



## VILLAGE OF AURORA

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Linda S. Schwab, Ph.D.  
Village Historian

June 26, 2024

Ms. Marie Chapman Carroll  
Wells College Board of Trustees, Chair  
Wells College  
170 Main St.  
Aurora, NY 13026

Dear Ms. Chapman Carroll:

As Aurora's municipal Historian, under NYS law it is my responsibility to "encourage the coordinated collection and preservation of nongovernmental historical records by libraries, historical societies, and other repositories; and carry out and actively encourage research in such records in order to add to the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the community's history."<sup>1</sup> It is on that basis that I am writing

- to explain the intimate relationship between the archival records and collections of Wells College and the Village of Aurora and
- to request that because of this relationship the historic archives of Wells College should *in toto* be assigned to the Village of Aurora, as well as such portions of its collections described below.

The relationship between the Village of Aurora and Wells College is unusually close. It can well be said that their histories are inextricable, and indeed, the Wells College Archives, related artifacts, and some of Wells' art collection, cannot be separated into "local history" vs. "Wells history." This close relationship is also reflected in the dual Village of Aurora/Wells College National Historic District.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.archives.nysed.gov/records/laws-local-government-historian-law-5707>

The development of this unique archival relationship is as follows. Aurora was settled concurrent with the Military Tract of Central NY starting in 1789, that is, sixty-one years before Henry Wells moved to Aurora and another eighteen before he opened Wells College. Many important documents pertaining to the early history of the Village of Aurora, such as maps from 1794 and 1795 and records from early settlers and their descendants, were given to the College while Prof. Temple Rice Hollcroft served as Historian for both the Village and the College. These donors saw the College as a secure and lasting repository for their treasures. Still other records fell to the College by chance: at the time of Hollcroft's death, the papers in his home went to the Village and those in his office went to the College, regardless of subject matter.

I present three examples to illustrate the complex relationship between Village and College history and the understanding of donors. Edwin B. Morgan was a charter Wells Trustee, but in addition his papers and diaries housed at Wells provide unparalleled insight into life in the Village, his businesses, his family, and his Civil War efforts. He and his brother Henry added many works (sculptures and bas-reliefs) from the sculptor Erastus Dow Palmer to their personal, home collections. All these eventually came to the College after their deaths. Gail Zabriskie Wilson, a lineal descendant of E. B. Morgan, emphatically states on behalf of the family that the Morgan collections (including the Zabriskie family) belong in Aurora; see the following email.

Similarly, the very large collection of Dr. Albert Leffingwell pertains almost entirely to his life and work outside of any involvement with Wells College: diary accounts of his Aurora life and papers on his work in medicine and in humane treatment of animals, along with artifacts of his travels, for example. This collection was given to Wells College by his surviving son, Thomas, in the 1960s. According to Dr. Leffingwell's granddaughter, Tracy Leffingwell, this gift was made in the expectation that Wells would see to it that this collection be permanently housed in Aurora; please see the following email.

A third example is at the intersection of archive and art: the 1919 centennial bronze tablet honoring Lewis Henry Morgan ("father of American anthropology"), which Pres. Kerr Duncan Macmillan commissioned from artist Edward Heinrich Gohl, a later winner of the Cornplanter Medal for this tablet and other works on Haudenosaunee subjects. Among Macmillan's correspondence and in the commemorative booklet at the tablet's dedication is his insistence that Aurora, L. H. Morgan's birthplace, be the site of this memorial. Please see the following letter from Ann Macmillan that supports retaining the Macmillan collections and the Macmillan name in Aurora.

