

*Please take this FREE booklet and visit our museums.*

2023

# TRI-RIVER HISTORICAL MUSEUM NETWORK

Small Town Museums  
in Barry, Eaton, Ionia, Kent  
and Montcalm Counties.

PURE  MICHIGAN®

*Use the handy map inside to plan and guide your tour.*  
**Plan a visit to these unique Tri-River Museums  
housed in a variety of historic buildings:**

- **Ada History Center** – *house and barn in Ada*
- **Belding Museum & “The Bel”** – *in Belrockton Silk Mill Dormitory*
- **Boston/Saranac Historical Society** – *a depot museum in Saranac*
- **Bowne Township** – *museum, carriage house, school – near Alto*
- **Byron Centre Historical Society & Museum** – *in former town hall*
- **Cascade Historical Museum** – *in historical old township hall*
- **Cedar Springs Museum** – *in Morley Park, artifacts and research*
- **Charlton Park Historical Village** – *with museum, near Hastings*
- **Fallasburg Historical Village** – *near covered bridge, north of Lowell*
- **Fighting Falcon Military Museum** – *honors local Greenville veterans*
- **Flat River Historical Museum** – *with Victorian Garden in Greenville*
- **Freeport Historical Society** – *located in the old Masonic Temple*
- **Grattan Township Historical Society** – *1853 structure west of Belding*
- **Ionia’s Blanchard House and Museum** – *in stately Victorian Mansion*
- **Ionia Free Fair Antique Village** – *during Ionia Free Fair in July*
- **Ionia Co. Genealogical Society** – *Lake Odessa History Room research*
- **Lake Odessa Historical Society Depot Museum** – *displays, archives*
- **Lakeview Area Museum** – *in old well house/police station/food pantry*
- **Lowell Area Historical Museum** – *in old home with Victorian flair*
- **Lyons/Muir Historical Museum in Lyons** – *in former store building in Lyons*
- **Michigan’s Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall & Museum** – *in Eaton Rapids*
- **Oakfield Museum** - *west of Greenville in old Gleaner Hall in Podunk*
- **Pine Forest Historical Museum** – *in historic 1881 church in Edmore*
- **Plainfield Grand Rogue Historical Society – The Hyser Rivers Museum** – *north of Grand Rapids*
- **Portland Area Historical Society** — *memorabilia in Portland Area Library*
- **Rockford Area Museum** – *in former district court building in Rockford*
- **Sand Lake Salisbury Park Museum** - *located in the park*
- **Vestaburg Area Historical Society** – *displays during special events*
- **Welch Historical Museum** – *in former hardware store in Sunfield*
- **West Michigan Railroad Historical Society** – *meets in the Sparta Depot*

# Tri-River Historical Museum Network Invites you to Discover West Michigan's Small Museums for year-Round Adventures in History!

Look inside this booklet to learn more about the location, hours and unique qualities of each of the museums or organizations of the Tri-River Historical Museum Network located along the Flat, Grand and Thornapple Rivers. All invite you to come and discover or remember the rich history and charm of the area and its people, past and present.

Check out the map in the center of this directory to see where to go – then bring your family and friends to take a look into the past to see what life was like before all of today's modern technology. Keep this directory handy for year 'round reference as you travel West Michigan.



The Tri-River "SPRING INTO THE PAST" tour of small museums received the **History Award for Special Events/Tours** from the Historical Society of Michigan in 2021!"

## May 6 and 7, 2023

Saturday 11AM – 5PM and Sunday 1PM – 4PM



The 2023 "SPRING INTO THE PAST" annual open house museum tours of the Tri-River Historical Museum Network will feature the theme "Feeding the Family". Visit several museums on this special weekend and see how each one depicts the theme in its various displays and exhibits! All museum visits will be free of charge and will have the same open hours. Use the map in the center of this directory to plan your adventure!"

**SAVE THE DATE: May 4 & 5, 2024**



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Michigan!**

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(616) 356-2002  
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## 1. Ada History Center




7144 Headley Street, PO Box 741, Ada, MI 49301  
Phone: 616.676.9346  
[www.AdaHistoryCenter.org](http://www.AdaHistoryCenter.org)

The Ada History Center includes the Averill Historical Museum of Ada, the activities of the Ada Historical Society, the community archival collections, as well as an 1870's barn, variety of gardens and park-like grounds, and monuments to Rix Robinson. The

Ada Historical Society offers educational programming, community events, and presents local history exhibits in the Averill Historical Museum. **The museum is open Fridays and Saturdays, 1:00-4:00 pm, from March – December.**

## 2. Belding Museum—Belrockton Dormitory




108 Hanover Street, Belding, MI 48809  
Phone: 616.794.1900 ext.425  
[beldingmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:beldingmuseum@gmail.com)  
[www.ci.belding.mi.us](http://www.ci.belding.mi.us)  
 Belding Museum

The Belrockton, which houses the Belding Museum, is the last remaining dormitory of the original three in Belding. It was built in 1906 by the Belding Bros. Manufacturing Company to house the single women who worked in their four silk mills. During its heyday, Belding was known as the “Silk Capital of the World.” The museum occupies three floors and features the silk industry and the community’s unique role in Michigan history. **It’s open the first Sunday of each month from 1:00 to 4:00pm. Admission is free.** Contact us for a tour or more information.

