

Emmett H. Jennings (1865-1921) Collection

A Finding Aid



Jennings Collection F9-P215

Livingston County Historian's Office

5 Murray Hill Dr.

Mt. Morris, NY 14510

November 2019

Prepared by Holly C. Watson, Deputy Livingston County Historian

I. Collection Summary

Title	Emmett H. Jennings (1865-1921) Collection
Collection No.	C192
Extent	220 images
Date Range	c. 1880-1910
Abstract	<p>This collection comprises photographs and some glass negatives of Emmett Jennings (1865-1921) and Ella Durand Jennings (1864-1939), their friends, and relatives in and around Avon, Livingston County, New York. Subjects include horses and various horse-drawn vehicles, including breaks and the Red Jacket Coach. The Jennings estate, Charlton, is featured, as well as the home known as the Jolly Farmer. Home life and leisure including horse and carriage events, vacation photographs, and early carriage excursions and picnics are featured. The original photographs are held by the Town of Avon Historian's Office.</p>
Languages	English.
Access and Restrictions	<p>Use of the documents in this collection is for serious research. The collection may be accessible by advance request and permission from the Livingston County Historian's Office. Any use of the material in print or online 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>
Copyright	<p>Some materials may be subject to copyright. Researchers are required to seek written permission from the copyright holder to reproduce and/or publish materials under copyright.</p>

II. Biographical and Background Information

Emmett Hollister Jennings was born in Rochester, New York in 1865. After graduating from Harvard, he returned home to work in his family's Rochester-based business, Keeler & Jennings, building fashionable carriages and sleighs. In 1893, he married Ella Florence Durand, born in Xenia, Ohio, and they had a large home built just east of the Village of Avon. This 7,700-square foot Georgian colonial-style mansion was designed by J. Foster Warner and still stands today. It has always been known as Charlton.

Ella and Emmett raised hunter-style horses and maintained one of the best-known stables in the Genesee Valley. Emmett participated in the Genesee Valley Hunt Club, and the Hunt occasionally met at Charlton.

According to information from the Avon Town Historian and Clara Mulligan, Trustee of the Avon Preservation and Historical Society, during the summer of 1899, Emmett became coachman of the Red Jacket Coach. This coach offered a round trip between Rochester and Avon in just 4 hours. More a fashionable statement than true utilitarian transportation, the route included several relays of horses and traveled between the St. George Hotel in Avon and the Powers Hotel in Rochester. Seward Cary, the owner and principal coachman, donated the Red Jacket Coach to the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society in 1939, where it remains today.

Emmett passed away in 1921, leaving no heirs. In 1894, he and Ella had one child who died at birth, but no more children were born to them. In 1925, 61-year-old Ella, a widow, adopted Dorothy Jennings (1925-2014). She was an abandoned infant, born in Rochester, though some family suspicion remains that she was an illegitimate child of a relative. Ella Jennings died in 1939, leaving young Dorothy to be cared for by her much-older cousins, Edward Durand Mulligan and Frances Taylor Mulligan of Mulligan Farm, Avon.

This collection of photographs was removed from the attic at the Mulligan Farm house, 5403 Barber Road, Avon, Livingston County, New York in the winter of 2013-2014 by Clara Mulligan. The home is in possession of Clara's brother, Jeffrey Mulligan, and wife Lesa Sobolewski and generations of items have been stowed in the attic. Jeffrey's father was Livingston "Mike" Titsworth Mulligan, a son of Frances Taylor and Edward Durand Mulligan. Ella Durand Jennings was Edward's aunt, as she was his mother's sister. Edward was executor of Ella's estate when she passed away, which is likely how family articles came to be in the Mulligan Farm home.

III. Arrangement Notes

The original photograph collection was scanned and organized by Clara Mulligan and daughter, Holly Watson, in early 2014. Photographs were loosely grouped as found or roughly by subject matter in some instances and placed in numbered folders. The original photograph collection and accompanying digitized images on CD were donated to the Town of Avon Historian, Maureen Kingston. Digital images were then also donated to the Livingston County Historian's Office, Mt. Morris. The CD is housed there and the digital files backed up on the network drive. They are ordered as the originals are, numbered by Folder and Photograph number for retrieval. Descriptions to the item level have been added to the County Historian's Inventory.

Folder 16 is comprised of six assorted images that may have been inserted after the main collection was processed, but which relate to Charlton and the Jennings and Mulligan families. The numbers assigned to these images may not correspond to the original photographs in the hard-copy collection.

IV. Contents List

- Folder 1** Emmett Jennings, Ella Durand Jennings, friends, horses and carriages at Charlton Farm, Avon (21 items)
- Folder 2** Emmett Jennings, Ella Durand Jennings, friends, horses and carriages at Charlton Farm, Avon (15 items)
- Folder 3** Emmett Jennings, Ella Durand Jennings, and horses at Charlton Farm (13 items)
- Folder 4** Emmett Jennings, Ella Durand Jennings, and friends (12 items)
- Folder 5** Emmett Jennings, Ella Durand Jennings, friends, and horses at Charlton Farm (14 items)
- Folder 6** Charlton home exterior and interior, outbuildings, and Jolly Farmer home (19 items)
- Folder 7** Red Jacket Coach with Seward Cary and Emmett Jennings (6 items)
- Folder 8** Emmett Jennings, Ella Durand Jennings, and friends on carriage outings around Avon, Caledonia, and New York State (23 items)
- Folder 9** Emmett Jennings, Ella Durand Jennings, and friends on carriage outings (19 items)
- Folder 10** Emmett Jennings, Ella Durand, and friends (12 items)
- Folder 11** Emmett Jennings, Ella Durand, and carriage event (14 items)
- Folder 12** Possibly scenes from a vacation, Jennings, Durands, and friends (16 items)
- Folder 13** Possibly scenes from a vacation, unidentified people, horses event (19 items)
- Folder 14** Carriage event and unidentified people (4 items)
- Folder 15** Emmett Jennings, Ella Durand Jennings, friends, and Jolly Farmer; from original glass negatives (13 items)
- Folder 16** Assorted images of Charlton, Red Jacket Coach, etc. (6 items)