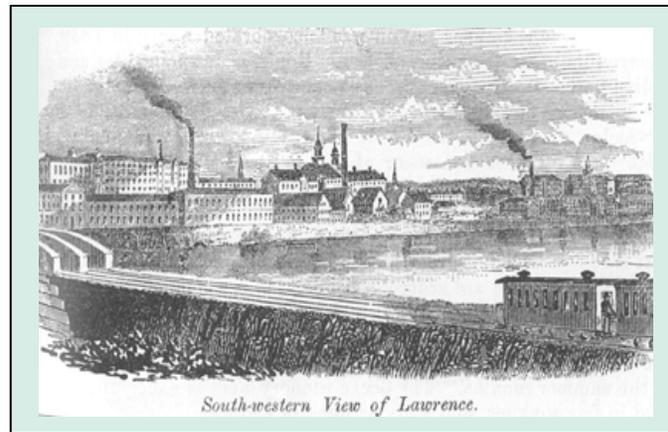


# The James Bicknell Endowed Fund



Portrait of James Bicknell



*Lawrence, Massachusetts, where James and his younger brother Edmund ran their successful retail clothing store. Lawrence was a major producer of textiles.*



*The Bicknell street clock serves as a memorial to the success of the Bicknell family in Lawrence. The clock has recently been restored.*

I/We am/are pleased to contribute to the **James Bicknell Endowed Fund** to support undergraduate travel to Asia, Europe and northern Africa.  
I/We wish to contribute at the level of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Payment Method (please choose one)

- A check is enclosed made out to the University of Washington Foundation.
- Please charge my credit card (circle one): Visa / Mastercard

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- I/We pledge payment by \_\_\_\_\_.

Contributions should be sent to:

John Findlay, Chair

Department of History

Box 353560

University of Washington

Seattle, WA 98195-3560

All contributions are tax deductible.

## James Bicknell and His Family

In 1635 Zachary Bicknell of Somersetshire, England, arrived in New England with his family and settled in Weymouth, Massachusetts. In the seventh generation after Zachary, James Bicknell moved Down East to Belmont, Maine, near Penobscot Bay. His son, also named James, was born there and prospered on his farm of some 200 acres. The James Bicknell of this endowment was *his* eldest son, born in Belmont in 1844. At age 25, he decided farming was not for him and set out on what surely was a momentous journey, all the way to Boston, where he briefly served as a clerk in a clothing store before opening his own retail clothing business in Lawrence, Mass. One has to imagine that life in Belmont, Maine, and Lawrence was as different as life in rural Russia today is from that in Seattle. Lawrence by then was emerging as the American Manchester, whose vast mills were among the world's major textile producers.

Joined by his younger brother Edmund, James's business prospered. As the family genealogy relates, "The Bicknell firm felt a justifiable pride in the fact that it had never borrowed a dollar to pay for a bill of goods, and that it had never paid for a bill of merchandise with a promissory note." By 1893 the Bicknell Brothers'

store on Essex Street, Lawrence's main thoroughfare, was one of the prominent retail outlets in the city, although dwarfed in scale by the local woolen mills. The Bicknell street clock has recently been restored as a city landmark.

James Bicknell married a Belmont, Maine, girl, Josephine Neal, in 1870. She died young, leaving him to bring up their only child, Adelaide Louise Bicknell. By 1893, when his daughter was 20, Bicknell's investment holdings were impressive, with property scattered around the U.S. from Florida to California, and with various stocks and bonds. James Bicknell had two granddaughters, the oldest Josephine, and the younger Adelaide, who became the mother of UW professor Dan Waugh. While the Bicknell fortune did not survive the precipitous decline that hit so many of the older manufacturing centers in New England, among them Lawrence, it is our good fortune that a small residual legacy has enabled Prof. Waugh and his wife Dr. Charlotte Green to inaugurate this fund on the occasion of his retirement after 34 years of service to the University.

## The Bicknell Fund

James Bicknell never attended college and probably never indulged in foreign travel. Yet his journey from Belmont, Maine, to Boston and then Lawrence surely opened new worlds to him. In today's global society, however, foreign travel is almost an essential part of lifelong learning, starting from an early age. It can

be transforming to experience other cultures, immerse oneself in societies where one has the discomfort of not being able to communicate in English, or gain even at a superficial level some idea of the passions which animate others' sense of their unique identity.

It is for this reason that the founders have established the James Bicknell Endowed Fund to support undergraduate travel. Priority for awards will go to those who have shown a clear commitment to the geographical regions of Prof. Waugh's professional involvement and will pursue an academic program while abroad. The fund is for travel to Asia, Europe and northern Africa, with preference to applicants with a demonstrated interest in Russia, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East, and the Baltic region, and to applicants who have not previously traveled abroad. While the fund will be administered by the Department of History, applicants may be from any department or program in which they meet the indicated criteria.

The founders hope that the Bicknell Fund will grow and pledge to continue to support it, since it serves so many constituencies. The initial donation from the Bicknell legacy has been matched by the University of Washington. Prof. Waugh and Dr. Green have provided some additional matching funds to encourage donations which will enable the Bicknell Endowed Fund eventually to support several students' travel abroad. We look forward to your participation in this worthwhile endeavor.