

# **George and Sara Penning Diaries Collection**

## **A Finding Aid**

**Livingston County Historian's Office**  
5 Murray Hill Dr.  
Mt. Morris, NY 14510  
October 2022

## I. Collection Summary

<b>Title</b>	George and Sara Penning Diaries Collection
<b>Collection No.</b>	C211
<b>Extent</b>	2 cubic feet
<b>Date Range</b>	1926 - 1960
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>This collection comprises the diaries kept by George and Sara S. Penning from Conesus, Livingston County, NY. The diaries follow the couple's lives in the local community beginning in middle age. The earliest diaries kept by George Penning date from 1926-1928 and mention his first wife Onolee (Shafer) Penning (1882–1930) and then later his courting of and marriage to his second wife, Sara (Sliker) Smith Penning, in 1935. Both authors in the collection were very thorough in their entries, including details about their neighbors and friends within the Conesus community. There are also frequent entries regarding world events, such as World War II, the Lindbergh kidnapping, and the Cold War.</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

George G. Penning (1879-1958) was born in Conesus to William and Minerva (Sandborn) Penning. He married his first wife, Onolee (Shafer) Penning (1882-1930), on September 28, 1910, and the couple lived together until her death. By 1934, George mentions spending time with a “Mrs. Smith,” who is believed to have become his second wife, Mrs. Sara (Sliker) Smith Penning (1881-1962). George and Sara were married in Florida on February 5, 1935. Sara had been married before to Frank H. Smith (1857-1933), also from Conesus.

George Penning was a carpenter and logged a great deal of the work he did in his diaries. There are also clippings and membership cards kept throughout the diaries that link back to his connection to church organizations, the Masonic Temple, and the Livonia Lodge. While no children are mentioned by the elderly couple, their connection to their community is clear with their frequent entries of visits and time spent with neighbors and friends.

The first box contains George G. Penning’s diaries from 1926 until his death in January of 1958. There are no diaries for the years 1929, 1930, and 1933. Sara Penning’s diaries from 1938-1960 are contained in the second box. The diaries were donated to the Livingston County Historian’s Office in 2022 by the Conesus town historian. No other provenance details are known.

## III. Contents List

### Box 1

George G. Penning Diary, 1926  
 George G. Penning Diary, 1927  
 George G. Penning Diary, 1928  
 George G. Penning Diary, 1931  
 George G. Penning Diary, 1932  
 George G. Penning Diary, 1934  
 George G. Penning Diary, 1935  
 George G. Penning Diary, 1936  
 George G. Penning Diary, 1937  
 George G. Penning Diary, 1938  
 George G. Penning Diary, 1939  
 George G. Penning Diary, 1940  
 George G. Penning Diary, 1941  
 George G. Penning Diary, 1942  
 George G. Penning Diary, 1943  
 George G. Penning Diary, 1944  
 George G. Penning Diary, 1945  
 George G. Penning Diary, 1946  
 George G. Penning Diary, 1947  
 George G. Penning Diary, 1948  
 George G. Penning Diary, 1951  
 George G. Penning Diary, 1952  
 George G. Penning Diary, 1953  
 George G. Penning Diary, 1954  
 George G. Penning Diary, 1955  
 George G. Penning Diary, 1956  
 George G. Penning Diary, 1957  
 George G. Penning Diary, 1958

**Box 2**

Sara S. Penning Diary, 1938  
Sara S. Penning Diary, 1939  
Sara S. Penning Diary, 1940  
Sara S. Penning Diary, 1941  
Sara S. Penning Diary, 1942  
Sara S. Penning Diary, 1943  
Sara S. Penning Diary, 1944  
Sara S. Penning Diary, 1945  
Sara S. Penning Diary, 1946  
Sara S. Penning Diary, 1947  
Sara S. Penning Diary, 1948  
Sara S. Penning Diary, 1949  
Sara S. Penning Diary, 1950  
Sara S. Penning Diary, 1951  
Sara S. Penning Diary, 1952  
Sara S. Penning Diary, 1953  
Sara S. Penning Diary, 1954  
Sara S. Penning Diary, 1955  
Sara S. Penning Diary, 1956  
Sara S. Penning Diary, 1957  
Sara S. Penning Diary, 1958  
Sara S. Penning Diary, 1959  
Sara S. Penning Diary, 1960