

Wadsworth Family
A Subject Finding Aid



Wadsworth Homestead, Geneseo
From Kellogg Collection, C154 P1231

Livingston County Historian's Office
5 Murray Hill Dr.
Mt. Morris, NY 14510
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Prepared by Holly C. Watson, Deputy Livingston County Historian

I. Subject Summary

Title	Wadsworth Family
Collection Titles	James Jeremiah Wadsworth (1905-1984) Collection, C169 Daniel Fink Architecture Collection, C127 Kellogg Collection, C154 Parsons Family Collection, C114 Wayne Mahood Collection William A. Brodie Collection, C102
Extent	Approx. 11.5 cubic feet
Date Range	c. 1777-2006 (bulk 1880s-1890s, 1950s-1970s)
Abstract	<p>This subject relates to the Wadsworth family who settled in Livingston County, New York, beginning in 1790 with James Wadsworth (1768-1844) and William Wadsworth (1761-1833) from Connecticut. The Wadsworths and descendants were fundamental in advancing the white settlement of the Genesee Valley and were influential in education, land stewardship, business, politics, and civil life on a local and national level. The Wadsworths were responsible for the establishment of the Genesee Valley Hunt Club, and the family name is well known in the Genesee Valley, especially Geneseo, to the present day.</p> <p>The subject is primarily represented in the County Historian's archives by the James J. Wadsworth Collection (C169) and assorted published books, reference clippings, photographs, slides and postcards, and some ephemera.</p>
Languages	English, Latin.
Access and Restrictions	<p>Use of the documents in the collections 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	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.

II. Biographical and Background Information

The Wadsworth family has been well documented from England across the sea to the United States, where William Wadsworth (1594-1675) helped established Hartford, Connecticut. Several generations later, brothers William (1761-1833) and James (1768-1844), sons of John Noyes Wadsworth Sr. (1732-1787) and Esther Parsons (1732-1799), sought opportunity outside of Connecticut. The two came to the Genesee Valley of Western New York State in 1790, bringing at least one enslaved person, only known to history as Jenny.

In what would later be Geneseo, Livingston County, they acted as land agents for their cousin, Col. Jeremiah Wadsworth (1745-1804). Following the Treaty of Big Tree in 1797, which extinguished indigenous Seneca title to the land, the brothers were influential in the European American development of the region.

William, a general in the War of 1812, was a farmer, while James is recalled as an advocate for education, helping to enact the school library law in 1838. William never married, and the Geneseo-area family line descends from James.

A family tree, with focus on the Geneseo-based family lineages, follows:

1. **James Wadsworth** (1768-1844)
 - m. 1804 Naomi Wolcott (1777-1831)
 2. Harriet E. Wadsworth (1805-1833) m. Martin Brimmer, mayor of Boston, Massachusetts
 2. **James Samuel Wadsworth** (1807-1864)
 2. **William Wolcott Wadsworth** (1810-1852)
 2. Cornelia Wadsworth (1812-1831)
 2. Elizabeth Wadsworth (1815-1851) m. Charles Augustus Murray; Homestead left to her in her father's will; she helped lay out Geneseo Village Park

2. **James Samuel Wadsworth** (1807-1864), brigadier general; killed at Battle of the Wilderness of the American Civil War; built the Hartford House at the north end of the village of Geneseo
 - m. 1834 Mary Craig Wharton (1812-1874)
 3. Charles Frederick Wadsworth (1835-1899) m. Jessie Burden; built Westerly in Piffard, town of York, Livingston County
 4. Mary Wharton Wadsworth (b. 1866) m. Porter Chandler
 5. Porter R. Chandler
 3. Cornelia Wadsworth (1839-1921) m. Montgomery Ritchie
 - m. John Adair of JA Palodero Ranch, Texas
 3. **Craig Wharton Wadsworth** (1841-1872) m. Evelyn W. Peters
 3. Nancy Wharton Wadsworth (b. 1843) m. 1866 at Philadelphia, Edward Montezuma Rogers
 4. James W. Rogers
 4. Harriet Ruggles Rogers
 3. **James Wolcott Wadsworth** (1846-1926)
 3. Elizabeth Wadsworth (1848-1930) m. Arthur W. Post
 - m. Lord Barrymore