## “THE BEL” (Belding Exploration Lab)



108 Hanover St, Belding, MI 48809  
Phone: 616.794.1900 ext.425  
[beldingmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:beldingmuseum@gmail.com)  
[www.ci.belding.mi.us](http://www.ci.belding.mi.us)  
 BEL-Belding Exploration Lab

The BEL encourages visitors of all ages to Build, Explore and Learn in a safe, stimulating environment. Visitors can explore science and history in a hands-on environment. You may “fly over Belding” in an airplane or fish on the Flat in a Belding-made boat! **Winter monthly hours are from September through May. First Sunday of each month 1:00-4:00pm and first Wednesday of each month 1:00-4:00pm. Summer Weekly Hours are June through August. Tuesdays from 10:00am – 1:00pm. Wednesdays from 1:00-4:00pm.** Admission is free, but children must be accompanied by an adult. To book a tour or for more info, contact us at [beldingmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:beldingmuseum@gmail.com)



## SHAMROCK TAVERN

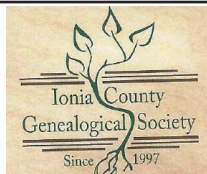
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Kitchen closes at 9pm

Friday & Saturday  
Grill is off at 9pm  
Kitchen closes at 10pm



Preserving Family  
Histories in Ionia  
County Since 1997

**Freight Station  
Museum**

**1117 Emerson St, Lake Odessa**

[www.ionia.migenweb.net/ICGS/  
icgshome.htm](http://www.ionia.migenweb.net/ICGS/icgshome.htm)



*Bowne  
Township  
Historical  
Commission*

8240 Alden Nash Ave., SE  
Alto, Michigan 49302

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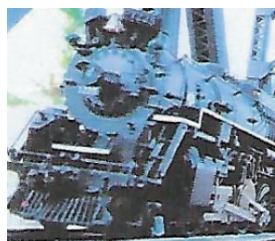
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HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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depot in  
Sparta, MI  
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**Visit the  
Oakfield Museum**

west of Greenville,  
south of M-57  
on Podunk Road

**Open 2-4 pm  
4th Sun June-Sept**



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**July 14-22, 2023**

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**Village Kupps:** 323 N. Lincoln Ave,  
Lakeview  
Ph: 989.287.6011. [Facebook.com/VillageKupps](https://www.facebook.com/VillageKupps)

**McKenna's:** 321 N Lincoln Ave, Lakeview  
Ph: 989-352-9918



## North Country Trail Association

229 E Main St,  
Lowell, MI  
49331  
616.897.5987

[northcountrytrail.org](http://northcountrytrail.org)

The North Country National Scenic Trail is America's longest National Scenic Trail stretching 4,800 miles from Vermont to North Dakota."

## PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Meets monthly at the

**Portland Area Service Center**

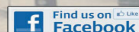
**144 Kent St.**

(fourth Tuesday)

**Celebrating 50 Years!**

**ALL WELCOME!**

[mi.pahs@gmail.com](mailto:mi.pahs@gmail.com)



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## Direct Your Dollars



As a 501(c)(3) non-profit, the Rockford Area Museum participates in the "Direct Your Dollars" program through SpartanNash. For every \$150,000 in eligible receipts collected, SpartanNash donates \$1000 to the RAM. If you wish to donate receipts, you may drop them off at Aunt Candy's Toy Company or use the collection jar in the Museum.

*preserve • share • celebrate • Ada*

## ADA HISTORY CENTER

*Ada*  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY  
Preserve  
Share  
Celebrate

*Averill*  
HISTORICAL  
MUSEUM  
1870  
1999

[www.AdaHistoryCenter.org](http://www.AdaHistoryCenter.org)  
7144 Headley Street, Ada  
616.676.9346

*Open Friday & Saturday, 1-4pm or by appointment*

## Lake Odessa Area Historical Society

1117 Emerson Street,  
Lake Odessa, MI 48849

Visit our:

RESTORED 1887 Depot  
REPLICA Freight House and  
Grand Trunk Caboose  
VINTAGE Hosford House



The CEDAR SPRINGS MUSEUM has a restored one room school house available for classrooms to visit. Children and teachers can use the school to experience an authentic old fashioned day.

