

Genesee Wesleyan Seminary Alumni Lists, 1900-1952
A Finding Aid

Livingston County Historian's Office

5 Murray Hill Dr.

Mt. Morris, NY 14510

September 2017

I. Collection Summary

Title	Genesee Wesleyan Seminary Alumni Lists, 1900-1952
Collection No.	C149
Extent	.5 linear feet
Date Range	1900-1964
Abstract	<p>This collection is a compilation of handwritten and typeset papers, correspondence and pamphlets representing many of 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 to enhance the collection as some class lists are incomplete.</p>
Languages	English.
Access and Restrictions	<p>Use of the documents in this collection is for serious research. The collection may be accessible by advance request and permission from the Livingston County Historian's Office. Any use of the material in print or online 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

Alva E. Margeson was a member of the Genesee Wesleyan Seminary Class of 1913 and went on to graduate from Colgate University in 1916 and finally Columbia University Teachers College. He served in France during World War One, but besides this interruption, spent a career of 35 years in the New York State school system between 1916 and 1951. He was a teacher and principal at Delavan, LeRoy, Greigsville, Highland Falls, and Phelps High Schools, and Barnard Union School for 20 years of that time.¹

Margeson was son of Elizabeth A. Dickerson and Monroe Margeson of Wyoming County. He married Rosabel Harris in 1920, and she died in 1933.²³ He married a second time to Miss Bessie Irene Harris, also a graduate of Genesee Wesleyan Seminary, a few years later. Margeson had close family and personal ties to Wyoming County, and served as mayor of the Village of Wyoming for a time; he died in 1977.⁴

The Genesee Wesleyan Seminary formed its first class in 1832 and its Alumni Association began in 1854. From 1857 to 1870 it was known as the Genesee College, which thereafter moved to Syracuse to form the beginnings of Syracuse University. In 1952, the Seminary closed and the property sold to the Elim Bible Institute.

This collection was most likely pulled together during the 1950s and early 1960s from published alumni lists, directories, and commencement materials, and from correspondence and recollections of graduates. Some pamphlets and correspondence to and from Alva Margeson in the 1960s are included in the collection.

III. Contents List

Binder 1	Genesee Wesleyan Seminary Alumni Lists, 1900-1952 Copy of the President of the Alumni Association
Binder 2	Genesee Wesleyan Seminary Alumni Lists, 1900-1952 Carbon copy of the President of the Alumni Association's list, with notes

¹ "Alva E. Margeson, Barnard Principal, to Retire July 1." *Greece Press*. 8 Mar. 1951, p.1.

² "Mrs. Alva E. Margeson." *Wyoming Reporter*. 29 Nov. 1933, p.1

³ *LeRoy Gazette-News*. 6 Jul. 1921, p.6.

⁴ *Historical Wyoming*. Vol. XXIV, No. 1. July 1977, p.9.

IV. Related Materials

Syracuse University Archives and Special Collections Research Center

222 Waverly Ave., Suite 600, Syracuse, NY

- Genesee Wesleyan Seminary Collection - Administrative, financial, graphic and printed materials as well as alumni, faculty and student information documenting the history of the Genesee Wesleyan Seminary
- Genesee College Collection – institution related to Genesee Wesleyan Seminary and housed on the seminary site in Lima, New York from 1849 to 1875.
- Methodist Manuscript Collection with items relating to the Genesee Conference.

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Assorted materials on Genesee Wesleyan Seminary.