

# Guide to the Uhl Bird's-Eye View Thesis (1991) Collection

*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](http://www.thehistorycenter.net)  
[archives@thehistorycenter.net](mailto:archives@thehistorycenter.net)

## Collection Number V-64-8-8

### COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

This collection contains the thesis titled "Every Building Is Accurately Represented," written by Charles Harrison Uhl, Jr. in 1991. Uhl was an Ithaca native who was attending Cornell University at the time he wrote this thesis.

From the 1830s to the 1920s, map-makers often produced bird's-eye view maps. In this thesis, Uhl examines five bird's-eye view maps that were drawn during that time period and analyzes them for accuracy. The five maps that Uhl examines are L.R. Burleigh's View of Groton (1885), Augustus Koch's View of Waterloo (1873), O.H. Bailey and T.M. Fowler's View of Ithaca (1873), L.R. Burleigh's View of Ithaca (1882), and Herman Brosius' View of Binghamton (1873). Uhl gives some background about the development of each of these maps, and includes pictures and maps that he used as points of reference.

Uhl concludes that bird's-eye view maps are generally accurate representations of their respective towns and that they are important resources for historians and preservationists. He explains how the maps accurately depict geography and buildings, often with so much detail that one can make out the features (like the placement and number of windows) of different buildings. He also addresses some of the weaknesses of these maps: for example, the map-makers often exaggerated the size and detail of churches and other civic buildings and sometimes made simple misspellings.

### CONTAINER LIST

*Pages 1-98*

*Folder 1*

Abstract, Table of Contents, Introduction  
Chapter I: L.R. Burleigh's View of Groton, New York  
Chapter II: Augustus Koch's View of Waterloo, New York

*Pages 99-197*

*Folder 2*

Chapter III: Ithaca's Bird's-Eye Views of 1873 and 1882

*Pages 198-272*

Chapter IV: Herman Brosius' View of Binghamton, New York  
Conclusions, Bibliography

*Folder 3*