Of the portion of the Wells College Library's archives listed on the NYS Library site<sup>2</sup> the majority (56-62%) deal with the Village, either exclusively<sup>3</sup> or through persons, families, and historic buildings owned by Wells College in the Village. As noted, this NYS Library list is only

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<sup>2</sup> [https://nyst.ent.sirsi.net/client/en\\_US/nysl/search/results?qu=Wells+College+Long+Library&rw=24&te=ILS&isd=true](https://nyst.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/nysl/search/results?qu=Wells+College+Long+Library&rw=24&te=ILS&isd=true)

<sup>3</sup> Sample topics include Aurora's Cayuga Lake Academy, its Quaker school Briar Cliff, the Presbyterian Church, the Aurora Country Club, its electric light company, post office, residents, houses, regatta days, women's discussion club called the "Thursday Club", etc.

a partial list of the Wells historic archives; the total is larger. In addition, Village history artifacts are included in the Wells art collection. Therefore, because the historic archives of Wells College cannot easily be separated into village vs. college history, they should *in toto* be assigned to the Village of Aurora, which rightly holds complementary but much smaller collections on the subjects cited above. The partial, highlighted list from the NYS Library and a list of selected additions follows as well. A more thorough inventory of art and artifacts is in preparation because of conflicting reports on the availability of the 2018 inventory.

The Village government the Village of Aurora Historical Society<sup>4</sup> have an established mechanism for oversight of the Village's own historic archives and collections which can be extended to include care for what is cited above. The newly formed Wells Legacy Society, Inc., has also named conservation of "archives, artifacts, and assets" in Aurora as its area of interest and concern.

Indeed, it is uncertain whether Wells College is currently providing adequate care for these archives and artifacts: Long Library has had issues with environmental control almost from the start (1968), as confirmed by several librarians. There was apparently some type of remediation under way in the past academic semester or year, but how long this can or will continue is a moot question. Repeated requests to the Library and the College have not allowed even a cursory, accompanied inspection for measurements; linear feet (*in toto* about 800) is not a helpful measure for a collection that includes books, boxes, file cabinets, art, and artifacts.

Meanwhile, we - members of the Historical Society experienced with archives and I - have been actively seeking short-term storage in the immediate area, including from the South Central Regional Library Council (Ithaca, 25 miles away) and the Cayuga County Historian's Office (Auburn, 20 miles away). Of the three Auburn museums and galleries also contacted, only the smallest has no space to offer. I have spoken with leadership of both the NYS Archives and the NYS Museum and both are alerted to the need for local space. Given the very short time (less than two months) since the closure announcement and the fact that collections storage is an issue for *every* archive, museum and gallery, the promptness and thoroughness of these efforts should be commended, not disparaged.

Finally, Dr. Jennifer Lemak, Chief Curator of History at the New York State Museum, writes that "the NYS Museum would rather see the Wells College artifacts and archives stay local." I urge you to see that this authoritative advice is followed.

Sincerely,



Linda S. Schwab

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<sup>4</sup>in process of a name change to Aurora Ledyard Historical Society

Cc: TimothyP.Mulvey,  
Assistant Attorney General  
New York State Office of the Attorney General  
Syracuse Regional Office  
30 South State Street, Suite30  
Syracuse, NY 13202-2060

Village of Aurora, Board of Trustees  
Village Clerk, Via email: villageclerk@auroranewvork.us

Village of Aurora Historical Society  
PO Box 136  
Aurora, NY 13026

Wells Legacy Society, Inc. via email; wellslegacysociety@gmail.com

**Attachments cited above:**

**Emails (letters) from descendants of donors**

(Personal greetings are omitted)

**Wilson, Gail Morgan Zabriskie (descendant of Edwin B. Morgan), June 24, 2024:**

“To Whom it May Concern:

When I received the letter from Wells that it was closing, I burst into tears, then contacted Linda Schwab. Though soon my concerns turned to what will happen to our beautiful campus, how we alumnae are going to keep in touch, what will happen to the students, faculty and staff, and how will this affect the village, my first concern, truly, was the Wells archives. I am a Morgan/Zabriskie through and through (3 of our 5 grandchildren carry these names), a second generation loyal and loving Wells grad, and I consider Aurora as much home as anywhere I have lived, not just as a Wells student, but all my childhood summers were spent in Aurora with my grandparents. I was an American Studies major at Wells and am considered the family historian. I am interested in even other families' genealogy!

So I speak strongly on my own behalf but also for our many family members who count on me to speak for them. The Wells archives which contain so much of our family history and which is so entwined with the history of the village, belong ONLY in Aurora, certainly not in Purchase, NY. What possible interest does Manhattanville University, or anyone else, have in them anyway??

I cannot imagine anyone considering any other option for the Wells archives. Aurora is Wells and Wells is Aurora. Make room for them somewhere in Aurora, please....

