

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Scope of the Collection in Narrative Form
2. Genealogy
  - A. 1595-1790
  - B. 1790-19++
  - C. Office and Household Employees
  - D. Farm or Day Laborers
3. Land Contracts-Leases and Sales
  - A. Core and Geographical Collections
  - B. Sample Lease
  - C. Tenant Farmers in Avon 1814-1851
  - D. Tenant Farmers in Geneseo 1834-1851
  - E. Sample Wheat and Cash Rent Roll 1859
4. Deeds-Location in the Collection and List of Townships or States Represented
5. Letters
  - A. Core and Individual Collections
  - B. Letterbooks
6. Maps-List of Geographic Areas Represented
7. Vouchers-Core and Individual Collections
8. Homestead Chronology-verified by vouchers and letters
9. Estate Owners and Proprietors for Hartford House, The Homestead, and Ashantee

THE WADSWORTH FAMILY PAPERS  
Scope of the Collection

The Wadsworth Family Papers are a collection of over 300 land maps and 145 shelf feet of family and business correspondence, account books, deeds, leases and vouchers from the family land offices in Geneseo, New York. These papers are the record of one of the longest unbroken land tenures by an American family, and cover the years from 1790 to the early twentieth century.

Jeremiah Wadsworth (1743-1804) of Hartford, Connecticut was one of the financiers of the American Revolution. At the end of the war, he, like many other contemporaries, bought land in Western New York State as an investment. His holdings lay mainly on the east bank of the Genesee River, between Geneseo and Rochester, in what was known as Phelps and Gorham's Purchase. Also, like many others, he did not occupy the land himself, but sent agents to administer or sell the holdings. In the case of Jeremiah, he convinced his two nephews, William Wadsworth (1761-1833) and James Wadsworth (1768-1844) to leave the comforts of Durham, Connecticut and settle in this wilderness. His persuasion was to offer them the chance to buy some of the choicest land at cost. In return, they were to oversee the sale of the rest of his holdings. William oversaw the development of the family farm, and James administered the land sales and leases.

William, who never married, was the sole year round resident in the first decade. James preferred to winter in more comfortable situations until after his marriage in 1804. At times he traveled in Europe, where he met and agreed to be agent for other landholders in the area, such as Sir William Pulteney from England and the Six family of the Hague. James' marriage produced three daughters and two sons. Daughter Elizabeth (1815-1851) was James' housekeeper and hostess for his guests after the death of his wife in 1831. In 1841, James divided his estate and responsibility for land management between his two sons, William Wolcott Wadsworth (1810-1852) and James Samuel Wadsworth (1807-1864).

This division of lands and responsibilities is reflected in the collection in important ways. James S. Wadsworth opened a land office at Number 1 Main Street to administer his part of the estate, and William Wolcott Wadsworth took over the Homestead office for management of his share of the holdings. When descendants of the two branches of the family gave the papers to Milne Library, it was stipulated that the papers should not be combined. In the Wadsworth Room, the collections from the Homestead Office are shelved on the right as one enters, the papers

from Number 1 Main Street on the left.

Books and registers that were originally found together in the Homestead Office in numerical sequence were separated, and researchers must use materials in both collections for continuity in some subject areas. The same situation applies to the Map Collection. Each office housed the maps that applied to its specific holdings. In the map case, there are two separate collections alphabetized by township name. It may be necessary to search both collections for the complete picture.

Three other events impacted the collection as it now stands. The first was the family decision to pack up most of the records from 1790 to 1838 and put them in storage. They have not been located by anyone in recent years, and may have been destroyed in one of the numerous barn fires that plagued the family from time to time. However, one important letter book remains from the second decade of the nineteenth century, and a collection of early family papers was given to the Library of Congress by the descendants of General James S. Wadsworth. These are available on microfilm in Milne Library. Orsamus Turner in his history of Phelps and Gorham's Purchase quotes from missing early records that he had read.

The other two events were the premature deaths of both of James' Wadsworth's sons and heirs. William Wolcott died in 1851 after falling on ice. He left his wife Emmeline and two very young sons, William Austin Wadsworth (1847-1918), and Herbert Wadsworth (1851-1930) as heirs to his estate. Emmeline was not overly fond of living in Geneseo, and after her husband's death spent more and more time in Boston near her family and friends in the arts and letters. She was travelling in Europe when the Civil War broke out. She turned over all the business matter to clerks, housekeepers, and lawyers in Geneseo and Boston for almost twenty years.

General James S. Wadsworth was killed in the Civil War Battle of the Wilderness in 1864. His eldest son, James Wolcott Wadsworth was only 18, so the affairs at Number 1 Main Street were also administered by clerks and attorneys for some years. It may be helpful for one to remember that the proprietors of the Homestead were all named William after father James' death in 1844, and the proprietors at Number 1 Main Street were all named James. There was only one brief exception. General James' son Craig Wharton Wadsworth (1841-1872) owned the Homestead for two year ~~1870-1871~~, but because of ill health, he sold it back to William Wolcott's son William Austin Wadsworth. William's mother Emmeline returned to Geneseo to live with him at the Homestead after it had been moved back from the

street and remodeled around 1875.

Both William Wolcott and James S. Wadsworth had invested in extensive land holdings in Ohio and Michigan. part of the correspondence concerns these lands and the agents who administered them. There are also photo albums containing pictures taken by Herbert's wife Martha Blow Wadsworth (1864-1934). Both branches of the family were involved in local, State and national politics. William Austin Wadsworth (1847-1918) was a friend and comrade in arms of Theodore Roosevelt and served him when he was Governor in Albany, but he would not leave Geneseo for Washington. His son William Perkins Wadsworth (1906-1982) also elected to remain in Geneseo and local politics. However, James Wolcott Wadsworth (1846-1926) was a Congressman; his son James Wolcott, Jr. (1877-1952) was a Senator; and his grandson James Jeremiah Wadsworth (1905-1984) was Ambassador to the United Nations.

This has been an overview of the collection. A more detailed description follows in the registers for various facets of the collection. If one wishes to read a further account of the Wadsworth family, see the chapter entitled "The Wadsworths of Geneseo" in Irene Beale's book "Genesee Valley People." It is followed by a good bibliography of other sources.

Genealogy

WADSWORTH FAMILY TREE

1st generation

William Wadsworth of Hartford, 1595 (?) - 1675

2nd

John Wadsworth of Farmington, 1625 - 1689

3rd

Deacon John of Farmington  
1662 - 1718  
m. Elizabeth Stanley

Capt. James of Durham  
1677 - 1756  
m. Ruth Noyes

4th

Reverend Daniel of Hartford  
1704 - 1747  
m. Abigail Talcott

Squire James of Durham  
1700 (?) - 1777  
m. Abigail Penfield

5th

Colonel Jeremiah of Hartford  
1743 - 1804  
m. Mehitable Russell  
He encouraged James and William to settle in Geneseo

General James of Durham  
1730 - 1817  
m. Catherine Guernsey

John Noyes of Durham  
1732 - 1787

6th

Daniel of Hartford  
1771 - 1848  
m. Faith Trumball  
no children  
He was an amateur artist and architect, writing and lecturing on the latter.  
1. Gave the Wadsworth Atheneum to Hartford  
2. Helped design the enlarged "homestead" in Geneseo (1815-16)  
3. Loaned "old" James money.

