

Ontario County Records and Archives Center

A Guide for Family and Local History Research



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Canandaigua, NY 14424**

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ONTARIO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF RECORDS, ARCHIVES, AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SERVICES (RAIMS)

A New Department with an Old Mission

Ontario County was created by the New York State legislature on January 27, 1789. Chapter 11, Laws of 1789, created Ontario County by dividing Montgomery County, itself the result of a recent division of the old colonial county of Tryon.¹

Ontario County was the first county erected west of Seneca Lake and the Pre-emption Line. That survey line was done incorrectly in 1788 and had to be resurveyed in 1792. A line due north from 82nd mile marker on the New York-Pennsylvania border (just west of Elmira, NY), the Pre-emption line terminated at Sodus Bay on Lake Ontario. The Preemption Line continues to figure prominently in many county documents and has been the source of many legal entanglements.

In 1789, Ontario County included all of present-day New York west to Lake Erie and the Niagara River. However, the land west of the Genesee River could not be incorporated or settled until the Iroquois nations agreed to sell their interest at the Treaty of Big Tree in 1796. Until 1824, parts of Ontario County were separated and reconstituted as other counties. When that happened, copies of the records relevant to those new counties were made for the new County Clerks. However, the original records remain in Ontario County. Consequently, very early land, court and other records that pertain to many other counties can be found in the Ontario County archives.

For many years prior to 1857, the records of the County Clerk and the Surrogate Court were kept in two "fireproof" buildings on the public square in the center of Canandaigua. After the construction of the present Court House, the records of the county were kept in the basement of that seat of justice. That basement room was also built to be fireproof. Storage in the Court House continued until the creation of the Department of Records, Archives, and Information Management Services (RAIMS). For many years, the Court House records storage area was

¹ The best source for tracing the lineage of New York counties is Long, John H. (ed) and Kathryn Ford Thorne (comp) *New York: Atlas of Historical County Boundaries*. New York. Simon and Schuster. 1993. Pages 130-137 chronicle the creation and subsequent division of Ontario County.

known as “the dungeon” by researchers. Many county records were unsorted, stacked in crates, and forgotten. In many cases, they were physically inaccessible. It has been nearly 25 years since RAIMS was created, yet many Nineteenth Century records rescued from the old storage rooms are still being sorted and processed. Many important discoveries are still made.

The Ontario County Department of Records, Archives, and Information Management Services (RAIMS) was created on February 8, 1990 (Local Law 2). That year, the Board of Supervisors voted to separate RAIMS from the office of the County Clerk. Their action was in response to state legislation reforming and prescribing new practices in records management. The current records center was built in 1988 and enlarged in 2007.

Getting to RAIMS

The Ontario County records center is located on the office complex off County Road #46 in the Town of Hopewell. Its mailing address is: 3051 County Complex Dr., Canandaigua, NY 14424.

Visitors coming from the west on the New York State Thruway (I-90) should exit at the Canandaigua Exit (#44). Follow NYS Rt. 332 into Canandaigua and continue south on Main Street. Turn left on Phelps Street (by the Fire House). Phelps Street becomes County Road #46. After crossing Smith Road, watch for the entrance to the county office complex on your right. Follow the signs to RAIMS.

Visitors coming from the east on the Thruway (I-90) should exit at the Manchester Exit (#43). Follow NYS Rt. 21 south toward Canandaigua. At the intersection with Hanna Road, turn left. Make a quick left onto County Road #4, then another quick right onto County Road 10 (Town Line Rd.) At the intersection with County Road #46 (4-way stop), turn left. After crossing Smith Road, watch for the entrance to the county office complex on your right. Follow the signs to RAIMS.

Visitors coming from Geneva on routes 5 and 20 should turn right on Freshour Road. Turn left at County Road #46. Turn left into the County Complex and follow the signs to RAIMS.

Open Records Available for Research

All of the public records of Ontario County are available for the use of the public. However, there are restrictions provided by various statutes.

The restrictions vary according to specific provisions of law and are not often changed. Challenges to those restrictions must be filed with the appropriate court.

By law, restrictions apply to the records of adoptions (permanently restricted); divorces (100 years); inquests (permanent); and the records of veterans (1917 to date restricted to family, funeral directors and veterans service officers).

The New York State Health Commissioner's Administrative Rules and Regulations provide that marriage and death records must be at least 50 years old before they are released. Birth records must be on file for at least 75 years, and the person to whom the record relates must be deceased, for information to be released. These time periods can be waived if the applicant is a descendant or has been designated to act on behalf of a descendant of the person whose record is being requested. By the Health Commissioner's rules, a descendant is a person in the direct line of descent. Applicants for birth, death, and marriage records must supply documentation of their relationship to the subject of the records. Additional information about the Health Commissioner's rules can be found on the Internet at < http://www.health.state.ny.us/vital_records/>.

Only a few marriage records are located at RAIMS. They cover the period 1908-1935. RAIMS does not have custody of any birth or death records and cannot certify the marriage records it holds.

In addition, the availability of public records is governed by retention schedules published by the New York State Archives. Generally, the records used by academic and family history researchers are retained permanently. All records dating from before 1910 are considered permanent. A fire in the state capitol in 1911 resulted in the destruction of many records kept in the state archives then located there.

Vital Records

RAIMS does not have the authority to provide certified copies of any record. Generally, those must be obtained from the department or agency that created the record. The requirements for certification of records are established by state law.

For birth, death and marriage records, contact the city, village, or town clerk (or registrar) where the record was made and event took place. Marriage records are available from the Town or City Clerk of the municipality where the Marriage License was issued. That may be some

distance from the place of the actual marriage. It is rare for a municipality to have birth, death, or marriage records for any period prior to 1882. RAIMS holds very few vital records.

During the period 1847-1849, New York State asked district schools to record vital records. RAIMS does have some of those records for the Town of Canandaigua. The Victor Historical Society holds the early vital records recorded by schools in that town.

The New York State Department of Health can also provide certified records to those eligible to receive them.

Non-governmental Records and Manuscripts

The mission of RAIMS is to serve the records management needs of the government of Ontario County, its Board of Supervisors and residents. There are several historical societies around the county that are chartered by the state Board of Regents to collect, preserve, and make available non-government records, manuscripts, artifacts and historical information. For those reasons, and to preserve adequate storage space, RAIMS does not collect or make available genealogies, old newspapers, cemetery readings and records, images, family files, or published documents. However, there are rare exceptions. Those are made in the interest of better interpretation of the official records found at RAIMS. As a general rule, the Ontario County RAIMS holds only records generated by the government of Ontario County. RAIMS holds a very few records generated by the state of New York and by the US government.

From 1863 to about 1945, the Ontario Children's Home (still a charitable foundation) operated an orphanage in Canandaigua. It was never, at any time, affiliated with the government of Ontario County. Many years after the orphanage closed, its records were turned over to the Ontario County Historical Society, a private, not-for-profit museum and research center at 55 N. Main St., Canandaigua. Information regarding the orphans there can be obtained from the museum. Since it is not from government records, that information is not restricted. RAIMS does hold microfilm copies of the records, 1863-1932.

Fees

The copy and other fees charged by RAIMS are established by local law or state statute. The research and retrieval fee for local and family history research was established by Board of Supervisors Resolution 432-2002, effective January 1, 2003.

Researchers working at RAIMS pay only a 50 cent fee for each page of each document copied. All copying must be done by RAIMS staff.

Requests under the state Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) are generally not necessary local family history researchers. The fee for a FOIL request is 25 cents for each photocopy. That fee will change periodically.



Research services are provided by the RAIMS staff for requests received by mail. No research requests can be accepted over the telephone or by email. While no fees are charged to in-person researchers, the fee for mail-in research requests is \$40.00 per hour, chargeable in half-hour increments.

Postage is charged based upon the weight of the material mailed.

FAX charges are \$1.50 for local calls, plus \$1.00 per page. \$3.00 is charged for long-distance transmissions, plus \$1.00 per page.

A Word about Record or Accession Numbers

The records of Ontario County are not assigned group or series numbers. They are retrieved by title, not by number, a system common in county records centers. The numbers that sometimes appear on rolls of microfilm are vendor designators indicating the year and order of production. Those vendor and production designators are not included in this guide to avoid confusion.

Records Groups and Series Open and Useful to Local and Family History Researchers

Records of the County Clerk

The records of the County Clerk include those records the Clerk is charged with recording and maintaining in accordance with the state constitution. Records generated by many county offices are kept by the County Clerk. While RAIMS is now a separate county department, it was originally part of the County Clerk's office. Records kept by the Clerk also include local municipal records turned over to the clerk for safekeeping and retention. Some federal records are kept or recorded by the County Clerk. Among these are the census records and military discharges.

Assessment Rolls (1790-1993)

From the earliest days of county government in New York, the assessment of real property values has been a town ("township") responsibility. County real property taxes are based on the assessments made by town assessors. The assessment rolls compiled in the towns were often turned over to the County Clerk in the 19th Century and continued to be turned over to the county on a regular basis in the 20th Century. The assessment records held by the County Clerk are in the custody of RAIMS and are open public records. They are often useful for establishing the age of buildings since deeds usually do not mention specific structures, but sudden rises in assessment are sure indicators that a new building has raised the value of the land. Assessment records, combined with deeds and mortgages, often provide a clearer picture of economic growth and government functions than do any of those documents alone.