Gail Morgan Zabriskie Wilson '60"

**Leffingwell, Tracy (granddaughter of Dr. Albert Leffingwell)**, June 12, 2024: "I believe my father's intent was that the Leffingwell materials given to Wells would always stay in Aurora. (I know [cousin] Christopher would say the same)."

**Macmillan, Ann (great-granddaughter of Kerr Duncan Macmillan)**, letter transmitted by email:

Ann T Macmillan '84  
1121 ½ Harbert St  
Tallahassee FL 32303

June 25, 2024

Wells Board of Trustees  
NY Attorney General

Dear Ones:

I write on behalf of the descendants of Kerr Duncan Macmillan (and as a 1984 Wells graduate who spent countless hours under his stern gaze in the Art Exhibit Room of Macmillan Hall).

It is my understanding that there are archival materials of his tenure at Wells, along with the above-mentioned portrait. I hope that they stay in Aurora along with the additional documents, art, and all things Wells that need to stay local.

Realizing that it is very early to consider such things, I would also like to register my wish that Macmillan Hall remain named as such. My great-grandfather managed to keep Wells opened (AND all women) during World War I and the Great Depression, and had Macmillan Hall built during the depression. It is only fitting that the building not be renamed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ann T Macmillan MS

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**Wells College, Long Library  
Selected Archives from NYS Library site**

**Collections highlighted in red are predominantly or exclusively related to the Village of Aurora; occasional explanatory notes [bracketed in red].**

**1. Wells College. Account Books, 1866-1920.**

**Author:** Wells College.

**Summary:** Wells College account books including one of Samuel Mondell [*sic*; Mandell] for costs of erection of the first building at the college, 1866-68; an account book of expenditures for costumes for theatrical productions; and miscellaneous accounts for operating expenses.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0041

**Available:** 1

## **2. Wells College. Visitors' Register, 1904(ca.).**

**Summary:** Register book for Wells College alumnae visiting campus.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0059

**Available:** 1

## **3. Wells College. Prom Photographs, 1945-1959.**

**Summary:** Unidentified photographs of Wells College students and their escorts at proms.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0054

**Available:** 1

## **4. Wells College. Student Handbooks, 1910-1943.**

**Summary:** Wells College student handbooks.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0057

**Available:** 1

## **5. Wells College. Publicity Films, 1942.**

**Summary:** Wells College publicity film, class of 1942.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0055

**Available:** 1

## **6. Wells College. Minute Books, 1911-1927.**

**Summary:** Minute books of the Committee on Recommendations, 1914-17; minute book of the Committee on Graduate Study, 1911-26, including the course of study developed for the Master's Degree program; minute book of the Committee on Foreign Students, 1927.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory  
**Format** Mixed materials  
**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0047  
**Available:** 1

**7. Wells College. Phonograph Records, n.d..**

**Summary:** Speech by President Weld; commencement hymn and other material; student songs and cheers; and speech by Pauline Jones. [Commencement hymn from Baccalaureate held at Aurora Presbyterian Church; Pauline Jones an alumna of local importance]

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory  
**Format** Mixed materials  
**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0052  
**Available:** 1

**8. Wells College Athletic Association records, 1927-1965.**

**Author:** Wells College Athletic Association.

**Summary:** Records include minutes of meetings, accounts of expenditures from 1943-1965, and miscellaneous notes.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory  
**Format** Mixed materials  
**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0042  
**Available:** 1

**9. Wells College Collegiate Association records, 1895-1960.**

**Author:** Wells College Collegiate Association.

**Summary:** Minutes, constitution and membership roll, 1895-99; notes on student government, 1900-01; minute books, 1905-20; and an account book, 1922.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory  
**Format** Mixed materials  
**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0043  
**Available:** 1

**10. Wells College Missionary Society records, 1871-1905.**

**Author:** Wells College Missionary Society.

**Summary:** Correspondence, 1871-1905, and recording book of the Society's secretary, 1888-94.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory  
**Format** Mixed materials  
**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0049  
**Available:** 1