2. **William Wolcott Wadsworth** (1810-1852) – the Homestead
 - m. 1846 Emmeline Austin (1808-1885); bear fountain in Geneseo dedicated to her
 3. **William Austin Wadsworth** (1847-1918)
 3. Livingston Wadsworth (1849-1865); killed in the Civil War
 3. Herbert Wadsworth (1851-1927) m. Martha Blow (1864-1934) of St. Louis; built Ashantee in Avon
3. **Craig Wharton Wadsworth** (1841-1872) – the Homestead
 - m. Evelyn W. Peters (1845-1886)
 4. James Samuel “Jim Sam” Wadsworth (1870-1930) m. Julia W. Colt
 - m. Elizabeth Regan (d. 1963)
 5. James Livingston Wadsworth (1897-1918), first World War I casualty, Troop M
 4. Craig Wharton Wadsworth, Jr. (1872-1960); Spanish-American War veteran; Rough Rider
3. **James Wolcott Wadsworth “The Boss”** (1846-1926) – Hartford House; New York State Assemblymember 1878 and member of Congress
 - m. 1876 Maria Louisa Travers (1848-1931)
 4. **James Wolcott Wadsworth, Jr. “Young Jim”** (1877-1952) m. 1902 Alice Hay
 4. Elizabeth Wadsworth (1878-1881)
 4. Harriet Travers Wadsworth (1881-1975) m. Fletcher Harper (d. 1967)
3. **William Austin Wadsworth** (1847-1918) – the Homestead; established Genesee Valley Hunt Club
 - m. 1901 Elizabeth Greene Perkins (1869-1943), established the Wadsworth Nursing Home in Geneseo
 4. **William Perkins Wadsworth** (1906-1983) m. Martha D. Scofield
 - m. Penelope Weare “Pomp” Crane
4. **James Wolcott Wadsworth, Jr. ”Young Jim”** (1877-1952) – Hampton House, Hartford House; Spanish-American War veteran and United States senator
 - m. 1902 Alice Hay (1880-1960), anti-suffragist leader and president of the National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage; she m. 1958 to Jackson Boyd
 5. Evelyn Wadsworth (1903-1972) m. 1924 W. Stuart Symington (1901-1988), senator in Missouri; he m. 1978 Ann “Nancy” Hemingway Watson
 6. W. Stuart Symington, Jr. (1925-) m. 1949 Janey B. Studt
 7. Anne Wadsworth Symington (1950-) m. Charles H. Rhodes III
 7. W. Stuart Symington IV (1952-) m. Susan Ide
 8. Jane Wadsworth Symington (1984-)
 7. Sydney Studt Symington (1956-) m. 1985 Nancy J. Roth
 7. John Sante Symington (1960-)
 6. James Wadsworth Symington (1927-), US House of Representatives; m. 1953 Sylvia C. Schapp
 7. Julia Hay Symington (1954-) m. 1980 Richard Rucker
 8. Evelyn Elizabeth Rucker (1982-)
 7. Jeremy Wadsworth Symington (1957-)
 5. **James Jeremiah Wadsworth** (1905-1984)
 5. **Reverdy Wadsworth** (1914-1970)
4. **William Perkins Wadsworth** (1906-1983) – Cornerways, the Homestead
 - m. Martha Doty Scofield (1906-1958)

- 5. **Winifred Perkins “Perky” Wadsworth** (1930-1994) m. H. Gates Lloyd III
- 5. Martha Doty Wadsworth (1931-2020) m. 1952 Helge K. Heen (later divorced, he m. Leslie ____)