As time passes, RAIMS will take custody of more assessment records. Those now kept at RAIMS are found on the following microfilms. There is no index to assessment records.

Tax Assessments. Town of Bristol. 1813-1866. 35 mm. Diazo. [Includes 1813; 1817-1820; 1822-1824; 1826.]

Tax Assessments. Town of Canandaigua. 1829. 16 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Bristol. 1867-1899. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Bristol. 1890-1906. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Bristol. 1907-1910. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Canadice. 1852-1884. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Canadice. 1885-1906. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Canadice. 1807-1910. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Canandaigua. 1812-1828; 1858. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Canandaigua. 1812-1828; 1858. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Canandaigua. 1859-1868. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Canandaigua. 1869-1875; 1877. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Canandaigua. 1878-1882. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Canandaigua. 1883-1889. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Canandaigua. 1890-1896. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Canandaigua. 1897-1901. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Canandaigua. 1802-1904. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Canandaigua. 1905-1907. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Canandaigua. 1908-1909. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Canandaigua. 1910. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of East Bloomfield. 1813-1823; 1852-1868. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of East Bloomfield. 1869-1890. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of East Bloomfield. 1891-1905. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of East Bloomfield. 1906-1910. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Farmington. 1813-1867. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Farmington. 18168-1888. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Farmington. 1889-1906. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Farmington. 1907-1910; 1914; 1916; 1920; 1925. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Geneva. 1873-1880. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Geneva. 1881-1888. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Geneva. 1889-1895. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Geneva. 1896-1910. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. City of Geneva. 1898-1902. 35mm. Diazo. [1899 missing.]

Tax Assessments. City of Geneva. 1903-1906. 35 mm. Diazo. [1904 missing.]

Tax Assessments. City of Geneva. 1907-1908. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. City of Geneva. 1909-1910. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Gorham. 1799-1871. 35 mm. Diazo. [Includes 1799; 1813-1823; 1850; 1854-1871.]

Tax Assessments. Town of Gorham. 1872-1892. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Gorham. 1893. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Gorham. 1894-1906. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Gorham. 1907-1910. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Hopewell. 1822-1859. 35 mm. Diazo. [Missing 1825; 1829; 1831-1833; 1835-1841; 1846.]

Tax Assessments. Town of Hopewell. 1860-1872. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Hopewell. 1873-1898. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Hopewell. 1899-1910. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Manchester. 1822-1866. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Manchester. 1866-1880. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Manchester. 1881-1883; 1895-1901. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Manchester. 1884-1895. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Manchester. 1902-1906. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Manchester. 1907. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Manchester. 1908-1911. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Naples. 1813-1866. 35 mm. Diazo. [1824-1851; 1853 missing.]

Tax Assessments. Town of Naples. 1867-1882. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Naples. 1883-1896. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Naples. 1897-1905. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Naples. 1906-1911. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Phelps. 1813-1867. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Phelps. 1868-1878. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Phelps. 1879-1889. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Phelps. 1890-1898. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Phelps. 1899-1904. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Phelps. 1905-1909. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Richmond. 1817-1823; 1852-1875. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Richmond. 1876-1900. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Richmond. 1901-1913. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Seneca. 1813-1824; 1852-1856. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Seneca. 1857-1862. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Seneca. 1864-1869. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Seneca. 1870-1879. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Seneca. 1880-1897. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Seneca. 1898-1909. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of South Bristol. 1846-1875. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of South Bristol. 1876-1899. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of South Bristol. 1900-1911. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Victor. 1813-1876. 35 mm. Diazo. [Includes 1813; 1829; 1852-1876.]

Tax Assessments. Town of Victor. 1877-1893. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Victor. 1894-1903. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of Victor. 1904-1910. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of West Bloomfield. 1855-1884. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of West Bloomfield. 1883-1884. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of West Bloomfield. 1884-1909. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Town of West Bloomfield. 1908-1909. 35 mm. Diazo.

Tax Assessments. Former Ontario County Towns. 1813-1822. 35 mm. Diazo. [Includes Avon: 1817; 1818; 1819; 1820. Augusta: 1799. Benton²: 1813; 1816; 1818; 1819; 1821; 1822. Boyle: 1813. Brighton: 1816; 1817; 1818; 1819; 1820. Freeport: 1820. Geneseo: 1799; 1813; 1816; 1817; 1818; 1819; 1820. Groveland: 1813; 1814; 1816; 1817; 1818; 1819. Northampton: 1799. Henrietta: 1818; 1819; 1820. Honeoye: 1813. Italy: 1816; 1817; 1818; 1821. Jerusalem: 1816; 1817; 1818; 1819; 1820; 1821. Lima: 1813; 1816; 1817; 1818; 1819; 1820.]

² Assessments for the Town of Benton (now Yates Co.) are included in the Ayres papers held by the Cornell University library.

Tax Assessments. Former Ontario County Towns. 1813-1822. 35 mm. Diazo. [Includes Livonia: 1813; 1816; 1817; 1818; 1819; 1825. Lyons: 1813; 1816; 1817; 1818; 1819; 1820; 1821; 1822. Mendon: 1813; 1816; 1817; 1818; 1819; 1820. Middlesex: 1813; 1818; 1819; 1820; 1822. Milo: 1818; 1819; 1820; 1821; 1822. Ontario: 1813; 1816; 1817; 1818; 1819; 1820; 1822.]

Tax Assessments. Former Ontario County Towns. 1813-1822. 35 mm. Diazo. [Includes Palmyra: 1813; 1816; 1817; 1819; 1820; 1821. Penfield: 1813; 1817; 1818; 1819; 1820. Perinton: 1813; 1816; 1817; 1818; 1819; 1820. Pittsford: 1816; 1817; 1818; 1819; 1820. Rush: 1818; 1819; 1820. Sodus: 1813; 1816; 1817; 1819; 1820; 1821; 1822.]

Tax Assessments. Former Ontario County Towns. 1813-1822. 35 mm. Diazo. [Includes Sparta: 1813; 1816; 1817; 1818. Springwater: 1818; 1819; 1820. Williamson: 1813; 1816; 1817; 1818; 1819; 1820; 1821; 1822.]

Census Records 1790-1930.

Both the state and federal census records are considered part of the County Clerk's record group. They are shelved in the main research room at RAIMS and are completely open.

Early state and federal census returns include original townships later divided. They also include in Ontario County returns townships that became part of new counties as they were erected by the state legislature. Two reference books are useful in sorting out the dates and shifting boundaries of regional counties and townships. Both references are available at RAIMS.

John H. Long (ed.) and Kathryn Ford Thorne (comp.). New York. ***Atlas of Historical County Boundaries.*** New York. Simon and Schuster. 1993. 242 pp. maps.

Gilbert Tremain Smith. "**Creating Local Government in Ontario County, New York, 1789-1801.**" Canandaigua, NY. Ontario County. 1999. 33 pps. Map.

Bound census books include consolidated returns for several towns and villages. They include the following:

Federal Census records:

The first federal census was taken in 1790 and included Ontario County, then much larger. As each decennial census was taken, more

information was included. By the mid-19th Century, census information included information on children, borders, occupations, birthplace, country of origin, and race (white, colored, mulatto). The 1930 census has recently been released by the federal government.

The bound volumes of federal census records at RAIMS include the following:

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Census of the Population. 1850. Pt. 1. [Towns of Gorham, Hopewell, Manchester.]

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Census of the Population. 1850. Pt. 2. [Towns of Naples, Phelps.]

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Census of the Population. 1850. [Towns of Richmond, Seneca.]

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Census of the Population. 1850. [Towns of Bristol, Canandaigua.]

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Census of the Population. 1850. [Towns of Canadice, East Bloomfield, Farmington.]

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Census of the Population. 1850. [Towns of South Bristol, Victor, West Bloomfield.]

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Census of the Population. 1860. Pt. 1. [Towns of Bristol, Canandaigua, East Bloomfield, Farmington.]

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Census of the Population. 1860. Pt. 2. [Towns of Gorham, Hopewell, Manchester, Naples.]

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Census of the Population. 1860. Pt. 3. [Towns of Phelps, Seneca, South Bristol, Victor.]

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Census of the Population. 1870. [Towns of Richmond, West Bloomfield.]

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Census of the Population. 1870. [Towns of East Bloomfield, Farmington.]

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Census of the Population. 1870. [Towns of Naples, Phelps.]

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Census of the Population. 1870. [Town of Seneca.]

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Census of the Population. 1870. [Towns of South Bristol, Bristol, Canadice, Canandaigua.]

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Census of the Population. 1870. [Towns of Gorham, Hopewell, Manchester.]

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Census of the Population. 1880. Vol. 1. [Towns of Richmond, Seneca, South Bristol, Victor, West Bloomfield.]

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Census of the Population. 1880. Vol. 2. [Towns of Bristol, Canandaigua, Canadice, East Bloomfield, Farmington, Geneva.]

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Census of the Population. 1880. Vol. 3. [Towns of Gorham, Hopewell, Manchester, Naples, Phelps.]

