

August 24, 2011

Prepared By: Valerie A. Balint, Associate Curator

RE: Carriages, Wagons, & Carts References in Emma Carnes Diary (only as relate to Olana and not NYC)

Summary:

What follows are all entries in Mrs. Emma Carnes diary (1882-1885) that reference directly, carriages, wagons or carts. I have also included direct references to driving around & on the property, as well as most references to specific roads at Olana. I have not included the copious general references relating to the daily driving back and forth by everyone to Hudson, friends, the station, etc. These are numerous – often several references in a day. It is important to know that the various members of the Church family, their guests and their servants were constantly coming and going in the carriages, wagons, etc, and carts owned by Church.

When Mrs. Carnes references that she drove about the place, she means the grounds at Olana. While she often only references herself in terms of pleasure drives on or off the property, other entries often show that there are guests in residence, and it may be presumed they are part of these drives also, at least part of the time. At the time of any given entry, there are usually at least 2 or 3 identifiable guests at Olana, and often times many more. They were almost always picked up from the train station by some vehicle sent from Olana. Driving around the landscape at Olana, or to local neighbors such as the Macks, Livingstons and Fergusons was all part of daily life and social entertainment.

There appear to have been at least 2 carriages, one small and one larger, although there may have been others. At least one could have a cover raised for inclement weather. The wagon seems to be something else, and mostly used for luggage and rides about the place. The Donkey Cart was something else entirely, and a favorite for rides around the property, on the carriage roads, or to nearby Blue Hill for picnics. There is also one reference to a buckboard.

Individual letters may bear out other references, but Mrs. Carnes, beyond the immediate family, was the most consistent resident at Olana, so it is no surprise that her daily diary should contain so many helpful references.

NOTE: I have not corrected any of her grammar or spelling, or sentence structure. I have quoted directly, adding punctuation only when necessary for understanding of content.

Relevant Entries

May 12, 1882 – “rain. Mr. C & Isabel back last evening. He only expected, so Isabel & all crowded into a small vehicle to get from station! Rain all day.”

May 22, 1882 - "Livingston children spent day here....We took at long drive & got lost in the great orchard"

October 19, 1882 - "Left N.Y. for Hudson 10:30 a.m. Pleasant when I left. Rained soon after. Isabel came for me in close carriage with Miss Blodgett and Edy Cornell. Stopped for Downie at Edward's."

October 30, 1882 - "Lovely & warm. To our amazement a carriage drove up in the rain last nigh just after we had nearly got through the evg. Mr. C & Isabel had been detained by wrecked car their track, got to Albany Sat. night and came on from there to Hudson by late train. Isabel fat but has a cold, Mr. C Well.

October 31, 1882 - "Windy - Isabel attacked with Hives. Michael [the coachman] & wife gone since last evening to N.Y. on a visit, no driving for this week."

Note: He returns on the 3rd and in the interim "Charlie" has been driving everyone around.

June 14, 1883 - "Lovely. Mr. & Mrs. Mack made a long call bringing Arthur to spend the day. Michael to town for meat, Hester along. P.M. Went in buckboard, children on donkeys to see Arthur home."

NOTE: The Macks lived very close by, so this was a short trip on the donkeys and in the buckboard.

June 30 1883 - "Lovely & cool. All went to Hudson in business wagon. Boys to Dentist. Bought them fireworks for the 4th & gave me a bad turn!"

NOTE: Mr. & Mrs. Church and Downie are not at Olana at this point. In Nahant visiting Thomas Appleton. All refers to herself and boys and young ladies who are visiting.

July 13, 1883 - "Michael took boys a drive to try colt."

July 14, 1883 - "Fine. Michael & boys off with colt again. P.M. Downie & I called at Livingstons."

August 2, 1883 - "Rain came on at noon. Downie & Anita Fiske went in covered wagon to take back Cordelia & brought back Amelia. Gifford's nieces - rain all P.M."

August 10, 1883 - "Fine. The Donkey cart going. I took a drive to see Mrs. Donnelly. Mr. & Mrs. Palmer arrived in their buggy for a visit."

August 11, 1883 - "Mrs. P [Palmer] & Isabel rode to Lake in Donkey cart & had a good row."

August 16, 1883 - "Cloudy, cool. Had a good drive in donkey cart - Mr. Scudder [the tutor] drove.

August 24, 1884 – “Freddie drove the family with 3 seated & 2 horses. Michael, servants, etc. with the gay pair.”

August 29, 1884 – “Clearing. Warmer. Boys packing for school. Harness for Donkey Cart came, I had it made over & trimmed with red leather.”

September 1, 1884 – “Fine & cool. Perfect. Mr. C, Isabel & two boys left P.M. for N.Y. Winthrop & Louis to go to Concord to school. Sent letter for Children’s aid So., to be Regis. Harness, etc. for Downie’s Donkey cart came home, I had it made over & trimmed gay! Cost \$13 – after they came back from cars [train], Mr. Scudder drove Downie & me to the Macks at last. Superb moonlight night but cool.”

September 2, 1884 – “Splendid. Hester & Maggie done on spree. Went all over place with D [Downie] in donkey cart, P.M. Freddie took me to Pond & he & Mr. Scudder took three rows all round. I enjoyed it ever so much.”

September 4, 1884 – “Fine & warm. Drove on new road as far as woods, very rough now, but will be beautiful in views.”

September 5, 1884 – “Still hotter. Drove on new road & to station with Telegram.”

September 24, 1884 – “Exquinoxial storm, but rather dry. Only wind. Dr. & Mrs. Richardson came. Mr. C New Orleans friends. 3 seated wagon broke at last no wonder, always laden with heavy trunks!”
[Note: next day she drives into town, so there must be another wagon or carriage as well, perhaps 2 smaller one referenced in other entries.]

October 2, 1884 – “Drove with Downie in Donkey Cart.”

October 4, 1884 – “Lovely warm. Took a drive old folks in 3 seated wagon [herself, Churches & the Morgans]. Will O [Osborn] drove the young [Morgans] & Downie took some in her Donkey cart.”

October 10, 1884 – “Beautiful white mist effect. Downie drove to Macks in donkey cart. Rob de F & Emily came P.M.”

October 11, 1884 – “Fine but windy. Julia & de Forest left [Henry]. Robert & Emily photographed the donkey cart and some interiors. They photo very nicely!”

