

James B. Harrison (1838-1924) Diary Collection

A Finding Aid

Livingston County Historian's Office

5 Murray Hill Dr.

Mt. Morris, NY 14510

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Prepared by Holly C. Watson, Deputy Livingston County Historian

I. Collection Summary

Title	James B. Harrison (1838-1924) Diary Collection
Collection No.	C164
Extent	1.5 linear feet
Date Range	1905-1930
Abstract	This collection comprises 22 diaries created by James B. Harrison of Groveland and his second wife, Mrs. Katie M. (Bailor) Harrison. They deal with everyday rural life and detail purchases and payments made and received. Family members and acquaintances are mentioned frequently.
Languages	English.
Access and Restrictions	<p>Use of the documents in the collection is for serious research and by request and permission of the Livingston County Historian's Office. Any use of the material in publications must be cited as follows, "Courtesy of Livingston County Historian's Office, New York." Additionally, all documents should be handled with care.</p> <p>To arrange to conduct research with the documents in the collection, contact the Livingston County Historian by mail at: 5 Murray Hill Drive, Mount Morris, NY, by phone at (585) 243-7955, or by e-mail at Historian@livingstoncountyny.gov.</p> <p>The diaries are currently being transcribed. Completed diary transcriptions can be viewed here.</p>
Copyright	There are no items subject to copyright.

II. Biographical and Background Information

James B. Harrison (1838-1924) was a prominent farmer in Groveland, having been a life-long resident. He married Marietta Crossett (1836-1905) of Geneseo in March 1861, and six children were born to them:

James Crossett Harrison (died in infancy at 7 months of age, 1862)
 Etta Eliza Harrison (died in infancy)
 Nancy M. Harrison (c. 1863-1956) m. in 1887 to Daniel Kelly
 Nellie E. Harrison (c. 1869-1954) m. in 1899 to Rev. John W. McGavern
 Marietta May Harrison (c. 1871-1941) m. in 1893 to Ralston Rosebrugh (c. 1872-1938)
 Luella Harrison (c. 1876-1955), m. 1904 to Murray L. Gamble (1865-1951)

James' first wife, Marietta, born about 1836, passed away in November 1905, an event which appears in the pages of James' first diary in this collection. James remarried to Miss Katie M. Bailor (1875-1930), daughter of Michael Bailor of Groveland, in 1907. She survived him, passing away October 14, 1930. Her few diaries in this collection coincide with her date of death.

James and Marietta lived in a brick home in Groveland, currently known as 5990 Groveland Hill Road, Groveland, New York. This home eventually became the residence, in 2003, of collector and antique dealer Hans Tanner, who passed away in early 2018. When the contents of the estate were sold, this collection of diaries surfaced on eBay and were purchased by the Livingston County Historian's Office.

The diaries are currently being transcribed by volunteer Jane Oakes, beginning with the oldest volume. [Completed diary transcriptions can be viewed here.](#)

The volumes are generally consistent, though there are no diaries for the years 1906 and 1920, and 1923 encompasses the months May through December. Katie's diaries pick up when James dies, though no diary covers 1926.

III. Contents List

- Box 1** Diaries of James B. Harrison, 1905, 1907-1919, 1921-1925 (18 items)
- Box 1** Diaries and account books of Katie M. Harrison, 1925, 1927-1930 (4 items)