

Nancy Farnum O'Dea Collection

A Finding Aid

Livingston County Historian's Office

5 Murray Hill Dr.

Mt. Morris, NY 14510

March 2019

Prepared by Holly C. Watson, Deputy Livingston County Historian

I. Collection Summary

Title	Nancy Farnum O’Dea Collection
Collection No.	C166
Extent	1.5 linear feet
Date Range	c. 1950s-2006 (bulk 1950s-1970s)
Abstract	<p>This collection comprises research materials generated by Nancy Farnum O’Dea of Geneseo, Livingston County, New York. Included in the collection are papers detailing and documenting projects by the Association for the Preservation of Geneseo (APOG), such as the listing of the National Historic Landmark in the Village of Geneseo and the village walking tour, and organization reports and minutes. This collection includes clippings of articles and extensive research on the homes and business buildings in Geneseo, which formed the basis for the APOG book <i>Historic Geneseo: Components of a National Landmark Village</i> (1995). It also comprises much of Mrs. O’Dea’s raw research which was never published, including notes and contemporary photographs.</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 the Livingston County Historian by mail at: 5 Murray Hill Drive, Mount Morris, NY, by phone at (585) 243-7955, or by e-mail at Historian@livingstoncountyny.gov.</p>
Copyright	<p>Some materials may be 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

Nancy Farnum O’Dea was a founding member of the Association for the Preservation of Geneseo (APOG) in Geneseo, New York. For many years, she conducted painstaking research on village history. This research included extensive deed searches as well as many hours of poring through un-indexed microfilm of local newspapers from the 1800s to the present. Based on her research, she wrote about village houses in a series of Livingston County News articles published in the 1970s. These articles were later adapted for a book titled *Historic Geneseo: Components of a National Landmark Village* (edited by Liz Porter and published by APOG in 1995).

In addition to this published work, O’Dea collected information and wrote short histories about many other houses and events in the historic village. As per her request, her “raw research” papers were donated to APOG and the Livingston County Historian at Nancy’s death in 2006. Much of this unpublished work was digitally scanned in 2006 and 2007 by Joan Ballard and other APOG volunteers to allow easier access for future researchers. (Above likely written by Joan Ballard and included in collection.) These various materials have been digitized and are held by the County Historian’s Office.

III. Contents List

- Box 1** Binder, notes from newspapers and about County Home and Farm
- Box 1** Notebook, notes from newspapers about homes, buildings
- Box 1** Binder, notes and clippings about Walking Tour of Geneseo, Geneseo homes, architecture, Doty genealogy, etc.
- Box 1** Binder, newspaper clippings about Geneseo homes and APOG, c. 1974-1983
- Box 1** Binder, papers about Geneseo National Historic Landmark, Colt and Wadsworth genealogy, barns, historical markers, etc.
- Box 1** Annual reports, minutes, and papers relating to APOG

- Box 2** Folder of papers about Geneseo Village Building
- Box 2** Report on buildings by Paul Malo, Professor of Architecture, Syracuse University, c. 1974-1975
- Box 2** House histories and maps, Village of Geneseo
- Box 2** Photographs of homes and farms in Town of Geneseo, with notes, c. 1998
- Box 2** Negatives of photos of homes and farms in Town of Geneseo, c. 1998
- Box 2** Photographs, homes and businesses in Historic District, 1989
- Box 2** Property histories, businesses on Main St., Geneseo Village
- Box 2** Property histories, businesses on other streets in Geneseo Village

IV. Related Materials

Livingston County Historian’s Office

5 Murray Hill Dr., Mt. Morris, New York

Historic house surveys for National Historic Trust, c. 1978 (Acc. # 4209)

Wadsworth Library

Center St., Geneseo, New York

Additional APOG papers collection