The microfilmed federal census records include records for original and emerging townships, many of which were taken from Ontario County by 1825. The microfilmed federal records available at RAIMS include the following.:

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Census of the Population. 1790. 35 mm. [Ontario County information starts at mid-roll (p. 178).]

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Census of the Population. 1800. 35 mm. [Includes records for Chenango and Cayuga Counties also. Records for the following towns in Ontario County are included: Northampton, Sparta, Pittstown, Middletown, Sodus, Palmyra, Northfield, Charlestown, Hartford, Geneseo, Bloomfield, Bristol, Canandaigua, Farmington, Easton, Augusta.]

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Census of the Population. 1810. 35 mm. [Includes records for Oneida County. Records for the following towns in Ontario County are included: Avon, Bloomfield, Boyle, Benton, Bristol, Farmington, Geneseo, Honeoye, Jerusalem, Lima, Livonia, Gorham, Middlesex, Naples, Ontario, Palmyra, Phelps, Seneca, Geneva Village, Sodus, Sarta, Williamson, Canandaigua Village and Town.]

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Census of the Population. 1820. 35 mm. [National Archives pub.] [Includes the Towns of Richmond, Bristol, Livonia, Middlesex, Naples, Springwater, Sparta, Groveland, Freeport, Lyons, Sodus, Williamson, Ontario, Penfield, Brighton, Henrietta, Rush, Avon, Geneseo,

Italy, Jerusalem, Canandaigua, Gorham, Milo, Benton, Seneca, Phelps, Farmington, Victor, Palmyra, Perinton, Pittsford, Mendon, Lima, Bloomfield.]

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Census of the Population. 1830. 35 mm. [National Archives pub.] [Includes the Towns of Gorham, Phelps, Seneca, Hopewell, Canandaigua, Bloomfield, Manchester, Richmond, Farmington, Victor, Bristol, Naples, Canadice.]

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Census of the Population. 1840. 2 rolls. 35 mm. [National Archives pub.] [Includes the Towns of Farmington, Victor, East Bloomfield, West Bloomfield, Bristol, South Bristol, Richmond, Canadice, Naples, Canandaigua, Phelps, Manchester, Seneca, Gorham, Hopewell.]

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Census of the Population. 1850. 2 rolls. 35 mm. [National Archives pub.] [Includes Towns of Farmington, Manchester, Victor, Phelps, Seneca, Naples, Bristol, South Bristol, Canadice, Richmond, West Bloomfield, East Bloomfield, Canandaigua, Hopewell, Gorham.]

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Census of the Population. 1860. 2 rolls. 35 mm. [National Archives pub.] [Includes Towns of Victor, Farmington, Richmond, Canadice, West Bloomfield, Canandaigua, East Bloomfield, Bristol, Seneca, Hopewell, South Bristol, Naples, Gorham, Manchester, Phelps.]

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Census of the Population. 1870. 2 rolls. 35 mm. [National Archives pub.] [Towns of Bristol-Richmond; Seneca-West Bloomfield.]

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Census of the Population. 1880. 2 rolls. 35 mm. [National Archives pub.] [Towns of Geneva (and village), Gorham, Hopewell, Manchester, Naples, Phelps, Richmond, Seneca, S. Bristol, Victor, West Bloomfield. First roll begins with Onondaga County. Second roll ends with Orange County.]

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Census of the Population. 1890. 1 rolls. 35 mm. Diazo. [Contains only census of Union veterans and Widows of Civil War.]

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Census of the Population. 1900. 2 rolls. 35 mm. [National Archives pub.] [Towns of Bristol-Geneva (city and town); Gorham-West Bloomfield. First roll begins with Onondaga County. Second roll ends with Orange County.]

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Census of the Population. 1910. 1 roll. 35 mm. [National Archives pub.] [All towns.]

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Census of the Population. 1920. 2 rolls. 35 mm. [National Archives pub.] [First roll contains Towns of Bristol-Farmington; Phelps-West Bloomfield. Second roll contains Towns of Geneva (and city)-Naples. First roll starts with Onondaga County. Second roll ends with Orange County.]

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Census of the Population. 1930. 1 roll. 35 mm. [National Archives pub.] [Contains all towns Bristol-West Bloomfield.]

State Census records:

New York State began taking its own census in 1825. However it was not done in all counties. The earliest state census for Ontario County was taken in 1855. Additional information on New York State census records generally is available on the Internet from the New York State Library.³ The Olin Library, Cornell University also has a useful website providing information on the various state censuses.⁴

The bound volumes of state census records at RAIMS include the following:

New York State. Census of the State. 1845. [This volume, kept in the vault at RAIMS, includes only the Town of Canandaigua, Election Dist. 1. It names the heads of households and provides family statistics about each household.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1855. [Towns of Canadice, East Bloomfield, Farmington.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1855. [Towns of South Bristol, Victor, West Bloomfield.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1855. [Towns of Bristol, Canandaigua.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1855. [Towns of Gorham, Hopewell, Manchester.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1855. [Towns of Richmond, Seneca.]

³ Internet address for New York State census information from the New York State Library.
<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/genealogy/nyscens.htm>

⁴ Olin Library Internet address for state census information.
<http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/statecensus.html>

New York State. Census of the State. 1855. [Towns of Naples, Phelps.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1865. [Towns of Hopewell, Manchester, Naples.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1865. [Towns of East Bloomfield, Farmington, Gorham.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1865. [Towns of Bristol, Canadice, Canandaigua.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1865. [Towns of South Bristol, Victor, West Bloomfield.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1865. [Towns of Phelps, Richmond.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1865. [Town of Seneca.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1875. [Towns of Canandaigua, East Bloomfield.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1875. Pt. 1. [Towns of Manchester, Naples, Phelps.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1875. Pt. 2. [Towns of Richmond, Seneca, South Bristol, Victor, West Bloomfield.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1875. [Towns of Bristol, Canadice.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1875. [Towns of Gorham, Hopewell.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1875. [Towns of Farmington, Geneva.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1905. Pt. 1. [Towns of Bristol, Canadice, Gorham, Canandaigua, Hopewell, East Bloomfield.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1905. Pt. 2. [Towns of Geneva, Manchester.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1905. Pt. 3. [Towns of Naples, Phelps, Richmond, Seneca, South Bristol, Victor, West Bloomfield.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1915. [Towns of Bristol, Canadice, East Bloomfield, Farmington, Gorham, Hopewell, Manchester.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1915. [Towns of Naples, Phelps, Richmond, Seneca, South Bristol, Victor, West Bloomfield.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1915. [City and Town of Geneva.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1915. [City and Town of Canandaigua.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1925. [City and Town of Canandaigua.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1925. [City and Town of Geneva.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1925. [Towns of Bristol, Canadice, East Bloomfield, Farmington, Gorham, Hopewell, Manchester.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1925. [Towns of Naples, Phelps, Richmond, Seneca, South Bristol, Victor, West Bloomfield.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1892. Pt. 1. [Towns of Bristol through Geneva.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1892. Pt. 2. [Towns of Gorham through Victor.]

A three volume (notebook) index to the 1892 census has been compiled by RAIMS volunteers. The individual notebooks are:

Census 1892. Index. [Names: AB-Graves.]

Census 1892. Index. [Names Graves-Padden.]

Census 1892. Index. [Names Padden-Zuabola.]

In addition to the state census returns, listing persons, there are several volumes of census statistics for the state censuses. They include the following held at RAIMS:

New York State. Census. 1845.

The microfilmed state census records include the following:

New York State. Census of the State. 1845. 1 roll. [Statistics only.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1855. 2 rolls. 35 mm. [Microfilmed by LDS Church.] [Includes Towns of Bristol, Canandaigua, Canadice, East Bloomfield, Farmington, Gorham, Hopewell, Manchester, Naples, Phelps, Richmond, Seneca, South Bristol, Victor, West Bloomfield.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1865. 1 roll. 35 mm. [Microfilmed by LDS Church.] [Towns of Bristol-West Bloomfield.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1875. 1 roll. 35 mm. [Microfilmed by LDS Church.] [Towns of Bristol-West Bloomfield.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1892. 1 roll. 35 mm. [Microfilmed by LDS Church.] [Contains Vol 1: Gorham-Victor; Vol 2: Bristol-Geneva.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1905. 3 rolls. 35 mm. Diazo. [First roll contains Towns of Canadice, Canandaigua, Gorham, Bristol, East Bloomfield, Hopewell, Farmington. Second roll contains Towns of Geneva and Manchester. Third roll contains Towns of Naples, Phelps, Richmond, Seneca, South Bristol, West Bloomfield, Victor.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1915. 1 roll. 35 mm. Diazo. [Microfilmed by NYS Library.] [Contains Towns of Bristol-West Bloomfield.]

New York State. Census of the State. 1925. 1 roll. 35 mm. Diazo. [Microfilmed by LDS Church.] [Contains Towns of Bristol-Phelps; Richmond-West Bloomfield; Geneva.]

Jail Inmates

Among the County Clerk's records is a small series of file folders containing the **List of Prisoners in the County Jail, 1815-1853**. These lists of inmates are not all-inclusive for the span of years. Lists of prisoners can also be found in the original state and federal census books available for use in the research room at RAIMS.