**11. Wells College. Photograph Collection, 1869(ca.)-1978.**

**Summary:** Photographs of dramatic performances, student groups and individuals portraits, faculty and administration, buildings, special events, and campus scenes. Also photographs of Wells College activities during World War I and World War II. [See below for additional wartime records]

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0053

**Available:** 1

**12. Wells College. Scrapbook Collection, 1914(ca.)-1977.**

**Summary:** Scrapbooks on Wells College building fund; Wells College and World War I; college programs; alumnae news; and other topics of interest to Wells College.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0056

**Available:** 1

**13. Wells College. Guest Book Registers, 1930-1963.**

**Summary:** Registers of guests at Wells College, 1930-38 and 1949-63.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0046

**Available:** 1

**14. Wells College. Curriculum Committee Reports, 1915-1950.**

**Summary:** Minutes of meetings held, letters sent out and received by the committee and reports issued from the committee. Also records of the Committee on Committees; Curriculum Committee Questionnaires and Research, 1947-49; materials on integrative courses, 1949; Liberal Arts booklet, 1949; and papers and reports from other liberal arts colleges describing their curriculum.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0044

**Available:** 1

**15. Wells College. Student Scrapbook Collection, 1900-1926.**

**Summary:** Scrapbooks include newspaper clippings, program notes, photographs, memorabilia, and other miscellaneous papers. Identified scrapbooks belonged to Louise Wyckoff (2 vols.), 1900-04 and 1903-09; Frances Elizabeth Penny, class of 1904, 1900-04; Lillian Ritchie, 1907-09; Alice Lindsey, class of 1909; Antoinette Hill, 1911-14; Louise Hopkins, 1911-14;



Eleanor Foster, class of 1920, 1919-22; Janet O'Hara Kilbourn, 1922-26; and Corinna Brodnax, 1922, dealing with year Brodnax spent in Persia.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0058

**Available:** 1

#### **16. Pan American Exposition. Wells College Register, 1901.**

**Summary:** Register book of Wells College students and alumnae visiting the Pan American Exposition with biographical data.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0026

**Available:** 1

#### **17. Wells College. News Releases, 1961-1977, 1961-1962 (bulk).**

**Summary:** News releases on special events held by and concerning Wells College as well as famous people connected with the college.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0051

**Available:** 1

#### **18. Wells College. Miscellaneous Records, 1790(ca.)-1967(ca.).**

**Summary:** Student records, 1880-1910; proceedings of trustees' meetings, 1882; notes and programs of Wells Philharmonic Club, 1895-1901; building fund records, 1936; class of 1908 class meeting minutes; ledger of examination, 1871-74; diploma of Louise Shipman, signed by Henry Wells, 1872; photographs, 1950-60; stereoscopic slides of dormitory rooms, late 19th century; postcards; twenty-two programs from the Sherwood Select School, 1903-19; and the Jonathan Richmond Collection of deeds, bills, clippings, and correspondence.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0048

**Available:** 1

#### **19. Wells College. Faculty - Administration Data Sheets, 1890-1950.**

**Summary:** Personnel files for faculty and administration. [throughout this period, faculty and administration were required to live within 5 miles of campus; most lived in Aurora and constituted a substantial part, at times the majority, of Aurora's population.]

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0045

**Available:** 1

**20. Wells College. Music and Lecture Programs, 1870-1978, 1880-1899 (bulk).**

**Summary:** Programs of performances and recitals given by Wells students, Cornell students and other guest performers for holidays and special events. [\[Important Village events\]](#)

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0050

**Available:** 1

**21. Repository description.**

**Author:** Wells College.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880

**Available:** 1

**22. Subject File, 1835(ca.)-1978.**

**Summary:** Materials on graduating classes, commencement exercises, and the alumnae association; [faculty members by department; deans of the college, the trustees and the staff; and college activities. Also materials on the founders and supporters of Wells College, especially Henry Wells and the Morgan family; and materials on the town \[\*sic\*: Village\] of Aurora. \[the 5-mile rule \(see above\) was lifted in the mid 1970s, but many faculty and all administrators and staff continued to live in Aurora\]](#)

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0034

**Available:** 1

**23. Poster Collection, 1968(ca.).**

**Summary:** Two posters of the Wells Fargo Express Company; a handprinted poster, 1968, outlining the history of Wells College; and a hand-drawn family tree of Ricard de Welles of Normandy.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0028

