



## Guide to the Richard Andrew Cromwell Papers, 1900-1949

### Administrative Information

**Title and Dates:**

Richard Andrew Cromwell Papers, 1900-1949

**Repository:**

New Hampshire Historical Society

30 Park Street

Concord, NH 03301

603-228-6688

<https://www.nhhistory.org/>

**Collection Number:**

2004.021

**Author of Finding Aid:**

Lisa Bouchard; reformatted by Korrena Cowing

**Creator:**

Cromwell, Richard Andrew, 1889-1967

**Language:**

The materials in this collection are in English.

**Extent:**

1 box ; 0.21 linear feet

**Abstract:**

The Richard Andrew Cromwell Papers contain patent applications, correspondence, and receipts for a ski-cutting machine. There are also three deeds, an agreement, as well as photographs of the ski-cutting machine.

## Access and Use

### **Acquisition Information and Provenance:**

No accession information was found at time of processing. New Hampshire Historical Society collection.

### **Processing Information:**

This collection was processed by an unknown person at an unknown date. The finding aid was written by Lisa Bouchard in April 2004 and reformatted by Korrena Cowing in May 2020. This finding aid follows the standards set forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

### **Access Restrictions:**

Available for research.

### **Location:**

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

### **Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:**

The materials in this collection are paper based and have no special technical requirements for use.

### **Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:**

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### **Preferred Citation:**

Item title, Richard Andrew Cromwell Papers, 2004.021. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

## Collection Overview

### **Biographical Information:**

Richard Andrew Cromwell was born July 16, 1889 at Hereford, Quebec, son of Alexander and Sarah (Seale) Cromwell. He married (as his second wife) Elsie Mabel Adams February 14, 1933 at Newbury, VT. She was born July 22, 1904 at Charlestown, NH, the daughter of Frank L. and Fanny M. (Fisk) Adams. Richard and Elsie had one daughter, born about 1935, probably at Charlestown.

Richard invented a ski cutting machine in 1940. His goal was to reduce the time it took to make skis and to improve the quality of the skis.

Cromwell filed for a patent for his ski cutting machine with the United States Patent Office on August 3, 1940. His request was not filled until October 31, 1944. On September 5, 1942, Cromwell's application was rejected, but he did not give up. Cromwell sent in a reapplication in 1944 that went to the Board of Appeals, who finally accepted his design.

Cromwell's design was important to the ski-making business because his machine allowed for the shaping process to take place with only one passage of the billet through the machine. His machine eliminated multiple runs of wood through the machine and also made the skis smooth. The machine allowed for retrimming if a ski should become warped due to the steaming process. Cromwell also designed the machine to have two cutters that operated simultaneously, so both skis were the same. The machine produced a pointed toe in accordance with the ski.

The shaping of the skis took about 40 seconds to make through the machine. The machine weighed approximately two tons and used two 10HP motors. The machine cost about \$18,000-\$20,000 dollars, and took about six months to make and deliver to a customer. Cromwell operated the Cromwell Machine Company in Claremont, NH, from 1947 to 1955.

Richard Cromwell died March 14, 1967 at Hanover, NH.

**Collection Scope and Content Note:**

The Richard Andrew Cromwell Papers, 1900-1949, focus on the patent application and reapplication for a ski cutting machine, invented by Cromwell in 1940. The machine allowed for the shaping process to take place with only one passage of the billet through the machine. Cromwell filed for a patent for his machine with the U.S. Patent Office on August 3, 1940. On September 5, 1942, Cromwell's application was rejected. Cromwell sent in a reapplication in 1944 that went to the Board of Appeals, who finally accepted his design.

This collection also includes some business correspondence, along with three deeds. A 1938 agreement between Richard Cromwell and Derby Ball, Inc., a Vermont corporation, states that Richard will sell a ski-cutting machine to Derby Ball, Inc. Other materials include photographs and negatives of the machine.

**Arrangement:**

The materials in this collection are organized by type of material.

Contents List

**Box 1**

- Folder 1      Copies of patents, 1900-1932
- Folder 2      Deeds, 1914-1938; agreement, 1938
- Folder 3      Patent application and correspondence, 1939-1942
- Folder 4      Patent correspondence, 1943-1944
- Folder 5      Patent reapplication, 1944
- Folder 6      Correspondence and receipts, 1945-1949
- Folder 7      Correspondence and notes, undated
- Folder 8      Photographs and negatives of the ski cutting machine, undated

Subject Terms

**People:**

Cromwell, Richard Andrew, 1889-1967

**Organizations:**

Cromwell Machine Company (Claremont, N.H.)  
United States. Patent Office

**Subjects:**

Correspondence  
Deeds  
Patents  
Photographs  
Skis and skiing

**Locations:**

Claremont, NH  
Washington, DC

**Occupations:**

Inventors