October 13, 1884 – “The young de Forests left evening. Carriage came for them from Hudson.”

May 30, 1885 – “Cool cloudy. Isabel, children & Clem [Clement] went to town in Covered carriage. Rain P.M.

August 17, 1883 – “Very cool. Fire in Sitting room. Took a lovely drive, to station & Mrs. Livingston with flowers – a short one in donkey cart P.M.”

August 19, 1883 – “Fine, rained hard in night. Two wagons to church today. Will Osborn recited for us in evening delightfully.”

September 20, 1883 – “Fine & cool. Hester drove in with Michael to Hudson a.m. Mis T [Tompkins] Downie on Donkey went for fringed Gentian – Got rid of Fox!”

September 25, 1883 – “High wind gale. Drove to H with Isabel in close carriage.”

October 4, 1883 – “Drove over place with Isabel called to see Mrs. Donnelly at cottage.”

June 17, 1884 – “Down in D [donkey] cart called at Mr. Donnelys. Went boating.”

July 2, 1884 – “Threats of storms – last evg. a good one. Fine, & piping hot today. Mr. Palmer drove us all in big wagon around the place after dinner.”

July 3, 1884 – “Lovely morning. Mailed Anita photo, Isabel to cars [train], with Palmers who left today. Mr. C & Miss Hale marked out the road around the pond. Isabel & Downie called on Fergusons – the new neighbors. [This is Sabine house, now Mount Merino B & B].

July 21, 1884 – “Still sultry. Took a good drive big wagon & pair, Freddie drove us.”

July 24, 1884 – “Freddie drove the family with 3 seated & 2 horses. Michael, servants, etc. with the gay pair.”

July 29, 1884 – “Clearing. Warmer. Boys packing for school.

July 9, 1884 – “Freddie & Louis left early for N.Y. to get suits. Clearing. Yesterday P.M. Mrs. Yeisley & Mrs. Dwight called. To day 3 buggies came here with callers. P.M. Mr. C & Isabel returned & boys. Rained hard again at night.”

July 12, 1884 – “Fine cool. Rain by noon. Isabel had to go Mrs. Cuyler in big carriage & take J [Juliette] Morgan to station.”

August 12, 1884 – “Very fine. Went to Dentist, kept me to alter plate. Isabel & Downie drove in, we had to lunch with Mrs. Gaul. Mr. ____ walked up, Mr. C took them to station in carriage. Winnie’s friend Mulford arrived at last.”

August 13, 1884 – “Lovely. Drove to little store for eggs & lemon. Giffords drove out, little ones in donkey cart – Boys off on picnic.”

August 21, 1884 – “Still sultry. Took a good drive big wagon & pair, Freddie drove us.”

June 1, 1885 – “Fine. Feeling better. Took a drive in the Donkey cart. Letters from Freddie.”

June 4, 1885 – “Isabel started with guests for a drive. Driven back by rain, a cold rain.”

June 8, 1885 – “Lovely. Mr. & Mrs. Palmer came. Letter from Mrs. Hance. Drove on Place.”

June 9, 1885 – “Cold & windy. Drove on Place. Edith Cornell came.”

June 11, 1885 – “Warmer. Took a good drive. Mr. C cousin Mrs. Ives called.”

June 20, 1885 – “Lovely. Winnie drove us around the place. Mr. & Mrs. Warner & 2 friends came on a visit. Mrs. Warner played magnificently in the evg.”

June 23, 1885 – “Lovely. Warner, with Mr. C & Isabel gone for the day to Garrisons [the Osborns]. Miss Price with Downie in the Donkey cart. Music evg.”

June 25, 1885 – “Fine, Warm. Freddie us to Catskill called on Coles & Mrs. Badeau. A nice drive on Place evg. felt very tired. Mary Gifford niece called P.M. and left her little girl.”

June 28, 1885 – “Fine, warm. Freddie drove young people to church. Michael the girls.” [Two vehicles]

July 11, 1885 – “Lovely, quite cool, a drive on the place.”

July 20, 1885 – “Fine, hot again. Drove to Station with Mr. & Mrs. Osborn! Freddie & Putnam left. Drove to Hudson P.M. lovely driving by moonlight.”

July 28, 1885 – “Cool, overcast. Michael & Mr. Bliss to Hudson. Mike drove tuner [piano] to Catskill station to catch 11:40 train. Attempted [she] to drive in Donkey Cart fell out backwards, escaped with a badly torn dress! Winnie drove us to Hudson P.M.”

July 31, 1885 – “A drive over the place, wrote Clement directions for cooking liver.”

August 1, 1885 – August, Hotter. Drove over place.”

August 3, 1885 – “Fine. No one to church, Michael not well, & horses worn out. Isabel read us a lesson. Took a drive P.M. Singing in evg.”

August 11, 1885 – “Sprinkling. Masons at work on front steps. So slow, will never get through! Warm. Drove about place. Rain at night.”

August 12, 1885 – very warm, sticky weather. A nice drive around Place. Again P.M. Cloudy ev’g.”

August 16, 1885 – “Lovely, but cool. Isabel to church with all the camp boys [Win, Lou returned from camping trip with friends]. Took my breakfast in my room. Sleepless night. Wrote Mrs. Hance. Took a lovely drive P.M. Too cool to sit out this beautiful moonlight night. Boys & Isabel, sang hymns to Mr. Bliss lively & thundering accompaniment. [sic]”

August 20, 1885 – “Cool & splendid. A nice drive over place. Norman Mumford left. Ferguson here all day.”

August 23, 1885 – “Fine early. Servants all to church. Mr. Austin drove Mr. C & myself around place.” Rainy.”

August 28, 1885 – “Fine & cold. Took a nice drive on & around place. Mr. C is making another drive thinks it’s a secret!”

August 31, 1885 – “Dreadful stormy night. Heavy rain did much damage in neighborhood. Took a nice drive, brawling streams & rapids everywhere, drove again late P.M.”

September 2, 1885 – “Cold & splendid. Isabel took children & myself a drive to see streams.”

September 4, 1885 – “Fine. Took a huge drive – warm.” [Graves are visiting]

September 7, 1885 – “Not so cool. Drove P.M. over the last new road. Which was meant for a surprise. But has been suspected all along.”

September 12, 1885 – “Fog again. Mrs. Osborn, Will & his fiancée Miss Alice Dodge came at noon to visit. P.M. took a drive to the orchard & the station for Mr. Osborn. Dined late & played word game, ev’g. Splendid night, new moon, cool.”

