

Guide to the Town of Ulysses Collection

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Collection Number V-2-4-8.1-.3

Updated 2022

See also:

Performing Arts Collection V-1-7-9 (D)
School Records Collection (Ulysses) V-6-2-7
Church Records Collection (Ulysses) V-6-1-11
General Photo Collection X30 (Trumansburg); X31 (Ulysses)
PA-130 (Unidentified Jacksonville street scenes)

Much of the material is fragile and should be used under supervision.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Town of Ulysses forms the northwest corner of Tompkins County. To the north and west, respectively, are Seneca and Schyler counties. To the east the town's border is Cayuga Lake, a feature important to its early development.

The lake brought the earliest white settlers to Goodwins Point at the mouth of Taughannock Creek. This area is now part of Taughannock Falls State Park, named after the state's highest (215 feet) waterfall.

Trumansburg, settled in 1794 by Abner Treman and his family, is the most populous village in the town. Its early development centered on water powered mills, agriculture and manufacturing. The Gregg Company Foundry, makers of farm machinery and cast iron storefronts, built a factory in Trumansburg that later generated the Morse Chain Company. Gregg Company cast iron storefronts can still be seen on Trumansburg's Main Street.

Before it famously plunges 215 feet at Taughannock Falls, Taughannock Creek runs south of the village of Trumansburg, one of the many creeks snaking through Tompkins County. Trumansburg Creek flows through the village itself, and in 1935 it flooded, devastating businesses and homes, and killing five residents.

This collection contains extensive documentation of the early history of the Town of Ulysses. There are several bound volumes of original and transcribed government records and road surveys beginning in 1795.

Much material describes the settlement of the Village of Trumansburg, as well as other locations such as Jacksonville, Willow Creek, Halseyville and Goodwins Point, the site of the earliest white settlement due to its more accessible location on the lake. The local attractions of Taughannock Falls and the former Taughannock House are found in separate folders. Newspaper articles include information on Podunk, the Stone Man hoax, the Ulysses Philomathic Library, Gregg Company Iron Works and the histories of various village churches.

There are many accounts of Abner Treman (1761-1823), a Revolutionary War soldier granted a 640-acre military lot who was the founder of and an influential force in Trumansburg. Many residents with an interest in their history have furnished recollections collected in Research Material folders.

Robert Moog, the inventor of the Moog Synthesizer, lived and worked in Trumansburg. More information can be found in the Cornell University Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections.

CONTAINER LIST

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Three Land Transaction records 1806, 1812, 1822	27
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