

**Captain Festus Cone (1784-1875)**  
**Family Papers**  
**A Finding Aid**

**Livingston County Historian's Office**  
5 Murray Hill Dr.  
Mt. Morris, NY 14510  
May 2015

## I. Collection Summary

<b>Title</b>	Captain Festus Cone (1784-1875) Family Letters
<b>Collection No.</b>	C168
<b>Extent</b>	.25 linear foot; 179 items
<b>Date Range</b>	1833-1937 (bulk 1837-1849)
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>This collection was created and collected mainly by Captain Festus Cone (1784-1875) and Mrs. Elizabeth Lewis Cone (1785-1875) of Moscow, Leicester, Livingston County, New York. A significant portion of the correspondence is from their daughter and son-in-law, Elisabeth L. Cone Bolton (1819-1846) and Thomas Bolton (1809-1871), who settled in Cleveland, Ohio. There are also many letters to and from other Cone and Bolton relatives, including Bartlett L. Cone, George F. Cone, Cornelia Ann Cone, James H. Bolton, and other friends, associates, and relatives. These include Joel Hall of Chatham, Connecticut, and Mary Cone Bolton Olmstead (1867-1949). The letters reveal personal griefs and joys, shedding light on a rural family in Livingston County and especially highlighting the story of a young family who moved west to Ohio and the trials of life in the 1830s and 1840s.</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>	There are no items subject to copyright.

## II. Biographical and Background Information

Captain Festus Cone (1784-1875) of Moscow (later Village of Leicester, Livingston County, New York, served in the War of 1812. His wife was Elizabeth Lewis Cone (1785-1875).

Among their children were Cornelia Ann Cone (1822-1838), George F. Cone (d. 1881) and Bartlett L. Cone (d. 1882) of Leicester, Livingston County, New York.

Festus and Elizabeth's daughter, Miss Elisabeth L. Cone (1819-1846), married judge Thomas Bolton (1809-1871) in 1837 and moved to Cleveland, Ohio, where he was working; they had five children: Festus Bolton (1838-1839), Kelly Bolton, Festus Cone Bolton (1844-1883), Elizabeth Cone Bolton, and James Henry Bolton (1846-). Elisabeth died in January of 1846 just after the birth of James and the newborn was cared for by a neighbor of the Boltons while young Festus Cone Bolton went to live with his grandparents, Capt. Festus and Elizabeth Cone in Leicester, New York, for a time.

Thomas remarried by 1847 to Emeline Russell (1822-1914) and they had at least one child, George Bolton (1851-1859).

It is unknown how these letters found their way to the Livingston County Historian's Office, but the most probable link is through Festus Cone Bolton (1844-1883) and Isabella Olive Coudy Bolton (1847-1915). Their daughter, Mary Cone Bolton Olmstead (1867-1949), seemed interested in family history, judging by a few letters scattered throughout this collection. It seems likely that the early Bolton and Cone letters therefore were preserved by a descendant of Thomas and Elisabeth Bolton who was closely connected to Captain Festus and Elizabeth Cone.

The letters are housed in a series of original papers relating to genealogy and correspondence and are not in their own boxes, but are collected in seven contiguously-labeled acid- and lignin-free file folders, with each letter in its own acid-free sleeve. They are in good condition and some are grouped by author and arranged roughly in chronological order. The items have each been described individually but have not been digitized.

### III. Contents List

- Box 1 Folder 38** Letters from Thomas Bolton and Mrs. Elisabeth Cone Bolton in Cleveland to Capt. Festus and Mrs. Elizabeth Cone in Moscow, 1837-1860 (bulk 1838-1841)
- Box 1 Folder 39** Letters from Thomas Bolton and Mrs. Elisabeth Cone Bolton in Cleveland to Capt. Festus and Mrs. Elizabeth Cone in Moscow; mentions their children, Kelly, Festus, and Elizabeth c. 1841-1845
- Box 1 Folder 40** Letters from Thomas Bolton and Mrs. Elisabeth Cone Bolton in Cleveland to Capt. Festus and Mrs. Elizabeth Cone and Bartlett L. Cone in Moscow; letters from Thomas Bolton discussing death of his wife, Mrs. Elisabeth Cone Bolton, and letters from afterwards, 1845-1846, with one letter from 1837.
- Box 1 Folder 41** Letters from Thomas Bolton in Cleveland to Capt. Festus and Mrs. Elizabeth Cone and Bartlett L. Cone in Moscow, 1846-1860 (bulk 1846-1849).
- Box 1 Folder 42** Mainly letters from various Bolton family members to one another, including Charles C. Bolton of Cleveland, Ohio, and Isabella Bolton, 1873-1886 (bulk 1882-1884); letters from Alfred Hall, Joel Hall, and Hannah Lewis Hall of Chatham, Connecticut and Portland, Connecticut to Festus Cone and Mrs. Elizabeth Lewis Cone of Moscow, Livingston County, New York, 1833-1846; and pension papers for Captain Festus Cone, 1855-1871.
- Box 1 Folder 43** Letters from Cone family, including from Mrs. M. A. Whetmore regarding Lewis and Cone genealogy, 1883-1889; letter from Moses Kelly to Capt. Festus Cone regarding death of Mrs. Elisabeth Cone Bolton, 1846; letters from George F. Cone and Bartlett L. Cone in Cleveland to parents, 1844-1845; Cornelia Ann Cone to sister, Miss Elisabeth Cone, 1835-1837; letters from Emeline Bolton to Mrs. Elizabeth Cone in Moscow, 1847-1848; letter from Mrs. Elizabeth Lewis Cone to husband, Captain Festus, 1838.
- Box 1 Folder 43** Letters from and regarding Cones and descendants, including correspondence about Cone genealogy by Mary Cone Bolton Olmstead and William Whitney Cone, c. 1902-1904; letters to Thomas Bolton, from others, mainly James H. Bolton, A. F. Bolton, James Bates, and others, 1834-1868 (bulk 1838).