Land Records (1789 to 2002)

The recorded land transactions for Ontario County are part of the extensive collection of deeds. The deeds were originally copied into the *libers* in the Clerk's office when it was convenient, or when a record was needed.

From 1789 to 1824, there was no requirement that deeds be recorded with the county clerks. After the latter date, virtually all deeds are recorded. Unfortunately, that means that there is sometimes no

public record of a sale that almost certainly happened. That also means that periodically, a researcher may bring in a valid deed that cannot be found in the clerk's records. In the extreme eastern part of the county, where there were conflicting claims by Phelps' and Gorham's syndicate and the New York Genesee Land Company ("Lesees" repudiated by the state legislature in 1789), a perfect title to certain parcels does not extend back to the creation of the county. Fortunately, those cases are few.

All deed books (called *libers*) with transactions prior to 2003 are held at the RAIMS records center. All of the newer books are held in the open public stacks in the office of the County Clerk at 20 Ontario Street in Canandaigua. The deed books held at RAIMS are also available on microfilm. Digitization of this record series began in 2000.

Deed books #1-1007 (1998) are available on microfilm at RAIMS. Starting with deed book #896 16 mm microfilm was used. The microfilm readers at RAIMS will accommodate both 16 mm and 35 mm rolls. At the present time (2009) a few deed book is missing from the series on microfilm, #844-846; 905. Future plans include digitizing the entire series of deed books. A RAIMS volunteer is currently entering the Grantee and Grantor indexes into a consolidated database. Deed books up to #1027 are available at the office of the County Clerk and more will be created in the future.

It should be noted that there was no requirement to record deeds in the County Clerk's office prior to 1824. Therefore, some legitimate transactions can not be found in county records.

There are separate index *libers* and microfilm reels divided by Grantee (buyer) and Grantor (seller).

Prior to using any deed index, the Lusk index⁵ must be consulted. That index requires the reader to use the first three letters of the subject's last name to find a page number. That page number is the number in the deed index where the name should be found. The deed index (Grantee or Grantor) will then provide the *liber* and page number for recorded deeds. Some microfilm index reels contain images of the Lusk index pages.

⁵ Richard E. Lusk. *Tables for Division of Lusk's Complete Directory Indexes*. New York. R. E. Lusk. 1871.

TABLES FOR DIVISION OF LUSK'S COMPLETE DIRECTORY INDEXES.																										
For 100,000 and 300,000 Names.																										
<small>Revised according to Act of Congress, in the year 1871, by EUGENE K. LUSK, in the Office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington.</small>																										
<small>Revised according to Act of Congress, in the year 1880, by JAMES B. LUSK, in the Office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington.</small>																										
A	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
B	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
C	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
D	8	8	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
E	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13	13
F	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
G	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
H	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
I	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17	17
J	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18	18
K	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19
L	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
M	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
N	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22	22
O	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23	23
P	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24
Q	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
R	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26
S	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27
T	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28
U	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	29
V	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
W	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31
X	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32	32
Y	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33
Z	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34
&	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	35

Lusk division table for names that begin with A. Deeds for a person named Adams would be found by:

1. Starting with the A column.
2. Going down the A column to the letter D.
3. Going across the D row to the smaller A column.

Adams deeds would be found in "A" books starting on page 8.

Since it makes no sense to ask for a particular deed book or reel of microfilm prior to using the indexes, individual microfilm rolls and deed books are not listed here.

The actual grantee and grantor index books are available at only at the office of the County Clerk.

Microfilm of the deed book indexes include the following found at RAIMS:

Grantee Indexes on microfilm:

Deeds. Ontario County. Grantee Index. Books A-C. 1789-1845. 35 mm. Diazo.

Deeds. Ontario County. Grantee Index. Books D-L. 1789-1845. 35 mm. Diazo.

Deeds. Ontario County. Grantee Index. Books M-R; S-Z. 1789-1845. 35 mm. Diazo.

Deeds. Ontario County. Grantee Index. Books A-G. 1846-1879. 35 mm.
Diazo.

Deeds. Ontario County. Grantee Index. Books H-K. 1846-1879. 35 mm.
Diazo.

Deeds. Ontario County. Grantee Index. Books L-O. 1846-1879. 35 mm.
Diazo.

Deeds. Ontario County. Grantee Index. Books P-S; T-Z. 1846-1879. 35
mm. Diazo.

Deeds. Ontario County. Grantee Index. Books A-C; D-G. 1880-1899. 35
mm. Diazo.

Deeds. Ontario County. Grantee Index. Books L-O. 1880-1899. 35 mm.
Diazo.

Deeds. Ontario County. Grantee Index. Books P-S. 1880-1899. 35 mm.
Diazo.

Deeds. Ontario County. Grantee Index. Books T-Z. 1880-1899. 35 mm.
Diazo.

Deeds. Ontario County. Grantee Index. Books A-C; D-G. 1900-1915. 35
mm. Diazo.

Deeds. Ontario County. Grantee Index. Books H-K; L-O. 1900-1915. 35
mm. Diazo.

Deeds. Ontario County. Grantee Index. Books P-Z. 1900-1915. 35 mm.
Diazo.

Deeds. Ontario County. Grantee Index. Books A-C; D-G. 1916-1929. 35
mm. Diazo.

Deeds. Ontario County. Grantee Index. Books H-K; L-O. 1916-1929. 35
mm. Diazo.

Deeds. Ontario County. Grantee Index. Books P-S; T-Z. 1916-1929. 35
mm. Diazo.

Deeds. Ontario County. Grantee Index. Books A-C; D-G. 1930-1946. 35
mm. Diazo.

- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantee Index. Books H-K; L-O. 1930-1946.** 35 mm. Diazo.
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantee Index. Books P-S; T-Z. 1930-1946.** 35 mm. Diazo.
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantee Index. Books A-C; D-G. 1947-1958.** 35 mm. Diazo.
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantee Index. Books H-K; L-O. 1947-1958.** 35 mm. Diazo.
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantee Index. Books P-S; T-Z. 1947-1958.** 35 mm. Diazo.
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantee Index. Books A-C; D-G. 1959-1972.** 35 mm. Diazo.
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantee Index. Books H-K; L-O. 1959-1972.** 35 mm. Diazo.
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantee Index. Books P-S; T-Z. 1959-1972.** 35 mm. Diazo.
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantee Index. Books A-C; D-G. 1973-1982.** 35 mm. Diazo.
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantee Index. Books H-K; L-O. 1973-1982.** 35 mm. Diazo.
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantee Index. Books P-S; T-Z. 1973-1982.** 35 mm. Diazo.
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantee Index. Books A-K; L-Z. 1988.** 35 mm. Diazo.

All Grantee Index entries starting in 1988 are found in the computerized index records in the office of the County Clerk.

Grantor Indexes on microfilm:

- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books A-Z. 1813-1821.** 35 mm. Diazo. [Deed books #2 and #3. Pre-Lusk index.]

- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books A-C. 1789-1845. 35 mm. Diazo.**
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books D-G. 1789-1845. 35 mm. Diazo.**
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books H-L; M-R. 1789-1845. 35 mm. Diazo.**
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books S-Z. 1789-1845. 35 mm. Diazo.**
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books A-C. 1846-1879. 35 mm. Diazo.**
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books D-G. 1846-1879. 35 mm. Diazo.**
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books H-K. 1846-1879. 35 mm. Diazo.**
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books L-O. 1846-1879. 35 mm. Diazo.**
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books P-S. 1846-1879. 35 mm. Diazo.**
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books T-Z. 1846-1879. 35 mm. Diazo.**
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books A-C. 1880-1899. 35 mm. Diazo.**
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books D-G. 1880-1899. 35 mm. Diazo.**
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books H-K. 1880-1899. 35 mm. Diazo.**
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books L-O. 1880-1899. 35 mm. Diazo.**
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books P-S; T-Z. 1880-1899. 35 mm. Diazo.**

- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books A-C; D-G. 1900-1915. 35 mm. Diazo.**
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books H-K. 1900-1915. 35 mm. Diazo.**
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books L-O. 1900-1915. 35 mm. Diazo.**
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books P-S. 1900-1915. 35 mm. Diazo.**
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books T-Z. 1900-1915. 35 mm. Diazo.**
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books A-G. 1916-1929. 35 mm. Diazo.**
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books H-O. 1916-1929. 35 mm. Diazo.**
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books P-Z. 1916-1929. 35 mm. Diazo.**
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books A-G. 1930-1946. 35 mm. Diazo.**
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books H-O. 1930-1946. 35 mm. Diazo.**
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books P-Z. 1930-1946. 35 mm. Diazo.**
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books A-C; D-G. 1947-1958. 35 mm. Diazo.**
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books H-K; L-O. 1947-1958. 35 mm. Diazo.**
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books P-S; T-Z. 1947-1958. 35 mm. Diazo.**
- Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books A-C; D-G. 1959-1972. 35 mm. Diazo.**

Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books H-K; L-O. 1959-1972. 35 mm. Diazo.

Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books P-S; T-Z. 1959-1972. 35 mm. Diazo.

Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books A-C; D-G. 1973-1982. 35 mm. Diazo.

Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books H-K; L-O. 1973-1982. 35 mm. Diazo.

Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books P-S; T-Z. 1973-1982. 35 mm. Diazo.

Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books A-Z. 1983-1985. 16 mm. Diazo.

Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books A-Z. 1983-1985 (Cont.). 16 mm. Diazo.

Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books A-Z. 1986-1987. 35 mm. Diazo.

Deeds. Ontario County. Grantor Index. Books A-Z. 1988. 35 mm. Diazo.

Searches by Grantor for deeds recorded after 1988 must consult the computerized index in the County Clerk's office.

Corporate Grantee and Grantor Indexes on microfilm:

This specialized index provides the corporate names of the buyers and sellers of real estate for the period covered.

Deeds. Ontario County. Grantee and Grantor Index. Ontario County Clerk's Index of Corporations. 1846-1879. 35 mm. Diazo.

At the present time, all Grantor Index entries starting in 1983 are found in the actual *libers* at the office of the County Clerk.

Early in the history of Ontario County, the School Fund of the State of Connecticut invested in land in Ontario County. One record book exists at RAIMS that includes records of sales of that land by the School

Fund. It is not indexed. RAIMS staff will retrieve this bound *liber* for you from the vault.

State of Connecticut. A. [There is no other designation or title on the book. Records date between 1812-1822.]

Lis Pendens

A *Lis Pendens* record is a public notice filed in the County Clerk's office indicating that certain real estate is the subject of a possible law suit. By filing a *Lis Pendens* notice, anyone who purchases the property takes it with full knowledge of any claims in the pending suit .

Lis Pendens notices are filed in a separate series of records recorded in *Lis Pendens libers*. RAIMS holds *Lis Pendens* records for Ontario County in two forms; bound volumes and microfilm.

Lis Pendens books (libers) kept at RAIMS include the following:

Lis Pendens. Book 1. 1864-1875.

Lis Pendens. Book 2. 1875-1882.

Lis Pendens. Book 3. 1882-1889.

Lis Pendens. Book 4. 1889-1891.

Lis Pendens. Book 5. 1891-1902.

All other *Lis Pendens libers* are still held at the office of the County Clerk.

Microfilm copies of the *Lis Pendens* records are found on the following reels at RAIMS

Lis Pendens. Index. Book 1. 35mm. Diazo.

Lis Pendens. Books 1-2. 35mm. Diazo.

Lis Pendens. Book 3-4. 35mm. Diazo.

Lis Pendens. Book 5-6. 35mm. Diazo.

Lis Pendens. Book 7-8. 35mm. Diazo.

Lis Pendens. Book 20. 16mm. Diazo.

Lis Pendens. Book 21. 16mm. Diazo.

Lis Pendens. Book 22. 16mm. Diazo.

Lis Pendens. Book 23. 16mm. Diazo.

Lis Pendens. Book 24. 16mm. Diazo.

Lis Pendens. Book 25. 16mm. Diazo.

Lis Pendens. Book 26. 16mm. Diazo.

Maps

RAIMS contains many maps that may be useful for local and family history research. Many are included in the records of the County Clerk. Some have been given directly to RAIMS by various donors. There are no restrictions on the use of maps. A few maps are not really government documents. Those are kept at RAIMS to facilitate research.



1859 Wall map in RAIMS research room.

The Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, produced in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries are not government documents. They were produced by the Sanborn Map Company to facilitate the underwriting activities of fire insurance companies. However, those maps provide valuable information on the location, size, and construction of buildings inside the corporate limits of cities and villages. They generally cover only the main commercial districts. The following microfilm copies of Sanborn maps are found at RAIMS.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. New York. Canandaigua. Roll 26. 35 mm. [Includes the City of Canandaigua and the nearby village of Caledonia [Livingston Co..]]

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. New York. Cherry Creek (5833)-Cold Spring Harbor (5852) Reel 28. 35 mm. [Includes maps for the village of Clifton Springs (5845) 1886-1933 and nearby villages of Clyde (5847) [Wayne Co.] and Cohocton (5849) [Steuben Co..]]

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. New York. Geneva. Roll 35. 35 mm. [Includes maps for the City of Geneva and the nearby village of Geneseo [Livingston Co..]]

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. New York. Hempstead (5980)-Hoosick Falls (5995). Reel 39. 35 mm. [Includes maps for the village of Holcomb (5990) 1901-1929 and nearby villages of Hilton (5988) (Monroe Co.); Holley (5992) [Orleans Co.] and Honeoye Falls (5994) [Monroe Co..]]

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. New York. Mount Vernon (6104)-Nassau County (6109). Reel 50. 35 mm. [Includes maps for the village of Naples (6108) 1886-1940 and the nearby village of Mumford (6106) [Monroe Co..]]

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. New York. Phelps (6171)-Port Byron (6183) Reel 73. 35 mm. [Includes maps for the village of Phelps (6171) [1884-1935] and the nearby villages of Pittsford (6180) [Monroe Co.]; Port Byron [Cayuga Co.] (6183).]

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. New York. Schenevus (6247)-Sidney Plains (6266) Reel 95. 35 mm. [Includes maps for the villages of Shortsville (1904; 1911; 1927) and Manchester and nearby villages of Seneca Falls [Seneca Co.] and Scottsville [Monroe Co..]]

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. New York. Stillwater (6291)-Syracuse (6296). Reel 97. 35 mm. [Includes the City of Syracuse (6296) 1892; 1910-1928. [Onondaga Co..]]

In addition to the Sanborn maps, RAIMS holds a variety of other maps. Among them are historic hanging wall maps. Those at RAIMS include the following:

Map of the State of New York with parts of the States of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Compiled, corrected and published from the most recent

authorities and accurate survey. New York. Amos Lay. 1817. 2ed. 1822. 51" x 51".

Map of the United States. J. H. Young. Philadelphia. S. Augustus Mitchell, pub. 1838. 37.75" x 45.5".

Map of Geneva, Ontario County, NY. From actual surveys by John Bevan and C. A. Canfield. New York. M. Dripps. 1850. 32" x 38".

Map of the Village of Canandaigua, Ontario County, NY. From actual survey of Henry F. Walling. Canandaigua, NY. Geo. W. Bemis, pub. 1851. 28.75" x 38".

Town of Seneca and Village of Geneva, Ontario County, NY. From actual surveys. Philadelphia. J. H. French. 1856. 36.5" x 59".

Map of Ontario County, New York. Philadelphia. A.R.Z. Dawson, pub. 1859. 60" x 62".

Plan of St. Mary's Cemetery. Canandaigua, Ontario County, New York. Drawn by Thos. Hughes. Sep. 1862. [pub. Unknown] 26.5" x 38"

Map of the Incorporated Village of Canandaigua, Ontario County, New York. Drawn by Samuel D. Backus from original surveys made by him. Assisted by Addison P. Wilbur and Seymour Clark. Canandaigua, NY. Stuart C. McKechnie, pub. 1889. 36" x 56.5".

Of the hanging wall maps, only a copy of the 1859 map has been microfilmed. That copy was already cut up by township.

Most of the hundreds of maps housed at RAIMS are found in the map cases in the map room. They are accessed by staff only. Among them are survey maps produced by local surveyors and filed with the County Clerk in connection with construction or land transactions; federal Geological Survey Maps; subdivision maps; assessments maps; etc. There is a list of maps is arranged by map case drawer. That 13 page "List of Maps" is available on request in the research room at RAIMS. The maps are many and varied and cover a variety places and purposes.

In addition, there are more than 29,000 maps, mostly surveys that are still held in the County Clerk's office in the City of Canandaigua. RAIMS does not have the consolidated index to those maps. The bank of 15 file cabinets housing those maps in individual folders can be accessed by the public and the Clerk's staff will assist.

At the present time most of those maps are on microfilm.

At the County Clerk's Office there are several bound index books for maps. Those books primarily cover maps recorded with the County Clerk to the mid-20th Century. Useful map index books at the County Clerk's Office include:

Ontario County. Map Index. A-G.

Ontario County. Map Index. H-Z.

The Clerk's Office has the county atlases. In addition, they have available the following bound volume of maps.

Ontario County. Maps. [Includes maps for Geneva, 1850, 1856, 1870; Canandaigua, 1851, 1889; Ontario County, 1852, 1859.]

The Wadsworth map collection from the Milne Library, State University of New York, College at Geneseo, is also an important source of geographic information for the Genesee-Finger Lakes region. That collection has been microfilmed and is available at RAIMS.

Wadsworth Map Collection. 35 mm. Diazo.

Among the most useful maps are the county atlases produced in 1855, 1873 and 1904. Bound copies of the 1874 and 1904 atlases are available at RAIMS. Those are also available at the Clerk's office as well as a bound copy of the 1859 atlas.

The published county atlases reveal the locations of buildings with some degree of accuracy. They also indicate the extent of the local common school districts. Railroad lines are shown as well as roads that are now abandoned. The 1859 atlas shows the locations of the plank roads. These bound atlases are available at RAIMS:

Atlas of Ontario County, New York. "From actual surveys by and under the direction of Beach Nichols." Philadelphia. Pomeroy, Whitman and Co. 1874. 83 pps.

