

# **Woman's Relief Corps Collection**

## **A Finding Aid**

**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. Collection Summary

<b>Title</b>	Woman's Relief Corps Collection
<b>Collection No.</b>	C170
<b>Extent</b>	.25 linear foot
<b>Date Range</b>	1954-c. 2001
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>This collection comprises materials collected by Lorraine Orton, Past Department President of the Woman's Relief Corps, New York, and National Historian of the National Woman's Relief Corps. Included are minutes, correspondence, a scrapbook, and papers relating to the National Woman's Relief Corps, the Genesee Valley Federation of the Woman's Relief Corps, and the A. A. Curtis Woman's Relief Corps #64, which was the local chapter at Genesee, Livingston County, New York.</p>
<b>Languages</b>	English.
<b>Access and Restrictions</b>	<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 <a href="mailto:Historian@livingstoncountyny.gov">Historian@livingstoncountyny.gov</a>.</p>
<b>Copyright</b>	<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. Background Information

The materials in this collection were donated to the Livingston County Historian's Office by Jerome Orton of Syracuse in 2013. His wife, Lorraine M. Roth Orton, passed away on November 27, 2012 and the materials were part of her effects. She had served as the last Department President of Woman's Relief Corps, New York, from 1993-1998 and was National Historian until her passing in 2012.

The Woman's Relief Corps had its beginnings during and following the Civil War, with the first society using the name organizing in 1869 in Portland, Maine. The National Woman's Relief Corps (W.R.C.) was formed in 1883 as an auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), a fraternal organization for the support of Union veterans.

On March 6, 1894, the A. A. Curtis Woman's Relief Corps #64 was organized as the corresponding auxiliary of the A. A. Curtis Post of the G.A.R. Among the activities of the local W.R.C. was the presenting flags to schools and organizations, fundraising for charity, and participating in other means of support for veterans. The chapter disbanded in 2001. It is not known when the Genesee Valley Federation, a regional network of local Corps, ceased meeting, but according to the materials in this collection, they had dwindling numbers by 1986.

## III. Contents List

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| <b>Box 1</b> | Genesee Valley Federation minute book, 1954-1982 (Woman's Relief Corps.)  |
| <b>Box 1</b> | Scrapbook, the Happenings of A. A. Curtis W.R.C. #64 in 1954  |
| <b>Box 1</b> | Papers and correspondence regarding National W.R.C., Genesee Valley Federation, and A. A. Curtis #64, Genesee, c. 1965-2001 (5 items) |