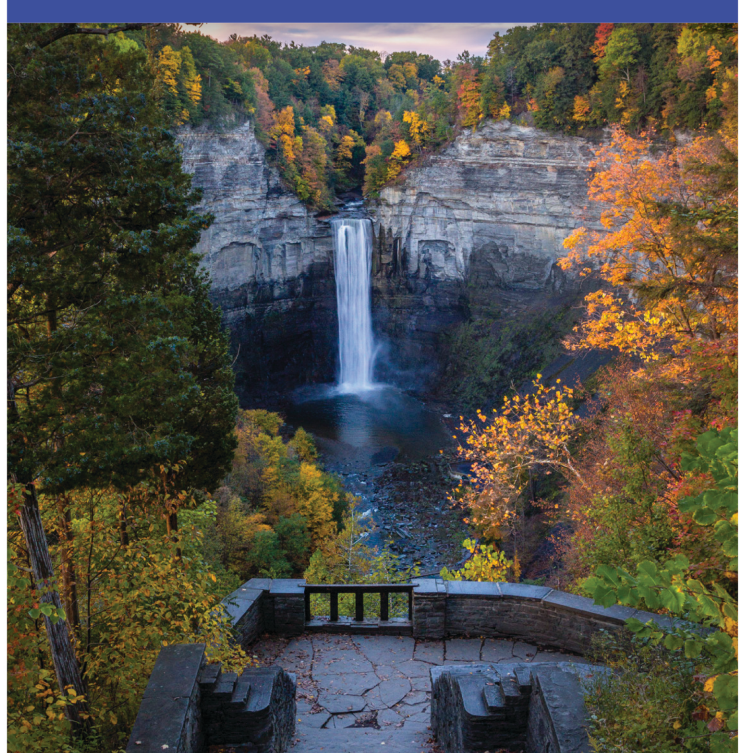




Town of Ulysses



The Cayugas and Senecas of the Iroquois Nation originally inhabited the area of today's Town of Ulysses. The 1779 Sullivan Campaign ordered by General George Washington drove the Iroquois from the region and opened it for settlement by soldiers receiving land in compensation for their Revolutionary War service. The town was Military Tract Town #22. It was organized in 1794 as part of Onondaga County and named Town of Ulysses for the great wanderer in Homer's, *The Odyssey*. The town's village, Trumansburg, is a county arts and cultural center and a link between the popular Cayuga and Seneca wine trails.



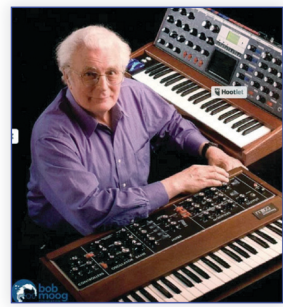
Residents of Note



■ **Susan Hall (1826-1912)**
She became one of the first women to apply and be accepted for training as a nurse during the Civil War. The Ulysses native served from 1861 until 1865. After the war she married and moved to California.

Hermann Michael Biggs (1859-1923)

Physician born in Trumansburg who advanced the cause of public health in regard to infectious diseases, particularly tuberculosis. Was the first and longest serving NYS Health Commissioner and was knighted by the King of Spain in 1920 for his accomplishments in preventive medicine.



■ **Robert Moog (1934-2005)**
Lived in Trumansburg while working on his doctorate in engineering physics at Cornell. Opened his storefront at 49 East Main Street for R.A. Moog Co., where the first commercially available modular synthesizer was developed.

For more local history:

- <http://www.ulysses.ny.us/history/>
- <http://www.tompkinscountyny.gov/historian>
- <http://www.thehistorycenter.net/>

Text by Michele Mitrani Village of Trumansburg Historian and John Wertis, Town of Ulysses Historian. Design/production: Allison Kaiser. Cover photo: Adam Baker. Editing: Bruce Estes, Carol Kammen. The Tompkins County Bicentennial Commission sponsored city and town history brochures to commemorate the county's 200th anniversary in 2017.



Cemeteries

- **Grove Cemetery** - Cemetery and Falls Streets, Trumansburg.
 - **St. James Cemetery** - Catholic Cemetery, between Route 227 and Searsburg Road.
 - **Jones-Goodwin Point** - Gorge Road, west of Taughannock Farms Inn.
- There are several small and inactive cemeteries in the town. For details on Ulysses cemeteries and others in the county: <http://www.nytopmki.org/tcem.htm>

Employers

Several significant industries, including the Gregg Iron Works and Morse Chain, flourished here in the 19th century. In the 20th century Babcock Poultry Farm, with scientific poultry breeding, grew into a huge enterprise. It is located in France today.