 - 6. Leif Ole Heen (1953-1972)
 - 6. Heidi Austin Heen (1953-2018)
 - 6. Sara Youngs Heen (1958-)

- 5. **William Austin Wadsworth** (1935-)
- 5. Sara Elizabeth “Sally” Wadsworth (1939-) m. J. Brewster Grace

 - 6. Jeremy Brewster Grace (1967-) m. Anna
 - 6. Eric Wadsworth Grace (1969-) m. Celeste Boatwright

- m. 1977 William P. Wood
- m. Penelope Weare “Pomp” Crane (d. 1986)

- 5. **James Jeremiah “Jerry” Wadsworth** (1905-1984) – Hartford House
 - m. 1927 Harty Griggs Tilton (1906-1965)
 - 6. Alice Tilton Wadsworth (1928-1998) m. 1948 Trowbridge “Toby” Strong (1925-2001)
 - 7. M. Corrin Strong (1950-) m. 1978 Judith Allen; publisher of “Clarion”; lives in Hartford House 2023
 - 8. Mary Alice Strong (1980-)
 - 8. Cecelia Anna Strong (1983-) - 7. James Wadsworth Strong (1953-)
 - 7. Susan Trowbridge Strong (1955-) m. 1980 Stephen M. Kelley
 - 8. Harty Tilton Kelley (1986-)
 - 8. Benjamin James Kelley (1989-) - 7. Sarah Hay Strong (1956-) m. 1976 William A. Lomax
 - 8. William Trowbridge Lomax (1979-)
 - 8. Michael Anthony Lomax (1983-) - 7. Alice Tilton Strong (1961-) - m. 1967 Mary Alphin Donaldson of Arlington, VA
5. **Reverdy Wadsworth** (1914-1970) – Cornerways 1943-1962, moved to Hartford House 1962, bought Cornerways again in 1970s
- m. Eleanor Roosevelt (1915-1995)
- 6. Harry Roosevelt Wadsworth (1941-2024) m. 1965 Raye Popp (1943-1989)
 - 7. Elizabeth Morgan Wadsworth (1967-)
 - 7. Jessica Wharton Wadsworth (1973-) m. Bruce Clark - m. 1984 Helen Rich
5. **Winifred Perkins “Perky” Wadsworth** (1930-1994)
- m. 1950 H. Gates Lloyd III
- 6. Elizabeth Perkins Lloyd (1951-) m. 1976 William R. Hobson
 - 7. Elizabeth Booth Hobson (1982-) m. Richard Morris
 - 7. Richard Lloyd (1984-) - 6. Lallie Barnes Lloyd (1952-) m. 1972 Scott T. O’Brien
 - 7. Rebecca Louise O’Brien (1975-)
 - 7. Timothy Lloyd O’Brien (1978-) - 6. Martha Scofield Lloyd (1954-1958)
 - 6. Alice Biddle Lloyd (1955-) m. 1982 Wade Patrick Carrigan
 - 6. H. Gates Lloyd IV (1958-)
 - 6. William Wadsworth “Billy” Lloyd (1960-) m. Margaret “Meg” Coyne

- 7. William Coyne “Coyne” Lloyd
- 7. Andrew Coyne Lloyd
- 7. Catherine Lloyd
- 7. Margaret “Maggie” Lloyd

- 5. **William Austin “Austin” Wadsworth** (1935-) – the Homestead; National Warplane Museum
 - m. 1958 Patricia Starkey
 - 6. Naomi Wolcott Wadsworth (1959-)
 - 6. William Starkey “Will” Wadsworth (1960-) m. 1985 Louise Kroehnke – Big Tree Farm, renovated and restored Homestead c. 2012-2019
 - 7. Lauren Wadsworth
 - 7. Piper Wadsworth
 - 6. Craig Wharton Wadsworth (1961-)
 - m. 1966 Emily Wood Andrews (later divorced and married a third time in 1990s, again divorced)
 - 6. Martha Chapman Wadsworth (1967-)