September 20, 1885 – “Fine. Cool. Isabel is looking so ill! Drove in afternoon over place very cool.” [Mrs. Cuyler & Edith Cornell are in residence]

October 5, 1885 – “Longfellows drove with Mr. C over place a.m. Storm P.M.” [Mr. & Mrs. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow had arrived the night before]

Soon after this entry she returns to New York and does not come back to Olana before the diary ends

NOTHING ELSE – DIARY ENDS January 1886

August 25, 2011

Prepared by: Valerie Balint, Associate Curator

Quotes by Frederic Church pertaining to carriages, donkeys, vehicles and experiences of driving around the property. Building of roads on the property is not included as these are recorded in the Historic Landscape Report. This document pertains to transportation specifically

There are three full letters scanned as pertaining to Church's advice to Downie on purchasing a carriage. They are sent along with this summary

Chronological

"I have purchased through Mr. Cole (Theodore) a pair of black horses – Mr. Coles pronounces them a splendid pair. I shall sell one of my others." Frederic Church to Joseph Church, February 27, 1864

"My new horses are in use now and they are better than any I have ever had they are gentle tractable afraid of nothing – and trot very evenly together – I am glad I have them – since Isabel is able to rise every day now – before I could hardly use the large carriage as my two horse went badly together and it was not prudent for Isabel to rise in an open wagon – the little rockaway is about as cold as the open wagon unless shut up and then it is like a dark box – The grey horse I shall send to Troy next week-" Frederic Church to Joseph Church, November 26, 1866

"I had a call yesterday – twas my farmer with a snow plough and oxen preparing to clear the track from studio to house-" Frederic Church to Martin Johnson Heade, December 28, 1866

"Coachman abound. I have heard of another, and English-man, unmarried, whom I have sent for, provided he can subscribe to my requirements." Frederic Church to William Henry Osborn, March 26, 1867

"I did not send the donkey today because the morning opened very cold, and as he is a tropical donkey, an exotic, I thought it would be more prudent to wait for the warm change which is sure to follow. Expect him on Monday, or Tuesday. He is getting a green overcoat made for him by Michael so that he might not look too shabby. He should be kept well covered this winter. . . . I hope Jessup will take the horses, they are now the only things on my mind, all else is arranged for." Frederic Church to William Henry Osborn, October 25, 1867, while preparing trip to Europe and Middle East

"We now have four donkeys – three arrived from Syria last week – the genuine Bagdaddians. They had a passage of sixty-nine days, experienced one storm of great severity and were knocked about in a terrible manner as their bruised bodies show – still they are otherwise well – nothing amiss with their insides. They have a most superb gait. My Wife says that the one she rode this morning is beyond compare the most delightful beast she ever rode. Mr. DeForest is part owner with me. I hope before many months to be able to be present for Mrs. Osborn's acceptance of juvenile donkey – full blooded.

The three are two mares and one jack. One of the mares will foal in January. If it were not so late in the season I would send to you for the children to use the gray donkey who is now in splendid condition – and will now if you think it desirable. Of course I must keep the white ones together for some time.” Frederic Church to William Henry Osborn, August 31, 1869

“We have 4 donkeys the Trinidad gray and 3 freshly arrived from Damascus and Bagdad. They are wonderful creatures. The Trinidaddy is fat and sleek and as domestic as a dog – he goes next week to claim a medal at the Catskill County Fair – The Syrians have only just arrived and have just recovered from a 69 days voyage – They cost to purchase import etc. about \$600 – gold – A donkey fever is growing in this neighborhood – so let me hear your comments.” Frederic Church to Mr. Austin, September 16, 1869

“We have three white donkeys come from Syria since you were here – ‘perfect beauties’” Frederic Church to Erastus Dow Palmer, September 22, 1869

“Isabel has a royal time with her white donkey – and I find that these daily rides do her much good. The donkey is a treasure and with a dozen horses-The DeForests have the finest one – next season when they have their nice white coats – then with scarlet trappings they will be a fine sight-” Frederic Church to Mr. Weeks, October 13, 1869

“The new horse (yours) is everything that can be desired and his strength and ambition are great. Michael has got him in beautiful order—come and try him.” Frederic Edwin Church to William Henry Osborn, January 2, 1870

“They [the children] have got a set of basket Panniers (sent from England) which are strung one on each side of a donkey so with Winnie on one side and Louis on the other and Freddie in the middle guiding—they present a jolly appearance. highly picturesque . They also have a little donkey cart which the nurse can drive and they go all about the farm and picnic in the woods.” Frederic Edwin Church to William Henry Osborn, July 22, 1871

“I came partly [to Albany] to see about some lumber and make a few purchases and also replenish my harness room. An unknown friend borrowed a single harness Thursday night and – as he did not leave his card and I suppose was unwilling to wake the family about so trifling a matter – We are left quite in the dark as to his whereabouts – and are quite as uncertain as to when our friend will return the harness. . . so I hoped I could lean from you where I could purchase a good single harness.” Frederic Edwin Church to Erastus Dow Palmer, July 1871

“Will you be kind enough to send word to the wagon makers to send the new wagon to Hudson by boat? I haven’t their address or I would write to them – I wanted to see it at the shop in order to note if there was any thing more I would like to have done – but as long I have delayed so long I will not rely upon the chances of my going—I should like them also to send dome of that varnish for leather that we talked of.” Frederic Edwin Church to Erastus Dow Palmer, June 18, 1872

"Apart from the lovely scenery which of course implies fine walks and drives – we can boast of a remarkably bracing and healthful climate . . . We wear our old clothes – ride in lumber wagons if we wish to – our children dress according to common sense dictation – We are not ashamed to offer our friends ham and eggs – in fact we are rather proud we have it to offer-..." Frederic Edwin Church to Prof. O. Rood, May 16, 1875

"Our roads have been a good deal washed out, but that is nothing compared to the complete saturation of the ground – the first time in sixteen years." Frederic Edwin Church to Erastus Dow Palmer, August 16, 1885

"She [Isabel] drives out mornings and evenings and enjoys the shade of our woods. These woods by the way never looked so well thanks to the rains. Indeed our scenery has been simply marvelous this summer— We are having a great many friends visiting thus and their enthusiasm is very pleasant to hear." Frederic Edwin Church to Charles de Wolff Brownell, September 4, 1889

