Mr. Harrington was reared on the farm, and until he was 16 years of age attended the public school at Madison, going then to St. John's College, Annapolis. He completed the five years' course in four years, graduating with the degree of A. B. in 1884, and taking second honors in his class. The M. A. degree was conferred on him in 1886. He showed a decided fondness for outdoor games, and caught for four years on the St. John's baseball team.

Upon graduation in 1884 Mr. Harrington was appointed tutor in the preparatory department of St. John's and taught for two years, the last half of the second year filling the place in the college department of Professor Hagner, who was ill. At the close of the second year Mr. Harrington was elected Assistant Professor of Latin and Mathematics at St. John's. He accepted the position, but resigned before entering upon the duties of the position, when Dr. William. H. Hopkins, the acting principal of the college, left to accept the presidency of the Woman's College, Baltimore, becoming principal of Cambridge Academy, Cambridge. He held the latter position for three years. At this time the Academy and Female Seminary were merged to form Cambridge High School, and Mr. Harrington was elected principal. He held the position for nine years, being re-elected every year by the unanimous vote of the twenty-four trustees.

He studied law while teaching and was admitted to the Bar. In 1898 he resigned as principal to devote his entire energies to the legal profession. In 1899 he was elected State's Attorney and served until 1903, when he was defeated for re-election. He was a vigorous prosecutor of all offences, especially violations of the liquor and oyster laws, and this fact, together with divisions in his party, brought about his defeat.

Mr. Harrington ranks high as a lawyer, his clientele being many of the most prominent citizens of the county and having a wide range.

He was appointed Insurance Commissioner in November, 1910, and was elected Comptroller in 1911 by a majority of about 7,800 votes.

Mr. Harrington was re-elected Comptroller of the Treasury in 1913, for a term of two years.

Mr. Harrington married Miss Gertrude, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William T. Johnson. They have three children, two sons and a daughter.