

MAP COLLECTION: A Guide

OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS

- Repository:** Crandall Public Library
Center for Folklife, History, and Cultural Programs,
Glens Falls, NY.
- Creator:** Crandall Public Library (Glens Falls, N.Y.), collector.
- Title:** Map Collection.
- Dates:** 1755–2010.
- Abstract:** The Map Collection contains maps describing Glens Falls, Warren County, and the surrounding region, including Washington County, Saratoga County and Essex County. Some maps cover a broader area, especially the southern Adirondack region, and a few show all of New York State. Among the localities described are Queensbury, Hudson Falls and Fort Edward.
- Quantity:** Approximately 33 cubic feet (1200+ maps)
- Identification Number:** Maps

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE RECORDS

The Map Collection contains maps describing Glens Falls, Warren County and the surrounding region, including Washington County, Saratoga County and Essex County. Some maps cover greater geographic scope, especially the southern Adirondack region, and a few show all of New York State. Among the localities described are Queensbury, Hudson Falls and Fort Edward. The maps illustrate the historical development of the region and sometimes identify historic structures or sites. The collection includes birds-eye view, topographical, and manuscript maps.

The Map Collection is an excellent source for maps on Glens Falls and the lower Adirondack region from the time of the early settlement of this area by people of European descent in the eighteenth century, through to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Some maps depicting the eighteenth century make references to American Indian trails. Included are published maps made by Seneca Ray Stoddard and L. R. Burleigh. Many of the nineteenth century maps are lithographs. Maps dated prior to 1829, including all eighteenth century maps, are reprints published after 1840, or in some cases traced by hand from published maps.

Highlights of the collection include the Caffry Memorial collection of framed nineteenth century maps depicting primarily Warren and Washington counties, the Miller collection illustrating the growth of Glens Falls and Queensbury, railway maps dated 1879 showing the right of way for the Plattsburgh and Dannemora Railway, a 1906 navigational chart of Lake George, and United States Geological Survey topographical maps of Northeastern New York published between 1897 and 1968.

The Caffry Memorial maps refer to twelve large nineteenth century published maps selected from the library's collection for repair and restoration. This map preservation project was funded by money collected in memory H. Glen Caffry, Trustee of Crandall Public Library from 1960 to 1975. The maps were placed on the walls of the Brown Room on the library's second floor until 1995 when they were moved to the reading room of the Center for Folklife in Crandall Library. They currently hang in the Albert W. Fowler Research Center of the Center for Folklife.

The Caffry maps describe Glens Falls, Queensbury, Warren County, Lake George, Lake Champlain, and Vermont. They are useful for information on early settlement of the area, military history, as well as nineteenth century population, farming and manufacturing statistics. Researchers will find the name of landowners marked on some maps. Some maps show Town lines and borders between communities.

Alexander Ward Miller (1889-1978) and his wife Irene Floyd Miller (1890-1971) were collectors and researchers on local history of Glens Falls N.Y. and the region surrounding it. The Miller maps include tracings they made of early eighteenth and nineteenth century maps, often including such features as the names of property owners, location of lime quarries and paper mills, school districts, road, and the extent

of property lost in a downtown Glens Falls fire, May 31, 1864. Military history is documented on some of these hand drawn maps. (See also related documents in the Miller Collection.)

Revolutionary War and French and Indian War history are treated in some maps that show the locations of battlegrounds and sites of historic events. The Glens Falls map series includes subdivision maps (Broadacres, Fort Amherst-Smith), city transportation systems (steam and electric railways), and zoning maps. Maps of the surrounding counties show roadways. The Adirondack maps include geologic studies, Bouguer Gravity maps, and navigational charts for Lake George.

The Map Collection also includes several collections of topographical maps, as follows:

United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps show the shape and elevation of the land, mountains, valleys, water bodies such as lakes and rivers, transportation networks, drainage patterns, vegetation, and buildings. Contour lines are used to portray the shape and elevation of the land. The maps also show major works of humans, such as roads, railroads, transmission lines, buildings, and boundaries. Until the 1940s the principal method used was plane table surveying from high vantage points. Beginning in the 1940s surveys were done from the air, but supplemented by field checks.

Most of the maps in Crandall Public Library's collection of topographic maps are the 7.5 minute series, with a scale of 1:24,000. Each map is called a quadrangle and it is given a name. Most of these maps were published between 1966 and 1968, though there are a few maps dated 1944-1946, near the border with Vermont. Colors are extensively used in these maps: lakes and rivers are blue, forests are green, major roads are red, and cities and other heavily populated areas are shaded in pink. Some maps prepared using digital technology are also part of the collection. These are also 7.5 minute maps, using a scale of 1:24,000. They were published between 1991 and 1992 by the New York State Department of Transportation, but based on work of the United States Geological Survey. These 1991 and 1992 maps are not colored.

There are some 15 minute survey maps in the collection. These maps have a scale of 1:62,500. These maps were done from surveys from 1895 to 1903, though some were reprinted in the early 1940s. A revised group of 15 minute surveys was done from about 1947-1958, and these maps use colors like the 7.5 minute series described above.

A brief word about the geographical scope and filing arrangement of this collection. The majority of them are filed in a map case in the Research Center. The main concentration of these maps is Warren County and northern Saratoga and Washington Counties. Many maps (though the coverage is not complete) can be found for the entire Adirondack region. All these maps are filed in drawers labeled A-F, and an index sheet can be found in drawer A. Quadrangles for other parts of New York State in the next

three drawers. These maps are filed alphabetically by quadrangle name, and coverage is by no means complete for New York State. The bottom drawer has a few maps for Vermont. Additional topographical maps of larger size or maps which are mounted on cloth or hard backing are boxed in the Archives with other boxed maps.

Sanborn Maps in the Map Collection

Sanborn maps are large-scale maps “depicting the commercial, industrial and residential sections of ...cities and towns....The maps were designed to assist fire insurance agents in determining the degree of hazard associated with a particular property and therefore show the size, shape and construction of dwellings, commercial buildings, and factories as well as fire walls, locations of windows and doors, sprinkler systems and types of roofs. The maps also indicate widths and names of streets, property boundaries, building use and block numbers.” Library of Congress: *Fire Insurance Maps in the Library of Congress*, 1981).

The Folklife Center has printed copies of three Sanborn maps from 1905, two of Glens Falls and one of Sandy Hill (Hudson Falls). In addition the Collection contains 7 reels of microfilmed Sanborn Maps which include many of the villages in Washington and Saratoga Counties, as well as Glens falls and cover a span of years from 1884 to 1946.

PROVENANCE

The nineteenth century maps were donated to the library in 1919 as part of the Holden Collection. The Miller family gave other maps depicting early history of the Glens Falls area to the library in 1978. A large number of maps published after 1950 were given to the library by patrons and collected by the librarians.

INDEX TERMS

- Places:**
- Adirondack Mountains (N.Y.)—Maps.
 - Champlain, Lake—Maps.
 - Essex County (N.Y.)—Maps.
 - Fort Edward (N.Y.)—Maps.
 - George, Lake (N.Y.:Lake)—Maps.
 - Glens Falls (N.Y.)—Maps.
 - Hudson Falls (N.Y.)—Maps.
 - New York (State)—Maps.
 - Queensbury (N.Y.)—Maps.
 - Saratoga County (N.Y.)—Maps.
 - Warren County (N.Y.)—Maps.
 - Washington County (N.Y.)—Maps.
- Important People:**
- Burleigh, L. R. (Lucien R.), 1853?-1923.
 - Caffry, H. Glen.
 - Miller, Alexander Ward, 1889-1923.
 - Miller, Irene Floyd, 1890-1971.

Stoddard, Seneca Ray, 1844-1917.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Preferred Citation: Map Collection,
Center for Folklife, History, and Cultural Programs,
Crandall Public Library, Glens Falls, NY.

