

Special Collections at the Livingston County Historian's Office

Updated December 2018

Note: Use of these collections is for serious research and by advance request and permission of the Livingston County Historian's Office. Use of some documents may be restricted due to condition or confidentiality.

To arrange to conduct research with a 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.

Series

Almanac Series

- Extent** .20 linear feet
Date Range 1817-1892 (bulk 1857-1878)
Abstract This series comprises almanacs with subjects ranging from agriculture, mechanics, and medicine to general information. The almanacs are primarily from the northeastern United States, including New York, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania, with several from Ohio. Two of special note focus on abolition and temperance.

Autograph Books Series

- Extent** .5 cubic feet, 19 items
Date Range 1852-1928 (bulk 1878-1890)
Abstract This series includes personal autograph books, mainly those of young people in Livingston County, New York. They are inscribed with signatures of friends, classmates, and relatives, sometimes with small notes, drawings, or poems. Most are typical of the era, though the series also includes a birthday book and a travel diary, which belonged to Clara F. Mann, suffragist and political figure.

Naturalization Records Series

- Extent** 10.5 cubic feet
Date Range 1818-1956
Abstract This collection comprises records relating to immigration and naturalization in Livingston County, New York. It spans the time from just prior to the formation of Livingston County, in 1821, until 1956 and includes original declarations of intention, naturalization orders, petitions, certificates of arrival, and certificates, and indexes to some of these records.

Series, cont'd.

Scrapbooks Series

Extent Approx. 17.9 cubic feet

Date Range c. 1860s – 2004 (bulk 1880-1980)

Abstract This series comprises primarily personal scrapbooks with a few volumes created by organizations, institutions, or businesses. The personal scrapbooks are generally for the purpose of collecting mementos specific to an individual's life, such as programs, clippings, drawings, photographs, and small items, or recording events of the times, such as through local or national newspaper clippings. The few volumes by organizations and other entities chronicle single events or mementos from various happenings over a period of time. Besides the individuals' scrapbooks, entities and subjects represented include cinema in Geneseo and Mt. Morris, the Livingston County Home Bureau, the American Red Cross, the Yellow Front Pharmacy in Geneseo, and the Tuberculosis Hospital in Mt. Morris.

Organization, Company, and Institution Records

Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation (CNR) Collection

Extent 1.13 linear feet

Date Range c. 1964-2013

Abstract This collection comprises primarily photographs with a guestbook, some clippings and other ephemera, created by the Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, formerly known as the Livingston County Infirmary (Geneseo, NY) and the Skilled Nursing Facility (Geneseo and Mt. Morris, NY). The photographs document the daily life of residents but primarily are concerned with special events and holiday activities, including Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, picnics, outings, entertainment, and birthdays. Portraits and snapshots also include residents' families, visiting groups, and nursing home staff. Most images are from the Geneseo location on Millennium Drive, though there are some images from the Mt. Morris Campus Skilled Nursing Facility. One album details the construction of the new Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation on Murray Hill, Mt. Morris, New York.

Craig Colony Records

Extent 11 cubic feet

Date Range 1896-1985 (bulk 1910-1975)

Abstract These documents were created and collected mainly by the New York State institution known over time as Craig Colony for Epileptics, Craig Colony and Hospital, and the Craig Developmental Center. Records were also created and collected by employees and other parties associated with Craig Colony and the Craig Colony and Hospital State School of Nursing. The collections include photographs, negatives, and postcards of the grounds, patients, employees, physicians, and events; postcards; financial and institutional ledgers; financial and legal documents and property records; correspondence and ephemera; newspaper clippings; medical history charts for patients; employee and service contracts, assessments, and payroll; annual reports and bulletins; manuals and pamphlets on epilepsy and nursing; nursing certificates; artifacts; maps; and reference information. Includes documents relating to occupational therapy techniques during the 1950s-1970s, cemetery listings 1896-1979, cemetery plot maps, lists of graduates from the School of Nursing 1899-1974, and baseball association documents. Some documents are digitized and/or indexed. There are no patient records available for research.

