

# Guide to the Catskill/Ithaca & Owego Turnpikes Collection

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**Related Collection PA 44 (Catskill Turnpike)**

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## COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Catskill Turnpike, chartered in 1804 as a public highway, extended from the Town of Catskill on the Hudson River to Bath in Steuben County, and passed through Caroline, Dryden, Ithaca and Enfield. Its route is part of the present Route 79. It was built in stages and by 1808 reached Bath, and later extended as far as Erie, PA (although west of Bath it had a different name). For years it was the most widely traveled stagecoach route in Central New York, with toll gates every 10 miles.

The Ithaca and Owego Turnpike, completed in 1811, ran from Owego on the Susquehanna River to Ithaca on Cayuga Lake, thereby opening up access to the Finger Lakes from points south. This “led to the establishment of the first practicable access to the Atlantic coast markets for the growing production of the region which in 1817 became Tompkins County,” according to a former Tompkins County Historian. The road followed a Native American trail, and its route is part of present day Route 96. Dr. Lewis Beers, a prominent Danby physician in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, was a driving force behind the construction of the turnpike.

## CONTAINER LIST

Record Books for Ithaca and Owego Turnpike:

Folder 1

1. *Loan Book for Turnpike* 1811
2. *Turnpike Receipt Book* 1816-1818
3. *A Description of the Owego and Ithaca Turnpike line as established* (n.d.)

<p>“Turnpike, Arks, Early Seaboard Links” by William Heidt Jr., 1963. (re: Commerce on the Ithaca and Owego Turnpike and the Susquehanna River and its economic importance)  Other miscellaneous road-related information, including photocopies of legislation from 1807 re: The Cortland and Seneca Turnpike</p>	Folder 2
<p>Ithaca Journal article: “The Catskill Turnpike in stagecoach and Tavern days” – 1925</p>	Folder3
<p>Modern road map showing route taken by Catskill Turnpike</p>	Folder 4
<p>Typescripts (2) “The Catskill Turnpike: A Wilderness Path” by Almyra Morgan</p>	Folder 5
<p>“The Catskill Turnpike: A Wilderness Path” by Almyra Morgan</p>	Loose in box