III. Series List

Archival Files

- Correspondence, certificates, personal papers, land records, periodical clippings, and other ephemera, c. 1777-2006. (about 65 items)
- Diploma from Yale University, James Wadsworth, 1787.
- Grand Solemn March sheet music for Gen. James S. Wadsworth, 1864.
- Pamphlet, auction of Herbert Wadsworth Estate, Ashantee, 1939.
- Pamphlet, "More Century Farms of New York State" (NYS Agricultural Society), featuring James W. Wadsworth Farms, Geneseo, 1950.

Books and Pamphlets

- Basham, Philip. *The Origins of Hartford House, Geneseo*. Surrey, UK: Basham, 2001.
- Fausold, Martin L. *James W. Wadsworth, Jr.: the Gentleman from New York*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1975.
- Gocher, William H. *Wadsworth: Or, the Charter Oak*. Hartford: W. H. Gocher, 1904.
- Hand, Kyle. "James Wadsworth and His Influence Toward Education."
- Harper, Harriet Wadsworth. *Around the World in Eighty Years on a Sidesaddle*. New York: Spiral Press, 1966.
- Hatch, Alden. *The Wadsworths of the Genesee*. New York: Coward-McCann, 1959.
- Holthusen, Henry F. *James W. Wadsworth, Jr.: a Biographical Sketch*. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1926.
- Kuiper, Chelsea. *Journey to the Genesee: the Wadsworth Family in America, 1632-2020*. Mt. Morris: Lamplighter Publishing, 2020.
- Krumwiede, John F. *Old Waddy's Coming! The Military Career of Brigadier General James S. Wadsworth*. Butternut and Blue: 2002.
- Mahood, Wayne. *General Wadsworth: the Life and Times of Brevet Major General James S. Wadsworth*. DaCapo Press, 2003.
- McNall, Neil Adams. *The First Half-Century of Wadsworth Tenancy*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1945.

- New York Monuments Commission. *In Memoriam, James Samuel Wadsworth, 1807-1864; Major-General James S. Wadsworth at Gettysburg and Other Fields*. Albany: J. B. Lyon Company, 1916.
- Parker, Kathleen. *The Wadsworths: Political and Public Service Contributions to the United States*. Geneseo: Parker, 1978.
- Pearson, Henry Greenleaf. *James S. Wadsworth of Geneseo: Brevet Major-General of United States Volunteers*. New York: Scribner Press, 1913.
- Strong, Alice Wadsworth. *Hartford House, 1835-1985*. Geneseo: Genesee Graphics, 1985.
- Strong, Alice Wadsworth. *Hartford House, 1835-2007*. Geneseo: Genesee Graphics, 2007.
- Wadsworth, James Jeremiah. *The Silver Spoon: an Autobiography*. Geneva: W. F. Humphrey Press, 1980.
- Wadsworth, W. Austin. *The Hunting Diaries of W. Austin Wadsworth, Genesee Valley Hunt, 1876 – 1909*. Geneseo: 1984.
- Wood, Sara Wadsworth. *Family Histories of William Perkins Wadsworth and Martha Doty Scofield Wadsworth*. West Grove, PA: Sara W. Wood, 1994.

Collections

James Jeremiah Wadsworth Collection (C169)

Photographs, correspondence, scrapbooks, reports, and other papers regarding James J. “Jerry” Wadsworth’s life and career in politics. The collection focuses on his influential work at the United Nations and the FCC during the 1960s and 1970s.

Daniel Fink Architecture Collection (C127)

Slides of the Wadsworth Homestead and Hartford House (2 items)

Kellogg Collection (C154)

Photographs of the Wadsworth Homestead and associated outbuildings, the Hartford House and associated structures, and one image of the Wadsworth cobblestone home on West Lake Road. c. 1967-1972. (165 items)

Parsons Family Collection (C114)

Correspondence from and regarding Wadsworth family members including James W. Wadsworth, James J. Wadsworth, c. 1854-1945 (6 items); also correspondence of Sarah A. Pease Wadsworth, 1859-1898, probably not directly related to Geneseo Wadsworths.

