Finding aid to *My Story, One Gay's Fight: From Hate to Acceptance* [by] James (Robbie) Robinson 2017

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100 Larkin Street
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Title: My Story, One Gay's Fight: From Hate to Acceptance by James (Robbie) Robinson
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Abstract: James (Robbie) Robinson was a barber for 45 years at The Viking in San Francisco and, starting in 1957, he was a bartender in homosexual bars. He witnessed police harassment, raids on homosexual establishments, and was one of the seven people who formed the Tavern Guild, an LGBT community organization. His memoir traces his beginnings in Blacksburg, Virginia in the 1930s and 1940s, through his adult life in San Francisco, California from the 1950s into the 2000s.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition
Donated by James (Robbie) Robinson, December 12, 2017.

Biographical / Historical
James (Robbie) Robinson was born in Blacksburg, Virginia in 1935. He joined the Air Force in 1954, and, after his military service, was a barber for 45 years at The Viking in San Francisco. Starting in 1957 he was a bartender in gay bars. He was one of the seven people who established the Tavern Guild, an LGBT community organization.

Scope and Contents
Robinson’s memoir begins with his youth in Virginia, continues through his years of military service, and then concentrates on his move to San Francisco and the life he makes there. It covers police harassment and raids on homosexual establishments, and Robinson’s participation in LGBT community building and politics through work with the Tavern Guild and other organizations. Of particular note are the references to his friend Jose Sarria, the well-known Black Cat entertainer and political activist. The memoir also includes Robinson’s reactions to the assassinations of Harvey Milk and George Moscone, and the effect that event had on politics in San Francisco. It also describes life after 1978 in the city with a focus on AIDS/HIV, gay marriage, and later political figures such as Mark Leno and Scott Weiner.

Arrangement
The memoir is arranged into 8 chapters: Chapter 1. The Beginning; Chapter 2. Leaving Home; Chapter 3. Finding A Home; Chapter 4. Work and Politics; Chapter 5. The Politics; Chapter 6. Disaster; Chapter 7. After the Disaster; and, Chapter 8. The Mature and Final Years.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Gay bars--California--San Francisco.
Gay organizations, centers, etc.--California--San Francisco.
Gay rights movement--California--San Francisco.
Robinson, James (Robbie), 1935-.
Robinson, James (Robbie), 1935-.--Archives
Tavern Guild of San Francisco
Sarria, Jose