**Available:** 1

**24. Local History Manuscripts, 1936-1977, 1971-1975 (bulk).**

**Summary:** Local history papers include town histories for Cayuga County (1958), Auburn (1953) and Scipio (1940); biographies of Edwin Barber Morgan (1972) and Emily Howland (1975, 1973, 1972); genealogical papers on the Wells family; and bibliographies.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0019

**Available:** 1

## **25. Women in Transition, 1974.**

**Author:** Women in Transition.

**Summary:** Recording of the morning lecture of the symposium given for the Alumnae Centennial Celebration.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0062

**Available:** 1

## **26. Thursday Club Programs, 1896-1970.**

**Summary:** Programs on modern drama, famous women, foreign countries and other subjects given by the club; also some club yearbooks. [A women's discussion club in Aurora.]

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0037

**Available:** 1

## **27. Temple Rice Hollcroft papers, 1854-1968.**

**Author:** Temple Rice Hollcroft.

**Summary:** Typed manuscripts on Wells College history; Cayuga County and the early express business; the town of Ledyard in the Civil War; Salem Town; and an autobiography. Also material collected on the Presbyterian Church in Aurora, 1854-69, materials on the church organ, 1869; and Theological Seminary materials, 1857-71. Materials on Wells College include biographical notes on the charter and trustees; miscellaneous letters and pamphlets, 1868-70; newspapers; handbooks, 1918-19; photographs; printed materials; and handwritten notes.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0015

**Available:** 1

## **28. Ella Wells Stone papers, 1840-1964, 1940-1964 (bulk).**

**Author:** Ella Wells Stone.

**Summary:** Photographs, letters, and stock certificates of Henry Wells and other members of the Wells family. Also correspondence between Temple Rice Hollcroft and Bryon Franklin Stone, Jr.

concerning Wells family genealogy and clippings on Stone's association with the Wells Fargo Bank of San Francisco.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0033

**Available:** 1

**29. American Association of University Professors. New York Chapter records, 1929-1961.**

**Author:** American Association of University Professors. New York Chapter.

**Summary:** Correspondence, council records, program records, committee reports, minutes, current business, and financial reports.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0002

**Available:** 1

**30. Scrapbooks, 1843-1956.**

**Summary:** Scrapbooks of the Outing Club, 1946-52; Music Department, 1925-35; Aurora housing, by Mary Ann Colwell and Kitch Young; newspaper clippings of letters of Thurlow Weed, written from Europe in 1843; clippings of a local history column; and photographs and miscellaneous papers relating to Wells College.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0031

**Available:** 1

**31. Erastus Dow Palmer papers, 1856-1955, 1856-1890 (bulk).**

**Author:** Erastus Dow Palmer, 1817-1904.

**Summary:** Correspondence; diary of trip to Europe, 1873; photographs of Palmer's sculptures; copies of Cosmopolitan Art Journal, mentioning Palmer and his work; and correspondence of Temple Rice Hollcroft with Joseph Gavit and others relating to Palmer.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0025

**Available:** 1

**32. World War Poster Collection, 1804-1945, 1914-1918**

**Summary:** World War I posters of United States Department of the Treasury concerning war saving stamps and liberty loans; United War Work Campaign; American Women's Hospital, Women's Land Army of America, and Women's Committee on the Council of National Defense. World War II posters from United States War Department on recruitment, War Food

Administration, and the U.S. Army. Miscellaneous American, French and British posters from both wars. Also travel posters from Great Britain and France; French posters on the Franco-Prussian War, the Siege of Paris and the Paris commune; and five posters from the Pierce W. Gaines Collection of Americana, 1804-07. [Much of the “war work” of Wells was coordinated through the Village of Aurora]

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0063

**Available:** 1

### **33. Cayuga Lake Academy records, 1830-1945, 1850-1870 (bulk).**

**Author:** Cayuga Lake Academy.

**Summary:** Newspaper clippings, correspondence, cancelled checks, advertising circulars, calendars and programs. [Cayuga Academy 1800-ca. 1860; Cayuga Lake Academy 1860 forward. A preparatory school in the Village of Aurora]