Email or call the museum to reserve your day,  
[cedarspringsmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:cedarspringsmuseum@gmail.com)  
616.696.3335, we are here on Wednesdays

### 3. Boston-Saranac Historical Depot Museum



138 Bridge Street at the Grand River  
PO Box 565, Saranac, MI 48881  
Phone: 616.642.6248


 Boston Saranac Historical Society

Built in 1907, the Boston-Saranac Depot served the Grand Trunk Railroad. Moved to its present location in 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. **The Depot Museum is open to the public from May through Sept. on the second and fourth Sundays from 1:00 to 4:00pm or as posted.**

### 4. Bowne Township Historical Commission —Museum, Carriage Shed and School House



84th & Alden Nash (M-50), PO Box 35,  
Alto, MI 49302, Phone: 616.868.6424

 Bowne Township Historical Commission  
[www.bownehistory.org](http://www.bownehistory.org)  
[srjohnson4@charter.net](mailto:srjohnson4@charter.net)

Since the first settlers arrived in Bowne in 1836 we have been a primarily agricultural community. Our museum, school house and carriage shed are filled with artifacts and research materials that are available to visitors. **New open hours in 2023. Contact us for more information.**

LOWELL AREA



HISTORICAL MUSEUM

[www.lowellmuseum.org](http://www.lowellmuseum.org)  
616-897-7688  
325 W. Main Street

Open 1-4pm  
Tuesday  
Thursday  
Saturday

lowellArts

LowellArts, 223 W Main St, Downtown Lowell  
[LOWELLARTSMI.ORG](http://LOWELLARTSMI.ORG)

exhibits



concerts



theater



Rotating Gallery Exhibitions • Community Theater  
Fallasburg Arts Festival • House Concerts • Classes  
Showboat Sizzlin' Summer Concert Series




## 5. Byron Centre Historical Society & Museum



2506 Prescott St. S.W., Byron Center, MI 49315

Phone: 616.878.0888

 Byron Center Historical Museum

[www.byroncentermuseum.com](http://www.byroncentermuseum.com)

[byronmuseum@sbcglobal.net](mailto:byronmuseum@sbcglobal.net)

The Byron Centre Historical Society was founded in 1978 with a group of ladies interested in preserving and protecting our community history. In 1986, with the opening of a new Town Hall, the old town hall was offered to the society to house their museum. The museum presents a look back at our early farming community: general store, doctors' offices, one-room schoolhouse, Veterans display, and typical farm house. We also offer a meeting place for small groups at a modest fee. **The museum is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00am – Noon. May through November (or by appointment).**

## 6. Cascade Historical Society



2839 Thornapple River Dr

(Mail: 2865 Thornhills SE) Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Twp. Phone: 616.949.1500

Cascade Township was founded in 1848 and the township hall was built in 1898. A history group was formed in 1974 and a history book published in 1987.

Township Hall, now the Museum building, was added to the State Historical Registry in 1998.

## 7. Cedar Springs Museum



60 Cedar Street, Cedar Springs, MI 49319

Located in Morley Park. Phone: 616.696.3335

[cedarspringsmuseum.org](http://cedarspringsmuseum.org)

[cedarspringsmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:cedarspringsmuseum@gmail.com)


 Cedar Springs Historical Museum

The Cedar Springs Museum is a historical museum dedicated to collecting, preserving and presenting our local history to the community. Displays include a turn of the century kitchen, parlor, a general store as well as a railroad display and much more. The museum also hosts a wonderful genealogical library with microfilms, many Michigan histories and family histories. Come in and let us help you trace your family tree. Another special feature of the museum is our completely restored turn of the century one room school open to visitors and available to classrooms looking for an authentic experience. **Museum is open Wednesdays from 10am to 5pm. To visit by appointment please contact D.M. White at 616.835.0809.**

## 8. Historic Charlton Park: Village, Museum and Recreation Area



2545 S. Charlton Park Road,  
Hastings, MI 49058. Phone: 269.945.3775  
[www.charltonpark.org](http://www.charltonpark.org)  
[info@charltonpark.org](mailto:info@charltonpark.org)

 Historic Charlton Park: Village, Museum and Recreation Area

Historic Charlton Park encompasses approximately 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 the current collection. The historic village began in 1969 and was recreated to portray a typical rural Michigan village at the turn-of-the-century. The Park utilizes buildings such as the one room schoolhouse, general store, township hall and stagecoach stop, as well as a host of annual special events, to bring history alive for you! **Call for tour information.**

## 9. The Fallasburg Historical Society, Fallasburg Historical Village & School House Museum



13944 Covered Bridge Road, Lowell, MI 49331  
Phone: 616.987.1150  
[info@fallasburg.org](mailto:info@fallasburg.org)

This little village, listed on the National Historic Register, has been unspoiled by the path of progress over the last 150 years. It remains much as it did after John Wesley Fallas left his imprint here in the mid-1800's. **Our old one room school house is open to the public most Sundays, from 2pm until 4pm, May through October, and is Handicap Accessible.** The Misner House, Fallas House, and Fallasburg School Museums are open for Fallasburg Historical Society special events: "Christmas in Fallasburg", the "Covered Bridge Bike Tour", and the "John Wesley Fallas Invitational Vintage Baseball Tournament & Village Open House". **Docent-led village tours and private functions can be arranged by appointment.** Come, drive over the Fallasburg Covered Bridge, step back in time, and join us as we share our piece of local history.

## 10. Fighting Falcon Military Museum



516 W Cass Street, Greenville, MI 48838

Phone: 616.225.1940

 Fighting Falcon Military Museum

Displayed in the oldest existing school building in Greenville, visitors will find the showpiece of the museum: a restored CG-4A glider replica of "The Fighting Falcon," which is one of the most famous aircraft of World War II.

Purchased with War Bond Dollars raised by the Greenville Senior High School Class of 1943, and built in the Gibson Electric Refrigerator Company of Greenville, "The Fighting Falcon" was specially honored with a full military dedication ceremony at Black Athletic Field before she became the LEAD glider of Operation Chicago - the airborne landings behind enemy lines in Normandy, France, June 6, 1944. Come "Fly" our Fighting Falcon flight simulator! The museum also features collections of memorabilia from local veterans of America's wars from 1860 to the present. Many of the items tell incredible stories of local men in famous events, like the capture of President Jefferson Davis of the Confederate States of America; Norman Edsall, the first U.S. Navy enlisted man to have a ship named after him; a survivor of the loss of the U.S.S. INDIANAPOLIS; the pilot of BOCK's CAR, the plane that took the pictures of the first atomic bomb dropped, and which dropped the second.

**Open Sundays, 2:00 – 4:00pm, April through November.**

### Tri-River Historical Museum Network Mission Statement

To provide collaborative support to the small museums within the Tri-River area while recognizing the unique qualities of each museum. Chairperson: Sally Johnson (srjohnson@charter.net)

Secretary/Treasurer: Marian Bolhuis (616-676-2426)

2023 Directory Designed by: David Thompson – Hooper Printing

Phone: 616.897.6719 Email: orders@hooperprinting.com

**FACEBOOK: "Tri River Museum Network"**



**Fallasburg Historical Society**  
13944 Covered Bridge Road  
Lowell, MI 49331  
info@fallasburg.org



**HISTORIC  
CHARLTON  
PARK**  
Village, Museum  
& Recreation Area  
2545 S. Charlton Park Rd.  
Hastings, MI 49058  
269-945-3775 www.charltonpark.org



## 11. Flat River Historical Museum



213 N Franklin Street, PO Box 188,  
Greenville, MI 48838

Phone: 616.754.5296

[www.flatrivermuseum.org](http://www.flatrivermuseum.org)

 Flat River Historical

In 2022, Flat River celebrated 55 years as a society and 50 years as a museum – AND were recipients of the Historical Society of Michigan's 2022 State History Award for Societies as well as the 2022 Educator Award for board member Robin Walter! Museum exhibits include founder John Green, who built his cabin on this spot in 1844 and the Meijer grocery success that started right here in Greenville. Lumbering, farming and industry are also displayed while "Main Street Greenville" storefronts upstairs are now accessible to all. **Adjacent to the Fred Meijer Flat River Trail, museum is open Saturdays and Sundays April through November from 2:00-4:30pm.** Tours are available upon request.

## 12. Freeport Historical Society



127 Warren St., P.O. Box 127 Freeport, MI 49325-0127

Colleen: 616-765-8481 or text 269-331-8771

[freeport127@gmail.com](mailto:freeport127@gmail.com)

 Freeport Historical Society – Michigan

Freeport is in northern Barry County, Irving Township, bordering on Kent and Ionia Counties. **Our museum is open the first Wednesday of each month from 1:00 – 3:00pm, April to November.** We will be opened for "Spring Into the Past" on Saturday only, from noon to 5pm.

## 13. Grattan Township Historical Society

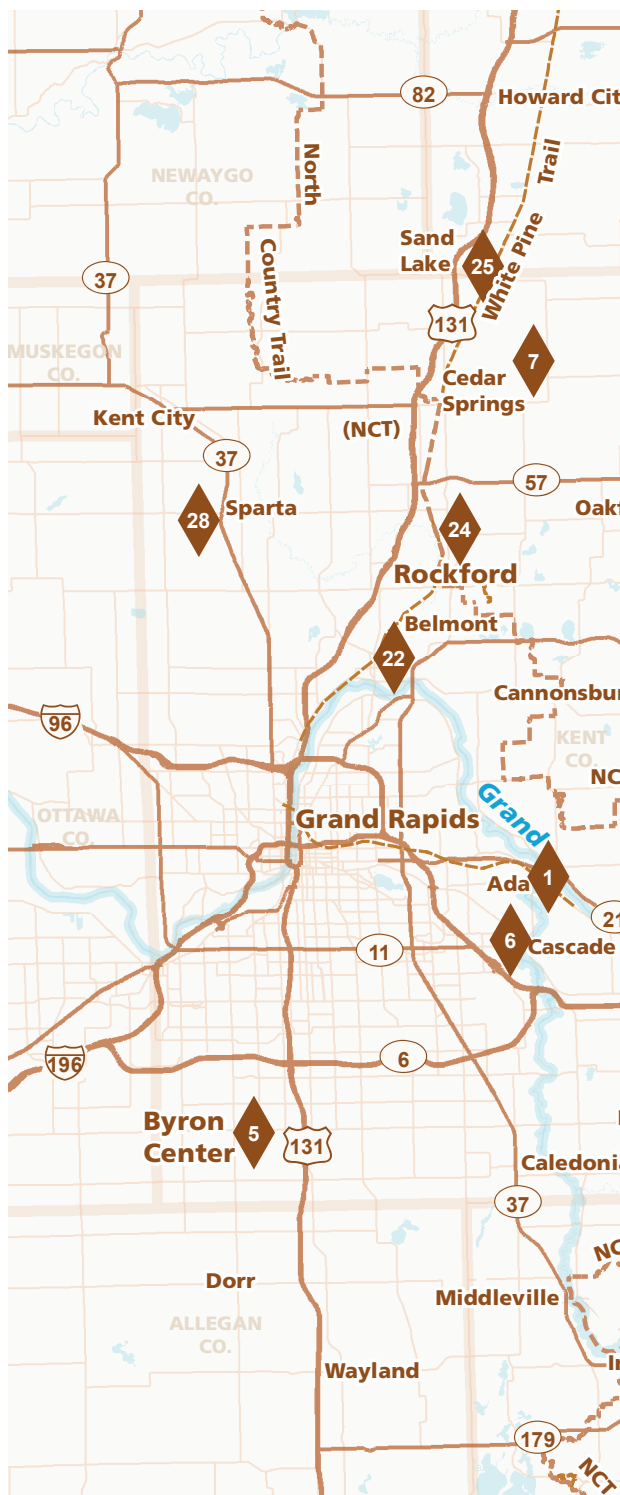


12040 Old Belding Rd., Belding, MI 48809

Phone: 616.691.8901 or 616.826.1872

The Grattan Township Historical Society was founded in 1984 to preserve the history of Grattan. The Grattan Museum was dedicated on July 5, 1987. The Museum is housed in a historic structure built in 1853 as a Methodist Episcopal Church at Steele's Corners. The church was moved to Grattan Center on log rollers in 1906. In 1930, the church building was sold to Grattan Township and used as the Township Hall until 1971. The building was completely remodeled and became the Historical Museum in 1987. In 1999, the Museum building was moved again to its current location adjacent to the Township Hall. The Museum contains exhibits on area schools, churches, local wildlife, Native Americans, household items, and farm life. There is also a growing genealogy collection. **The Museum is open to the public on Memorial Day from 9:00am to 1:00pm and the second Sunday of the month from 2:00 to 4:00pm June through October and by appointment.**

1. Ada history center
2. Belding Museum & "THE BEL"
3. Boston-Saranac Depot Museum
4. Bowne Township Historical Commission - Museum & School House
5. Byron Centre Historical Society & Museum
6. Cascade Historical Society
7. Cedar Springs Museum
8. Charlton Park Historical Village & Museum
9. Fallasburg Historical Society, Fallasburg Historical Village and School House Museum
10. Fighting Falcon Military Museum
11. Flat River Historical Museum
12. Freeport Historical Society
13. Grattan Township Historical Society
14. Ionia County Historical Society & Ionia Free Fair Antique Village
15. Lake Odessa Area Historical Society & Depot Museum & Ionia County Genealogical Society
16. Lakeview Area Museum
17. Lowell Area Historical Museum
18. Lyons-Muir Historical Museum
19. Michigan's G.A.R. Memorial Hall & Museum
20. Oakfield Museum
21. Pine Forest Museum
22. Plainfield Grand Rogue Historical Society
23. Portland Area Historical Society
24. Rockford Area Museum
25. Sand Lake Salisbury Park Museum
26. Vestaburg Area Historical Society
27. Welch Historical Museum
28. West Michigan Railroad Historical Society








#### 14. Ionia County Historical Society—Blanchard House & Museum



251 East Main Street, Ionia, MI 48846

Phone: 616.527.3369

[www.ioniahistory.org](http://www.ioniahistory.org)

 Ionia County Historical Society

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 lovely full acre lot on which it stands, with a picturesque running creek on the west. It deserves its affectionate Spanish name “La Palistina” - Little Palace. 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 the first Sunday each month from 1:00 to 4:00pm.** It is also available for special group meetings, weddings and tours.

#### Ionia Free Fair Antique Village



317 South Dexter, Ionia, MI 48846

616-902-7237

Step back in time with a visit to the Antique Village at the Ionia Free Fair. During Fair week, the Floral Building, situated on the beautiful Grand River, becomes a pleasant break from the hubbub of the fair grounds. Here you will find wonderful displays, friendly demonstrators showing their skill

at heritage crafts and entertaining live music every night. **Fair week this year is July 14 – 22, 2023!** See you at the Fair!