"I suppose your horse does not suffer for lack of exercise. The driving is a fine thing for you and the children and doubtless you have well explored the country in your vicinity -" Frederic Church to Mrs. Jere Black (Downie) in Pennsylvania, June 15, 1896

THREE LETTERS FULLY SCANNED on same subject

"I have been expecting daily to hear of your decision regarding the new carriage so that I might send you a check in payment therefore-I do not like you to run the risk of using the old Phaeton for if it should break down while you and the children were in it the consequences might be serious. I will therefore send you Money enough to pay for a new one." Frederic Church to Mrs. Jere Black (Downie) in Pennsylvania, September 22, 1896

"Your mother and I are about to take our morning drive." Frederic Church to Mrs. Jere Black (Downie), June 4, 1897

"Your Mother is getting along nicely – but she cannot drive as much as she would like – even the smooth roads on our place disturb her at times." Frederic Church to Mrs. Jere Black (Downie), June 28, 1897

"As for your humble correspondent he is obliged to be helped into and out of his carriage owing to rheumatic infirmities – which place a rigid limitation to exercise and the study of Nature-" Frederic Church to Martin Johnson Heade, September 1898

The home of Frederick [*sic*] E. Church the artist, is one of the most conspicuous features on the right side of the upper Hudson. It is just opposite Catskill, situated on a high hill, most of which, if not all, is owned by Mr. Church. It can be seen from miles around. A drive to the grounds which Mr. Church is very kind about throwing open to visitors, is one of the pleasantest trips made by people spending the summer in the vicinity. *Hudson Register*, September 11, 1896

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED IN ANY MANNER WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM THE SITE MANAGER.

This letter is transcribed as close as possible to the original including spelling, phrasing, and punctuation.

Letter written by FEC to Downie.
Gift of Maria Livingston.

Hunting & Hammond

Murray Hill Hotel

(picture of hotel)

(picture of lobby)

40th to 41st Park Avenue

New York April 28th 1896

Dear Downie

I heartily approve of your project to keep a carriage of your own-it will not only be of practical use and give great pleasure but it will also serve to expand your life not a little. As for Chato he is at your disposal at anytime but you must now consider his age and drive him carefully- being very particular in not allowing him to trot down hill- as he is apt to stumble. Michael always drives him at a jog trot pace even on level ground. He is still a very valuable horse and if driven with consideration for his age and infirmities is as desirable an animal as you could desire and very safe. His only defect is alarm at the sight of bicycles. I think it may be due to the fact that one eye is blind- a defect he has

p.2. had for years but it was so unnoticeable that it was only discovered by accident- and does not detract from his usefulness in the least- perhaps by this time he is reconciled to the sight of bicycles.

As for the vehicle, I think a phaeton would give you real comfort if you could get one of a light enough build for one horse like Chato. The weight of a carriage is a matter of serious moment- for lady drivers as a rule are not apt to weigh such considerations as the strength and endurance of a horse as compared to the resistance of the vehicle- and will keep stirring up the poor weary animal to a brisk trot when he needs rest.

It will give me pleasure to pay for a suitable

The harness must also be absolutely reliable- and when in use carriage and harness must be watched constantly by an experienced person. I dare say Mr. Blacks Coachman would be willing to keep an eye on them.

I will repeat- that I shall be glad to make you a present of the carriage when you have decided upon one. I have just had a letter from your Mother who is well and has written for rooms here.

Love to Jere- and the chicks

Your affectionate father-

envelop



Mrs. Jere S. Black
York
Penn

ottage

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED IN ANY MANNER WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM THE SITE MANAGER.

This letter is transcribed as close as possible to the original including spelling, phrasing, and punctuation.

Letter written by FEC to Downie.
Gift of Maria Livingston.

Hunting & Hammond

Murray Hill Hotel

(picture of hotel)

(picture of lobby)

40th to 41st Park Avenue

New York April 28th 1896

Dear Downie

I heartily approve of your project to keep a carriage of your own-it will not only be of practical use and give great pleasure but it will also serve to expand your life not a little. As for Chato he is at your disposal at anytime but you must now consider his age and drive him carefully- being very particular in not allowing him to trot down hill- as he is apt to stumble. Michael always drives him at a jog trot pace even on level ground. He is still a very valuable horse and if driven with consideration for his age and infirmities is as desirable an animal as you could desire and very safe. His only defect is alarm at the sight of bicycles. I think it may be due to the fact that one eye is blind- a defect he has

p.2. had for years but it was so unnoticeable that it was only discovered by accident- and does not detract from his usefulness in the least- perhaps by this time he is reconciled to the sight of bicycles.

As for the vehicle, I think a phaeton would give you real comfort if you could get one of a light enough build for one horse like Chato. The weight of a carriage is a matter of serious moment- for lady drivers as a rule are not apt to weigh such considerations as the strength and endurance of a horse as compared to the resistance of the vehicle- and will keep stirring up the poor weary animal to a brisk trot when he needs rest.

It will give me pleasure to pay for a suitable

Archives
Olana State Historic Site
RD2
Hudson, New York 12534
518-828- 0135

OL.1985.148A

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED IN ANY MANNER WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION
FROM THE SITE MANAGER.

This letter is transcribed as close as possible to the original
including spelling, phrasing, and punctuation.

Letter written by FEC to Downie.
Gift of Maria Livingston.

Hunting & Hammond

Murray Hill Hotel

(picture of hotel)

(picture of lobby)

40th to 41st Park Avenue

New York April 28th 1896

Dear Downie

I heartily approve of your project
to keep a carriage of your own-it
will not only be of practical use and give great
pleasure but it will also serve to expand your
life not a little. As for Chato he is at your
disposal at anytime but you must now consider
his age and drive him carefully- being very particular
in not allowing him to trot down hill- as he is apt
to stumble. Michael always drives him at a jog
trot pace even on level ground. He is still a very
valuable horse and if driven with consideration for
his age and infirmities is as desirable an animal
as you could desire and very safe. His only defect
is alarm at the sight of bicycles. I think it may be
due to the fact that one eye is blind- a defect he has

p.2. had for years but it was so unnoticeable that it was
only discovered by accident- and does not detract from
his usefulness in the least- perhaps by this time he
is reconciled to the sight of bicycles.

