

**William B. Wooster (1828-1912) Papers**  
**A Finding Aid**

**Livingston County Historian's Office**  
5 Murray Hill Dr.  
Mt. Morris, NY 14510  
May 2019

Prepared by Holly C. Watson, Deputy Livingston County Historian

## I. Collection Summary

<b>Title</b>	William B. Wooster (1828-1912) Papers
<b>Collection Titles and Numbers</b>	William B. Wooster Papers and William B. Wooster Civil War Papers (C176)
<b>Extent</b>	455 items (299 originals and 156 in digital form only)
<b>Date Range</b>	c. 1830-1982
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>This collection comprises amassed items generated and relating mainly to William B. Wooster (1828-1912) of Cuylerville, Livingston County, New York. The majority of the papers are related to land transactions, estates, personal and business correspondence, and personal and business finances. Included is correspondence with Wooster's future wife, Margaret Jane "Maggie" Gifford, in the mid-1850s; Wooster's estate management papers of Miss Marion Malloch, c. 1890-1898; Wooster family and associates' agreements, mortgages, bonds, and deeds for land, including in Leicester and York, Livingston County, New York. A sizable portion of papers are related to Wooster's time as Town of Leicester Supervisor during the Civil War, and discuss bounties, quotas, and enlistments credited to Leicester, as well as a few scattered letters related to teachers of common schools in Leicester. Also included are items relating to William B. Wooster's time as Livingston County Sheriff; a personal diary, and photographs of Wooster family members and relatives.</p>
<b>Languages</b>	English.
<b>Access and Restrictions</b>	<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 <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. Biographical and Background Information**

William Beatty Wooster was the son of William Ward Wooster of Dutchess County, New York, and Marion Milroy. He was born in Princetown, Schenectady County, New York, and came with his parents to Leicester, Livingston County, New York in 1833 when very young. He married Margaret Jane “Maggie” Gifford of Princetown in 1856. William was Town Supervisor for the Town of Leicester for seven terms (1860-1866), and elected Livingston County Sheriff in 1876, serving until 1880. When he died at Cuylerville, his long-time home, in 1912, he left his and Maggie’s four children, Jane Ann Wooster, Gifford Wooster, George Wooster, and Beatty Wooster.

The provenance of the items in the Family File Originals, Photographs, Diaries and Record Books, etc., series has been lost. It is evident that at least the materials now filed in the Family Folder Originals were donated together. These have been photocopied and the copies available in the Family Files for researcher access, while the originals have been added described to the document level and are housed in acid- and lignin-free folders. They have not been digitized.

The William B. Wooster Papers and the William B. Wooster Civil War Papers (C176) were donated in digital form only to the County Historian’s Office in 2015, the original documents remaining in the archives of the Leicester Town Historian, Leicester, New York.

### III. Contents List

- Family File Originals** 273 total items, ordered roughly proportionally from largest quantity to smallest.
- Bills, receipts, and other financial papers generated almost entirely by William B. Wooster, with a few relating to Mrs. William W. Wooster, Anthony M. Wooster, and others, c. 1848-1912 (bulk 1855-1888)
- Correspondence, mainly to and from William B. Wooster from friends, relatives, and business associates, including McCalls, Giffords, Truesdells, and W. L. Murray, and also from some relatives including William W. Wooster. Approximately 25 letters are between Maggie Gifford and William B. Wooster in 1855-1856. Span of correspondence is c. 1836-1910 (bulk 1849-1858).
- Compositions, poems, and a calling card for Hattie F. Maloch, mostly unsigned and undated; two are by William B. Wooster and another two are for *The Investigator*, all items probably from c. 1850s.
- Land records and estate-related records, 1844-1982 (bulk 1979-1982). Several of these documents relate to the Alice W. Mailler estate and were donated by the Livingston County Historical Society in 2017.

#### Record Books and Diaries

- William B. Wooster papers and record books, Livingston County Sheriff, 1877-1894 (3 items)
- William B. Wooster diary, 1854-1861

#### Photographs

- Wooster-related images, c. 1850s-1940 (23 items)

#### *William B. Wooster Papers and William B. Wooster Civil War Papers (C176)*

##### William B. Wooster Papers

- 79 items, all digital; ordered roughly proportionally from largest quantity to smallest.
- Deeds and mortgages, with associated land surveys and other legal papers, 1833-1921 (bulk 1848-1859). Names involved include William W. Wooster, Marion Wooster, William B. Wooster, Anthony M. Wooster, W. T. Cuyler, Alvenus Cone, Oliver Phelps, William Beatty, and others.
- Miss Marion Malloch estate papers and associated legal and financial papers, c. 1881-1898 (bulk 1897-1898).
- George Bradshaw of Montgomery County, New York, estate papers, 1882.
- Assorted bonds, agreements, receipts, and correspondence, mostly relating to land and business matters, c. 1830-1899.

*Contents List, cont'd.***William B. Wooster Civil War Papers**

77 items, all digital.

Items relating to William B. Wooster's service as Town of Leicester Supervisor, including correspondence and notes related to bounties paid to men from the Leicester and Mt. Morris, Livingston County, area; Certificates of Enlistment for volunteers and substitutes and receipts for bounties paid; and letters from agencies regarding the draft and statistics (1862-1867; bulk 1863-1865) (69 items).

Papers and letters regarding teachers at local district schools in Leicester, 1862-1865 (8 items).

**IV. Related Materials****Livingston County Historian's Office**

5 Murray Hill Dr. Mt. Morris, NY 14510

- Wooster Family File and William B. Wooster Family File (W-180 and W-181)
  - Genealogical correspondence and collected clippings
- Wooster, David, Genealogy of Woosters in America: Descended from Edward Wooster of Connecticut. M. Weiss, 1885.