

TOWN HISTORY: A Brief History of the Town of Ulysses, N.Y.

Most of the books cited below as references are available in our reference room or can be purchased in our gift shop.

1677 – Wentworth Greenbalgh observed Indian villages on Lake Tiohero (Cayuga) during a journey from Albany to the west (*Four Counties*).

1779 – Sept. 22: A detachment of Gen. Sullivan's Army, commanded by Col. Henry Dearborn, reached Goodwin's (or Taughannock) Point after traveling up the west side of Cayuga Lake. The local tribe of Indians was known as the "Todarighroones." (*Landmarks*).

1789 – The Six Nations ceded to the State of New York the lands lying east of Seneca Lake (*Landmarks*).

1790 – Samuel Weyburn and his family settled on the shore of Cayuga Lake at Goodwin's Point (*Four Counties*).

1792 – Abner Treman and his brother-in-law John McLallen arrived in the fall. Treman had drawn the 640-acre Lot Number 2, including the future site of Trumansburg, for his services in the Revolutionary War (*Landmarks*).

1794 – March 5: The town of Ulysses was organized as part of Onondaga County, which was set off from Herkimer County (*Landmarks*). Abner Treman erected the first grist mill in Trumansburg (*Four Counties*).

1796 – David Atwater erected the first saw mill near Taughannock Falls (*Four Counties*).

1797 – The Board of Supervisors of Onondaga County counted 52 people in its census of Ulysses (*Landmarks*).

1798 – The Board of Supervisors of Onondaga County listed 60 people in its census of Ulysses (*Landmarks*).

1799 – March 8, the town of Ulysses joined the newly formed Cayuga County (*Landmarks*).

1802 – Robert Henshaw opened the first store near Treman's Mills (*Four Counties*).

1803 – Jan. 10: The first church in the town of Ulysses (Presbyterian) was organized. Feb. 22: The town of Dryden was taken from Ulysses (*Landmarks*).

1804 – March 29: Ulysses became part of Seneca County, which was erected from Cayuga County. May 11: A town meeting voted that the part of the town of Ulysses east of the inlet be annexed to the town of Milton, Cayuga County (*Landmarks*).

1805 – The first school house was built of logs in Trumansburg (*Four Counties*).

1808 – Nicholl and Euphias (McDowell) Halsey settled in what is now Halseyville; the present Halseyville House was built in 1829. (Town of Ulysses Web site; extracted from a paper by Gladys Duddlestone in 1971 and a document handwritten by Nicholl Halsey).

1810 – Aug. 10: New York Governor DeWitt Clinton arrived at Tremaine's Village (Trumansburg) (*Ithaca Daily Journal*, Nov. 28, 1877, "Recollections of Abner Treman, the Tompkins Co. Revolutionary Hero," from Harriet Jackson Swick, Registrar of Chief Taughannock Chapter.)

1811 – The first church structure in the town was built of logs near Updyke Settlement (*Four Counties*). The Ulysses Philomathic Library was incorporated (*Landmarks*). The turnpike between Ithaca and Geneva was completed, with stagecoaches stopping in Trumansburg (*Trumansburg*).

1813 – The village of Trumansburg incorporated (*Landmarks*).

1814 – A log school house was built in Willow Creek (*Town of Ulysses Web site*).

1817 – April 17: Ulysses became part of the new Tompkins County, organized from Cayuga and Seneca counties (*Landmarks*).

1818 – June 8: Fidelity Masonic Lodge was chartered at Trumansburgh (*Landmarks*).

1820 – "The Waterburg Road was cut through virgin timber in 1820" (*Town of Ulysses Web site*).

1823 – The Cooper Inn was built in Jacksonville by Thomas Cooper as a stagecoach stop on the Ithaca and Geneva Turnpike (*Town of Ulysses Web site*).

1833 –Middleburg was renamed Waterburg to avoid post office confusion with another Middleburg in Schoharie County (*Town of Ulysses Web site*).

1821 – March 11: Enfield was taken from Ulysses. March 16: Ithaca was taken from Ulysses (*Landmarks*).

1822 – The first post office in Jacksonville or "Harlow's Corners" established (*Landmarks*).

1827 – *The Lake Light*, the first newspaper in Trumansburg, began publication (*Landmarks*).

1847 – May 24: Grove Cemetery Association was organized in Trumansburg (*Landmarks*).

1858 – Aug. 1: The Union Agricultural and Horticultural Society of Ulysses and Covert organized (*Landmarks*)

1860 – Trumansburg had 1,052 residents, four churches, the Trumansburg Academy, and several manufacturing establishments. Jacksonville had one church and 50 houses. Waterburg had one church, mills and 40 houses. Six churches total in the town of Ulysses -- three Methodist-Episcopal, one Baptist, one Presbyterian, and one Roman Catholic (*Gazeteer*).

1864 – Feb. 22: Fire ravages village of Trumansburg (*Landmarks*).

1875 – Population of 3,418 inhabitants per census (*Four Counties*).

1935 – July 8: A flood washes through Trumansburg (*Trumansburg*).

1975 – April: Ulysses Historical Society founded; New York State Board of Regents granted the society an absolute charter as an education institution in 1979.

1998 – Jan. 19: Ulysses Historical Society moved into its new building on South Street in Trumansburg built with a donation from Adrian and Richard Pearsall on a Trumansburg School District lot by contractor Jim Stevenson.

2000 – Town of Ulysses had a population of 4,775 people (U.S. Census Bureau).

SOURCES:

Four Counties: *History of Tioga, Chemung, Tompkins, and Schuylar Counties, New York*, Everts & Ensign, Philadelphia, 1879.

Gazeteer: *Gazeteer of the State of New York*, by J.H. French, 1860 from Tompkins County GenWeb Site.).

Landmarks: *Landmarks of Tompkins County, New York*, by John H. Selkreg, D. Mason & Co., Publisher, 1894.

Trumansburg: *A History of Trumansburg, New York*, by Lydia Sears, 1978.