

HARRIS ACCOUNT BOOK

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Repository:** Crandall Public Library.
Center for Folklife, History, and Cultural Programs,
Glens Falls, NY.
- Creator:** Hiram H. Harris
- Title:** Harris Account Book
- Dates:** 1863-1864
- Abstract:** This account book covers the period from April 1863 through November 1864. It records debits and credits for persons who worked for Harris in his shoemaking business.
- Quantity:** 1 vol., 88 p.
- Identification Number:** Archives & Manuscripts: Account Books

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Hiram H. Harris (1833-1896) was a prominent newspaperman in Glens Falls. Born in Schenectady, he grew up in Granville, and moved to Glens Falls at the age of 17. He finished his apprenticeship on the *Free Press*, owned by Zabina Ellis. Afterwards he went to New York City for several years, before returning to Glens Falls, where he became the foreman on the *Glens Falls Republican*. He subsequently bought an interest in the paper, and later became sole proprietor and editor. He remained in that position until he sold the paper in 1888. At the same time he carried on at least one other business, for the map of Glens Falls in 1864 lists H.M. Harris – shoes – in the Ezra Benedict Building, with the *Republican* office upstairs. The account book in this collection relates to the shoe business. Politically he was a Democrat, and he served as a village trustee in 1871 and 1872.

He married, in 1855, Miss Della S. Rowley of Granville, who survived him. They had two sons, Harry L. and Walter E. Harris.

Harris' funeral in February of 1896 was largely attended, with the Rev. Fenwick M. Cookson of the Church of the Messiah (Episcopal) officiating. He is buried in Bay Street cemetery.

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE RECORDS

This account book covers the period from April 1863 through November 1864. It records debits and credits for persons who worked for Harris in his shoemaking business. Nothing in Harris' obituary indicates that he was ever trained in any other craft than the newspaper business, which suggests that he owned and managed the business, employing skilled workmen to do the actual shoemaking.

The book is organized with facing pages of debit and credit for individual workmen in the shoe making business. The debits on the left hand page appear to be cash payments (or advances?) made by Harris to the payee and, more frequently, amounts the workman charged to other merchants for such things as "1 pair pants," "cheese of Haviland" or "Hurse Hire of L.M. Burpee" as well as tools. The tools appear in the credit column when they are "returned", so it appears that the men paid for their shoemaking tools (rasp, hammer, welt-knife) but if they left the shop and turned in the tools they got the money back. There are also debits for lost time. Workers were paid either by the week (\$3, \$8 and \$9 per week are recorded), or by work done ("Dec 3 Small boots for Charlie R. Johnson 1.62"). Occasionally included in the debit column is "Republican 1 yr 1.50."

INDEX TERMS

Topics:	Shoemaking
Places:	Glens Falls, NY
Important People:	Adams, Caleb Bailey, James Baker, John Bassinger's Benedict, C.E. Bentley Blood, Julius Brown & B. Burpee, L.M. Clark, John M. Daimon, S. Dougherty, George Dunwick, Isaac Gilman, John B. Grumman, William Harris, Hiram M. Haviland Johnson, Charlie R.

Johnson, Richard R.
Kingsley, Truman
Krum, Alburn H.
Martin, Jerry
Morris, John
Pattee
Plood, Julius
Porter, Alvah
Rice, C.
Robinson, Lena
Ryan, Robert
Sheldon's
Sweetman, James
Titus
Vermilia's
Weed & S.

Form/Genre: Account Book

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation: Harris Account Book
Center for Folklife, History, and Cultural Programs,
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

Accession Information: Accession number: 2002-011. The book was found in the walls of 132 Glen Street by Kevin Bethel when he was renovating the building. This copy was made in 2009 and the original was returned to Mr. Bethel.

Processing Information: Described by Erica Wolfe Burke July 2010

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS