Guide to the Town of Enfield Collection

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See also:

Enfield Falls Reservation Commission Collection – V-6-4-5 School Records Collection, Enfield – V-6-2-7 Church Records Collection, Enfield – V-6-1-8 Enfield Township WCTU Collection – V-63-3-4 General Photo Collection J15 – Enfield Irving Perrine Geology Photograph Collection – FBO - 0053

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Town of Enfield was formed on March 16, 1821 from the southern portion of the Town of Ulysses, and lies in the central western portion of Tompkins County. It is located about seven miles west of the city of Ithaca and its principal village is Enfield Center. It is thought that the name Enfield came from Enfield, Connecticut, where some of Tompkins County's settlers originated.

Enfield contains one of the jewels of the New York State Park system, Robert H. Treman State Park. This magnificent park sits on land that once included the thriving hamlet of Enfield Falls. This hamlet was built around a grist mill, one of many that dotted the county in the early 19th century. It was erected in 1817 by Isaac Rumsey, an early settler. It burned in the 1830s and was replaced with another built in 1838 by Jared Treman. Small communities often grew up around saw mills and grist mills, since farmers could easily manage all their business when visiting the grist mill to grind their grain. Blacksmith shops, shoemakers, tanneries, and other essential businesses can be found on early maps of Enfield Falls.

The mill was in use until 1917 and the land was purchased by Robert Treman, the grandson of Jared. He and his wife Laura donated 387 acres in Enfield Glen to the state of New York in 1920, and the Enfield Glen Reservation was established. In 1924 the new Finger Lakes State Parks Commission took control of the park, and in 1938, after the death of Robert Treman the name of the park was changed to honor

his generous gift. It is now more than 1000 acres altogether, with miles of rugged trails and a dozen stupendous waterfalls. The old mill still stands at upper Treman Park and still retains its original milling machinery. Now on the National Register of Historic Places, it is open to visitors during the summer months.

During the Great Depression Civilian Conservation Corps Company 1265 at Camp SP-6 was located near the mill in Enfield Glen, and men from all over New York came to work in Enfield and around the county on this New Deal initiative. They provided the physical labor for projects of the Finger Lakes State Parks Commission and the New York State Conservation Department, creating trails and building bridges at State Parks, among other things. After a devastating flood in 1935 they helped rebuild damaged infrastructure across the area.

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