#### 15. Ionia County Genealogical Society



PO Box 516, Lake Odessa, MI 48849

[ioniacogensoc@yahoo.com](mailto:ioniacogensoc@yahoo.com)

[www.ionia.migenweb.net/ICGS/icgshome.htm](http://www.ionia.migenweb.net/ICGS/icgshome.htm)

Founded in 1997 to preserve the histories of Ionia County families, our History Room holds a genealogical library, the files of over 330 First Families, an obituary file of

over 31,000 and many original township records. We hold a banquet for new First Family members each November. Meetings with a speaker on genealogy-related topics are held at 1:00 pm the second Saturday of January through November in the Lake Odessa Museum Freight House, 1117 Emerson St.. **Open for research after each monthly meeting, as well as the last full weekend each month: Saturday from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm.**

15. Lake Odessa Area Historical Society & Depot Museum



1117 Emerson Street, Lake Odessa, MI 48849  
f Lake Odessa Area Historical Society.

The Lake Odessa Area Historical Society began in 1968 with the purpose of preserving and interpreting the history of the Lake Odessa area. This beautiful onion-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 complex also offers the Freight House Museum, the historic Hosford house and the library of the Ionia County Genealogical Society. **It is open to the public the last full weekend of each month. Saturday, 10:00am to 5:00pm and Sunday 2:00pm to 5:00 pm and for special events and tours.**

16. Lakeview Area Museum



107 North Lincoln Avenue, Lakeview, MI (no mail)  
Phone: 989-352-7304  
lakeviewareamuseum@gmail.com  
f Lakeview Area Museum

The Lakeview Area Museum was formed in 1994 and opened to the public in June of 1996 to preserve and share the history of the Lakeview area. A colorful sign identifies the museum, located in a former well house/police station/food pantry building in the northern end of downtown Lakeview. View the history of our town's logging, farming, schools, businesses, organizations, recreation, and home life. Outdoor displays include the 1895 village jail cell, a horse-drawn road grader, and a cannon. A huge fire in 1894 wiped out all of the downtown businesses, but the town was quickly rebuilt and is proud to have celebrated its 150th anniversary in June of 2017. **Our museum is open on Memorial Day and Saturdays, 11:00am to 3:00pm, from June through September or by appointment.**



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www.georgiesconsignment.com



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616-894-4981  
[Wgarlick@chartermi.net](mailto:Wgarlick@chartermi.net)  
13510 Old 14-Mile Road, Apt. 1  
Greenville, MI 48838


17. Lowell Area Historical Museum



325 West Main Street. Lowell, MI 49331  
Phone: 616.897.7688  
[www.lowellmuseum.org](http://www.lowellmuseum.org) [history@lowellmuseum.org](mailto:history@lowellmuseum.org)  
The Lowell Area Historical Museum is located in the historic Graham House built in 1873. It features permanent exhibit galleries featuring the early history of Lowell, the fur trade era, its industry and retailing, the Showboat and Military history. It also features two Victorian rooms, a dining room and parlor and a changing exhibit space. Explore the history of Lowell and learn more about our extensive programming and public history information located in local parks and in the historic district. **The museum is open to the public Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday 1:00-4:00pm and by appointment.**

18. Lyons-Muir Historical Museum



311 E Bridge Street, Lyons MI  
Phone: 517.230.7730 or 989.855.2472  
 Lyons-Muir Historical Museum  
The Lyons-Muir Historical Museum is located in a historic store front that was once the home of the Lyons Herald, a weekly newspaper serving the City of Lyons. Open since 1987, the Museum has exhibits depicting the history of the Lyons-Muir area. Come and see our 19th Century general store. **The museum is open the second Sunday of June, July and August from 1:00-4:00pm or by appointment.**

FLAT RIVER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

50 Years and Counting: 1972-2022+  
Congratulations to the

FLAT RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
in Greenville, awarded the  
Historical Society of Michigan's  
2022 State History Award  
for Societies and to  
Flat River board member

ROBIN WALTER

for the 2022 Educator Award!



Open Sat/Sun from 2-4:30 from April -November



BOULDER RIDGE  
WILD ANIMAL PARK

8313 Pratt Lake Ave  
Alto, MI 49302  
(616)-868-6711

Monday - Saturday:  
10am – 6pm  
Sunday: 12pm – 6pm  
Open May 1 – mid October



Come Experience the Wild!

Visit the Hyser Rivers Museum

Home of the 19th Century Doctor William Hyser



Open the First Sunday from 2:00PM - 4:30PM April-December  
6440 W River De NE, Belmont, MI 49306  
Your Hosts: The Plainfield Grand Rouge Historical Society



## 19. Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum




224 South Main St, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

Phone: 517.922.6427

[www.garmuseum.com](http://www.garmuseum.com)

[GARmichigan@gmail.com](mailto:GARmichigan@gmail.com)

 Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum

Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.)

Memorial Hall and Museum is the only museum of its type in the state that is solely dedicated to ensuring that the history and contributions of the G.A.R. and its Civil War Veteran members to Michigan are not forgotten. The museum is located in the original James B. Brainerd Post #111 G.A.R. Hall in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. Built in 1886, the historic Italianate two-storied red brick structure houses over 5,000 artifacts and records. **The Museum is open the first two Wednesdays of each month, patriotic holidays, and by appointment.** The Museum can be opened any day and time for meetings and tours by contacting the Museum ahead of time and arranging a date. Admission to the Museum is free to the public. Its operation and maintenance rely solely on fully tax-deductible annual sponsorships and donations.