John Noyes  
1758 - 1814

William of Geneseo  
1761 - 1833  
Officer in War of 1812  
Never married

"Old James of Geneseo  
1768 - 1844  
m. Naomi Wolcott

John                      Wedworth

William and James came to the Genesee Valley in 1790.

GENEALOGY OF THE WADSWORTHS OF GENESCO

1. James Wadsworth 1758-1844
  - m. 1804 Naomi Wolcott 1777-1831
    - Harriet E. 1805-1833 - Martin Brismer
    2. James S. 1807-1864 - Mary Craig Wharton
    2. William Wolcott 1810-1852 - Emmeline Austin
      - Cornelia 1812-1831
      - Elizabeth 1815-1851 - Charles Augustus Murray
2. James Samuel Wadsworth (Brig. General) 1807-1864
  - m. 1834 Mary Craig Wharton 1812-1874
    3. Charles Frederick 1835-1899 - Jessie Burden
      - Cornelia b. 1839 - Montgomery Ritchie
        - John Adair
    3. Craig Wharton 1841-1872 - Evelyn W. Peters
      - Nancy Wharton b. 1843 - Edward Montezuma Rogers
    3. James Wolcott 1846-1926 - Maria Louisa Travers
      - Elizabeth b. 1848 - Arthur Smith-Farrymore
2. William Wolcott Wadsworth 1810-1852
  - m. 1846 Emmeline Austin - 1885
    3. William Austin 1847-1918 - Elizabeth G. Perkins
      - Livingston 1849-1855
      - Herbert 1851-1927 - Martha Blow
3. Charles Frederick Wadsworth 1835-1899
  - m. Jessie Burden 1840 -1917
    - Mary Wharton b. 1866 - Porter Chandler
3. Craig Wharton Wadsworth 1841-1872
  - m. Evelyn W. Peters 1845-1886
    - James Samuel 1870-1930
    - Craig Wharton, Jr. 1872-1960
3. James Wolcott Wadsworth (Congressman 47,48, 52-57 Congress: 1846-1926)
  - m. 1876 Maria Louisa Travers 1848-1931
    4. James Wolcott, Jr. 1877-1952 - Alice Hay
      - Elizabeth 1878-1881
      - Harriet Travers b. 1881 - Fletcher Harper
3. William Austin Wadsworth 1847-1918
  - m. 1901 Elizabeth Greene Perkins 1869-1918 <sup>73</sup>
    4. William Perkins b. 1906 - Martha D. Scofield
      - Penelope Weare Crane
3. Herbert Wadsworth 1851-1927 - Martha Blow 1864-1934
4. James Wolcott Wadsworth, Jr. (Senator) 1877-1952
  - m. 1902 Alice Hay 1880-1960
    - Evelyn b. 1903 - W. Stuart Symington II
    5. James Jeremiah b. 1905 - Harty Tilton
      - Mary Donaldson
    5. Revordy 1914-1970 - Eleanor Roosevelt

4. William Perkins Wadsworth b. 1905
  - m. 1929 Martha Doty Scofield 1906-1958
  - Winifred Perkins - H. Gatus Lloyd III
  - Martha Doty - Helge K. Heen
5. William Austin - Patricia Starkey
  - Emily Wood (Andrews)
  - Sara F. - J. Brewster Grace
  - m. 1959 Penelope Weare Crane
5. James Jeremiah Wadsworth b. 1905
  - m. Harty Tilton 1906-1965
  - Alice b. 1928 - Trowbridge Strong
  - m. 1967 Mary Donaldson
5. Reverdy Wadsworth 1914-1970
  - m. 1937 Eleanor Roosevelt
  - 6. Henry Roosevelt - Raye Popp
5. William Austin Wadsworth
  - m. Patricia Starkey
  - Naomi Wolcott 1959
  - 6. William Starkey 1960
  - 6. Craig Wharton
  - m. Emily Wood (Andrews)
  - Martha Chapman Wadsworth
6. Henry Roosevelt Wadsworth
  - m. Raye Popp
  - Elizabeth

## Wadsworth Family Employees

Attorneys: Martin Brimmer, for James S. and estates  
Charles Bowditch, for Emmeline

Office Managers, Agents and Executors of Estates whose  
names appear in or as signators to many of the documents:

In Geneseo: Hezekiah Allen William Farmer  
William A. Brodie  
Frederick Butler  
William Cushing  
Daniel H. Fitzhugh  
Edward R. Hammatt  
Nelson Janes

In Caledonia: Andrew McNab

In Geneva: William Young

In Ohio: Benjamin Joy  
Moses Kelly  
William Whiting

Business Agent in Boston: Nephew, Henderson Inches

Surveyor and Map maker: James Sperry

Farm and Household: Jane Boyd, Housekeeper  
Lee Comstock, Cattle Drover H, Pearson, Carpenter  
"Jenny," William's Housekeeper Zalmon Wright, "  
Mary Campbell Potter, Housekeeper Mr. Forbes, Carpenter  
William Reed, Farm manager Billy Cook, Handyman  
T. E. Winnans, Farm Manager Ben. Waggoner, Courier  
A. J. Willard, Farm manager

Horticultural and landscape experts:

Catherine Douglas, the gardens  
Samuel Fraser, the orchards  
Beatrice Jones, the Village Park  
Olmsted family, the Homestead grounds

Architects and Craftsmen:

Daniel Wadsworth, first plans for Homestead  
Hugh McNair, plans for Homestead Office  
James Mason, architect for the Capital, Albany  
Samuel Lewis, laid brick Episc. Church and offices  
Thomas U. Walter, unused plans for William Wolcott  
Alonzo Bosely move Homestead back from street  
John Sturgis and Brigham, new plans for Homestead  
John Morrison and Richard M. Hunt executed plans  
John LaFarge and Tiffany made windows  
J.R. Munroe, Buffalo remodeled for William Austin  
Batavia and New York Woodworking, drawing room

Persons Who Worked for the Wadsworths as  
Farm or Day Laborers

These lists of persons hired to work on the Wadsworth farms have been compiled for the years 1831-1842 from the five ledgers on Shelf 3. One book is not wrapped. The others are in the box labeled AWL. One small book contains both a list and a ledger of accounts with workers. Other books have a list at the beginning and then the managers diary of work assignments for the period, and one book was used as a payroll, the workers being asked to sign it every time they were payed for any work. The notes on work assignments are like a calendar and narrative of what happened on a Wadsworth farm.

In the books, some signatures are illegible, while others were written in by the clerk beside the persons "mark," usually an "x." If a person wishes to examine the illegible signatures they may recognize them from family papers. Some were in German script.

Comparing the lists one may find the name of a worker who worked for the whole decade. Others were no doubt transients and signed on for a few months or just the haying season. Just as census takers misspelled names, the farm managers wrote some of them as they heard them and not perhaps as they were spelled.

Farm labor did not usually live on the Wadsworth farms except on the flats, where there was for a time a dormitory and boarding house for single workers. The women who worked at the boarding house are also included in these lists. One very good reason for no housing for families on the flats was the annual flooding that occurred every year until the Mt. Morris Dam was built around 1950. Working men in the Genesee Valley lived in the villages and on high ground. They went out to work the farm land in the valley much as was the custom in Europe. Uninformed travelers, sometimes criticized the Wadsworths for practicing a form of peonage in this regard, when they saw no family housing on the flats.