Accession Information:

Processing Information: Described and indexed in a Microsoft Access database.
Arranged and described by Katherine P. Chansky, Dorothy Barnes, and Erica Wolfe Burke (1994-2018), Erica Gonyea (1918 -

ORGANIZATION OF THE RECORDS

The maps are organized by type and location.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE RECORDS

Map Series

Series 1 Historical Maps

- Document Box 1** Hand-drawn maps from the Miller Collection
- Flat Map Box 2** Miller Maps
- Flat Map Box 13** Maps removed from Documentary History of New York and other older works.
- Flat Map Box 18** Old Exchange Quad maps (used by railroad to determine freight rates)
- Roll Storage Box 1** Reproductions of historic Birds Eye views of local towns
- Roll Storage Box 2** Reproductions of maps of Revolutionary War forts and battlefields
- Roll Storage Box 6** Miller Maps
- Tube M - 3** 2 Historical maps

Series 2 Topographical Maps

- Map Case** USGS Topographical maps
- Flat Map Box 5** Topographical Maps, ca 1900, mounted on cloth
- Flat Map Box 19** Topographical Maps – Oversize

Flat Map Box 21 Topographical Maps (Accession # 1993-005)
Flat Map Box 22 Topographical Maps 1900 mounted on card
Flat Map Box 23 Topographical Maps – older
Tube M - 5 Topographical maps showing the location of Warren County
cemeteries

Series 3 Geological

Tube M - 2 Geological: 4 Brouger Gravity Maps
Tube M - 4 1970-71 Geological Maps of NYS
Tube M – 6 Geological: Brittle Structures; Quaternary Geology
Tube M – 8 Geological: Higbee's Stream Map of NYS
Tube M – 10 Geological: 1961 Geological Map of NYS
NYS Univ./Museum Geological Survey maps of NYS

Series 4: Maps by location

NYS (and some places outside NY)

Flat Map Box 6 New York State – older maps plus miscellaneous
older maps of places outside New York State
Flat Map Box 14 New York State, whole state or other regions
Flat Map Box 27 New York State – older maps plus miscellaneous
older maps of places outside New York State
Roll Storage Box 5 NYS Transportation maps
Small Map Box 3 Primarily books – NY, New England, and regions
Small Map Box 4 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

Adirondack Region

Flat Map Box 1 Adirondack Region – Older Maps
Flat Map Box 7 Adirondack Region – Land Use Maps: APA, DEC,
other
Flat Map Box 10 Adirondack Region – snowmobile and other trails
Flat Map Box 12 Adirondack Region – general tourist and road maps
Flat Map Box 17 Lake George/Lake Champlain
Flat Map Box 25 Adirondack Region – Older Maps
Flat Map Box 26 Adirondack and Catskills Region – Older Maps
Roll Storage Box 3 Charts of Lake Champlain
Roll Storage Box 4 Niagara Mohawk Adirondack 115KV Project (20
maps)
Small Map Box 1 11 folders of maps, including modern Birds Eye maps
Small Map Box 2 Rolled maps of Lake George and Lake Champlain

Warren County

Flat Map Box 4 Warren County, NY
Tube M – 7 3 modern laminated maps NYS, Glens Falls-Lake
George Region

Other Counties

Flat Map Box 11 Saratoga and Washington Counties, NY
Roll Storage Box 10 Hamilton, Warren, Washington Counties – Highway
maps

Tube M - 1 NYS Office of Planning Co-ordination: Saratoga,
Hamilton, Warren and Washington Counties

Queensbury

Flat Map Box 8 Queensbury, NY

Roll Storage Box 8 Queensbury, NY – mostly zoning

Glens Falls

Flat Map Box 3 Glens Falls – zoning, planning, real property

Flat Map Box 9 Glens Falls, NY – older and more fragile maps

Flat Map Box 15 Glens Falls, NY – mostly street maps

Small Map Box 7 Glens Falls, NY 1892 – 3 copies

Roll Storage Box 7 Glens Falls, NY, mostly zoning. City Park.

Series 5: Old, fragile, broken

Roll Storage Box 9 Old and fragile

Small Map Box 4 Fragile, broken. Cannot be used. Handle only to repair.

The finding aid binder in the Research Center contains a box list which lists each map individually (except the topographical maps).

EWB 4/27/2010