technological University Archives & Copper Country Historical Collections.

### **Acquisition**

The collection was donated by Roy W. Drier in 1970.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Corporate Name(s)**

- American Fur Company.
- L'Anse Band of Chippewa Indians.

### **Genre(s)**

- Correspondence
- Financial records

### **Geographic Name(s)**

- L'Anse (Mich.)

### **Personal Name(s)**

- Baraga, Frederic, 1797-1868
- Borup, Charles W. W., (Charles William Wulff), 1806-1859
- Crebassa, Peter, 1807-1898
- Roussain, Eustache

**Subject(s)**

- Fur trade--Michigan--Upper Peninsula
- Fur traders--Michigan--Upper Peninsula
- Postmasters--Michigan--L'Anse

## Inventory

## Collection Inventory

Inventory		
	Box	Folder
Letter to Peter Crebassa from E. B. Peasette May 31, 1831	1	1
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Eustache Roussain Jun 21, 1832	1	2
Notice of General Election, Sherriff McKernan Oct 1, 1832	1	3
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Lyman M. Warren Aug 29, 1837	1	4
Letter to Peter Crebassa from M. Crebassa (in French) Apr 20, 1838	1	5
Letter to Peter Crebassa from James P. Levit May 16, 1838	1	6
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Charles W. Borup Dec 18, 1838	1	7
Letter to Peter Crebassa from James P. Scott Jan 14, 1839	1	8
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Charles W. Borup Jan 14, 1839	1	9
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Charles W. Borup Jan 16, 1839	1	10
Letter to Peter Crebassa from M. Crebassa, father Mar 18, 1839	1	11

## Inventory

Letter to Peter Crebassa from sister Marie Crebassa (in French) Mar 19, 1939	1	12
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Charles W. Borup Jun 17, 1839	1	13
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Charles W. Borup Oct 03, 1840	1	14
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Eustache Roussain Oct 9, 1840	1	15
Letter to Peter Crebassa from John Hotley (in French) Apr 16, 1841	1	16
Letter to Peter Crebassa from James M. Kay May 25, 1841	1	17
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Charles W. Borup Jul 21, 1841	1	18
Letter to Peter Crebassa and Invoice from James M. Kay Oct 19, 1841	1	19
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Charles W. Borup Jun 10, 1842	1	20
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Charles W. Borup Jun 22, 1842	1	21
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Charles W. Borup Oct 8, 1842	1	22
Letter to Peter Crebassa from C. H. Beaulieu Jun 1843	1	23
Letter to Peter Crebassa from John R. Livingston Jan 18, 1844	1	24



## Inventory

Letter to Peter Crebassa from John G. Kittson Feb 5, 1844	1	25
Letter from Peter Crebassa to John R. Livingston Feb 6, 1844	1	26
Letter to Petter Crebassa from S. Mandlebaum Mar 1, 1844	1	27
Lease, signed Walter Cunningham, Mineral Agent Aug 31, 1844	1	28
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Charles W. Borup Oct 12, 1844	1	29
Letter to Mr. Crebassa from John R. Livingston Nov 14, 1844	1	30
Surety Agreement Nov 18, 1844	1	31
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Benjamin A. Stanani Dec 1, 1844	1	32
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Amable Duford Dec 18, 1844	1	33
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Charles W. Borup Feb 6, 1845	1	34
Letter to Peter Crebassa from C. H. Beaulieu, American Fur Company May 17, 1845	1	35
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Charles W. Borup Jun 30, 1845	1	36
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Charles W. Borup Sep 9, 1845	1	37

## Inventory

Statement of account owed Captain C. Ripley by Peter Crebassa Oct 15, 1845	1	38
Letter to Peter Crebassa from John G. Kittson Oct 21, 1845	1	39
Letter to Peter Crebassa from W.W. Deaue Jul 3, 1846	1	40
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Charles W. Borup Oct 10, 1846	1	41
Letter to Peter Crebassa from C. A. G. Wendell (in French) Jan 22, 1847	1	42
Letter to Peter Crebassa from P. O. Johnson May 3, 1847	1	43
Agreement to transfer ownership of American Fur Company Trading Post to Peter Crebassa from Charles W. Borup Aug 21, 1847	1	44
Letter to Edward St. Armand from James P. Hays Sep 5, 1847	1	45
Letter to Peter Crebassa from C. H. Oakes Dec 15, 1847	1	46
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Eustache Roussain Mar 16, 1848	1	47
Letter to Peter Crebassa from C. H. Beaulieu Jul 10, 1848	1	48
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Achille Cadotte (in French) Apr 28, 1849	1	49
Letter and Statement to Captain Calvin Ripley from Peter Crebassa Sep 23, 1849	1	50

## Inventory

Letter to Peter Crebassa from R. Sheldon Feb 16, 1850	1	51
Letter to Peter Crebassa from step-mother L'eocadie Crebassa (in French) Apr 18, 1850	1	52
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Pierre Florcier (in French) Aug 4, 1850	1	53
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Eustache Roussain Aug 16, 1850	1	54
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Achille Cadotte Dec 20, 1850	1	55
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Eustache Roussain Nov 9, 1851	1	56
Letter to Peter Crebassa from John Buom May 13, 1852	1	57
Statement of charges from P. B. Barbeau Jul 3, 1852	1	58
Letter to Peter Crebassa from I. Brown Jul 27, 1852	1	59
Letter to Peter Crebassa from I. Brown Sep 7, 1852	1	60
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Patrick Phelan Dec 22, 1852	1	61
Letter to Mr. Crebassa from M. Livingston Jan 30, 1853	1	62
Letter to Peter Crebassa from James Tamur Feb 8, 1853	1	63