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0011

**Available:** 1

### **34. Frances Folsom Cleveland Preston letters, 1888-1940.**

**Author:** Frances Folsom Cleveland Preston.

**Summary:** Personal letters to Julia Severance Millikin and a letter to Miss Miriam Snell of Wells College English Department concerning information about letters of President Grover Cleveland. [Significant local impact]

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0029

**Available:** 1

### **35. William Weld letters, 1936.**

**Author:** William Weld.

**Summary:** Letters to Weld, on the occasion of his inauguration, from presidents of other colleges and universities.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0061

**Available:** 1

### **36. Blueprint Collection, 1841-1934.**

**Summary:** Blueprints of various buildings on the Wells College campus. Also ten forms of the Historical American Building Survey, 1934, for the residence of Captain Alex Marshall, Auburn. Architects include Dwight James Baum, I.V. Van Duzer, and Skidmore, Owings and Merrill.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0006

**Available:**

**37. J. J. Lankes. Costume Sketches for Marlowe's Dr. Faustus, 1934.**

**Author:** J. J. Lankes.

**Summary:** Watercolor sketches by J.J. Lankes for costumes to be used in a faculty presentation of Dr. Faustus by Marlowe. [Theatrical events at the College a significant contributor to Village life]

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0018

**Available:** 1

**38. Emily Howland Collection, 1836-1929.**

**Summary:** Papers, pamphlets and documents collected by Emily Howland on Indian affairs, the anti-slavery movement, the Unitarian Church, temperance movement and Women's suffrage including Congressional hearings; Department of Labor publications; proceedings of the National Women's Right Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, 1853; New York Suffrage Newsletter, 1907-12 and proceedings of the International Congress of Women, 1899. Also copies of materials at Swarthmore College and Cornell University including letters, speeches and diaries.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0016

**Available:** 1

**39. Helen Fairchild Smith papers, 1864(ca.)-1926.**

**Author:** Helen Fairchild Smith.

**Summary:** Letterpress book of letters written by Smith and W.E. Waters to students, parents and Wells College business and academic associates, 1894-98; thirty diaries that deal with her personal life as well as the life of a women's college dean, 1864-1926; autograph book, 1901, presented to Smith by the college on her 25th anniversary as dean, with an index and some illustrations; and personal correspondence. [Descendant of Gen. Benjamin Ledyard, first County Clerk]

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0032

**Available:** 1

**40. Aurora Electric Light Company records, 1874-1923.**

**Author:** Aurora Electric Light Company.

**Summary:** Correspondence, 1895-97; account books, bills and statements; bank vouchers; reports on annual gross earnings; and reports of Public Service Commission State Board of Tax Commissioners.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0004

**Available:** 1

**41. Aurora Country Club records, 1909-1919.**

**Author:** Aurora Country Club.

**Summary:** Book of names of members; minutes; constitution and rules; and lists of stockholders, charter members, committees, and officers. Also a 1910 postcard announcing the formal opening of the club house.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0003

**Available:** 1

**42. Canvasser's House Book, 1906.**

**Summary:** Alphabetical list of residents of the village of Aurora, with name, sex, age, and remarks.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0010

**Available:** 1

**43. Edwin Barber Morgan papers, 1836-1904.**

**Author:** Edwin Barber Morgan.

**Summary:** Personal and business correspondence with family members, friends, congressmen, and politicians including William Henry Seward and Thurlow Weed; financial documents and records; Civil War papers including recruiting letters for the New York Volunteers, 19th regiment; enlistment records; subscription lists and a civilian pass; legal papers including estate settlements, mortgages, deeds, promissory notes and bankruptcy briefs; miscellaneous printed material and clippings; and notes by Temple Rice Hollcroft with genealogical notes and charts.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0022

**Available:** 1

**44. Morgan Family papers, 1834(ca.)-1902(ca.).**

**Author:** Morgan Family.

**Summary:** Twenty letters of Lewis Henry Morgan and Edwin Barber Morgan, 1854-69, on state and national issues; letters from William Henry Seward to E. B. Morgan; diary of Henry Morgan, 1879; 1878 travel diary of William Fellows Morgan; Aurora vital statistics compiled by Henry Morgan, c.1830-1902; and one volume of data on local people, organizations and institutions compiled by Henry A. Morgan, 1869-1902. Business records include account books of Edwin B. Morgan and Henry A. Morgan; account books, letters, shipping bills, clippings and financial reports of the Morgan and Mosher canal boat partnership; and an 1853 account book from Allen Mosher's store at Poplar Ridge.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0024

