

Guide to the **School Records Collection: Ithaca Public Schools**

General – Teachers and Teacher Training

The History Center in Tompkins County
110 North Tioga Street, Suite 204A
Tompkins Center for History and Culture
Ithaca, NY 14850
607-273-8284
www.thehistorycenter.net
archives@thehistorycenter.net

Collection Number V-6-2-1 (A.2)

Revised 2020

See also: Ithaca City Schools Publications Collection (V-63-8-4)

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The records in this box concern the teachers who worked in Ithaca's public schools. These documents span from the 1840s to the 1960s, but a majority of them were created in the second half of the 19th century and the first decades of the 20th. The earliest records, dating to 1843, are petitions addressed to Tompkins County leadership and signed by citizens of Ithaca, asking them to consider specific individuals for hire as teachers. 1843 was also the first year that a "Teachers Institute," a two-week professional education program for currently serving and prospective teachers, was held in Tompkins County. These Institutes became yearly events and spread throughout New York and to many other states, making Tompkins County an innovator in the training of teachers and the professionalization of teaching in the US. Folders 2 and 3 contain several documents about Teachers Institutes in the late 19th century, including a secretary's book with detailed programs and attendance lists from Institutes held between 1873 and 1884. Folder 4 holds an examination ledger from this era, which shows the exams that prospective teachers in Tompkins County were required to take, along with the names and grades of test-takers from 1876 to 1886. Documents from the 20th century include programs from the New York State Teacher's Association (folder 7), a statewide professional organization that occasionally held its annual meetings in Ithaca, and an agreement between the Ithaca Teachers Association and the Board of Education from 1968 (folder 8), which granted official recognition to the ITA and laid out the results of a formal negotiation process regarding salaries, benefits, and district labor policy.

CONTAINER LIST

<i>Contents</i>	<i>Folder</i>
Petitions, 1843	1
Teacher's Institute Records and Teacher Training, 1874-1898	2

Teacher's Institute Secretary's Book, 1873-1884	3
Examination Ledger, 1876-1886	4
Teaching Certificates, 1862-1910	5
Newspaper Clippings, 1897-1962	6
NYS Teacher's Association Meetings, 1928-1939	7
Agreement Between Ithaca Teacher's Association and the Board of Education of the Ithaca School District, 1968	8

Generous support for processing this collection came from the National Endowment for the
Humanities



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES