



ArchivesSpace

## **Finding Aid for the Robert B. Loomis diaries Collection 463**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections  
Department

111 Library Street NE  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

[localhis@grpl.org](mailto:localhis@grpl.org)

URL: <http://www.grpl.org>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department
<b>Creator:</b>	Loomis, Robert B, 1832-1907
<b>Title:</b>	Robert B. Loomis diaries
<b>ID:</b>	Collection 463
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1852-1906
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1 Linear Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	This collection of dairies are mainly those of Robert B. Loomis (1832-1907). Born in Maine, he moved with his family to Boston, Massachusetts at the age of six. He married Emily Goodhue with whom he fathered four children. From 1862 to 1866, he lived in Washington D.C. and then moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan where he ran his own business and was involved in church, civic, and state affairs. He died in Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1907. His diaries document his business activities, personal life and historical events, most notably the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. The collection also includes a smaller number of diaries kept by Loomis' daughter, Sarah J. Loomis (1857-1907), called Jennie. Born in Boston, Massachusetts Jennie moved to Washington DC at age five with her family and then to Grand Rapids in 1866. Jennie never married and spent the remainder of her life in Grand Rapids. She died in 1907.

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## Biographical / Historical

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Robert B. Loomis was born February 25, 1832 in Lincoln County, Newcastle, Maine. He was born to Abner and Susan (Holten) Loomis. In 1838, at the age of 6, his parents moved their family to Boston, Massachusetts, where Robert B. Loomis received his early education. He married Emily Goodhue July 10, 1856 with whom he fathered four children. From 1862 to 1866, he lived in Washington D.C. where he was engaged in the mercantile boot business. In 1866 Loomis moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan where he continued working in the boot and shoes business with George R. Mayhew. He transitioned to working in fire insurance when he opened his own firm, R.B. Loomis & Co. in 1881.

Loomis was also a prominent figure in church, civic, and state affairs. He was a charter member of the Fountain Street Church, organized in 1869, president of the mission board, and spent 40 years as a deacon in the church. He was a supervisor of the Calvary Baptist Church's mission Sunday school, as well as the supervisor of the second ward from 1877 to 1896, the chairman of the county board of supervisors, chairman of the building committee, and on the county board of auditors. In 1896 Robert B. Loomis was elected as state senator and re-elected a second time in 1899. He died from pneumonia on January 16, 1907 in Grand Rapids, Michigan and was buried in Oakhill Cemetery.

Family:

Father: Abner Loomis 1796 - 1857

Mother: Susan Holton

Siblings:

Susan H. 1825 - 1856; Nancy C. 1827 - 1852; Abner 1828; Isabella 1829 (m. Benjamin Franklin Burgess jr.); Phoebe 1831 - 1854; Sarah H. 1836; Charles E. 1838

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## Biographical / Historical

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Sarah Jane Loomis was born in Boston, Massachusetts on April 2, 1857 to Robert B. Loomis (1832-1907) and Emily Goodhue (1826-1899). At age five Jennie, as she was called, moved from Boston to Washington DC with her family and in 1866 the family left Washington DC to relocate in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Jennie spent the remainder of her life in Grand Rapids.

The eldest of four children, Jennie had a brother and two sisters; William H. (1859-1929), Emily S. (1860-1854) and Alice F. (1868-1918).

Jennie was a life-long member of the Fountain Street Baptist Church and worked as a stenographer. She never married nor did her sisters. They lived together at the family home at 102 (later 126) Barclay.

Jennie died May 19, 1907 of pneumonia, four months after her father's death from pneumonia.

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## Scope and Contents

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The bulk of the collection is made up of the diaries of Robert B. Loomis (1832-1907) dating from 1852-1906. His diaries describe the weather, business transactions and his daily activities. They also include newspaper articles, folded to fit in between the small pages. A smaller portion of the collection are the diaries of his daughter Sarah J. Loomis (1857-1907), called Jennie. Her diaries date from 1878 to 1903 and, like her father's, often describe the weather, people she came in contact with and daily events. The collection also includes the Will of Robert B. Loomis.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Department

111 Library Street NE  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

[localhis@grpl.org](mailto:localhis@grpl.org)

URL: <http://www.grpl.org>

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Donated by Ronald Stevens; 2015.008

### Conditions Governing Access

To preserve the original diaries please use the digital transcripts available on the library's website.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- diaries
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History

- Fountain Street Church (Grand Rapids, Mich.)

