

## Freeport Historical Society

127 Warren Street

Freeport Michigan 49325

Phone: 616.765.8571



Freeport is an old settlement in Barry County located on the Little Thornapple River.

Freeport boasts the oldest continuously operated wooden handle factory in Michigan. The Museum is located in the old Masonic Temple on Warren Street in back of the Post Office. There are two floors of exhibits depicting the 1800 and 1900's of farm life. Original watercolor paintings, postcards as well as seasonal gifts are available. The Museum is open Tuesdays from 9-12 and posted times.

## Ionia County Historical Society – Blanchard House & Museum

251 East Main Street

Ionia Michigan 48846

Phone: 616.527.3369



This fine example of Italianate styling has remained structurally unchanged since 1880. The Blanchard House is veneered with pink variegated Ionia sandstone. One will appreciate the full acre lot on which it stands, with a running creek on the west. It deserves its affectionate Spanish name "La Palistina" - Delightful Home. The Blanchard House is beautifully decorated in period furnishings that have been donated by residents of Ionia County. The basement houses historical exhibits representing the unique and interesting history of our community. The Blanchard House is open to the public on Sundays in June, July and August from 1 to 4pm. It is also available for special group meetings, weddings and tours.

## Lake Odessa Area Historical Society & Depot Museum

1117 Emerson Street

Lake Odessa MI 48849

Phone: 616.374.7518 or

616.374.8420



The Lake Odessa Area Historical Society began in 1968 with the purpose of preserving and representing the history of the Lake Odessa area. This beautiful onion-



## Lake Odessa Area Historical Society Continued...

dome depot was built by the D.L. & N. Railway in 1888 and was moved to its present location 100 years later. After extensive restoration, the depot opened to the public in 1995. The depot complex also offers a replica freight house and the historic Hosford house. It is open to the public the last weekend of each month. Saturday, 10am to 2pm and Sunday 2pm to 5 pm and for special events and tours.

## Lowell Area Historical Museum

325 West Main Street

Lowell Michigan 49331

Phone: 616.897.7688



The Museum is located in the historic Graham home, built in 1873. It features permanent galleries surrounding the founding and early history of the Lowell area, its industry and retailing and the Lowell Showboat. In addition a Victorian Dining Room, Parlor, Porch with Garden and a Special Exhibits Gallery which changes annually creates a wonderful visitor experience. The Museum will have guided tours of this event. Our gift shop items and old-fashioned homemade candy and fudge will be available for sale. The Museum is also open to the public throughout the year on Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays 1 to 4pm and on Thursdays 1 to 8pm.

## Lyons-Muir Historical Museum

311 E Bridge Street

Lyons Michigan

Phone: 616-527-2436 or

989.855.2271



The Lyons-Muir Historical Museum is located in a

## Lyons-Muir Historical Museum Continued...

historic store front that was once the home of the Lyons Harold, a weekly newspaper serving the City of Lyons. Open since 1987, the Museum has exhibits depicting the history of the Lyons-Muir area. Of particular significance is their extensive collection of graduating class photographs from both the Lyons and Muir schools. The Museum is open throughout the year by appointment.

## Oakfield Pioneer Heritage Museum

11009 Podunk Avenue NE

Greenville Michigan 48838

Phone: 616.984.6249



The Museum is located in a building that was once the meeting place for the "Gleaners". This historic building was restored and now houses many photographs and artifacts of area businesses, churches, schools and families. Prominent exhibits include the White Swan School display with the original bell and flag holder and a mailman's delivery sleigh. The upper floor of this historic building has the original raised stage with backdrops and advertising sideboards. A highlight of the kitchen area is a Stevens Dishwashing Machine patented in 1886. The Museum is open to the public the second and fourth Sunday from May through October from 2 to 4pm.