William Wadsworth (1761-183) was notorious for being a hard boss. When an acquaintance asked his brother James to take on a son and teach him farming, James discouraged the gentleman of any such notion, and advised him to send the boy elsewhere. William had died by the time these lists were made, but the farm managers, no doubt, carried on the work much as their former boss had done. His nephews William Wolcott and James S., who took over management of the farms in the following years, were praised by those who knew them for their enlightened and scientific farm practices. They were admirers of farm practices in Scotland and adopted some Scottish ways, such as "corn rent," payment with part of one's crop.

William T. Lane, 1994

Farm Accounts and Hired Hands  
Bk 17 Box AW1 Shelf 3  
Use Indexes

- 1 831-1839
- 2 Solomon Angell
- 3 Burges Ayres
- 4 Thadeus Bailey
- 5 William Bailey
- 6 Elijah Ballard
- 7 George Barnes
- 8 Solomon Bates
- 9 Alfred Beauman
- 10 Elisha Buckley
- 11 John Butcher
- 12 Hugh Canning
- 13 Joseph Clark
- 14 William Cutler
- 15 John Dikken
- 16 A. Drake
- 17 Leonard Drake
- 18 James Eastman
- 19 John Garston
- 20 Robert Gregg
- 21 Elijah Gregory
- 22 H. Hall
- 23 Joseph Hawley
- 24 Jesse Jacques
- 25 James Johnson
- 26 William Johnson
- 27 William Lambert
- 28 Henry Linderman
- 29 James Linderman
- 30 Thomas Lowry
- 31 Peter Lucas
- 32 James McClary
- 33 Charles McCormick
- 34 John McKenzie
- 35 John McKinney
- 36 David McMurray
- 37 William McMurray
- 38 John Morton
- 39 . . Odell
- 40 Truman Odle
- 41 Amos Parshall
- 42 William Press
- 43 Charles Price
- 44 John Quayle
- 45 Aris Robins
- 46 John Saxton
- 47 John Schramling
- 48 Ira Smith
- 49 Lewis Swift
- 50 Alvin Taylor
- 51 Stephen Teneyck
- 52 Griffith Thomas
- 53 I. Traverse
- 54 George Whitney
- 55 O. Whitney
- 56 Caswell Wiggins
- 57 Amos Williams
- 58 Jasper Wyman

Farm Accounts and Hired Hands

Bk A Box AW1 Shelf 3

List at beginning of book

- 1 1834-1838
- 2 Elihu Babcock
- 3 John Butcher
- 4 Henry Clement
- 5 James Davis
- 6 John Davis
- 7 William Eldrid
- 8 Erastus Eldridge
- 9 George Emons
- 10 S. Evringham
- 11 William Gaston
- 12 A. A. Grant
- 13 Andrew Henry
- 14 William Johnson
- 15 Luke Joslin
- 16 Peter Lucas
- 17 Solomon Mack
- 18 John McKinney
- 19 James McLeary
- 20 William Osman
- 21 Harrison Rathbone
- 22 . . Reinhold
- 23 Albert Scribner
- 24 George Siles
- 25 Henry Simmons
- 26 John A. Tanner
- 27 Jonathon Tarbox
- 28 Lemuel Teneyck
- 29 Solomon Weaver
- 30 Horace Webster
- 31 Simon Webster
- 32 A. Willard
- 33 Frederick Willard

Book A Box AW1 Shelf 3 continued  
In small insert  
of individual accounts for 1838

- 1 1838
- 2 Frederick Baker
- 3 George Bowman
- 4 Francis Butler
- 5 Henry Clark
- 6 James Clark
- 7 Robert Clark
- 8 Henry Davis
- 9 Thomas Davis
- 10 John Dean
- 11 J. B. Eanos
- 12 George Fink
- 13 John Fisk
- 14 Hosen Foster
- 15 Lewis D. French
- 16 William Fuse
- 17 John Gaston
- 18 David Gear
- 19 Andrew Graham
- 20 George Grisby
- 21 Jacob Hunt
- 22 Zalmon Jones
- 23 James Leary
- 24 Lewis Lockwood
- 25 Norman Loveland
- 26 Daniel Maise
- 27 John Minor
- 28 Joseph Morse
- 29 Luke Parsons
- 30 Saunton Robinson
- 31 John Rogers
- 32 Levi Rounds
- 33 Lyman Rugg
- 34 Nathaniel Rugg
- 35 Seaman Rugg
- 36 John Sanders
- 37 Samuel Saxton
- 38 Albert Seaman
- 39 Cheney Shepard
- 40 Christian Shouts
- 41 Henry Simmons
- 42 Joseph Smith
- 43 William Spencer
- 44 Truman Stank
- 45 Isaac Starkweather
- 46 Simon Stiles
- 47 Hiram Stratton
- 48 James Sweet
- 49 John Sweet
- 50 Eben Swift
- 51 Phineas Swift
- 52 Samuel Swift
- 53 Henry Teal
- 54 Ziba Thomston
- 55 Samuel Wakeley
- 56 Simon Webster
- 57 Alvarius Willard
- 58 Jame Wilson

Farm Accounts and Hired Hands  
Book B Box AW1 Shelf 3

- 1 1839-40
- 2 Thomas Adams
- 3 C.C. Balch
- 4 John Barry
- 5 Sarah Burdick
- 6 Alexander Carsons
- 7 James Clark
- 8 Charles Cooling
- 9 Abgeline Derby
- 10 Lewis Garvin
- 11 David Gear
- 12 Robert Gill
- 13 Abraham Haling
- 14 Josiah Hawley
- 15 Chloe Hill
- 16 H. Kriger
- 17 J. Kriger
- 18 Thomas Landon
- 19 Robert McAllister
- 20 Colin McDermott
- 21 John McKinney
- 22 John Minor
- 23 Joseph Morse
- 24 William Munson
- 25 John Page
- 26 Charles Pierce
- 27 Levi Pierce
- 28 Henry Reynolds
- 29 John Robinson
- 30 Ph. Swift
- 31 Daniel Wheeler

Farm Accounts and Hired Hands  
Book C Box AW1 Shelf 3  
Book D unwrapped on Shelf 3

Continued on next page  
Search both lists and then in  
Both Books

- 1 1841-1842 (1)
- 2 John Allen
- 3 Lewis Backer
- 4 John Barry
- 5 Anthony Barton
- 6 William Benton
- 7 Thomas Boothman
- 8 Lewis Bower
- 9 John Brown
- 10 Aaron Chase
- 11 Chester Comstock
- 12 Charles Cooling
- 13 William Delude
- 14 John Divine
- 15 Sally Farnham
- 16 Michael Galvin
- 17 G. Gilbert
- 18 G. Gillies
- 19 Peter Glaser
- 20 Peter Glass
- 21 James Gregg
- 22 Jacob Haly
- 23 John Haly
- 24 J. Harback
- 25 John Harback
- 26 William Kennedy
- 27 John Kirkby
- 28 August Lander
- 29 Charles Lewis
- 30 Henry Ling
- 31 Michael Ling
- 32 Daniel Luckenbill
- 33 Daniel Manning
- 34 Clovis Mather
- 35 Elizabeth McFall
- 36 Thomas McFall
- 37 L. McWitty
- 38 Phillip Monte
- 39 John Morrison
- 40 . . Munger
- 41 B. Nevil
- 42 John Rahorn
- 43 Adam Reitsel
- 44 William Sheen
- 45 John Thanisch
- 46 Ephraim Willard