As for the vehicle, I think a phaeton would give you
real comfort if you could get one of a light enough build
for one horse like Chato. The weight of a carriage is a
matter of serious moment- for lady drivers as a rule
are not apt to weigh such considerations as the strength
and endurance of a horse as compared to the resistance
of the vehicle- and will keep stirring up the poor
weary animal to a brisk trot when he needs rest.

It will give me pleasure to pay for a suitable

OL.1985.148 A&B

carriage but dont be too economical in the purchase-
for it should be in perfect condition and meet your
requirements in all particulars as well as flight weight.
Get an expert to decide the matter- looking at all points.
The harness must also be absolutely reliable- and
when in use carriage and harness must be watched
constantly by an experienced person. I dare say
Mr. Blacks Coachman would be willing to keep an
eye on them.

I will repeat- that I shall be glad to make you a present
of the carriage when you have decided upon one.
I have just had a letter from your Mother who is well
and has written for rooms here.
Love to Jere- and the chicks

Your affectionate father-

envelop

Mrs. Jere S. Black
York
Penn
cottage

Archives
Olana State Historic Site
RD2
Hudson, New York 12534
518-828-0135

OL.1985.152 A&B

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED IN ANY MANNER WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION
OF THE SITE MANAGER.

This letter is transcribed as close as possible to the original
including spelling, phrasing, and punctuation.

Letter written by FEC to Downie.
Gift of Maria Livingston.

Hudson Sep 7th/96

My dear Downie

Referring to to the question
of a new vehicle of which you wished
my views. I thought it best to
put the Matter in Louis' hands as
he can make investigations and enquiries
pertinent to the subject.
I should think that \$150- would
be ample to give you a satisfactory
and useful carriage- but if it
seems desirable to exceed that amount
somewhat dont hesitate to do so-
In your letter you spoke of the
possible advisability of purchasing a

p.2.

first class vehicle for a good sound
sum looking to its being serviceable
for a life time. In all probability
a few years will bring a great change
in your life- you may change your
place of residence more than once.

Perhaps Jere may be sent to
represent his Country in foreign parts.
Of course you wouldnt take your carriage
with you. No- any vehicle has but
a short period of usefulness comparatively,
and may be, Motor Carriages will in
time supersede horses.

Michael agrees with me that you
had best depend upon one horse- he
said if your new horse had been left
with him until you returned to York
he could have madetrained him
perfectly for carriage service-
The care of two horses is great- they
need the best of care- must be fed

p.3.

judiciously, exercised regularly and
their ailments skillfully attended to-

There are the Blacksmiths charges-
repairs of vehicle and harnesses, value
of provender etc- Insurance-and many
extras. You may calculate that each
horse including contingent expenses will
cost you \$100=per annum.

Dont ^{assume} ^ too much responsibility and cares.
I wish to thank you for the ribbon
badge you sent to me. The portrait
of Mr. Black is really good.
We had the Fergusons to sup with us
last evening- six in all so there were
ten at table- Your Mother ^{played} ~~stg~~ the
Hostess well and this morning was in
condition to take a sail in the Launch-
Louis starts for Maine soon to Camp out-
We expect quite a number of visitors
next month-

With love to you all
Your aff. Father-

envelop

Mrs. Jere S. Black
-Cottage- York
Penn-

Archives
Olana State Historic Site
RD2
Hudson, New York 12534
518-828-0135

OL.1985.153A&B

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED IN ANY MANNER WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION
OF THE SITE MANAGER.

This letter is transcribed as close as possible to the original
including spelling, phrasing, and punctuation.

Letter written by FEC to Downie.
Gift of Maria Livingston.

Home Sep 13th 1896-

Dear Downie

A letter to your Mother
received yesterday noted that
you had not heard from me
about the price I would suggest
paying for your new vehicle.
I wrote to you lately and stated
that I thought you could get
a good carriage for \$150= more or less.
Michael thinks that what
is called a Phaeton Buggy would
be most useful for you-
He says there is but one seat which

p.2.

is wide enough ~~for~~ to hold three
grown persons. It is light in
weight easy to get in and out
and very convenient in all
respects.

I have never seen one but
Michaels judgment is good.
I am not able to attend to the
matter personally- but Louis
said he would write to you about
vehicles and I supposed he had
done so- Louis is a good deal
overworked- He will work too hard-
and He starts tomorrow for the
Maine Woods-
I consider it unsafe for you
to use the old Phaeton you have.
A break down might prove a

p.3.

matter of serious importance-
I am very sorry that Mr. Black
favors Bryan. I cannot understand
it. All my other democratic
friends whose opinion I have learned
will not vote for Bryan.

I forgot to state that Michael

OL.1985.153A&B

estimates the cost of a Phaeton Buggy
to be \$100 or \$110=

If you wish he can make close
inquiry about it. I do not know
whether any are used in Hudson.

I am glad to hear good accounts
from you all-

Love to Jere

Your affectionate father-

envelop

Mrs. Jere S. Black
York

-Cottage- Penn-

From: Balint, Valerie (TAC) [mailto:Valerie.Balint@oprhp.state.ny.us]
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2011 12:09 PM
To: Trebilcock, Evelyn (TAC); Sara Griffen
Cc: Bob Burns; Sarah Price
Subject: RE: Photographs on Carriages, etc. at Olana

I have done a search and I have 7 images which are on the Olana property, and appear to show 4 (possibly 5) different vehicles. I will send them in three batches.

