

# Gerace Coal and Lumber Co. Collection

## A Finding Aid



**Livingston County Historian's Office**  
5 Murray Hill Dr.  
Mt. Morris, NY 14510  
January 2024

Prepared by Madeline Friedler, Deputy Livingston County Historian

## I. Collection Summary

<b>Title</b>	Gerace Coal and Lumber Co. Collection
<b>Collection No.</b>	C222
<b>Extent</b>	516 MB
<b>Date Range</b>	1894-1963
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>This collection comprises of mainly photographs and some miscellaneous archival materials relating to Anthony S. Gerace (1914-2004) and the development of the William Mate coal business, which later became Gerace's coal and lumber business, at the corner of Grove and Main St. in Mt. Morris, Livingston County, New York. The collection also contains items relating to Gerace's military service in World War II.</p>
<b>Languages</b>	English. One document in Italian.
<b>Access and Restrictions</b>	<p>Use of the documents in this collection is for serious research. Additionally, all documents should be handled with care. The collection may be accessible by advance request and permission from the Livingston County Historian's Office.</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 <a href="mailto:Historian@livingstoncountyny.gov">Historian@livingstoncountyny.gov</a>.</p>
<b>Copyright</b>	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.
<b>Preferred Citation</b>	Use of the collection material in print or online publications should be cited as follows: "Gerace Coal and Lumber Collection, Livingston County Historian's Office, New York."

## II. Biographical and Background Information

Anthony S. Gerace was born July 13, 1914, in Mt. Morris, Livingston County, New York. He began working at William Mate's coal dealership at the age of seven and was employed there almost his entire life. He temporarily left during World War II when he joined the US Naval Construction Battalion, or "Seabees." This collection includes a 1943-1944 diary which details his day-to-day tasks with the Seabees well as his personal experience on D-Day.

The majority of this collection is comprised of photographs dating from 1894-1963, showing the development of this Mt. Morris business and the men who ran it. According to Gerace's grandson, the donor, the coal business was first built by the Woolever family in the late 1880s. William Mate of Mt. Morris eventually took over the business and employed seven-year-old Anthony Gerace in 1921. After Mate's death in 1946, Gerace took over the coal business and expanded it to also include lumber and other building materials.

When this digital collection was shared by Gerace's descendant, it was organized chronologically and then scanned at a high resolution for posterity. After this, Deputy Historian Madeline Friedler processed the collection of digital files and added the collection to the County historian's catalog and digital storage files.

## III. Contents List

- P100 Mt. Morris Centennial Parade, August 15 1894
- P101 Mt. Morris Centennial Parade with ox cart and old tools
- P102 Pobably Mt. Morris Centennial Parade, line of carriages  
Bill of \$25 from William Mates to J.M. Lee of the Scoville
- P103 House  
Business letter from Husted Green to G.S. Miller of
- P104 Tuscarora  
Postmortem photo of train robbers Ben Kilpatrick (left) and
- P105 Ole Hobeck (right) after the Baxter's Curve Train Robbery.
- P106 Italian naturalization document for Salvatore Geraci  
\$5 rent from F.W. Woolever to use part of the Pennsylvania
- P107 Railroad trestle for his coal business
- P108 Campaign tag for William Mate for Sheriff  
Willian Mate (standing) and Anthony Gerace (middle) at
- P109 Mate's Coal business, Aug. 23, 1934  
Gerace family. Left to right standing - Grandma Josephine  
Cipolla, Paul Gerace, Gasper Gerace, Maria Antonia Gerace  
(had skin cancer on her face), Vi (Gerace) Trescott, Rose  
Germone, Lena (Scorsone) Puleo, Erma Gerone holding  
Frankie Puleo, John Gerone. Left to right sitting, Wilma
- P110A Puleo, Pete Gerone, and Sam Gerone
- P110 Identification for P110A  
Man digging in front of the Church of the Assumption at 12
- P111 Clinton St.
- P112 Dance card for Nov. 20, 1943 at the Harugari Froshsinn Hall
- P113 A.S. Gerace's military diary, 1943-44.
- P114 1946 obituary for William Mate

- P115 Mount Morris Minute clipping of Gerace Coal & Lumber Co. in 1957
- P116 A. Gerace Coal truck
- P117 A. Gerace Coal truck in front of office building  
Anthony Gerace and his coal truck in front of office building.
- P118 Freight cars going over railroad trestle
- P119 Coal freight car unloading into a Gerace Coal truck below trestle
- P120 Four men waving from the top of trestle bridge
- P121 Train passing over trestle bridge, March 1, 1963
- P122 Train passing over trestle bridge, March 1, 1963
- P123 Christmas 1963 at Grove and Main St. near Gerace Lumber Yard
- P124

#### **IV. Related Materials**

##### **Livingston County Historian's Office, Mt. Morris**

- Anthony S. Gerace Veteran's File #3735
- *Mount Morris: Patriotic People, Vibrant Memories, Bustling Businesses*, p.115-116