Books C and D continued

- 1 1841-1842 (2)
- 2 John Allen
- 3 Elisha Alvord
- 4 Gabriel Bache
- 5 Katherine Bailey
- 6 Nathan Baker
- 7 William Baker
- 8 Frederick Barnett
- 9 James Brookins
- 10 Esther Brown
- 11 Mary Dopp
- 12 Herman Farnham
- 13 Samuel Fisher
- 14 James Fitzhugh
- 15 Henry Fox
- 16 Peter George
- 17 David Gregg
- 18 A. Hammond
- 19 Josiah Hawley
- 20 Marie Holbaum
- 21 John Hollerin
- 22 Maria Kilbourn
- 23 Charles Leigh
- 24 Austin Lewis
- 25 Emery Lewis
- 26 Patrick Manning
- 27 John McDonald
- 28 John McKinney
- 29 James McLary
- 30 John Minor
- 31 Patrick Murnan
- 32 Charles Osbourn
- 33 Lorenzo D. Patterson
- 34 Alonzo Pendleton
- 35 Peter Pendleton
- 36 Colvin Plympton
- 37 McIntire Putney
- 38 William Putney
- 39 William W. Putney
- 40 Harrison Shultes
- 41 John Sloan
- 42 Henry Slocum
- 43 Daniel South
- 44 Robert Stinson
- 45 Thomas Taggard
- 46 J. Taylor
- 47 Charles Tompkins
- 48 Martin Tuttle
- 49 John VanCamp
- 50 George Wass
- 51 W. H. White
- 52 Truman Wilcox
- 53 Elizabeth Wolfanger

Wadsworth Land Contracts  
Leases and Sales

Core Collection: Boxes C1 - C23  
Shelves 9 - 12  
Years 18~~0~~6 - 1912  
Arranged alphabetically by town

Geneva, New York: Boxes CG1 - CG2  
Shelf 13  
Years 18~~4~~5 - 1897  
Organized by index

Michigan: Boxes CM1 - CM2  
Shelves 13 - 14  
Years 1863 - 1878  
Organized by area

Ohio: Boxes CO1 - CO3  
Shelf 14  
Years 1850's - 1890"s  
Arranged alphabetically by county  
Then by year under each county

J.S. Wadsworth's Indian Lands in western New York:  
Box J106B  
Shelf 57

Miscellaneous Contract Books containing information  
on leases and cash rents on Shelf 13.  
Four of the volumes including contracts for  
Avon, Caledonia, Geneseo, Livonia  
Rush, Ogden, Rush , etc.

Note: Contracts before 1840 are few and far between.  
After 1840 leases were made for one year and  
were renewable. Land sales were registered  
at the County Court House. Some copies can  
be found in the Deed Books. See next section.

## Wadsworth Land Contracts (continued)

Genealogists are often interested in proving that an ancestor was a tenant on a Wadsworth farm. Searching the core collection and other documents listed on the previous page can be tedious. There are in the first three contract boxes blue sheets that have the names of the tenants listed in calendars. Except for a very few leases as early as 1814, these records cover the 1830's and 1840's. Beginning in box C4 for 1852 and through and including the year 1860, there are folders entitle "Cash and Wheat Rents." These documents list the tenants and the farm or portion of farm which they rented in this decade.

The tenants in all these guides are listed by townships, in the immediate Genesee Region. The majority of rented lands were in Avon. In the early years the Wadsworths issued long term lease agreements. However, after 1838, most every lease is for one year. The family also allowed renters to pay part of their bill in wheat which they would deliver to a Wadsworth mill for credit. This was known as the "corn rent, a practice they learned about from friends in Scotland"

The next few pages in this Overview include a copy of a typical lease, and a copy of the list of renters for the year 1859, as an example of what you may expect to find in the "Cash and Wheat Rents" folders.

This Lease is forfeited if assigned without Lessor's consent in writing.

**A Lease**, Executed this *30th* day of *January*  
in the year eighteen hundred and forty-*six* BETWEEN  
**WM. W. WADSWORTH**, of *Geneseo*  
as Lessor, and *Wilton*  
*Budlong of Ferrisburgh*  
as Lessees.

The said Lessor and the said Lessees, for themselves, their heirs, executors and administrators respectively, **Covenant and Agree as follows:—**

ARTICLE 1. The said Lessor (in consideration of the rents, covenants and agreements hereinafter reserved and contained on the part and in behalf of the said Lessees, to be paid, kept and performed,) do hereby grant, demise and to farm let, unto the said Lessees, but not to their assigns, for and during the term of one year, to commence on the fourth day of April, 184*6*, all that certain **FARM**, being the premises

hereinafter described, situate in the town of *Caladonia* to wit: *The*  
*Cyrault's Farm so called; containing*  
*about two acres*

Excepting and reserving, nevertheless, to the said Lessor, all mines, minerals, stone quarries, and gypsum in and upon said premises, together with the privilege of entering thereon with servants and teams, to dig and carry away the same at the pleasure of the Lessor; and excepting and reserving also, all the trees, wood and timber on said premises, with the like privilege of entry to cut and carry away the same, except as is otherwise provided in this lease.

ARTICLE 2. [Rent.] The said Lessees agree to pay to the said Lessor, or his

agent at his office in *Geneseo or Caladonia* the cash rent for said demised premises, the sum of

*11.25 \$ W. Wadsworth & Co. Attorneys*

and that they will not, without the consent in writing of the said Lessor, pull down or remove any building or fences, or suffer others to do the same, or assign or demise, or under-let for any term of time whatever, the whole or any part of said demised premises, that they will not sow wheat after wheat without some intervening crop; that they will not suffer their hogs to run at large without consent of Lessor, in writing, and that they will not feed or suffer to be fed the incoming crop of cloverlay without the written consent of Lessor. It is also understood that there are no verbal agreements, in relation to any of the matters contained in this lease.

ARTICLE 4. [Wood and Timber.] The said Lessees agree not to cut, destroy or remove, or suffer others to destroy, cut or remove, any trees, wood or timber from the said demised premises, except as is herein otherwise provided:—They also agree to set apart *all the timbered land* as a wood lot, to comprise the most suitable piece of timbered land on the premises, and on which they shall not cut or destroy, or suffer others to cut or destroy any trees, wood or timber of any kind:—The Lessees further agree to pay for any wood or timber which may be cut or removed from the premises, by whomsoever cut or removed, the full value thereof, as it may be estimated by the agent of the Lessor:—Lessees are not to cut green trees, or valuable fencing or building timber in any case for fuel, nor to cut green trees for fencing or building purposes except under the direction of Lessors agent.

ARTICLE 5. [Fences.] The said Lessees agree, within nine months from the commencement of the said term, to make all fences on said demised premises eight rails high, and to relay and set over, putting one new rail at the bottom of each pannel or length, one eighth part of all the fences thereon, and to make all the fences relaid seven feet worm, eight rails high, of good sized split oak or black ash timber, with the corners laid on stone, or large split oak or black ash blocks. And the said Lessees agree that they will well and sufficiently repair, and keep constantly in good repair, all the fences now, or hereafter to be, on said farm, and that the fences shall be on the first day of March next, eight rails high, and well righted up as aforesaid: Lessees agree to erect convenient gates and bars at all proper places, and keep the same in perfect repair, and that they shall be liable to an action for damages, for every default in relation to fences, gates and bars.