Atlas of Ontario County, New York. "With farm records." Otto Barthel, Chief Engr; Lew J. G. Ogden, Asst. Philadelphia. Century Map Co. 1904. 104 pps.

The following microfilmed atlases and map collections are available at RAIMS:

An Atlas of the State of New York. "Containing a map of the state and of the several counties, projected and drawn by a uniform scale from documents deposited in the public offices of the state..." 1829. New York. David H. Burr. 35 mm. Diazo.

Map of Ontario County. 1859. Philadelphia. A. R. Z. Dawson. 35mm. Diazo.

Atlas of Ontario County, New York. "From actual surveys by and under the direction of Beach Nichols." Philadelphia. Pomeroy, Whitman and Co. 1874. 35 mm. Diazo.

Atlas of Ontario County, New York. "With farm records." Otto Barthel, Chief Engr; Lew J. G. Ogden, Asst. Philadelphia. Century Map Co. 1904. 35 mm. Diazo.

Maps of Ontario and Yates Counties. 1861-1868. 35 mm. Diazo. [Contains maps for the Town of Augusta; Seneca lake shore; Williamsburgh (Livingston Co.); Italy; Jerusalem.]

Old Maps of Canandaigua and Geneva. 35 mm. 2 rolls. Diazo. [Includes miscellaneous old maps of specific tracts in the names municipalities. The maps appear to come from the County Clerk's map files.]

Oliver Phelps' Land Journal. 35 mm. Diazo. [Phelps' land office journal detailing the sale and subdivision of the Phelps and Gorham Purchase in 1789. Some survey maps included.]

Survey Map of Canandaigua Outlet. 1886. 35 mm. Diazo. [Includes area from Saltonstall Street, City of Canandaigua, to the hamlet of Chapin, Town of Hopewell.]

Marriage Records (1908-1935)

Normally, marriage records are held by the clerk of the municipality (City, Village, or Town) where the marriage license was obtained, rather than where the marriage took place. However, Ontario County holds the records of marriages dating from 1908-1935. The county holds both marriage licenses and marriage certificates for the period. Availability of these records is governed by the regulations of the state Department of

Health and the privacy law. Since they are all over 50 years old, they are open to the public.

The marriage records are indexed by bride and groom. While marriage records are indexed in the front of each book of records, there is a consolidated computerized index produced locally and available only by request to RAIMS staff.

There are also three bound index volumes:

Ontario County. Marriage Records. 1908-1915. Index.

Ontario County. Marriage Records. 1916-1923. Index.

Ontario County. Marriage Records. 1930-1935. Index. [No index can be found for records dating from 1924-1929.]

Bound volumes of marriage records are kept in the vault at RAIMS. They include:

Ontario County. Marriage Records. Vol. 1. 1908-1915. #1-3000.

Ontario County. Marriage Records. Vol. 2. 1915-1923. #3001-6000.

Ontario County. Marriage Records. Vol. 3. 1923-1924. #6001; 1-503.
[Note the change in numbering system. This book contains its own index.]

Ontario County. Marriage Records. Vol. 4. 1924-1926. #504-1200. [This book contains its own index and includes records to `1929.

No original bound volume of marriage records can be found for the period 1929-1935.

The following microfilms of "licenses to marry" contain copies of the bound marriage records. Those records include marriage licenses as well as marriage certificates.:

Ontario County. License to Marry. 1908. #1-122. 35mm.

Ontario County. License to Marry. 1908-1909. #123-505. 35mm.

Ontario County. License to Marry. 1909-1910. #506-928. 35mm.

Ontario County. License to Marry. 1910-1911. #929-1349. 35mm.

Ontario County. License to Marry. 1911-1913. #1350-1736. 35mm.

Ontario County. License to Marry. 1913. #1737-2139. 35mm.

Ontario County. License to Marry. 1913-1914. #2140-2537. 35mm.

Ontario County. License to Marry. 1914-1915. #2538-2750. 35mm.

Ontario County. License to Marry. Vol. 2. 1915-1923. #3001-6000. 35mm.
[Includes Vol. 3 index.]

Ontario County. License to Marry. Vol. 2. 1915-1923; Vol. 3. 1924-1926.
#3001-6000; #1-868. 35mm.

Ontario County. License to Marry. Vol. 2. 1916-1923; Vol. 3. 1923-1924
#6001; 1-503. 35mm. [Duplication and confusion of records on this reel.]

Ontario County. License to Marry. 1926-1927. #1-376. 35mm.
[Note: the certificate numbering system started over.]

Ontario County. License to Marry. 1927-1929. #377-1217. 35mm.

Ontario County. License to Marry. 1929-1932. #1218-2070. 35mm.

Ontario County. License to Marry. 1932-1934. #2071-5595. 35mm.
[Error in numbering. #2100-2999 do not exist.]

Ontario County. License to Marry. 1934-1935. #5596-5836. 35mm.

The following microfilm reels contain copies of the individual marriage certificates kept in the vault at RAIMS in archival containers and folders:

Ontario County. Marriage Certificates. 1908-1909. #1-488. 16mm. Diazo.

Ontario County. Marriage Certificates. 1909-1911. #489-1000. 16mm.
Diazo.

Ontario County. Marriage Certificates. 1910-1912. #1001-1500. 16mm.
Diazo.

Ontario County. Marriage Certificates. 1912-1913. #1501-2000. 16mm.
Diazo.

Ontario County. Marriage Certificates. 1913-1914. #2001-2500. 16mm. Diazo.

Ontario County. Marriage Certificates. 1914-1915. #2501-2759. 16mm. Diazo.

Ontario County. Marriage Certificates. 1915. #2760-3000. 16mm. Diazo.

Ontario County. Marriage Certificates. 1926-1928. #1-849. 16mm. Diazo.

Ontario County. Marriage Certificates. 1929-1930. #850-1682. 16mm. Diazo.

Ontario County. Marriage Certificates. 1931-1933. #1683-5277. 16mm. Diazo.

Ontario County. Marriage Certificates. 1934-1935. #5277-5836. 16mm. Diazo.

Medical Licenses

Ontario County Medical Licenses. 1797-1880. 1 roll. 35 mm. Diazo.
[Contains medical licenses filed with the County Clerk for the period indicated. The original licenses were given to the University of Rochester by a past County Clerk.]

Miscellaneous Records (1789 to date)

The Miscellaneous Records of the County Clerk are a treasure trove of local and family history information. As the name implies, these records date from the creation of the county in 1789 and continue to the present. They are an open public record category. However, through the mid-20th Century, the Miscellaneous Records included some information that is now restricted by law, including military service records and adoptions. Where that information is recorded within the series it will be shielded from view and use by RAIMS staff.

In their original format, the Miscellaneous Records are found in a series of books bearing alphabetic designations (A-O), 1789-1992.

The entries in the Miscellaneous Record books are indexed chronologically. The index to each book is divided into sections according to the first letter of the person's surname. Miscellaneous Records typically include sworn affidavits, firemen's exemption certificates,

appointments to various minor offices, and other legal notices that were not clearly to be recorded in any other series.

The original bound books (libers) of Miscellaneous Records remain in the office of the County Clerk. However, the microfilmed records are included in the holdings of RAIMS. Photocopies of the indexes to each book are available at RAIMS. A member of the staff can retrieve them from the file cabinets in the research room. There are no microfilms of the index volumes.

Military Records

Miscellaneous Collection of Military Records

The collection of early military records of Ontario County consists of miscellaneous officers' commissions; Civil War bounty bond records; pay records for the Rochester militia ordered to Canandaigua to quell a feared draft riot in 1863; miscellaneous discharge certificates and other records found loose among the records of the County Clerk or contributed by residents and researchers. The collection is not restricted to the 19th Century. Papers relating to the support of Canandaigua and Geneva armories are included.

There are a few militia commutation tax records listing those who paid the commutation tax levied by the state on those who requested excusal from militia service, primarily on religious principle. The state constitution still considers all able-bodied male citizens between 18 and 45 years old to be members of the state militia. In the early 19th Century, all those men were officially organized into regiments by county and were required to turn out for drills twice a year. Quakers in particular objected to this service in the militia.

Within this mass militia, uniformed and disciplined units were formed. They became the modern National Guard. Uniformed companies were formed in several communities. Their records are found in the Adjutant General's records at the New York State Archives. A few militia unit muster rolls for the 1850s and 1870s are found in the military record collection at RAIMS.

In 1860, the office of the Adjutant General of New York compiled the claims it had received from militiamen called out to serve in the War

of 1812.⁶ Many of them had never been paid for their food, horses, and other person equipment used during the war. The compiled claims have been reprinted by Genealogical Publishing Company and are available in book form at RAIMS.

Petitions from soldiers seeking pensions for service in the War of 1812 can be found in the miscellaneous collection of military records.

Registration oaths and lists of registrants for Selective Service in 1917, as well as for those taking the registrations, can also be found in one box of miscellaneous military records.

The Adjutant General's claims book should be used with caution. The claims are not strictly in alphabetical order. Also, the addresses listed are often the agents (usually attorneys) of the claimants, not the claimants themselves.