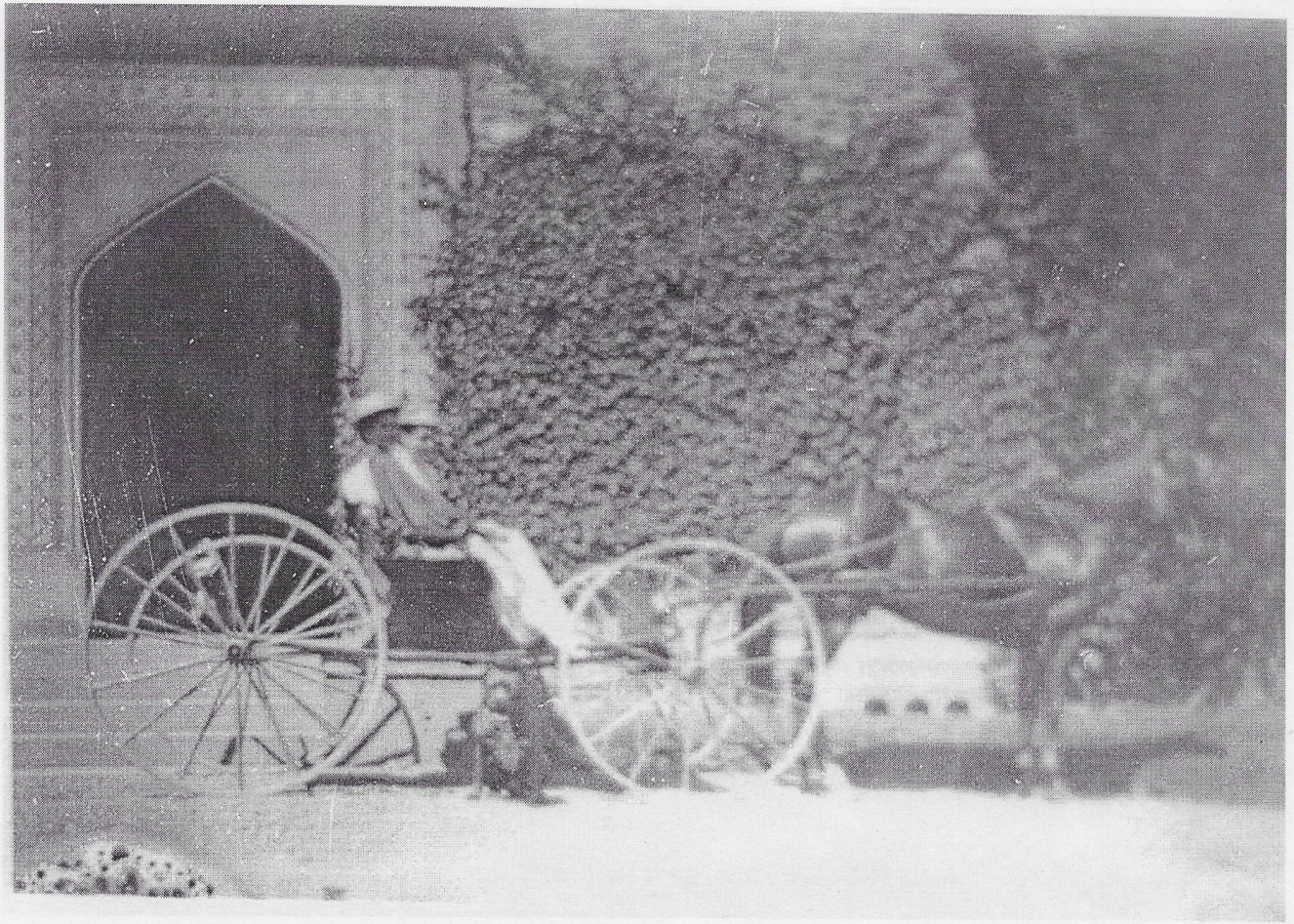
This first includes two images of what appears to be a smaller carriage:

OL.1986.59.7 - Two people (one probably Downie) in carriage outside front door of main house, c. 1885-1914, Louis Church tentatively attributed as photographer

OL.1987.131.26A - Gardener Charles Frier in carriage on Olana property, September 29, 1906 (F.E. Church deceased), John Eberle photographer. One in a series of photographs taken by Eberle at Olana over a series of days in autumn 1906. These photographs correspond to citations in an Eberle ledger in the collection of the Columbia County Historical Society

These two vehicles seem to be the same, or at least very similar.

Valerie A. Balint
Associate Curator
Olana
5720 State Route 9G
Hudson, NY 12534
518-828-0135, ex.308
valerie.balint@oprhp.state.ny



OL.1987.131.26.A

From: Balint, Valerie (TAC) [mailto:Valerie.Balint@oprhp.state.ny.us]
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2011 12:17 PM
To: Trebilcock, Evelyn (TAC); Sara Griffen
Cc: Bob Burns; Sarah Price
Subject: RE: Photographs on Carriages, etc. at Olana

This second set shows a small Farm wagon; the Donkey cart which appears to be different although of similar size; and a clearly larger 4 wheel wagon with hay:

OL.1987.131.23A - Mike in a wagon, October 4, 1906 (F.E. Church deceased), John Eberle photographer. One in a series of photographs taken by Eberle at Olana over a series of days in autumn 1906. These photographs correspond to citations in an Eberle ledger in the collection of the Columbia County Historical Society

OL.1987.131.29A, Mike husking corn in front of barn and wagon, October 1, 1906 (F.E. Church deceased), John Eberle photographer. One in a series of photographs taken by Eberle at Olana over a series of days in autumn 1906. These photographs correspond to citations in an Eberle ledger in the collection of the Columbia County Historical Society. This wagon is noticeably larger.

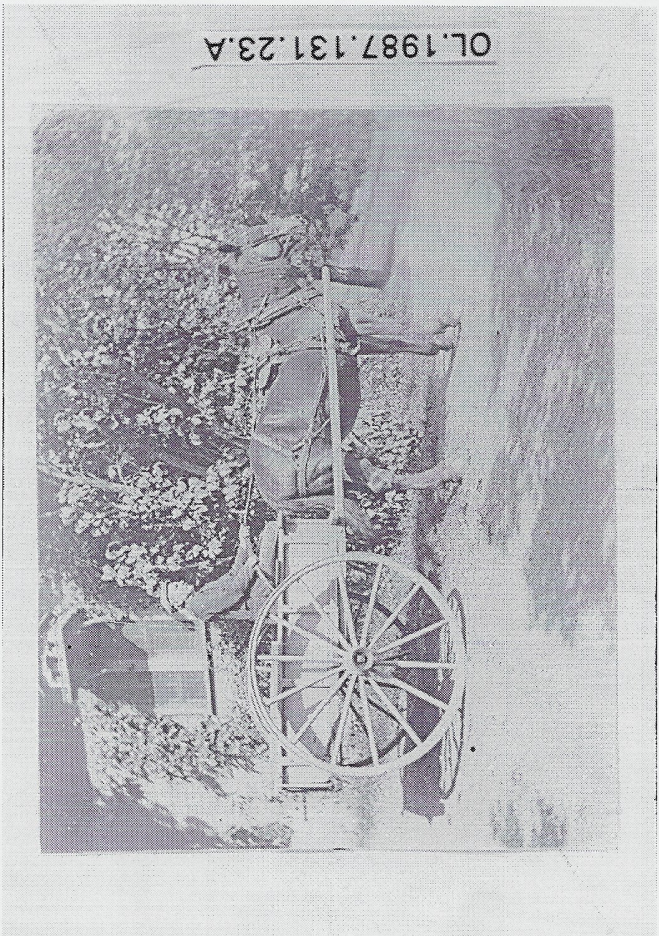
OL.1982.1520, Downie and Mrs. Emma Carnes in the donkey cart, October 11, 1884, Robert and Emily de Forest, photographer. One in a series of photographs the couple took of interiors and the property while visiting over a several day visit.