ARTICLE 6. [Taxes.] The said Lessees agree to pay all taxes, ordinary and extraordinary, and also to pay, and discharge, all assessments for high-way labor, that may be imposed in respect to the said premises, during the term of this lease.

ARTICLE 7. [Garden and Fruit Trees.] The said Lessees agree to enclose with a good post and rail, or board fence, a garden on said premises, to contain at least *one* acre of ground, if not already done; to set out on said farm, in the most proper places, a suitable number of peach, and other fruit trees, and current bushes, and enclose them with a good fence; to put in an orchard on said farm, within *one* acre from the date hereof, *one* apple trees, or so many as shall with those already planted, amount to that number; to cut the sprouts, prune and take care of all said fruit trees, and as often as any of the fruit trees now planted, or hereafter to be planted on said premises, shall die or be destroyed, to plant other of the same kind in their places, and to enclose with a good post and rail, or board fence, with a convenient gate, a yard adjoining the barn on said farm.

ARTICLE 8. [Clover Seed.] Lessees agree that they will between the 20th of March and the 10th of April in the year 184*7*, stock down with clover, and timothy seeds, sowing six quarts of good clean clover seed, and six quarts of timothy seed, of like quality, on each and every acre, which shall be sowed to wheat on the premises, in the fall ensuing the date hereof; and in case said Lessees shall neglect to stock down as aforesaid all lands sowed to wheat, as is before required, and also all lands sowed with summer crops, in case the same shall be required by this lease to be stocked down, they shall pay to said Lessor two dollars for each and every acre neglected to be stocked down as aforesaid, as stipulated damages. Lessees also agree to set apart at least five acres in the most suitable place for saving clover seed, for the farm and for sale; said clover field to be changed from time to time, by advisement of the agent of Lessor. Lessees also agree that they will by the 15th of April, 184*6*, sow one hundred pounds of Plaster on each and every acre of upland pasture, and also on all lands to be summer fallowed as per bill of rent; and that they will not feed the lands to be summer fallowed until the first of June, 184*6*, and then only with the teams necessary for tilling the farm; and that they shall pay to the Lessor two dollars for each and every acre so fed, contrary to the provisions of this article, as stipulated damages.

ARTICLE 9. [Right of Ingress and Egress.] It is hereby further agreed, that the said Lessor shall have the right, and that the said Lessees shall permit him at all times, during said term, by himself or his agent or agents, to enter into and upon said demised premises and every part thereof, for the purpose of inspecting the same, and the buildings and fences thereon,

payable one half on the first day of October, 1847, and the remainder on the first day of March, 1847.

And also as the wheat rent,

110 Bu<sup>3</sup> One Hundred and Fifty

bushels of good merchantable wheat, to be delivered on or before the first day of August 1847, at such place within ten miles of the premises hereby leased, as said Lessor may direct. In case said Lessees shall make default in delivering said wheat, or any part thereof, as aforesaid, the price thereof shall be estimated at one dollar and twenty-five cents per bushel, and it shall be lawful for the said Lessor to sue, or distrain for the amount thereof, or so much as shall be in arrear, estimating the same as aforesaid.

**ARTICLE 3. [General Provisions.]** The said Lessees agree that one or more of them shall reside on the said demised premises with a family during the said term, and to cultivate and conduct the same in a proper and farmer-like manner; to commit no waste, nor suffer any to be committed; to feed out on said farm all the hay and other fodder, and to thresh out thereon all grain raised on said premises; to carry out all the manure in and adjoining the barn and stables, and all the chip manure, next autumn and spring, and spread the same, and all the straw produced on said farm, in such fields as shall be most proper and farmer-like; not to break up any old meadow, or old pasture land, without consent of Lessor; to cut and destroy before the first of July, and again before the first of September, yearly, all burdocks, burs, thistles of all kinds, and noxious weeds of every kind, growing or to grow, on said premises; and said Lessees agree to pay said Lessor twelve and a half cents as liquidated damages, for each and every Canada thistle, or burdock that is suffered to go to seed on the premises; and when any Canada thistles are found growing on summer fallows, Lessees agree to plough the same five times between the first of June and first of September, allowing one week at least to intervene between each ploughing; also to cut or cause to be cut as often as may be necessary to prevent going to seed, all Canada thistles growing in the highways running by or through the premises; to cut and destroy all bushes and briars in the corners of fences and elsewhere, in all the pasture, meadow, and arable land included in this lease; to remove from said premises, or burn, or otherwise destroy all old logs, and all stumps which can conveniently be pulled up; and to grub or sprout, twice within a year, with an axe, all the bushes in each improved field on the premises; they are not to destroy, nor suffer to be destroyed, any shade trees; to leave growing on such lands as are to be cleared off, at the rate of one shade tree to every two acres, and occasionally a clump of shade trees; and in case said Lessees shall destroy, or suffer to be destroyed, any shade trees, they shall pay to the Lessor the sum of ten dollars for each and every shade tree so destroyed, as stipulated damages therefor. And the said Lessees further agree that they will, well and sufficiently repair, and keep in good repair, all the buildings now, or hereafter to be erected on said demised premises, and replace in the windows all glass that shall be broken or missing;

Lessees, are faithfully kept and performed, and for all other lawful purposes,—and the said Lessees hereby further agree and covenant that any former tenant or occupant of the said premises, or any part thereof, may enter upon any part of the said premises, upon which there shall be any crop of wheat or grain growing at the date of this lease, and belonging to such former tenant, and take care of, harvest and carry away the same, and use one half of the barn for securing and threshing the grain that may be so harvested by such former tenant, but for no other purposes, and this lease is executed, and possession of said premises is given to the said Lessees, and is taken by them, subject expressly to the right of such former tenant or occupant herein specified; and it is further agreed, that in any future lease or conveyance of the said premises, the said Lessor shall reserve to the said Lessees a similar right to that last above specified to enter upon the said premises, for the purpose of harvesting any crop of grain put in during the lawful continuance of this lease—and every such future lease and conveyance, shall be subject to the right herein specified—but the liberty of using a part of the barn and of harvesting crops as above described, does not give any right of pasturage, or of making any other use of the fields than taking care of, harvesting and removing the grain, subject to the conditions above mentioned.

**ARTICLE 10. [Deliver quiet possession.]** The said Lessees further agree, that they will, at the end, or sooner determination of said term, peaceably and quietly yield up to the said Lessor, the possession of said premises, with all the fences and buildings in good repair, and the fences constructed and remaining according to the provisions of article 5; and the farm exhibiting all the indications of a well cultivated farm.—Providing always, and these presents are upon condition, nevertheless, that if the rents herein reserved or any part thereof, be not paid by the times herein mentioned for the payment thereof; or if the said Lessees, or any of their assigns, shall assign, demise, or under-let said premises, or any part thereof, for any time whatever, without the consent in writing of the said lessor, first had and obtained; or if the said Lessees, shall refuse or neglect to keep and perform any of the covenants and agreements herein contained on the part of the Lessees, that then and in any of the said cases, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Lessor, into and upon the said demised premises, or any part thereof in the name of the whole, to re-enter, and the same again to have, re-possess, and enjoy, as his or their former estate therein, this agreement or any thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding:—And it is hereby agreed that no receipt of rent by the said Lessor, after a breach of any of the covenants or agreements, herein contained on the part of the said Lessees, whether such rent accrued before or after such breach, shall operate as a waiver of such right of re-entry, unless such right be expressly waived in writing, and that in no case, shall it be necessary to give notice to quit said premises, or to demand possession thereof, before commencing proceedings to recover the possession thereof.