In 1880 Morse Equalizing Spring Company began manufacturing carts, buggy springs and bicycle drive chains. The business became Morse Chain Company in 1898 and moved to Ithaca in 1906 in order to expand and make automobile chains. It is an antecedent to the present BorgWarner Morse Systems.

Census

Ulysses' population rose rapidly in the 19th century and peaked with about 3,300 residents in the 1870s. It did not surpass that number until after World War II.

Town of Ulysses	Tompkins County
1840: 2,976	32,296
1920: 2,105	35,285
1960: 4,307	66,097
2010: 4,900	101,624

Ulysses Points of Interest



■ Taughannock Falls State Park

In 1788 an exploring party camped at the falls and in 1790 Samuel Weyburn and his family occupied a cabin on the site, the area's first permanent settlers.

■ Abner Treman's Cabin Site

Treman, a veteran of the Revolutionary War, settled in what became Trumansburg in 1792.

■ Sullivan Campaign

W. Main Street, Trumansburg. In 1779 General John Sullivan sent Capt. John Butler to the area during the Revolutionary War to destroy Native American villages.



■ Halsey House

2057 Trumansburg Road. The Greek Revival house, built in 1829 for local politician and public servant Nicoll Halsey, features a full pediment on each of the gable ends. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A B&B today.

■ Dorsey Home

Dorsey Hill and Lake St. in the village. Site

of the homestead of Lloyd Dorsey (1818-1904) and Nancy M. Hemans (d. 1886) who married in 1844. Mr. Dorsey escaped from slavery in Maryland in 1842, his wife was a free Caroline resident. They had nine children. Mr. Dorsey is believed to be the first black man to vote in the town.

■ Hermon Camp House

Camp Street, Trumansburg. A Greek Revival mansion built in 1845 almost entirely with local labor and materials for local merchant and community leader Hermon Camp.



The spacious property once included formal gardens. The house is on the National Register of Historic Places and is now a private residence.

■ Indian Fort

Indian Fort Road, near Route 227. Site of a Cayuga-Seneca Indian village and burial ground.



Indigo Buntings nest in the town's woodlands.

Photo by Bob Howdeshell / Cornell Lab of Ornithology

1792 Abner Treman and his brother-in-law John McLallen arrived in the area. Treman's name was spelled variously. It is not known how the village that developed on his land became Trumansburg.

1817 Ulysses became part of Tompkins County when the county formed that year.

1821 Ulysses divided into three parts creating the towns of Enfield, Ithaca and present-day Ulysses.

1853

Trumansburg Fair began and continues to be a summer highlight, drawing thousands of fair-goers each August.



1878 Union Free School established.



1880

Morse Equalizing Spring Company began manufacturing carts, buggy springs and bicycle drive chains. It became Morse Chain Company in 1898 and moved to Ithaca in 1906.

1925 The Trumansburg School District formed.

1983

Trumansburg Conservatory of Arts was founded and offers music lessons, dance, and art classes.

1991

Finger Lakes Grassroots Music Festival began as a summer concert to benefit AIDS education and prevention.



1811

The original Ulysses Philomathic (which means "love of learning") Library was formed as a private library association.

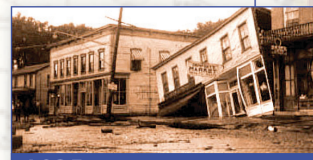
1864 A fire that started at a corner store on Union and Main Streets destroyed the entire business district north of Main Street. Another devastating fire in 1871 destroyed buildings on both sides of Main Street.



1872

Village of Trumansburg incorporated.

1922 Fire destroyed a crowning jewel of the town - the Opera House. The stately Second Empire structure housed businesses, offices, apartments, and a third-floor performance hall.



1935

Flooding killed five people and caused tremendous damage on Main Street with some buildings completely washed away.



1975

The Ulysses Historical Society established. The museum opened on South Street in Trumansburg in 1998.

2001 Trumansburg Community Chorus organized, a no-audition community choir that includes adult and youth members. New village library built at its present location.