

## 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 through the village of Trumansburg. 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

### *Contents*

<u>Box 1</u>	Folder
Town of Ulysses Bills of Service & Accounts 1845-49, 1867	1
Land Records 1802-1891	2
Miscellaneous Town Government Documents 1795-1963	3
Businesses	4
Agricultural Organizations	5
Fraternal and Social Organizations	6
Handwritten Transcriptions of Newspapers 1817-1887	7
Handwritten Transcriptions of Newspapers 1880-1890	8
Newspaper Clippings 1917-1993	9
Newspaper Clippings 1931-1948	10
<u>Box 2</u>	
Temperance	11
Old Roads	12
Cemeteries	13

Taughannock House	14
Taughannock Falls	15
Willow Creek	16
Goodwins Point	17
Halsey Mill and Dam	18
“Baileywick” L. H. Bailey cottage	19
Ulysses Philomathic Library	20
1919 “Clock System” Rural Index Map	21
Programs and Entertainment	22
Research Material	23
Research Material	24
Trumansburg Research Material	25
Original Material Copied to Other Folders	26

### Box 3

“Town of Ulysses Records 1795-1859”	Loose in box
“Road Surveys Town of Ulysses from 1796 to 1818”	Loose in box
“Road Surveys Town of Ulysses from 1796 to 1843”	Loose in box
Three Land Transaction records 1806, 1812, 1822	27
1848 Highway Agreement	28
Oral history—1935 flood and other memories	29
“Main Street Trumansburg NY: A Design Guide	30

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