Dansville and Mount Morris Railroad Company Records

Extent Approx. 57 cubic feet

Date Range 1891-1984 (bulk 1926-1976)

Abstract Created by and pertaining to the Dansville and Mt. Morris Railroad Company based in Dansville, Livingston County, New York from 1891 to 1984. The records span the lifetime of the company and are composed of financial ledgers and accounting, payroll and tax documents, freight and shipping papers, quarterly, monthly, and annual reports, legal proceedings, maps and surveys, stockholders' papers, and other miscellaneous materials.

Organization, Company, and Institution Records, cont'd.

Genesee Wesleyan Seminary Alumni Lists, 1900-1952

Extent .5 linear feet

Date Range 1900-1964

Abstract This collection is a compilation of handwritten and typeset papers, correspondence and pamphlets representing the alumni of the Genesee Wesleyan Seminary in Lima, Livingston County, New York, between 1900 and 1952. The materials were collected and lists compiled by Alva E. Margeson, GWS Class of 1913, for the purpose of encouraging class reunions and networking among alumni. There may be some copied clippings and other materials inserted into the collection by a former Livingston County Historian.

Van Dorn Papers

Extent .45 linear feet, 368 items

Date Range c. 1832-1881 (bulk 1840-1857)

Abstract This collection comprises handwritten notices and flyers probably submitted to Hugh Harding, the editor of the *Mt. Morris Spectator* published in Mt. Morris, Livingston County, New York, and subsequent newspapers. The items' topical span covers event publicity, lost and found notices, election results, business advertisements, marriage and death announcements, educational institution notices, legal classifieds, town government meeting bulletins, and other types of newspaper notices. Besides the *Spectator*, they may have been published in the *Livingston Union*, *Union and Constitution*, and *Mt. Morris Union*.

Military Collections

Sullivan Campaign Series (Revolutionary War Era)

Extent	3.1 linear feet
Date Range	1879-2008 (bulk 1927-2008)
Abstract	This collection comprises records and information relating to the Sullivan Campaign of 1779 against the Iroquois and its impact on Livingston County, New York, the western limit of the Campaign. Included in the collection are books and pamphlets about the history and events of the Sullivan Campaign and photographs, programs, papers, and clippings relating to commemorative events held in Livingston County. It also contains photographs, clippings, programs, and papers relating to educational events and improvements to the Groveland Ambuscade Monument and the Boyd and Parker Memorial Site at Cuylerville in Livingston County.

Troop M Records (World War I, World War II, and New York National Guard)

Extent	.8 linear feet
Date Range	1916–1960 (bulk 1920-1945)
Abstract	This collection comprises assorted materials created by individuals and groups associated with Troop M, 1 st New York Cavalry, New York National Guard; Troop M, 101 st Mechanized Cavalry Regiment; Troop G, 121 st Cavalry, N.Y.N.G.; Troop I, 121 st N.Y.N.G.; and 27 th Reconnaissance Company at Geneseo. Topically related items include rosters, reports, photographs, programs, diaries, correspondence, books, and pamphlets.

Operation Morale Collection (Vietnam Era)

Extent	10.2 cubic feet
Date Range	1967-1972
Abstract	Operation Morale was run by Mrs. Kathryn “Mama Kay” Clark and Livingston County, New York residents between 1967 and 1972; the organization sent packages to servicemen during the Vietnam War. Documents in this collection were created by Mama Kay, her associates, and servicemen. Records contain correspondence, press releases, newspaper clippings, photos, greeting cards, survey forms, and ephemera.

Individual Collections

Irene A. Beale Collection

Extent 1 linear foot

Date Range 1980-1994

Abstract This collection comprises papers, notes, and research materials collected and created by Irene A. Beale of Geneseo, Livingston County, New York, for the purpose of writing several local history books, including Genesee Valley Women, Genesee Valley People, Genesee Country Senecas, and Genesee Valley Events. The papers include notes, brochures, pamphlets, receipts, bibliographies, correspondence, and some excerpts from published books.

William A. Brodie (1841-1917) Collection

Extent 9.2 cubic feet

Date Range Roughly 1830-1980 (bulk 1860-1910)

Abstract The collection relates to the Brodie and Coddington families of Geneseo, New York, particularly William A. Brodie, former County Treasurer and Grand Master of Masons in New York State, and his descendants. Includes New York State Masons reports and correspondence, Statue of Liberty cornerstone ceremony documents, Geneseo Normal School documents, Geneseo Presbyterian Sunday school lessons and photographs, Wadsworth Estate documents, County Treasurer reports, and William A. Brodie's personal and business correspondence and documents. Holdings also include family members' diaries, correspondence, photographs, clippings, programs, and accounts.

Charles R. Cameron (1875-1946) Papers

Extent 2.5 cubic feet

Date Range 1901-1936

Abstract Charles R. Cameron, born in York, Livingston County, worked about forty years in the American Foreign Service, acting as Consulate in South America and Consul General in Japan, and Superintendent of Schools in the Philippines. Items in this collection were created by Charles R. Cameron and associates through correspondence and normal course of business. Records were used to document Cameron's work abroad, and contain correspondence, clippings, reports, maps, photo albums, and journals. Scope of records includes Cameron's work in Chile, Cuba, Sao Paulo in Brazil, the Philippine Islands, and Japan.

Individual Collections, cont'd.

Paul T. Culley Genealogy Papers

Extent	.75 cubic feet
Date Range	1790-1980 (bulk 1810-1925)
Abstract	This collection was created by Paul T. Culley of Alfred, New York, during his personal genealogy research. Records contain primarily census schedule transcriptions from western New York counties, with some scattered correspondence, newspaper clippings, copies of published genealogies, and photographs. It also includes several original documents. Records also include census records from Michigan, <u>A Record of the Descendants of John Baldwin of Stonington, CT</u> , by John D. Baldwin, published 1880 and "Descendants of John North." Most surnames have one to several pages, but the following are more abundant: Booher, Carnes, Cully / Culley, Neff, Plumb, Shay / Shays, Weaver, and Woodruff.

Dailey-Logan Photograph Album

Extent	.5 linear feet, 120 items
Date Range	c. 1860s – c. 1960s
Abstract	This collection comprises 120 items from a large photograph album. Most are photographs and tintypes, while there are a few pieces of ephemera, including newspaper clippings, a calling card, and correspondence. The collection comprises photographs of members of the Logan, Dailey, Nixon, Gilbert, McIlravy, and Wooster families of Mt. Morris and Leicester as well as extended family.

Lockwood R. Doty Collection

Extent	2.5 cubic feet
Date Range	1841 – 1930 (bulk 1919 – 1930)
Abstract	Collection was created by Hon. Lockwood R. Doty and his associates through correspondence. Doty was former county judge, President of the Livingston County Historical Society, and first Livingston County Historian. Records were used to administrate and plan events held regionally and in Livingston County, including the Geneseo Celebration of WWI in 1919, Boyd and Parker Celebration in 1927, Sesquicentennial Celebration of the American Revolution in 1929, placement of historical markers, straightening of the Canaseraga Creek, a proposed county tuberculosis hospital, writing of the <u>History of the Genesee Valley</u> , and other projects. Records contain correspondence, newspaper clippings, reports, maps, blueprints, ephemera, and administrative, financial, and legal documents.

Individual Collections, cont'd.

NEW:

Howd / Mosher Family Collection

- Extent** .75 linear foot
- Date Range** 1818-c. 1960 (bulk 1852-1917)
- Abstract** This collection comprises correspondence, personal papers, and photographs created and preserved primarily by the Edwin Cook Howd (1803-1881) family of Nunda, Livingston County, New York; the William Henry Mosher (1832-1885) family of Nunda and Owosso, Shiawassee County, Michigan; and the Byron and Grace Anna Mosher Dawes (1870-1960) family of Owosso, Michigan. The collection includes correspondence from relatives of Mary Warner Gear Howd from the New York City area and Howd and Mosher family daguerreotypes.

Horatio Jones III (1806-1863) Papers

- Extent** 1 linear foot
- Date Range** 1822-1862 (bulk 1836-1857)
- Abstract** This record group comprises correspondence sent to Horatio Jones III (1806-1863) of Leicester, Livingston County, New York. Jones was postmaster for the village of Moscow and therefore many papers relate to general matters of the postal system. He was also justice of the peace for many years, and the collection includes assorted judgements, bills, executions, and receipts. Some correspondence relates to land matters. There are a few scattered letters to Horatio Jones III from family, including from his siblings John Hunter Jones, Jr., William C. Jones, Maretta Jones, and George W. Jones, and a cousin, Dick C. Jones.