**ARTICLE 11. [Course of Crops.]** Lessees agree in relation to the cultivation of the several fields in the farm hereby leased, to pursue the course of crops and husbandry indicated in a bill of rent endorsed hereon, and also to put the following described fields, and no others into fall crops:—

Lot No 7 containing about 93 a.c.  
all of which is to be sowed a few cuts.

### Articles Supplemental.

Since a case is put, strict attention to the provisions of this lease in relations to bushes, weeds, Canada thistles, and keeping fences and buildings in good repair. They may build a new fence across the South pasture on the line run by Mr. King, & also a new fence through the middle of the 80 acres lot, separating the wheat from the stubble, getting out near rails for that purpose, for which it will done, this are to be allowed. Two

Tenant farmers leasing Wadsworth lands in Avon 1814-1851  
 Date is earliest date noted. See folders by year  
 in Boxes C1-C4. For decade after 1851, see lists  
 in "Cash and Wheat Rent" folders. Name given here  
 is of first signator only.

Albertson, D H	1845	Hosmer, James	1844
Albertson, Daniel	1845	Howie, Robert	1851
Bacon, Elisha	1845	Howit, Andrew	1846
Baldwin, Thomas	1846	Howit, Audrey	1845
Barber, Aaron	1845	Jerome, John	1847
Barber, Jasper	1849	Hunter, Thomas	1851
Barnard, John	1845	Jones, Richard	1851
Benham, Reuben	1844	Kellogg, Amos	1839
Blackman. Spalding	1846	Kellogg, Nathaniel	1847
Blake, John	1844	Kellogg, Norman J	1848
Bone, James	1849	Keyes, S W	1844
Bow, James H	1850	Kibbe, Charles E	1844
Bryan, Amasa	1851	Knowles, Paul	1842
Buell, John	1836	Lines, Jacob U	1844
Burr, Warren	1844	Lyman, Stephan	1814
Butler, Hector	1848	Marsh, Charles	1847
Butler, William	1847	Mather, Horatio N	1848
Chadwick, Josiah	1843	Mitchell, Abel	1844
Chandler, Lewis	1847	Parsons, John	1841
Chapman, George	1850	Peck, Archibald	1847
Chappell, Norman	1850	Perkins, Dewitt C	1846
Chase, David W	1844	Radford, William	1851
Comstock, Orville	1845	Robinson, William S	1849
Curtis, William	1850	Robinson, Zachariah	1845
Cushing, William	1846	Seymour, Erastus	1845
Dann, John	1849	Shattuck, Kindall	1851
Davis, George	1850	Shepard, George	1815
Davis, Samuel	1848	Sheldon, Enos	1851
Davison, Norman	1814	Smith, Josiah	1839
Deforest, Ezekiel	1844	Stone, Franklin	1844
Douglas, Ambrose	1845	Story, Uriah	1844
Forsyth, Alexander	1814	Story, William S	1846
Fowler, Rodney	1839	Tigh, Patrick	1844
Fraser, John W	1844	VanKleek, Jeremiah	1851
Fraser, William	1845	Wattles, David	1842
Freeman, Jehial	1844	Weed, Joel	1815
Fridd, John	1845	Winans, Ira & Theo	1844
Galligan, Thomas	1844		
Hall, William E	1849		
Hamilton, James	1844		
Hamilton, John	1845		
Hawley, William	1850		
Hillman, David	1845		
Hogmire, William A	1851		
Hoskins, Alfred	1845		

Tenant farmers leasing Wadsworth lands in Geneseo 1834-1851  
 See folders by year in Boxes C1-C4. Date given  
 is earliest lease noted. For the ten years after  
 1851 see the lists of "Cash and Wheat Rents" in the  
 boxes. Name given here is of first signator only.

Austin, James	1840	Smith, Josiah	1839
Austin, Russell	1845	Stafford, Henry	1847
Barrows, Thomas	1844	Stewart, Charles A	1840
Bond, William H	1844	Swift, Samuel	1842
Bryan, L Smith	1838	Swift, Solomon	1838
Burgess, James M	1849	Swift, Zebulon	1839
Cartwright, Cyrus	1840	Tracy, Felix	1843
Davis, Asron	1840	Turner, Lyman	1850
Dunn, Christopher	1849	Tyler, Benjamin	1841
Eaton, Joshua C	1939	Tyler, Thomas	1841
Elliot, William	1848	Tyler, W	1841
Field, Leonard B	1839	Weed, William	1835
Field, R	1839	Wight, Smith	1842
Finley, Florus	1844	Winans, Theordore E	1843
Fowler, John B	1834	Worthington, A	1840
Fowler, Rodney	1840		
Frid, George	1851		
Goodrich, Chauncey	1844		
Goodrich, Erastus C	1844		
Hathaway, Nadah	1840		
Hawley, James	1851		
Hill, Eli	1838		
Hogmire, Daniel H	1838		
Howard, A	1844		
Howard, Elmeren	1844		
Hutchinson, James	1837		
Joy, Benjamin	1838		
Kellogg, Amos	1838		
Langs, Jacob	1849		
Lauderdale, W E	1851		
Leonard, Ebenezer	1841		
Leonard, Samuel	1841		
Lewis, John	1839		
Lewis, Samuel	1851		
McLaren, Duncan	1844		
McLennen, Alexander	1845		
Miller, Allen	1842		
Munroe, John E	1842		
Murray, A J	1844		
Nowlen, Gurdon	1844		
Pfaff, Jacob	1851		
Raum, David	1841		
Roberson, Zachariah	1847		
Sage, Francis C	1845		
Shepard, David	1844		