## Portland Area Historical Society

Portland City Hall

259 Kent Street, Portland Michigan 48875

Phone: 517-647-2231

The Portland Area Historical Society will be showcasing two high-quality lines of furniture made in this small community where the Grand and Looking Glass Rivers come together. In the early 20th century, the Ramsey-Alton Company specialized in their Oak-Craft brand of Mission-style seat rockers, chairs and settees. The company turned out product that received substantial approval not only in the states but also in foreign countries. In 1919, the Ypsilanti-Reed Company moved a branch of its operation into the former Ramsey-Alton building. Headquartered in Ionia, the company made wonderful reed furniture and employed approximately 400 people at its Portland Plant. The exhibition will be held on the second floor of the Portland City Hall this year.

Spring into the Past....  
with a Tour of

West Michigan's Small Museums

May 2nd and 3rd, 2009  
11am to 5pm

- Alton Historic Church Museum
- Averill Historical Museum of Ada
- Belding Museum - Belrockton Dormitory
- Bowne Township Historical Museum
- Boston-Saranac Depot - Museum
- Cascade Historical Society
- Charlton Park & Village - Hastings
- Fallasburg Historical Village & School House
- Fighting Falcon Museum
- Flat River Historical Museum
- Freeport Historical Society
- Ionia County Historical Society - Blanchard House & Museum
- Lake Odessa Historical Museum
- Lowell Area Historical Museum
- Lyons Muir Historical Museum
- Oakfield Pioneer Heritage Museum
- Portland Area Historical Society

The listed Museums, located along the Flat River, Grand River and Thornapple River, provide support to each other in the Tri River area. They all invite you to come visit. Each Museum has unique qualities and we invite you to visit and enjoy a time of remembering and learning.

The Tri-River Small Historical  
Museums Network

# Spring Into the Past.....

## The Alton Historic Church Museum

2780 Lincoln Lake Ave NE  
Lowell Michigan 49331  
Phone: 616-745-0976



At the intersection of Lincoln Lake road and 3 Mile Ave, just 5 miles north of Lowell, lies the village of Alton. The bare crossroads today give but one clue to the thriving village that once existed. Here, where once the first log school house in Vergennes township once stood, stands the historic Alton church building, surrounded by cemetery. The Alton church, owned by the community, housed numerous church congregations through the years, and is now home to displays highlighting the village in it's peak during the 1880's and 90's. The Alton village was settled by those fleeing the Canadian rebellion, then the village saw a great immigration of Swiss settlers. It later declined as the railroad passed the village by. The Alton Historic Church museum is open by appointment. Website: [www.commoncorners.com/kent/kent\\_alton.htm](http://www.commoncorners.com/kent/kent_alton.htm). Email: [altonchurchmuseum@yahoo.com](mailto:altonchurchmuseum@yahoo.com)



## Averill Historical Museum of Ada

7144 Headley Street  
PO Box 741  
Ada Michigan 49301  
Phone: 616.676.9346

The Averill Historical Museum of Ada is located across from the Post Office. The Museum features exhibits and photographs unique to Ada, Michigan, which tell about the life of the early settlers, including Rix Robinson who took over the established trading post in 1821. Adjacent to the Museum is a wonderful red barn which has been restored and displays many farm implements as well as a restored buggy from days gone by. On the grounds you will also find a farm garden and lovely flower beds. We are open to the public from 1 to 4pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and other times by appointment.

## Belding Museum – Belrockton Dormitory

108 Hanover Street  
Belding Michigan 48809  
Phone: 616.794.0126



The Belding Museum is located in the historic Belrockton Dormitory, at 108 Hanover Street. It was built in 1906 when Belding was known as the "Silk Capital of the World." The Belrockton provided the housing needed for the large number of single women employed at the silk mills. The museum occupies three floors of the Belrockton and is open to the public on the first Sunday of each month 1 to 4pm. Visitors may tour a Victorian garden on the grounds and tour the museum to see an exciting glimpse of Belding's past!