Frank S. Lee (1852-1936) Papers

- Extent** 2.58 linear feet
- Date Range** 1863-1926 (bulk 1865-1890)
- Abstract** This collection comprises correspondence relating to Frank S. Lee (1852-1936), the Lee and Wells families of Conesus and Groveland, and their relatives and friends. A significant portion of the collection contains letters between Frank S. Lee and his future wife, Anna M. Parker, between 1882 and 1890. The collection also includes correspondence between Frank and young female friends in the late 1860s through the 1870s, correspondence between the Lee brothers, their parents and relatives, Frank's diaries, and letters from G. Wiley Wells during and after his service in the Civil War.

Individual Collections, cont'd.

Miss Edna M. Neff (1880-1970) Papers

Extent .66 linear feet

Date Range 1911-1925

Abstract This collection comprises personal correspondence sent to Miss Edna M. Neff of Geneseo, Livingston County, New York, mainly by her sister, Grace L. Neff, with letters also from her brother, Dr. Everett R. Neff, and friends.

Rev. Levi Parsons, Jr. (1829-1901) Family Papers

Extent 6.5 cubic feet

Date Range 1794-1972 (bulk 1850-1930)

Abstract This series comprises two collections pertaining to, and created by, Rev. Levi Parsons, Jr. (1829-1901) of Mt. Morris, Livingston County, and related ancestors, descendants, and friends. Records include Mt. Morris Presbyterian Church sacramental registers, personal and church account books, diaries, and papers, scrapbooks and clippings, photographs, documents relating to Lorenzo Warriner Pease's missionary work in Cyprus, correspondence, and other miscellaneous papers and pamphlets.

A considerable portion of the collection is composed of correspondence between Parsons and Pease family members, also including members of the extended family with surnames Cady, Foley, Gilbert, Humphreys, Leonard, Platt, Rice, and Wadsworth.

Joseph N. Reed Family Collection

Extent 1 linear foot

Date Range 1851-1940 (bulk 1855-1882)

Abstract This collection comprises primarily letters and a few photographs amassed by Joseph N. Reed and his wife, Mariah Goodrich Reed (1822-1882), of Cuylerville, Geneseo, and Groveland, Livingston County, during the mid- to late-19th century. The letters are mainly those of relatives writing to Joseph and Mariah but also relate to their children, including David Abell Reed (1859-1929) and his family.

Diary Collections

John Milroy Donnan (1858-1939) Diary Collection

Extent .3 cubic feet

Date Range 1893-1906

Abstract This collection comprises a short series of diaries by J. Milroy Donnan of York, Livingston County, New York. The diaries are typical of the era, being small with brief entries related to agriculture and farm laborers.

William Hartman (1820-1890) Diary Collection

Extent 1.5 cubic feet; 49 diaries

Date Range 1860-1932

Abstract This collection comprises diaries of William Hartman and son William H. Hartman of Dansville, New York. The collection includes personal diaries about farm work and life, personal financial accounts, and receipts.

Kimball W. Russ (1829-1902) Diary Collection

Extent .9 cubic feet, 37 diaries

Date Range 1857-1902

Abstract This collection comprises diaries by Kimball W. Russ of York, Livingston County, New York. They record daily agricultural and personal activities. The series is fairly complete, with some gaps.

Stephen B. Shull (1885-1985) Diary Collection

Extent .75 cubic feet, 60 diaries

Date Range 1917-1984

Abstract This collection comprises diaries of Stephen Bennett Shull of Dansville, New York. Except for a gap between 1928 and 1930, there is a personal diary for every year between 1923 and 1984. The collection also includes two personal finance books.

Lucius Warner (1811-1882) Family Diary Collection

Extent 2.25 cubic feet, 54 diaries

Date Range 1860-1920

Abstract This collection comprises diaries of Lucius Warner and son Lucius W. Warner of Geneseo, New York. The collection includes personal diaries about farm work and life; also included are a series of field books created by Lucius W. Warner when he served as Assessor for the Town of Geneseo. The collection also includes various financial records and papers relating to the Frank Barber estate.