# Seasides 1859

Names	Towns or Lots	Acres	Wheat Rents	Rye	Wheat Rents	Cash Rents	
						Oct 1. 59	March 1. 1860
<u>Avon</u>						\$	\$
J. Bishop	Reserve	218 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	80	1/3	16.2	172 87	172 88
Card. Brooks Jr	S lot - Town	272	90			170	170
Isiah Chadwick	Sandusfield	197 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	120	1/3	55	96 25	96 25
J. W. Chase	Bridge & Mill	390 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>		1/3	25	38 1/2 50	38 1/2 50
Francis Stegman	Seotch	331		1/2	79	11 9/16 68	11 9/16 69
W. E. Hall	Iron Saw Mill	166	78			32 5 6	32 5 6
John Hamilton	Sugar berry	263 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	97 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	1/3	11	166 4 1/2	166 4 1/2
Rob. Hance	School House	321	125	1/3	21	231 12	231 13
Nathan Robinson	Story	295	205			193 75	193 75
W. C. Dayton	Census	587 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>				495 39 <sup>4</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	495 38 <sup>4</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
Chancy Lewis	Je do	115				78 75	78 75
W. Drake	Bishop Saw Mill	213	110	1/3	23	110	110
J. J. Hunter	West part Mill	565 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	177 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	1/3	29	282 69	282 69
John McCaughey	East do	222		1/3	24	94 6	94 6
Wm. Knapp	Littleville	190 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	80	1/3	29	121	121
Mich. Peck	Grass Pasture	162 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	32			116 50	116 50
Eliz. Scott	Fort	405	124			219	219
John Wilson	Shepard	95 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>		1/3	10	62 93	62 94
Seth Ward	East Town	104 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>				94 25	94 25
C. L. Shepard	Lots in Avon & Bryan	191				189 75	189 75
Patrick Brady	" " 25	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>				10	10
W. A. Russell	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> Tavern Lot	1				15	15
A. B. Menell	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> N.E. lot 187	5				12 50	12 50
W. C. Drake	Burpee	102 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>				77	77
E. J. Stouse	Chick Lot 185	2				5	5
Wm. Ward	Knobles Lot	14				25	25
Sam L. Brannell	Dilligan	18				25	25
Jennett McCaughy	First Mill					300	300



Caledonia

M S Huntington	Andahyca	975			690	12	690	12
G H Cutler & Burt	"	150			182	25	182	25
Geo. Elliot	"	171			99	25	795	25
Milton Brallong	Hugan Cr	651			695	75	695	75
Ashby Mason	"	309	240	Wheat, Ry, or B.	163	6	163	6
G W Swan	Stanchousie <sup>Ind<sup>y</sup></sup>	24		<del>Wheat, Ry, or B.</del>	240		240	
M S Simmonds	Hugan Cr	410	170	Wheat	207	43	207	44
					236	50	236	50
					23		206	

Chili (Maine Co)

Alvan Miller	West Rockish	293	135 <sup>Bush</sup>	on 27 acres; 5 on 24 acres <sup>Bush</sup>	168	50	168	50
M W Shuben	East "	360			199	50	199	50
E A Frost	" "	27			81		81	
Oliver Beebe	Mill Creek	403	162 <sup>Bush</sup>		191		191	
					640		640	

Mendon (Maine Co)

J C Early	Maine	122 3/4			121	12	121	13
-----------	-------	---------	--	--	-----	----	-----	----

Clarkfield	Hug Springs	236	115	13 27 Acres	116	12	116	12
	B Bliss							

Wagon		380	133					
Traverse		293	112					

# Deeds

## Wadsworth Deeds

15 volumes are on shelf 46, unwrapped or in boxes J46A, J46B, and J46C. Most are indexed. All copies are from County Court House records. Western New York originally was one county called Ontario from which land west of the river was split off into a Genesee County. About 1820 Ontario and Genesee were split into Counties that we know today. Supposedly copies of deeds were given to each new county as it was formed for the lots that it contained. The Wadsworths found it convenient to have their own copies in the land offices. Deeds and related records for Genesee are to be found in Book 44 and others marked with \*.

Book 13, Shelf 46, Box J46A for Fairfield (Ogden) 1802-23

Book 14, Shelf 46, Box J46A for Charles Six lands 1817-36

Book 62, Shelf 46, Box J46A Groveland, Mt. Morris & Sparta  
1836-45, no index

Book 15, Shelf 46, Box J46A for William Pulteney 1810-64

Book 44, Shelf 46, Deeds before 1844, Pulteney & Phelps &  
Gorham\*

Book No #, Shelf 46, James S and William Wolcott Wadsworth  
1844-1900\*

Book 45, Shelf 46, Box J46B for James & James S. Wadsworth  
1792-1841

Book 76, Shelf 46. JBox 76B for James S. Wadsworth 1841-96

Book No #, Shelf 46, Specifically in Chili and Henrietta,  
indexed by grantor and grantee

Book No #, Shelf 46, Box J46C, Records of the Tonawanda &  
Buffalo Creek Indian lands

Wadsworth Deeds continued

This is a list of places where the Wadsworth family or their agents were named as grantors or grantees on deeds. All of the deeds should be registered in the appropriate County Court House, but in case one should wish to locate copies in this collection, one should refer to the two drawer card file for the box or book in which they are available. All the locations are in New York unless it is indicated otherwise.

Alabama	Mendon
Avon	Michigan (State)
Batavia	Morris Reserve
Bloomfield	Mount Morris
Brighton	Naples
Bristol	Oakfield
Buffalo	Ogden
Caledonia	Ohio (State)
Canadea	Parma
Canadea Reservation	Pembroke
Charlotte	Pittsford
Chili	Pulteney Estate
Clarkson	Riga
Dansville	Rochester
Erie County	Royalton
Fairfield	Rush
Gates	Salina
Geneseo	Seneca
Geneva	Shelby
Groveland	Short Tract
Henrietta	Sparta
Honeoye	Tonawanda
Hume	Tonawanda Reservation
Sweden	York
LeRoy	
Livonia	

Wadsworth Letters

Core Collection: Boxes L1 - L 53  
Shelves 15 - 23  
Arranged in order by date  
Years 1837-1917

These letters concern the business and home life of the occupants of the Homestead at the south end of Main Street. Until the death of William Wolcott Wadsworth in 1852 they were more descriptive and anecdotal. After that the collection was kept up by the designated clerks and agents and contains fewer personal or family letters. The later letters refer mostly to business expenses. The first twenty boxes are provided with calendars for each folder. Of special interest to historians are Elizabeth Wadsworth's letters to her brother William Wolcott Wadsworth describing life in Geneseo while he was away from home. As mentioned above, letters before 1837 can be found on the microfilm from the Library of Congress. Also note the first letter book in the following section for 1815 to 1819.

Emmeline Austin Wadsworth letters:  
Boxes LEAW1 - LEAW3  
Shelves 23 - 24  
Arranged by author  
Personal and social  
1870's & 1880's

William Austin Wadsworth letters:  
Boxes LWAW1 - LWAW6  
Shelf 26  
Arranged by author  
Personal and social  
After 1870

Herbert Wadsworth letters:  
Box LHW1  
Shelf 24  
Arranged by author  
1877-79

Wadsworth office clerks, agents and retainers in Geneseo:  
Boxes LMisc1 - LMisc3  
Shelf 24  
Arranged by name of employee  
then by date  
1853-1917

Ohio and Michigan Agents:  
Boxes LO1 - LO6  
Shelf 25  
Arranged by agent  
1850's - 1870's

Wadsworth letters continued

Senator James W. Wadsworth, Jr.:

Box J109, Shelf 58. Letters to his mother  
concerning school, college and army service.

Box J111, Shelf 58. Concerning Swift stock

Boxes J112A-J112J, Shelves 59 and 60. Personal and  
business letters chronologically and by personal  
name.

## Wadsworth Letter Books

Letter books were the nineteenth century method for keeping copies of letters that one wrote to friends or for business matters. There was no carbon paper or photo copying device to duplicate and preserve such information. With some overlap and some gaps in coverage, the following books are in chronological order.