The Military Records held by RAIMS are located in various bins, boxes, microfilms and bound books. Few of these records have been microfilmed or formally accessioned. Therefore, there are no accession, bin, series, or item numbers assigned to them at this time. They have not been microfilmed.

The larger collections of bound or microfilmed military records include the following:

Ontario County. Revolutionary War Service. Peter Adams to Sylvester Worden. 16 mm. Diazo. [This collection of pension applications includes those veterans who filed a copy of their application with the County Clerk. The original applications are available at RAIMS.]

Civil War Bond Book. [This *liber* is the known list of bounty bond purchasers and recipients for Ontario County. This record lists the names of those who served as substitutes for men drafted after 1863.]

Town Clerk's Registers of Men Who served in the Civil War, 1865-1867. 16mm microfilm. 2 reels. [Parts of Onondaga and Orange Counties are included at the beginning of the Ontario County compilation. These registers were compiled for the State Adjutant General's Office pursuant to legislation passed at that time.]

⁶ Adjutant General's Office. State of New York. *Index of Awards on Claims of the Soldiers of the War of 1812*. Weed, Parsons and Co, Printers. 1860. 579 pps. [Reprint. Baltimore. Genealogical Pub. Co. 1969]

Soldier Discharges (Civil War) [Those soldiers who wished to do so brought their discharge papers to the County Clerk after the war. This *liber* includes transcripts of the information found on the papers and includes a name index for those whose information is included.]

Maps of Ontario and Yates Counties. 1861-1868. 35 mm. Diazo. [Cited earlier under "Maps." Also contains Town of Jerusalem (Yates Co.) soldier and seamen records 1861, 1868.]

U. S. Bureau of the Census. Census of the Population. 1890. 1 rolls. 35 mm. Diazo. [Cited earlier under "Census." Contains only census of Union veterans and Widows of Civil War.]

The best general guide to the Civil War records held by the New York State Archives was compiled by Daniel Lorello and published in 1999.⁷

The New York State Archives has a website that allows researchers to locate Civil War records held by the state and request copies for a fee. That site is found on the Internet at:

http://www.archives.nysed.gov/a/research/res_topics_mi_civilwar_dbintro.shtml

That State Archives website also contains useful research and access information to other military records held by the state.

Soldier Discharges (1917-Present)

Chapter 214, Laws of 1920 provided for the voluntary recording of the honorable discharges of the veterans of World War I. In New York, veterans' military records were generally recorded in the "Miscellaneous Records" kept by County Clerks until World War II. For the first time, this law included the date April 6, 1917 as the starting date for recording veterans' records.

Chapter 332, Laws of 1942, and Chapter 313, Laws of 1943 offered World War II veterans the same opportunity to have their discharges recorded by County Clerks.

⁷ Daille Lorella, comp. Harold Holzer, ed. *The Union Preserved: A Guide to Civil War Records in the New York State Archives*, (New York: Fordham Univ. Press and NYS Archives Partnership Trust), 1999. 172 pps. Index.

In 1950, the New York State legislature passed what became Section 250 of the state Military Law. That statute provided for the continued recording of military "discharge" documents (issued after April 6, 1917, the date of American entry into World War I) by county clerks, free of charge. The record made was considered a benefit to veterans for their personal use.

In 1968, as a result of commercial abuse of some veterans' records, the state legislature passed Section 79-g of the state Civil Rights Law. By that statute, veterans were given "the right to direct the county clerk to keep such paper sealed and confidential." Upon the veteran's request, the county clerk could no longer make the service record available to the public. However, in the absence of a specific request to seal the veteran's record, public access was permitted. That opinion was confirmed by a 1994 advisory opinion provided in a letter from the Executive Director of the state Committee on Open Government.

Between 2002 and 2004, several breaches of security resulted in threats of identity theft to millions of veterans nation-wide. In 2004, the Attorney General's office concluded that previously filed certificates were vulnerable to improper use unless veterans were made aware of their rights and took action to have their records sealed.

Chapter 298, Laws of 2005 closed all veterans' records dating from April 6, 1917. Access is restricted to parents, spouses, dependents and children of the veteran as well as county Veterans Service Officers, funeral directors, and the federal Department of Veterans Affairs. The 2005 statute as been interpreted to restrict even the disclosure of the existence of a record.

Fifteen *libers* (books) containing veterans' discharge information, often photo copies of military discharges and reports of separation, are held at RAIMS. Veterans' records filed after 1960 are still in the direct custody of the County Clerk. The following books are held by RAIMS but are closed by state law:

Ontario County. Soldier Discharges. Books 1-14; 6A.

Although these *libers* contain discharge from World War II to the late 20th Century, a few earlier discharges are included.

Each *liber* is separately indexed in the front of each book. Names are separated alphabetically, then listed in chronological order.

Many veterans' records dating from World War I can be found in the Miscellaneous Records of the County Clerk. Although that record series is open and public, the discharge records included within it are restricted by law. There are also a handful of discharges for the Civil War and Spanish-American War recorded in the Soldier Discharge books.

All requests for access to post-1917 veterans' records and record books must be made to the Ontario County Clerk.

Pre-World War I Military Census

In preparation for the eventual use of Selective Service (the draft) in World War I, the New York State legislature called for a special census of men of draft age in 1916.

Available on microfilm this special census lists all males between 18 and 45 years old by municipality. It provides their residence address, their occupation, and their age. The 1916 military census also reveals any prior military service. It is particular interest to family historians because it cites immigrants' foreign service to Italy, France, Great Britain, and other nations.

Military Census 1916. 35 mm. Diazo.

1917-1918 Draft Registrations

Available only on microfilm, these records consist of the registration cards completed by Selective Service registrars during World War I. The cards are arranged alphabetically. There are two groups representing those men registered at the Geneva draft board and the Canandaigua draft board. While men generally registered according to the part of the county in which they resided, the divisions are not clear. A researcher looking for the name of a probable soldier should check both board registration groups.

The content of the registration cards changed slightly with each of the three required registrations. All of them provide a current address, parents' names, and the occupation of the registrant. On some cards, the lower left corner is clipped. That was the official notice that the registrar considered the young man to be "colored."

It should be noted that these cards include all young men registered for the draft in Ontario County. It therefore includes many young men who were never in military service.

These records are copies of those held by the National Archives. The following records are available on microfilm at RAIMS. They are arranged alphabetically by draft board and are not indexed.

World War I Draft Cards. Onondaga County-Ontario County. George Abbot to William Everts. National Archives and Records Administration. 16 mm.

World War I Draft Cards. Ontario County. Faber-Zwerko; Benton Abbey to William Coffin. National Archives and Records Administration. 16 mm.

World War I Draft Cards. Ontario County-Orange County. Gus Cogle-Panko Zuklak. National Archives and Records Administration. 16 mm.

World War I Rosters

In 1919 the New York State legislature asked each municipality to appoint a historian charged with collecting information on the war effort. In Ontario County, that resulted in the compilation of rosters of those who served in the military services during the war. The Ontario County Historical Society, a private museum located near the Court House, was asked to collect the roster information for the Board of Supervisors. It should be noted that the information was self-reported by military personnel, close relatives, and others involved in the war effort. The rosters are not an official record and the rosters for several municipalities are now missing.

The original rosters consist of forms completed by respondents and held in loose-leaf binders. Rosters exist for the Towns of East Bloomfield; Farmington; Geneva; Manchester; Phelps; Gorham; Naples; Richmond; South Bristol; Seneca; Victor; and West Bloomfield. There is also a roster for the City of Geneva. Each roster page provides roughly the same information found on official military discharge papers.

One unique aspect of the World War I Rosters is that they include service records for individuals who worked for the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and similar organizations. For that reason there are roster entries for many women. The rosters also include information about those who served in Allied military services.

In addition to the original roster notebooks, the rosters are available on microfilm and scanned onto Compact Discs. See the following:

Ontario County. World War I Rosters. 16mm microfilm. 2 reels. [Rosters for the City of Geneva are on reel #1. The rest of the rosters are on reel #2.]

Ontario County. World War I Rosters. Compact Disc. [All rosters are on one disc.]

Mortgage Records (1789-1947)

Mortgage contracts have been recorded by the County Clerk since 1789. Mortgage records are indexed by mortgagee (the lender) and by Mortgagor (the borrower). Mortgage records, like deeds, are grouped chronologically in a series of *libers* (books). However, mortgage record searches require consultation in an index prior to accessing the books (or the microfilms). Therefore, only indexes are listed here.

The Lusk division table, used for land records, is also used to locate names in the mortgage records indexes.

The bound mortgage indexes held at RAIMS can be retrieved by staff for the use of researchers. They include:

Mortgagee indexes:

Ontario County. Mortgagee Index. 1781-1817. Book 1

Ontario County. Mortgagee Index. 1817-1839. Book 2

Ontario County. Mortgagee Index. 1839-1849. Book 3

Ontario County. Mortgagee Index. 1849-1858. Book 4.

Ontario County. Mortgagee Index. 1846-1879. A-C.

Ontario County. Mortgagee Index. 1846-1879. D-G.

Ontario County. Mortgagee Index. 1846-1879. H-L.

Ontario County. Mortgagee Index. 1846-1879. M-R.