William A. Brodie Collection (C102)

Wadsworth family documents, regarding James S. Wadsworth estate, Wadsworth Poultry Farm, Craig W. Wadsworth, and Miss Elizabeth Dobson, c. 1892-1916 (1 folder).
Photographs, Wadsworth family portraits and Wadsworth Homestead (7 items).

Wayne Mahood Collection

Reprinted articles, papers, photographs, slides, and personal research on Wadsworth family, specifically General James S. Wadsworth (1807-1864) and the "Wadsworth Guards" 104th Regiment of the New York State Volunteers. (0.5 linear foot)

Family Files

Wadsworth Family File (Avon family). W-101.

Assorted genealogical correspondence and collected clippings.

Maps

Jones Bridge Road, including W. A. Wadsworth Estate (no date).

Property to be Acquired from W. A. Wadsworth Estate by Union Free School District, Geneseo, 1930.

Several copies of maps from Wadsworth Papers collection, late 1790s-early 1800s.

Sketch Map...of the Properties of Herbert Wadsworth (Ashantee), 1930.

Survey of Lands to be Conveyed by the Estate of Reverdy Wadsworth (Long Point Park), 1972.

Photographic Images

Film Negatives and Glass Negatives

Images of Wadsworth homes, businesses, Genesee Valley Hunt Club, land office in Geneseo, New York, and Wadsworth portraits (approx.. 35 items)

Photographs

Related to the Wadsworths (approx. 220 items) with subjects including:

Ashantee, Avon

Ashantee Stables and Riding Hall, Avon

Genesee Valley Hunt Club events

Hartford House, Geneseo

General James S. Wadsworth and the 104th Regiment and sites at Gettysburg and other battlegrounds

Portraits of Wadsworth family members

Wadsworth Homestead barns and fire, 1973

Wadsworth Homestead, Geneseo

Wadsworth Cabin site and historical marker

Wadsworth Land Office at 1 Main Street, Geneseo

Wadsworth properties, including the Kennels, family residences, and rented farms

Postcards

Related to Wadsworth Homestead, Hartford House, and other Wadsworth homes outside of Livingston County, New York (approx. 35 items).

Slides

Images relating to Wadsworth Homestead, Hartford House, other Wadsworth properties, family portraits, Genesee Valley Hunt Club events, Genesee Bicentennial 1989 honoring Gen. James S. Wadsworth, and telegram to move the Homestead, 1874 (79 items).

Reference Materials on Wadsworth men and women, events, the Genesee Valley Hunt Club, and more.

IV. Related Materials**Special Collections, Milne Library, State University of New York at Geneseo***Wadsworth Family Papers (1790-c. 1950)*

The collections consist of approximately 50,000 items from the land offices of the two branches of the Wadsworth family of Geneseo and cover the years 1790 to about 1950, with most dating from the 19th century. Business correspondence and ledgers, vouchers, deeds, maps and other business-related materials make up most of the collections. Milne's collection does not include official papers from the terms of Congressman James W. Wadsworth (1846-1926) or U.S. Senator James. W. Wadsworth, Jr. (1877-1952).

Library of Congress*James Wadsworth Family Papers (1730-1959)*

Correspondence, diaries, financial papers, scrapbooks, clippings, photographs, and other papers of the family of James Wadsworth (1768-1844) and his brother, William Wadsworth (1761-1833), who settled in Geneseo, N.Y., in 1790 and endowed schools and libraries there. A portion of the collection also focuses on Senator James W. Wadsworth, Jr. (1877-1952). Many early papers relating to Livingston County Wadsworths have been microfilmed and are available at Milne Library, SUNY Geneseo, Geneseo, NY.