Book #61, James Wadsworth (1768-1844). Letters from 1815 to 1819, Shelf 27. Information about Merino sheep, the wool business, wheat, trade with Great Britain, the cold summer of 1816, and social issues (education, libraries, religion, newspapers) which interested James. Indexed

Book #58, William Wolcott Wadsworth (1810-1852). Letters from the late 1830's, Shelf 27. Information about Ohio and Michigan land accounts. Indexed

J. S. Wadsworth Letter Book. James S. Wadsworth (1807-1864). Letters from 1836 to 1842, Shelf 27. Information about family lands in Ohio and Michigan, the Treaty of 1838 with the Seneca Indians Chiefs concerning sale of Reservation lands in New York State and Indian emigration, and other family business. Indexed

William Wolcott Wadsworth Estate Letter Book. Letters from 1847 to 1863, Shelf 27. Concerning estate business matters. Separate Index volume.

Estate of James Wadsworth Letter Books. Volume 1, letters from 1850 to 1855. Volume 2, letters from 1855 to 1863. Both on Shelf 46. Concerning estate business matters. Kept by James S. Wadsworth and his clerk Edward R. Hammatt. Indexed

## WADSWORTH MAPS

Most of the Wadsworth maps are manuscript maps drawn by surveyors or copied from other originals for the use of the family. They are seldom dated, but from the internal evidence, some date back to before 1800. This is especially true of the tract maps for both the Holland Purchase and the Phelps and Gorham's Purchase. The names of settlers, who leased or bought the lots has been written on most of the maps, and they are a good place to start a search for family residence in western New York. Following is a list of multiple or single lot maps by Township, Tract, County or Indian Reservation in the two collections.

Avon	Oneida Reservation
Buffalo	Ontario County
Buffalo Reservation	Ossian
Caledonia	Oswego
Canadea Reservation	Parma
Canadice	Penfield
Canawaugus Reservaton	Perrinton
Canisteco	Perry
Catteraugus Reservation	Phelps & Gorham's Purchase
Charlotte	Phelps
Chenango County	Pittsford
Chili	Pulteney Estate
Dansville, Steuben County	Riga
Four Thousand Acre Tract	Rochester
Gates	Rush
Genesee County	Salina
Genesee River	Seneca
Geneseo	South Bristol
Geneva	Sparta
Greece	Steuben County
Groveland	Tonawanda
Hartford-See Avon	Tonawanda Reservation
Henrietta	West Sparta
Holland Purchase	Wheatland
Honeoye	York
Hopewell	
Hornellsville	
Indian Lands	
Livingston County	
Livonia	
Mendon	
Military Tract	
Monroe County	
Morris Reserve	
Mt. Morris	
Naples	
Oakfield	
Ogden	
Ohio-set of county maps	

# Vouchers

## Wadsworth Vouchers Bills, Receipts, etc. from the Homestead Office

Core collection: Boxes V1 - V46  
Shelves 27 - 35  
1838 - 1917  
Office and Household Bills  
Organized by date

The strength of this collection lies in the fact that it gives a picture of the tastes and life of one of the area's most important families over a century that spanned the time from frontier life to the industrial revolution and beyond. It is also a graphic illustration of the history of business printing and practices in the United States. As with the letters, more personal expenses gradually disappeared, perhaps because of the crises that the family experienced, or that they were not later kept by the office clerk. When Emmeline and son William Austin returned to live in the Homestead, personal vouchers were boxed separately. See below.

Emmeline Austin Wadsworth: Boxes VEAW1 - VEAW2  
Shelf 35  
1870's  
Organized by date  
Personal bills

William Austin Wadsworth: VWAW1  
Shelf 35  
1899-1916  
Organized by date

Homestead Chronology  
(verified in vouchers & letters)

August 22, 1814

James thanks Daniel Wadsworth for plans "for an addition to our house."

1815-16

A young architect from Albany, James Mason worked for two periods of time; 6 months in 1815 and 2 months in 1816. He worked in the "north room" and probably more.

1817

James enquires about buying fireplaces like those he had seen in Albany.

1835

W.W. Wadsworth mentions in a letter to John Young Jr. that his father was building a kitchen addition.

1841

Engraving in Barber's Historical Collection shows the house from the South West with no 3rd floor windows and no visible wing.

1874-75

- 1) House moved by Alonzo Bosley of Rochester.
- 2) Sturgis submitted plans.
- 3) J.R. Munroe of Buffalo and his men built and installed the staircase.
- 4) Munroe installed paneling in hall and wainscoting in dining room.
- 5) New fireplaces and/or tile in Smoking room, Hall, Mrs. Murray's room, West Bedroom, Parlor, Dining Room, Library and North Bedroom.

1878-79

John Morrison at work for Sturgis on third floor.  
H. Pearson, a local man also worked.

1879

Extensive wall papering on 2nd and 3rd floor and in Hall and back hall by L. Marcotte & Co. of New York.  
Awnings installed for bay windows

1885-87

New plumbing and central heating.  
H. Pearson at work.

1899

- 1) New floor and hearth in kitchen
- 2) Large cloak closet built

1900-1901

- 1) Parlor and library stripped, recased and replastered by a Mr. Forbes and Mr. Pearson.
- 2) Pilasters from library sent to Batavia and New York Woodworking Company for more carving. Reinstalled by Selfridge and men from Batavia.
- 3) John LaFarge window arrives. It has to be sent back for repairs and is finally installed in 1901.

- 4) New piers built for piazza
- 5) Fireplace from Parlor was installed in Library
- 6) Work done in Mrs. Wadsworths room

1902-03

- 1) Smoking Room book cases "taken down" and "put up."
- 2) Dining Room repairs
- 3) Work in Library continued

HARTFORD HOUSE

THE HOMESTEAD

ASHANTEE

James Wadsworth 1768-1844  
m. 1804 Naomi Wolcott 1777-1831  
Harriet E., James S.,  
William W., Cornelia, Elizabeth.

James S. Wadsworth 1807-64  
Brig. General, Wadsworth Guards  
m. 1834 Mary Craig Wharton 1812-74  
Charles F., Cornelia,  
Craig W., James Wolcott.

William Wolcott Wadsworth 1810-52  
m. 1846 Emmeline Austin d. 1885  
William Austin, Livingston,  
Herbert.

James Wolcott Wadsworth 1846-1926  
Congressman; "The Boss"  
m. Maria Louisa Travers 1848-1921  
James Wolcott, Jr., Elizabeth,  
Harriet T.

Craig Wharton Wadsworth 1841-72  
m. Evelyn W. Peters 1845-86  
James Samuel - "Jim Sam"  
Craig Wharton, Jr.

James Wolcott Wadsworth, Jr.  
1877-1952. The Senator  
m. 1902 Alice Hay 1880-1960  
Evelyn, James Jeremiah, Reverdy.

William Austin Wadsworth 1847-1918  
"The Major" Founder of the Hunt  
m. 1901 Elizabeth Greene Perkins  
1869-1918.43  
William Perkins.

Herbert Wadsworth 1851-1927  
m. Martha Blow 1864-1934  
no children.

James Jeremiah Wadsworth  
1905-1984. Ambassador to the UN.  
m. Harty Tilton 1906-65  
Alice b. 1928 - Trowbridge Strong  
m. 1967 Mary Donaldson.

William Perkins Wadsworth 1906-1982  
m. 1929 Martha Doty Scofield 1906-1958  
Winifred Perkins, Martha Doty,  
William Austin, Sarah F.  
m. 1959 Penelope Weare Crane.