

Peabody Diary Collection

A Finding Aid



Peabody family, B20-F67-P1005

Livingston County Historian's Office

5 Murray Hill Dr.

Mt. Morris, NY 14510

August 2020

I. Collection Summary

Title	Peabody Diary Collection
Collection No.	C116
Extent	1.5 linear feet
Date Range	1807-c. 1956 (bulk 1850s-1890)
Abstract	<p>William Peabody (1786-1859), his son Sheffield Winslow Peabody (1830-1914), and grandson George Lincoln Peabody (1866-1937) left behind a collection of daybooks, autograph books, and diaries that characterize rural life in the 19th century. The materials chronicle daily chores and projects, people the Peabodys visited and worked with, and itemized purchases for everyday life. Belle Ray Peabody (1874-1939), Mary M. Robinson Peabody (1846-1913) and others are also represented through an autograph book and several photographs that enhance the diaries, which are the core of the collection. All diaries are transcriptions and have been indexed.</p>
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 Amie Alden, Livingston County Historian by mail at: 5 Murray Hill Drive, Mount Morris, NY, by phone at (585) 243-7955 or (585) 335-1730 or by e-mail at Historian@co.livingston.ny.us.</p> <p>The master index included in the collection lists all the names found in the diaries, and users must take note of the initials and volume number appearing for an entry in the master index. The corresponding volume then has its own index giving the exact page number(s) on which the name appears. The index has been digitized and is available on the Livingston County Historian's website, and the 1870 diary and 1881-1889 daybook of Sheffield W. Peabody also have been digitized, though not placed online. Photographic prints have also been digitized for ease of access.</p>
Copyright	<p>Some materials are 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

William Peabody (1786-1859) and Roxanna Burdick (1790-1847) were born in Connecticut and relocated to Springwater in the early 19th century. They were the parents of Sheffield Winslow Peabody (1830-1914). Based on census information, William remarried after Roxanna's death to Mrs. Catherine Macomber.

According to his obituary, Sheffield Winslow Peabody was born in Springwater and lived most of his life there, dying in Canadice at the home of his son, George Lincoln Peabody. He and his wife, Mary M. Robinson Peabody (1846-1913), daughter of Nathan and Emma Parshall Robinson of Springwater, additionally had children Llewellyn Grant Peabody (1869-1873), Emma Peabody Beals (b. 1872), Starr Peabody (b. 1874), Martha Peabody Brush (b. 1876), and Helen Peabody Peck (1883-1926).

Sheffield Peabody was a supporter of temperance, basing his life decisions on his beliefs and as Justice of the Peace once blocked the sale of liquor in Springwater, according to differing accounts either through breaking a Springwater town board tie vote on the question or refusing to issue permits to sellers of spirits.

In 1874, he built a cheese factory at Tabor's Corners in Springwater. His diaries are much like typical agricultural and mercantile diaries of the time, reporting on weather conditions, projects and those who worked for him, daily chores, and visits to friends and relatives.

George Lincoln Peabody (1866-1937), son of Sheffield and Mary, was married in 1893 to Miss Mary Belle Ray (1874-1939), known as Belle Ray. She was a daughter of Oscar F. and Sarah Thompson Ray of Canadice. George and Belle lived in Springwater and Canadice most of their lives, and their son Llewellyn Oscar Peabody (1902-1944), with Myrtle Adelaide Lacy (1901-1983) were the parents of Betty Jane Peabody Knoblock.

The collection of original diaries, account books, autograph books, and photographs evidently were passed down through the family and came to descendent Betty Peabody Knoblock of Los Angeles, CA. Betty transcribed and indexed all the diaries and donated the transcriptions to the Livingston County Historian's Office between about 1986 and 2013. She retains most of the original materials and holds copyright to the transcriptions.

III. Contents List

Transcribed personal ledger, William Peabody, 1807-1860

Transcribed diaries, Sheffield Winslow Peabody, 1849-1914 (some years scattered) (4 items)

Transcribed daybook, Sheffield Winslow Peabody, 1881-1889 (1 item)

Transcribed diaries, George Lincoln Peabody, 1900-1937 (some years scattered) (2 items)

Transcribed autograph book, George L. Peabody, 1882-1885 (1 item)

Autograph books, Belle Ray, 1883-1892 (2 items, one is transcription, one is original)

Genealogy notes, William Pabodie/Paybody/Peabody (1619-1707) and Elizabeth Alden (1623-1717) family

Photographs, mainly children of Sheffield and Mary Peabody (13 prints, 2 film negatives)

IV. Related Materials

Livingston County Historian's Office

Mt. Morris, Livingston County, New York

Other Peabody and Ray related items are held in the Peabody (P-116) Family File. These include genealogical papers, copies, and family trees donated by Betty Knoblock from about 1985-2013. Other materials were generated by the County Historian's Office over the years.