# MICHIGAN'S GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC MEMORIAL HALL & MUSEUM

224 South Main Street  
Eaton Rapids, Michigan 48827

Email: [GARmichigan@gmail.com](mailto:GARmichigan@gmail.com)

Website: <https://garmuseum.com>

Face Book: Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hal and Museum

**COMMEMORATING THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC  
AND ITS CIVIL WAR UNION VETERAN MEMBERS IN MICHIGAN**



 **Free Admission** 

The Museum is housed in a 1901 structure built as the meeting place for the “Ancient Order of Gleaners” and then used as a township hall from

## 21. Pine Forest Historical Museum



Take a fantasy filled stroll back through the wonders of America gone by and visit Edmore's museum. Opened cated in the former Our Savior's Lutheran Church. A exhibits include Victorian jewelry made from hair and a a former State Treasurer of Illinois – a close personal

**Museum Open May to Oct. every Thur. from 2:00-ntment.**

Visit Tri River Historical Museum Network on Facebook to learn about special activities at our member museums. Special speakers, programs and notices are posted frequently to keep members and the public informed. Check it out!

## 22. Plainfield Grand Rogue Historical Society -The Hyser Rivers Museum



6440 West River Road, Belmont, MI 49306  
[www.plainfieldchartertwp.org](http://www.plainfieldchartertwp.org)  
[PlainfieldHistory@gmail.com](mailto:PlainfieldHistory@gmail.com)

Dr. William Hyser, a Civil War Veteran, and the house he built in 1852 played many roles as stage coach stop, post office, office of township clerk, Justice of the Peace, and school inspector. In 1973, Plainfield Township created the Historical Commission to preserve the last home from the original Plainfield Village and other historical artifacts. Fifty years later, in 2023, the new non-profit Plainfield Grand Rogue historical Society assumes this mission. Schools are encouraged to contact us to learn of historical resources we have which can be used by teachers or students. Special museum tours can be arranged by contacting the Plainfield Charter Township Hall. **The Museum is open the first Sundays May through December (except holiday weekends) 2:00-4:30pm.**

## 23. Portland Area Historical Society

The Portland Area Historical Society is a 501(C)3 organization dedicated to the preservation of Portland's historical records and artifacts. Even though we do not have a museum building at this time, we are still able to showcase our collections through various community events. **Our monthly meetings are held on the 4th Tuesdays of the month at 144 Kent Street (The Senior Services Building). We meet at 6:30pm January through June and September through November.** In August, we are in the Red Mill during Red Mill Community Days. In October, we conduct a Cemetery Walk through the Portland Cemetery with actors portraying historic citizens. Our goal for the future is to have our own museum building where we can permanently display the many artifacts that have been collected and donated throughout the years. **For more information about our organization, contact us via our email [mi.pahs@gmail.com](mailto:mi.pahs@gmail.com) or through our Facebook page: Portland Area Historical Society.** Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend our meetings.



### Welch Historical Museum

161 Main St. PO Box 251  
Sunfield, MI 48890

**April through November:** Monday 10-2,  
Wednesday 2-5, Saturday 10-2.

**December through March:**

Saturday 10-2 only or by appointment  
517.449.4895

*FREE ADMISSION*

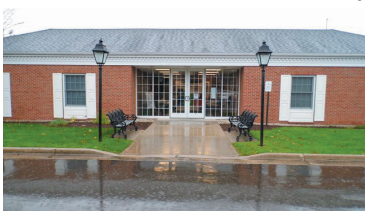
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24. Rockford Area Museum (RAM)



21 S. Monroe Rockford, MI 49341  
Phone 616.866.2235  
 Rockford Area Museum

The Rockford Area Museum proudly greets visitors six days a week, all year round. A presentation area in our South Room shows videos of historical significance, including our RaMemories interviews with Rockford area residents. The North Room contains a chronological history of Rockford and the surrounding areas while the Back Hall displays a collection of high school class photos. **The RAM is closed on Mondays but is open year-round Tuesday through Sunday from 1:00-4:00pm.** Research assistance is available by appointment. There is no charge for admission to the RAM nor cost for research assistance.

**Sand Lake  
Chamber of Commerce**  
**Annual 4th of July Celebration**  
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2 E. maple Street  
Facebook: Sand Lake Area Chamber of Commerce

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## 25. Sand Lake Salisbury Park Museum / Historical Society



2 E. Maple Street, Sand Lake MI. 49343

Located in Salisbury Park.