The cart appears to be different than either the small wagon (attached here), or the small carriage (in the previous e-mail).

Last set to come momentarily.

Best,
Valerie

Valerie A. Balint
Associate Curator
Olana
5720 State Route 9G
Hudson, NY 12534
518-828-0135, ex.308
valerie.balint@oprhp.state.ny.us



OL.1987.131.23.A



OL.1987.131.29.A

From: Balint, Valerie (TAC) [mailto:Valerie.Balint@oprhp.state.ny.us]
Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2011 12:30 PM
To: Trebilcock, Evelyn (TAC); Sara Griffen
Cc: Bob Burns; Sarah Price
Subject: RE: Last set images on Carriages, etc. at Olana

Attached are two images which appear to show a larger carriage - seating for a driver, and separate seating for passengers.

The scanner refuses to scan the first image any larger, (it does not like the format), but if you magnify it the details are clear.

OL.1986.378.24A - Staff in carriage in front of front door of main house, c. 1885-1914, Louis Church is tentatively attributed as the photographer.

The second image is I believe not in the accessioned collection, but is a copy print provided of an album created by Hortie Childs, Church neighbor and friend of the Church children. The copy prints are in the research collection, and the originals remain with the family. I will double-check on this with Ida on Monday

Unknown or unaccustomed photo - Group driving up hill to main house, thought to be after 1900, unknown photographer. The size and make-up of this carriage seems to be similar, or maybe slightly bigger (a third perhaps detachable seat in the back) to the one in the other photograph.

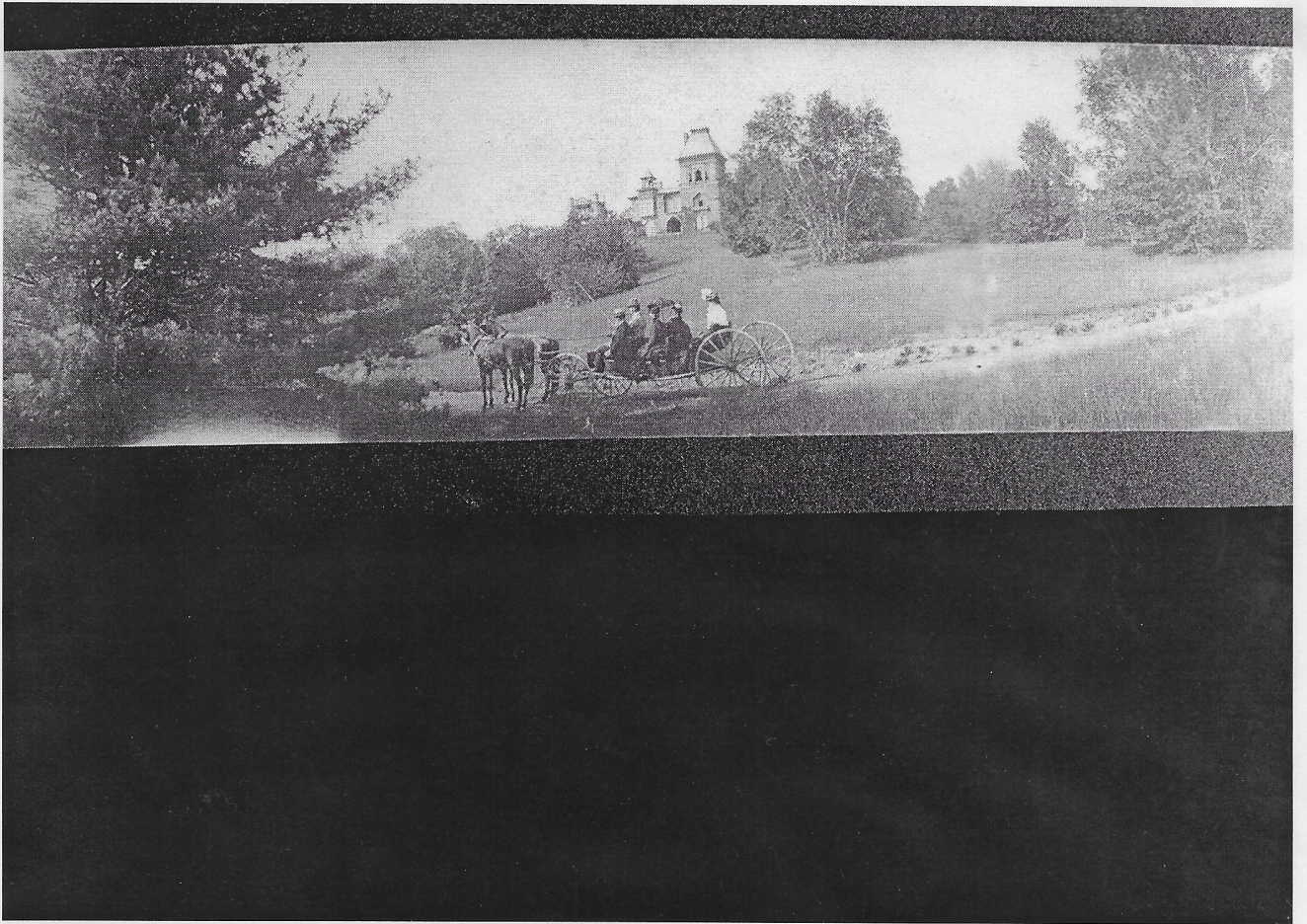
NOTE: There is a group of photos of a carriage in front of the neighboring Ferguson house, Mt. Merino (also known as Sabine house). They show members of both the Church family and the Ferguson family. It is unclear who owns the carriage as it is not on the Olana property, but it could be a good comparison. I can pull these if people wish to compare. (OL.1985.927-930;OL.1985.332 & .333) - some of these images duplicate each other.