Ontario County. Mortgagee Index. 1846-1879. S-Z.

Ontario County. Mortgagee Index. 1880-1899. A-C.

Ontario County. Mortgagee Index. 1880-1899. D-G.

Ontario County. Mortgagee Index. 1880-1899. H-K.
Ontario County. Mortgagee Index. 1880-1899. L-O.
Ontario County. Mortgagee Index. 1880-1899. P-S.
Ontario County. Mortgagee Index. 1880-1899. T-Z.
Ontario County. Mortgagee Index. 1900-1915. A-C.
Ontario County. Mortgagee Index. 1900-1915. D-G.
Ontario County. Mortgagee Index. 1900-1915. H-K.
Ontario County. Mortgagee Index. 1900-1915. L-O.
Ontario County. Mortgagee Index. 1900-1915. P-S.
Ontario County. Mortgagee Index. 1900-1915. T-Z.
Ontario County. Mortgagee Index. 1916-1929. A-C.
Ontario County. Mortgagee Index. 1916-1929. D-G.
Ontario County. Mortgagee Index. 1916-1929. H-K.
Ontario County. Mortgagee Index. 1916-1929. L-O.
Ontario County. Mortgagee Index. 1916-1929. P-S.
Ontario County. Mortgagee Index. 1916-1929. T-Z.

Mortgagor indexes:

Ontario County. Mortgagor Index. 1781-1817. Book 1
Ontario County. Mortgagor Index. 1817-1839. Book 2
Ontario County. Mortgagor Index. 1839-1849. Book 3
Ontario County. Mortgagor Index. 1849-1858. Book 4.

The following mortgage indexes are available on microfilm at RAIMS:

Ontario County Mortgagee Index. A-G; H-P; Q-Z. 1789-1845. 35mm. Diazo.

Ontario County. Mortgagor Index. A-L. 1846-1879. 35mm. Diazo.

Ontario County. Mortgagor Index. M-Z. 1846-1879. 35mm. Diazo.

Ontario County. Mortgagor Index. A-G. 1880-1899. 35mm. Diazo.

Ontario County. Mortgagor Index. H-O. 1880-1899. 35mm. Diazo.

Ontario County. Mortgagor Index. P-S. 1880-1899. 35mm. Diazo.

Additional mortgage indexes can be found at the office of the County Clerk.

Chattel Mortgages

Chattel mortgages were made using personal property, rather than real property, as collateral. They are particularly good sources of family and social history. Of course, chattel mortgages reveal only those valuable pieces of personal property subject to the mortgage.

The following chattel mortgage index books are available at RAIMS and will be retrieved by staff. Each index book is divided alphabetically. Within each letter designation, the entries are listed chronologically. As the titles of the books indicate, there is some overlap of dates.

Chattel Mortgages. Index. 1851-1895.

Chattel Mortgages. Index. 1881-1896.

Chattel Mortgages. Index. 1896-1915.

Chattel Mortgages. Index. 1897-1915.

Chattel Mortgages. Index. 1916. City of Canandaigua.

Chattel Mortgages. Index. 1944. City of Canandaigua.

RAIMS holds eight cubic feet of original chattel mortgage documents.

Poor House Records

The record books for the Ontario County Poor House are kept at RAIMS for the dates shown. Additional information on the operation of the Poor House can be found in the annual "Proceedings of the Board of Supervisors." In later years, the Poor House was known as the county home. Its successor is a skilled nursing facility known as the Ontario County Health Related Facility.

The original poor farm occupied the land now used by the county office complex, including RAIMS, in the Town of Hopewell. In 1824, the state legislature passed "An Act to Provide for the Establishment of County Poor-Houses." The Ontario County Board of Supervisors purchased the land in Hopewell for use as a poor farm in 1825. The farm provided income for the county, work experience and sustenance for inmates of the jail and poor house from 1826 until its closing more than a century later.

The historical records of the Poor House are open records.

Ontario County. Poor House Records. 1827-1838.

Ontario County. Poor House Records. 1839-1873.

Ontario County. Poor House Records. 1873-1917.

Ontario County. Poor House Records. 1845-1875.

Ontario County. Poor House Records. 1838-1849.

Ontario County. Poor House Records. 1838-1865. [This book includes only the names of those who died at the Poor House.]

Ontario County. Poor House Records. 1848-1859.

Ontario County. Poor House Records. 1899-1918.

Ontario County. Record of Inmates. Ontario County Alms House. 1909-1956.

Ontario County. Record of Inmates. Ontario County Alms House. 1919-1937.

Ontario County. Poor House Transients. 1949-1954.

Ontario County. Poor House Account Book. 1842-1867.

Ontario County. Poor House Burials. 1883-1954. [No record can be found for those burials made in the half century prior to 1883. There were no burials after 1954]

Ontario County. Alms House. Tramp Record. 1909-1919. [This record book includes inmates of the poor house (alms house) who were considered "tramps;" not residents of Ontario County.

Ontario County. Pauper Children. 1873-1917. [Included in these records are notes on the birthplace, parentage and persons to whom the pauper children from the Poor House were indentured.]

Court Records

The Ontario County records center holds a variety of historical court records. Most of them are unprocessed for research at this time. Many of them are the records of courts that no longer exist since they were eliminated by one of the revised state constitutions in the 19th Century. They are almost entirely unindexed.

The following court records may be useful to family and local history researchers:

Ontario County. Jury List. 1888-1974. 1 roll. 35 mm. Diazo. [Contains the names of jurors in various county courts for the period indicated.]

RAIMS holds one cubic foot of jury lists for the period 1790-1840. Those are indexed on a computer database program that can be accessed only by RAIMS staff. The index is also available on the RAIMS site on the Internet www.RAIMS.com.

Surrogates Records

The records for the Surrogate's Court in Ontario County are virtually complete and open to the public. They consist of probated wills and associated papers including court orders, estate inventories, letters testamentary, and other documents needed to close out an estate. Thousands of estate files are kept in file folders and archival boxes. Researchers access the records of the Surrogate's Court by using an index.

The following bound indexes to the Surrogate's Court records are available at RAIMS:



General Index to Surrogates Records 1789-1926. (A-F)

General Index to Surrogates Records 1789-1926. (P-Z)

General Index to Surrogates Records 1927-1965. (A-E)

General Index to Surrogates Records 1927-1965. (F-K)

General Index to Surrogates Records 1927-1965. (L-R)

General Index to Surrogates Records 1927-1965. (S-Z)

Under the present Unified Court System in New York, the records of the Surrogate's Court are considered state records. They are kept at RAIMS by agreement with Ontario County.

Gathered and Contributed Records

Some records of the courts and the County Clerk have been gathered and microfilmed together on one or more rolls. They are otherwise unrelated as to record groups and series. Some are not even government records but are kept by RAIMS as a convenience for research. This has often been done by outside agencies for a shared purpose. The following microfilm rolls may be of use for family and local history research.

Ontario County Cemetery Records. 1 roll. 35 mm. Diazo. [Microfilmed by the LDS Church.] [Many of the entries on this microfilm are not records. They are readings from various cemetery visits around Ontario County. Organized by towns, they provide tombstone information, primarily, and often do not provide information on burials where the stone is gone or where there never was a stone. The most complete and updated list of cemetery readings is available at the Ontario County Historical Society in Canandaigua.]

First Congregational Society of Bristol, 1801-1913. 1 roll. 35 mm. Diazo. [Microfilmed by LDS Church.] [Contains the records of the defunct Bristol Congregational Church. A large number of microfilmed church records, from active as well as defunct churches, are available from the Olin Library, Cornell University.]

Ontario County Court of Sessions, 1794-1806; Election Returns, 1799-1841; Poor House Records, 1827-1838. 1 roll. 35 mm. Diazo. [Filmed by Brisham Young University.]

RAIMS on the Internet

It is possible to begin or supplement your research on the Internet. Many web sites have family history information that is related to Ontario County. RAIMS has its own website at <http://raims.com/>.

No records are available on the RAIMS website. However, there are indexes to various record series. They include the following:

Census indexes

Chattel mortgages 1830s-1860s

Chattel mortgages 1840s-1870s

Civil Commissions
Court records
Jury List Index 1790-1840
Military records
Marriage records 1908-1935
Marriage records bound volumes
Naturalization records 1803-1906
Naturalization records 1906-1956
Poor House indentures
Real property deeds 1789-1845
Surrogate Court records
Surrogate Court records 1927-1965
Vital town records

Copies of records located with an on-line index must be requested by sending a written request to RAIMS.

Looking to the Future

The Ontario County Department of Records, Archives and Informatin Management Services continues to make records available that have not been useable before. The nearly 170 year backlog of unprocessed records has been stored in dispersed locations and is slowly being processed. Suggestions for priorities in processing historical records are welcome.

RAIMS staff will also continue to monitor records disposition under the State Archives Disposition Schedule to ensure that records of enduring value, which might otherwise be eligible for disposition, are maintained at RAIMS.

As records are sent to RAIMS for storage by the departments of county government, the microfilming and scanning programs will continue. Using new technology, RAIMS has entered into pioneering arrangements with Kirtas Technologies for the scanning of records. Where possible optical character recognition will be employed to improve the efficiency of searching.