[historicalsociety@villageofsandlake.org](mailto:historicalsociety@villageofsandlake.org)

 Sand Lake Historical Society/Salisbury Museum

Our building was originally a church and later served as village office and public library. In 1977 the village made plans for a new municipal building on the property. The Chamber of Commerce moved the building across the street into the park where a group of ladies from the village collected many historical items and started the


museum. In 1969 “The Sand Lake Story” was released in book form celebrating our 100th anniversary. The museum strives to preserve and share the history of the Sand Lake area. **Our museum is open the 4th Tuesday of every month from noon to 7 pm or by appointment.**

## 26. Vestaburg Area Historical Society

P.O. Box 302, Vestaburg, MI 48891

Phone: (989) 640-0056

[gram06@yahoo.com](mailto:gram06@yahoo.com)

 Vestaburg Area Historical Society

Vestaburg Area Historical Society was formed in 2015 for the purpose of preserving the history of Vestaburg and the surrounding areas. During this organizational phase, they don't have a museum but will have a display area at the township hall, as well as historical displays at the Railroad Depot during Vestaburg Community Days in July. Meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 2 pm at the Richland Township Hall, 8755 3rd Street, Vestaburg, MI and everyone is welcome. If anyone has any pictures or articles regarding the Vestaburg area, please contact us.

## 27. Welch Historical Museum



161 Main Street PO Box 251

Sunfield, MI 48890

Phone: 517.449.4895

[www.sunfieldhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.sunfieldhistoricalsociety.com)

 Welch Historical Museum, Sunfield

The Sunfield Historical Society operates the Welch Historical Museum in the former Welch Hardware building donated by the Welch family in 2011. Come and walk through the full-sized 1860's Thorp family log cabin built within the museum. View Sunfield High School graduates from 1918-1963 and the restored 1927 Reo Sunfield Fire Truck, plus many displays of local and area artifacts that will take you back in time when life was simpler and moved at a slower pace. The museum also hosts a genealogy library that is filled with family histories, family files, cemetery and area funeral home records, area (and beyond) hard copy newspapers and so much more. **See WELCH HISTORICAL MUSEUM ad on page 19 for open hours.**

28. West Michigan Railroad Historical Society



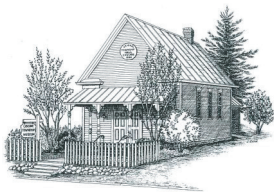
Depot: 371 N. Union St. Sparta, MI 49345  
Mail: WMRHS, PO Box 150461  
Grand Rapids, MI 49515  
Phone 616.784.7264  
suzannec@iserv.net

Founded in 1969 to preserve and promote Michigan railroad history, we meet in our 1886 Toledo, Saginaw & Muskegon depot the 3rd Thursday of each month from April through November at 7 pm. November is our banquet month and December through February we meet in members' homes. We have many photos, artifacts, records, a boxcar with train layout, a roadrailer and a caboose. Each year we host Sparta school children to teach them about trains. **Open Thursday, Friday and Saturday during Sparta's Town and Country Days the 3rd weekend in July or other times by appointment.**



In Memory of Former Tri-River Members

Sue Ferguson	Boston/Saranac Historical Society	2008
Ann Rademacher	Portland Area Historical Society	2011
Larry Cahoon	Boston/Saranac Historical Society	2012
Helen Salzman	Belding Museum	2012
Wilma Ackerson	Lyons/Muir Historical Museum	2013
Joe McCord	Ionia Historical Society	2016
Joan Bunn	Rockford Area Museum	2016
Tom Pickens	Lake Odessa Historical Society Museum	2016
Doris Roth	Fallasburg Historical Village	2016
Edwin Roth	Fallasburg Historical Village	2018
Art Schuitema	Old Fence Rider Museum, Edmore	2019
Joan McCord	Ionia Historical Society	2019
M. Jean Lamoreaux	Barry County Historical Society	2020
Deloris Dipp	Freeport Historical Society	2020
Dana Traub	Welch Historical Museum, Sunfield	2021
Dennis Nugent	Grattan Historical Society	2021
D. Al Pratt	Rockford Area Museum	2021
Betsy Davidson	Honorary Member for IT Services	2022



**Cascade  
Township  
Hall**  
*Built in 1898*

2839 Thornapple River Drive  
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

616.949.1500



**Boston-Saranac Historical  
Depot Museum**  
Bridge Street on the Beautiful  
Grand River

**Grattan Township Historical  
Society and Museum**

*Please join us on Memorial Day for our Bridge  
Walk and Memorial Service.*

The Bridge Walk was started by the Historical  
Society in 1988 and has become an annual  
event with activities for the entire family. The  
museum is open to the public on Memorial Day  
from 9am – 1pm, the second Sunday of the  
month from 2 – 4pm June through October, and  
by appointment



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Interested in the history of the Rockford area from the point of view of those that lived it? When visiting the Rockford Area Museum, ask to view our collection of RaMemories. Each RaMemory contains an interview with an individual in which they share their recollections of the Rockford area.

Please direct any questions to:  
[rockfordmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:rockfordmuseum@gmail.com)  
 (616) 866-2235



Lyons-Muir  
 Historical Museum  
 311 Bridge St.  
 Lyons, MI 48851

Phone: 517-2230-7730 or 989-855-2472

### WESTERN MICHIGAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

A variety of programs, classes,  
 books, and supplies for the  
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[CommonCorners.com](http://CommonCorners.com) • [data.wmgs.org](http://data.wmgs.org)

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