## Bowne Township Historical Society – Museum & School House

84th & Alden Nash (M-50)  
PO Box 35  
Alto Michigan 49302  
Phone: 616.868.6846



Bowne Township was first settled in 1836. In 1849 Bowne Township elected its first officers. Our township is an agricultural community and for the most part has remained that way over the last 150 years. Our museum tries to preserve the past for our future generations so that they will know how their ancestors worked and lived. We also have a one room school which houses memorabilia from the eight schools that were once in Bowne Township. Our museums are open on the first Sunday of the month from June through September from 2 to 4pm and by appointment.

## Boston-Saranac Historical Depot Museum

Bridge Street at the Grand River  
PO Box 565  
Saranac Michigan 48881  
Phone: 616.693.2730 or  
616.642.9472



Built in 1907, the Boston-Saranac Depot served the Grand Trunk Railroad. Moved to its present location in

## Boston-Saranac Historical Museum Continued...

1994, it is now home to the Boston-Saranac Historical Depot Museum. The Depot not only features the history of the Depot, but the history of the Saranac area. Adjacent to the Museum is a Grand Trunk caboose, which will also be open for viewing at this event. The Depot Museum is open to the public from May through September on the second and fourth Sundays from 1 to 4pm. Our gift shop will be open and we will have delicious homemade baked goods for sale.

## Cascade Historical Society

Mailing address: 2865 Thornhills SE  
Building address: 2839 Thornapple River Drive  
Grand Rapids Michigan 49546  
Twp Phone: 616.949.1500



Township founded in 1848. Cascade Township Hall built in 1898. History group formed in 1974. History book published in 1987. State Historical registry in 1998. Building and gardens located on Thornapple River Drive – East of Cascade Road.

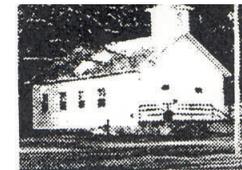
## Charlton Park

2545 S. Charlton Park Road  
Hastings Michigan 49058-8102  
Phone: 269.945.3775  
Fax: 269.945.0390



Historic Charlton Park encompasses over 300 acres with its historic village, museum and recreation area. The park is a product of the vision and work of Irving Delos Charlton. In 1936, he donated land to Barry County for the purpose of building a museum and recreation facility for area residents. During his lifetime, Charlton collected thousands of artifacts, most of which form the core of our current collection. The historic village began in 1969 and was recreated to portray a typical rural Michigan village at the turn-of-the-century, as well as house Charlton's extensive collection. The park utilizes buildings such as the one room schoolhouse, general store, township hall and stagecoach stop, in order to bring history alive for you!

## Fallasburg Historical Village & School House



13944 Covered Bridge Road  
Lowell Michigan 49331  
Phone: 616.897.7161

This little village, listed on the National Historic Register, has been passed by with the changes of time over the last 150 years.

The old one room school house and two museums are open to the public. We have demonstrations and other surprises planned for our visitors. So come, drive over the Covered Bridge, step back in time, and join us as we share with our history and the village of Fallsburg. We guarantee this is a visit worth making!

## Fighting Falcon Museum

516 W Cass Street  
Greenville Michigan 48838  
Phone: 616.225.1940



The Fighting Falcon Museum displays a restored glider like the one depicted in the movie Saving Private Ryan. The Museum is housed in a 100 year old school building and exhibits showcase the Gibson Refrigerator Company, Greenville Schools and the military men and women of the area. Open Sundays from 2 to 4pm.

## Flat River Historical Museum

213 N Franklin Street  
PO Box 188  
Greenville Michigan 48838  
Phone: 616.754.5296



The Flat River Historical Museum stands on the most historic site in Greenville. It was here that John Green, of Fulton County, New York, chose to build his cabin in 1844; and with the help of his brother-in-law and nephews, constructed a dam across the Flat River and built a sawmill. With a vast forest of white pine on the North bank of the river the history of Danes in Michigan began. Open on Saturdays and Sundays 2:00-4:30 p.m. Tours are available upon request.