**Available:** 1

**45. Elizabeth R. Bogart. Diaries, 1856-1900.**

**Author:** Elizabeth R. Bogart.

**Summary:** Personal diaries with accounts of weather, daily activities and religious activities; also lists of correspondents.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0007

**Available:** 1

**46. Register of Electors, 1895-1897.**

**Summary:** Register of voters in the town of Ledyard with a description of duties of inspectors, ballots, poll clerks and watchers on election day.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0030

**Available:** 1

**47. William Henry Bogart papers, 1808-1895.**

**Author:** William Henry Bogart.

**Summary:** Diary, 1876; autograph book, 1883-95; scrapbook of annotated clippings, c.1808-1885, on political affairs, with an index; and miscellaneous material.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials



**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0009

**Available:** 1

**48. Edwin Barber Morgan papers, 1834-1888.**

**Author:** Edwin Barber Morgan, 1806-1881.

**Summary:** Letters written by Morgan concerning the battle over the election of a Speaker to the 34th Congress, 1855-56; photostats of letters to William Henry Seward, Lewis Henry Morgan and Thurlow Weed (originals at the University of Rochester); indexed scrapbook of clippings on Aurora, Wells College and local and national personalities; diaries; daybook and cash book; and a copy of Morgan's will made by Temple Rice Hollcroft.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0023

**Available:** 1

**49. Account Books, 1809-1887.**

**Summary:** Account book of merchant Jonathan Swan, 1809-29, including details of the settlement of his estate; account book of G.B. Wright; and three account books of physician John Thompson of Sherwood, 1822-56.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0001

**Available:** 1

**50. Trial Records, 1876-1884.**

**Summary:** Records of trials held in Aurora before Justice of the Peace N. Lansing Zabriskie.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0038

**Available:** 1

**51. Anna Adams Piutti papers, 1876-1880.**

**Author:** Anna Adams Piutti.

**Summary:** Handwritten books on music and art. [Important figure in local life as well as Dean]

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0027

**Available:** 1

**52. United States Post Office, Aurora, New York. Accounts, 1870(ca.)-1880(ca.).**

**Summary:** Record of accounts of Aurora patrons with the post office.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0040

**Available:** 1

**53. Henry Wells papers, 1853-1878.**

**Author:** Henry Wells, 1805-1878.

**Summary:** Letters to Edwin Barber Morgan, with references to the Civil War and to Wells College, 1853-78; photostats of letters to Lewis Henry Morgan, 1872-76 (originals at University of Rochester); miscellaneous letters from various members of the Wells family, 1859-70; and letters to William Henry Seward. [Many items precede college founding]

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0060

**Available:** 1

**54. Autograph Books, 1858-1878.**

**Summary:** Autograph books of Sarah Browne, 1858-62; Albertine Stone, 1870-78; and an unidentified book, 1872.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0005

**Available:** 1

**55. Jessie McKechnie Swain papers, 1872-1875.**

**Author:** Jessie McKechnie Swain.

**Summary:** Student diary; photographs of Wells College students; photographs of Edwin Barber Morgan and Frances Folsom Cleveland; and commencement essay and speeches by Swain. Also correspondence of Annie Lake Townsend, clippings and memorabilia.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0035

**Available:** 1

**56. Kate Hamilton Bogart. Notebook, 1868-1870.**

**Author:** Kate Hamilton Bogart.

**Summary:** Notebook with semester reports from Wells College. [Bogart family of Wavebank, Aurora]

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0008

**Available:** 1

**57. Christopher Morgan letters, 1843-1870.**

**Summary:** Letters written to Thurlow Weed (1843-1870) about national politics and the temperance movement.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0021

**Available:** 1

**58. Herbaricum [*sic* Herbarium], 1855-1864.**

**Summary:** Book of pressed flowers and leaves collected from Europe and Africa, with notations in French and Italian.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0013