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## Collection Inventory

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### Robert B. Loomis Diaries, 1852-1906

Date [inclusive]: 1852-1906

Title/Description	Instances	
Diary, 1852 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1852	Box 1	Folder 1
Biography/Family History, 1832-1851 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1832-1851	Box 1	Folder 1
Diary, 1853 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1853	Box 1	Folder 2
Diary, 1854 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1854	Box 1	Folder 3
Diary, 1855 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1855	Box 1	folder 4
Diary, 1856 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1856	Box 1	Folder 5
Diary, 1857 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1857	Box 1	Folder 6
Diary, 1858 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1858	Box 1	Folder 7
Diary, 1859 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1859	Box 2	Folder 1
Diary, 1860 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1860	Box 2	Folder 2
Diary, 1861 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1861	Box 2	Folder 3
Diary, 1862 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1862	Box 2	Folder 4
Diary, 1863 <u>Date [inclusive]</u> : 1863	Box 2	Folder 5
Diary, 1864	Box 3	Folder 1

<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1864		
Diary, 1865 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1865	Box 3	Folder 2
Diary, 1866 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1866	Box 3	Folder 3
Diary, 1867 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1867	Box 3	Folder 4
Diary, 1868 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1868	Box 3	Folder 5
Diary, 1869 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1869	Box 4	Folder 1
Diary, 1870 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1870	Box 4	Folder 2
Diary, 1871 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1871	Box 4	Folder 3
Diary, 1873 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1873	Box 4	Folder 4
Diary, 1875 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1875	Box 4	Folder 5
Diary, 1876 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1876	Box 4	Folder 6
Diary, 1881 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1881	Box 5	Folder 2
Diary, 1883 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1883	Box 5	Folder 3
Diary, 1884 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1884	Box 5	Folder 4
Diary, 1885 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1885	Box 5	Folder 5
Diary, 1886 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1886	Box 5	Folder 6
Diary, 1887 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1887	Box 6	Folder 1
Diary, 1888	Box 6	Folder 2

<u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1888		
Diary, 1889 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1889	Box 6	Folder 3
Diary, 1890 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1890	Box 6	Folder 5
Diary, 1892 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1892	Box 6	Folder 6
Diary, 1893 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1893	Box 7	Folder 2
Diary, 1894 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1894	Box 7	Folder 3
Diary, 1895 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1895	Box 7	Folder 4
Diary, 1896 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1896	Box 7	Folder 5
Diary, 1897 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1897	Box 8	Folder 1
Diary, 1899 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1899	Box 8	Folder 2
Diary, 1900 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1900	Box 8	Folder 3
Diary, 1901 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1901	Box 8	Folder 4
Diary, 1902 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1902	Box 9	Folder 1
Diary, 1903 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1903	Box 9	Folder 4
Diary, 1904 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1904	Box 9	Folder 5
Diary, 1905 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1905	Box 10	Folder 1
Diary, 1906	Box 10	Folder 2



Date [inclusive]: 1906

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## Jennie Loomis Diaries , 1878-1903

Date [inclusive]: 1878-1903

Title/Description	Instances	
Diary, 1878 <u>Date [inclusive]: 1878</u>	Box 4	Folder 7
Diary, 1880 <u>Date [inclusive]: 1880</u>	Box 5	Folder 1
Diary, 1890 <u>Date [inclusive]: 1890</u>	Box 6	Folder 4
Diary, 1892 <u>Date [inclusive]: 1892</u>	Box 7	Folder 1
Diary, 1896 <u>Date [inclusive]: 1896</u>	Box 7	Folder 6
Diary, 1902 <u>Date [inclusive]: 1902</u>	Box 9	Folder 2
Diary, 1903 <u>Date [inclusive]: 1903</u>	Box 9	Folder 3

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## Family Papers/Transcription Notes, (bulk)

Date [bulk]: bulk

Title/Description	Instances	
Personal Papers, 1862-1907 <u>Date [inclusive]: 1862-1907</u>	Box 11	Folder 1
New York Herald Newspaper, 1865 <u>Date [inclusive]: 1865</u>	Box 11	Folder 2
Dairy Transcriptions and Notes, 1852-1904	Box 11	

Date [inclusive]: 1852-1904

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