These concludes all image found to date. I will keep everyone updated if I find more.

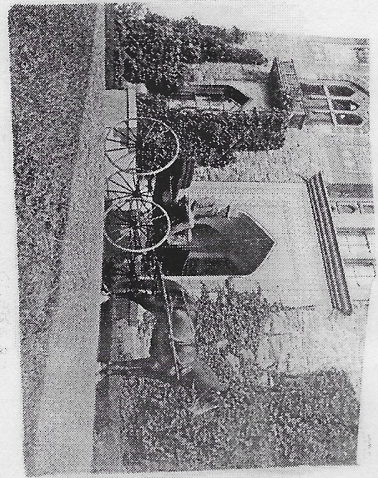
Hope all are helpful.

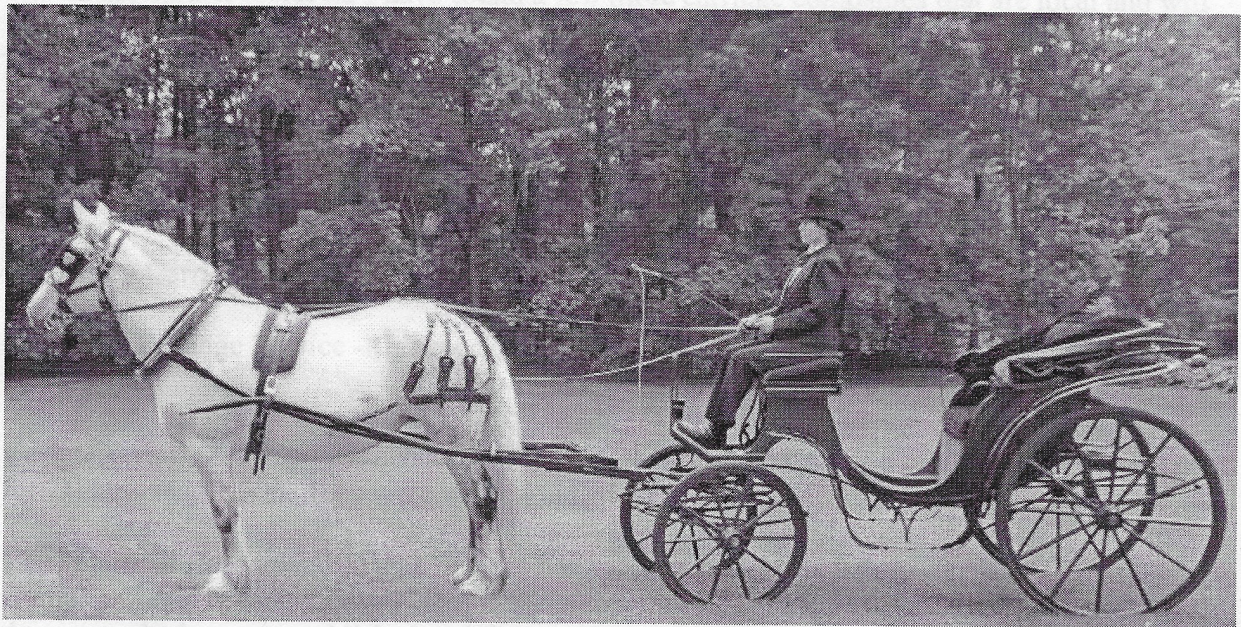
Best,
Valerie

Valerie A. Balint
Associate Curator
Olana
5720 State Route 9G
Hudson, NY 12534
518-828-0135, ex.308



OL.1986.378.24.A





Loon Farm

Notes from Paula Rickborn September 2011

I wanted to share the information I was able to get today regarding the Horse and Buggy rides.

Out of the four companies that I could find, only one was operating and in business. It is Berkshire Carriage Company, located in Norfolk, CT, berkshirecarriage.com<<http://berkshirecarriage.com>>. I spoke with the owner Beth, and mentioned what we were trying to accomplish at Olana. She stated that they have been approached before from other locations to do a promotional campaigns, but it was not advantageous for them. The rate they charge for a "start up" with a minimum of 4 hours, is \$900. She had offered to do this for Olana at a cost of \$500. This would include the carriage or buggy of choice, two horses and the coachman, in your choice of period clothing. This offer is good currently, for a week day. They would need two days advance notice so that they can prep the carriage and the horses. If this is something that Olana would consider after the initial carriage ride, they would reduce the price and negotiate a fee for the rides with a percentage going to Olana.

Let me know what you think. I will give it another round of research to see if I can find other companies that would service this area.

The other contenders were: Albany Carriage Service (phone not in service), Hudson Valley Horse & Carriage, Campbell Hall, NY (not in service), K&K Carriage, Catskill, NY, Tried numerous times, no answer, will pursue again.

The companies that are no longer in business seemed to be on a smaller scale, (no web page, or ratings), in order to operate and deliver quality horses and carriages takes much detail, prep, etc. In my further research, I have found a few more carriage companies that are local and will give them a call today.

I had found three more companies:

Kingsbury Carriage Service, Hudson Falls, NY - No longer in business

Casanova Carriage Service -Rhinebeck,NY - No longer provides Carriage service, Limousine service only

Castle Carriage Service - Rhinebeck, NY - They still provide Carriage service, however, the cost for (3) hours is \$1,300., they were willing to deduct \$300.

The Owner of Casanova Carriage Service had recommended "Berkshire Carriage Company/Loon Meadow Farms" this is the company I had contacted in August. He stated that they were the longest established and the most reputable in the area. I spoke with Beth, the owner of Loon Meadow Farms, again yesterday to confirm our conversation on 8/18/11, and their offer.

The rate they charge starts at \$900 with a minimum of 4 hours, she had offered to do this for Olana at a cost of \$500. (given this was done on a weekday). This would include the carriage of choice, horse and the coachman, in your choice of period clothing. In the photo attached, is the "Victorian Bonnet Carriage", the most similar to the photos that you had provided. The horse in the picture is white, however, if the photo shoot was to be taken on level terrain and/or a modest incline, they have a brown mare that could be used, (I asked about the Donkey, do not have). They would need two days advance notice so that they can prep the carriage and the horse(s). If this is something that Olana would consider offering in the future, after the initial "carriage ride / set up" , they would reduce the price and negotiate a fee for the rides with a percentage going to Olana.

Let me know should you need additional information.