**Available:** 1

**59. Map Collection, 1840-1859.**

**Summary:** Undated maps of the Finger Lakes; a map of San Francisco published by Wells Fargo Bank; maps of Seneca, Cortland, and Wayne Counties, 1840; 1859 maps of Cayuga County and Cayuga and Seneca Counties.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0020

**Available:** 1

**60. Joseph Rockwell Swain letters, 1810-1830.**

**Author:** Joseph Rockwell Swain.

**Summary:** Letters written by Swain to Milton and Hervey Brayton while a student at Cayuga Lake Academy and letters by Swain to Jonathan Swain about his law practice in Columbus, Ohio.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0036

**Available:**

**61. Louise and Almira Hartwell letters, 1827.**

**Author:** Louise and Almira Hartwell.

**Summary:** Letters written by Louise for herself and her sister while they were students at Briarcliff [*sic* Briar Cliff, a Quaker school on Court St. in Aurora].

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0012

**Available:** 1

**62. Samuel Hubbs. Mathematics Book, 1823.**

**Author:** Samuel Hubbs.

**Summary:** Handwritten mathematics book.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0017

**Available:** 1

**63. United States Internal Revenue Department. Collection Books, 1814-1818.**

**Summary:** Accounts of War of 1812 taxes collected in the 23rd New York Collection District. Volumes contain names of taxpayers in Cayuga, Seneca, Tompkins, Wayne, and Schuyler Counties. The tax collectors were Roswell Tousley, Jonathan Richmond, and Eleazer Burnham, all of Aurora.

**Library:** Historical Document Inventory

**Format** Mixed materials

**Call Number:** (NIC)NYCG053-880-0039

**Available:** 1

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**Selected collections not listed by NYS Library**

Leffingwell, Albert: bust and souvenirs of extensive travels

Davis, Jean: local history from a faculty member's point of view; unpublished novels

Kenyon, Susan "Tudy" Crandall: files of greeting card art and Aurora ephemera from an influential Aurora resident and alumna

(Miscellaneous sources) Campus plans, maps, and architectural drawings of Wells-owned buildings, which at one time comprised most of the houses in Aurora. In archival files and also in the map case in Buildings and Grounds.

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## **Selected Examples of Works of Art at Wells College with Documented Significance to Village of Aurora**

Erastus Dow Palmer (1817-1904), born in Pompey NY, was a close personal friend of Edwin B. Morgan and his younger brother Henry Morgan, prominent and lifelong residents of Aurora; the former was also a close friend of Henry Wells. Works include “Moses” and untitled bust of young girl. This marble bust stood for many years on the lawn of Henry Morgan’s home (photo documentation). Bas-reliefs include “Charlotte Wood Morgan” Memorial bas-relief of the wife of Edwin Barber Morgan, who recorded in his diary his order to Palmer and the comfort the finished work gave him; “Nancy Barber Morgan,” Edwin B. Morgan’s mother; “Morning” and Evening.”

Fleissner, Otto, watercolors: Else Fleissner, Aurora mill and warehouses. The Fleissners were professors of German from the late 1920s-1960s with broad interest and influence in the arts; Aurora residents throughout.

Edward Heinrich Gohl: Lewis Henry Morgan centennial bronze tablet, 1920. Commissioned by Pres. Kerr Duncan Macmillan to mark the 1919 centennial of Lewis Henry Morgan’s birth. In 1926, Gohl was awarded the Cornplanter Medal for this and his other works on “Iroquois” [Haudenosaunee] themes.

James E. Freeman: Portrait of Henry Wells, 1848. The portrait depicts Henry Wells as expressman, two years before he moved to Aurora and twenty years before he founded Wells College.

Lankes, J.J.: Woodcut prints of Aurora scenes

(Unknown; Roman? Studio, ca. 1866-8): marble statue of Minerva, from 1868 dedication of Wells College

(Unknown): Two portraits of Jonathan Richmond, early Aurora settler, and one fabric silhouette of a Revolutionary militiaman, also from the Richmond family. Complements church windows and communion table given by the Richmond family to Aurora churches (Presbyterian and Episcopal).