## Inventory

Letter to Dear John from L. P. Morrison Mar 8, 1853	1	64
Statement of Crebassas account with John Senter & Co. Jun 28, 1853	1	65
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Eustache Roussain Jul 18, 53	1	66
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Frederic Baraga Sep 30, 1853	1	67
Letter to Peter Crebassa from J. Roussain Jan 16, 1854	1	68
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Eustache Roussain Apr 2, 1854	1	69
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Henry C. Gilnit, Indian Agent Apr 6, 1854	1	70
Transcript of Vauraensaliare v. Burkett Aug 30, 1854	1	71
Letter to Peter Crebassa from R. Shelden & Co. Sep 26, 1854	1	72
Letter to Peter Crebassa from George J. Dickinson Feb 26, 1855	1	73
Letter to Peter Crebassa from C. C. Dacylaf Oct 12, 1855	1	74
Letter to Peter Crebassa from H. F. Levfield & Bros. Feb 20, 1856	1	75
Letter from L. Sogan Cleissman Mar 21, 1856	1	76
Letter to Peter Crebassa from E. F. Donglup Apr 24, 1856	1	77

## Inventory

Election Notice, L'Anse Township, signed C. J. Hotley Sep 15, 1857	1	78
Letter to M. Leclaire from Joseph Brunett Nov 27, 1857	1	79
Letter to Peter Crebassa from R. J. Grauvaer Jan 14, 1858	1	80
Invoice or Receipt for Peter Crebassa from Eagle River Mar 9, 1858	1	81
Contract: Proposal to Carry U. S. Mail, Peter Crebassa Jun 5, 1858	1	82
Letter to Peter Crebassa from H. L. Stevens Nov 26, 1858	1	83
Letter to Peter Crebassa from sister Marie Crebassa (in French) Jun 8, 1859	1	84
Letter to Peter Crebassa from J. A. Smith, Northwestern Fur Company Jan 27, 1860	1	85
Letter to John Crebassa from M. H. Feckheimer Sep 14, 1860	1	86
Payment Request from Edward Orr by Peter Crebassa Aug 9, 1861	1	87
Letter to Peter Crebassa from B. B. & W. Reloyes and B. Rochm Aug 15, 1861	1	88
Statement of Apportionment of Fine Moneys Apr 1, 1863	1	89

## Inventory

Letter to Crebassa, Beau-Pere from Jeremie et Luzanne Davist (in French) Mar 10, 1864	1	90
State of Michigan, Bay County, McClellan Ticket Nov 1864	1	91
Midland County-Michigan, Republican Ticket Nov 1864	1	92
Letter from Thomas Boulton & Co., General Lottery Agents Nov 16, 1865	1	93
Letter from Peter Crebassa to wife Nancy (in French) Jul 25, 1866	1	94
Letter to "Chers moment" from Jeremiah Dault (in French) Jan 1, 1867	1	95
Statement of Accounts Current at L'Anse by Peter Crebassa Nov 16, 1867	1	96
Nigig Band List and Migisis Band List 1868	1	97
Letter to Peter Crebassa from E. A. Critchfield Feb 2, 1868	1	98
Letter to Peter Crebassa from James W. Sing, Indian Agent Oct 9, 1868	1	99
Letter to Peter Crebassa from James W. Sing Jan 27, 1870	1	100
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Edward Ashman Mar 12, 1870	1	101
Letter to Peter Crebassa from J. F. Godfrey Jul 13, 1870	1	102

## Inventory

Letter to Brother William from Ben Crebassa Aug 2, 1875	1	103
Copy of Letter to Hon. J. Chandler from Jay A. Hubbell Dec 22, 1875	1	104
Reply by Smith, U. S. Dept. of Interior , to letter of Jay A. Hubbell (regarding Crebassa) Dec 28, 1875	1	105
Copy of Letter to Hon. J. Chandler, Secretary of Interior, from Jay A. Hubbell (regarding Crebassa) Jan 30, 1876	1	106
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Eustache Roussain (in French) Apr 12, 1887	1	107
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Earl Edgerton Mar 10, 1891	1	108
Letter to Peter Crebassa from P. Orde undated	1	109
Portrait of Woman- Unidentified Photo, presumably Nancy Crebassa undated	1	110
Family Portrait- Peter Crebassa and family undated	1	111
"List of Indians stays in Houses in Lanse on both sides" undated	1	112
"List of Half-Breeds of Lanse" undated	1	113
List of Indian Names undated	1	114
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Charles W. Borup undated	1	115

## Inventory

Portrait of man and woman (seated)-Peter and Nancy Crebassa undated	1	116
Contract engaging Jacob B. Benett as mail carrier for Keweenaw Bay undated	1	117
Petition to Hon. Jay A. Hubbell, not signed undated	1	118
Letter to Mrs. John Auger from John Auger Aug 1, ?	1	119
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Charles W. Borup Sep 1, ?	1	120
Letter to Friend John from Nelson Pennwek Oct 31, ?	1	121
Letter to Peter Crebassa from John R. Nule Aug 1, ?	1	122
Letter to Peter Crebassa from Eustache Roussain Jul 9, ?	1	123
Letter to Peter Crebassa from James P. Scott Jul 20, ?	1	124
List of Articles never received from the Government undated	1	125