Please take this FREE booklet and visit our museums.

Tri-River Historical Museum Network

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

PURE MICHIGAN®
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
- 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

Our Tri-River Quilt Trail is one of the Quilt Trails of Michigan!

www.barnquiltinfo.com

Arthur J. Kroon, CPA, CGMA
Partner
29 Pearl Street NW, Suite 400
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 356-2002
art@kroon.us
1. Ada History Center
7144 Headley Street, PO Box 741, Ada, MI 49301
Phone: 616.676.9346
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
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
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
SHAMROCK TAVERN

Home Cooking at its Finest!
Freeport, Michigan
616-765-8751

Monday-Thursday
Kitchen closes at 9pm

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

WEST MICHIGAN RR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We like Trains! Do You?
616.784.7264
Visit us at our depot in Sparta, MI 371 N. Union

Visit the Oakfield Museum

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

Open 2-4 pm
4th Sun June-Sept

Museum tours can be arranged by contacting the Plainfield Charter Township Commission.

Preserving Family Histories in Ionia County Since 1997

Freight Station Museum
1117 Emerson St, Lake Odessa
www.ionia.migenweb.net/ICGS/icgshome.htm

Brown Mechanical

HEATING & COOLING
LICENSED & INSURED
JERALD BROWN, JR.
989-560-8225
P.O. Box 272 Edmore, MI 48829
jeraldbrown1968@hotmail.com

We're Not Comfortable Until You Are!

Village Kupps

Village Restaurant

Village Kupps: 323 N. Lincoln Ave, Lakeview
Ph: 989.287.6011. Facebook.com/VillageKupps

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

Bowne Township Historical Commission

8240 Alden Nash Ave., SE
Alto, Michigan 49302

Find us on Facebook
Bring this ad with you and receive $5.00 off a $10.00 purchase of merchandise.

“Memories. Made here.”
July 14-22, 2023

IONIA FREE FAIR
Antique Village

IONIA FREE FAIR
Antique Village

“Memories. Made here.”
July 14-22, 2023

Village Kupps

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JERALD BROWN, JR.
989-560-8225
P.O. Box 272 Edmore, MI 48829
jeraldbrown1968@hotmail.com

We’re Not Comfortable Until You Are!
The North Country National Scenic Trail is America’s longest National Scenic Trail stretching 4,800 miles from Vermont to North Dakota.”

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.

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 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
Facebook: 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
Facebook: Bowne Township Historical Commission
Website: www.bownehistory.org
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.
5. Byron Centre Historical Society & Museum

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

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

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
info@charltonpark.org
Facebook: 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

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

Facebook: 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 especially 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.
11. Flat River Historical Museum

213 N Franklin Street, PO Box 188, Greenville, MI 48838
Phone: 616.754.5296
www.flatrivermuseum.org
Facebook 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
Facebook Freeport Historical Society – Michigan

Freeport is on the Little Thornapple (Coldwater River) 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
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
Facebook: 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
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
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
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.
17. Lowell Area Historical Museum

325 West Main Street. Lowell, MI 49331
Phone: 616.897.7688
www.lowellmuseum.org  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 WILDLIFE PARK
8313 Pratt Lake Ave
Alto, MI 49302
(616)-988-6711
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 Dr NE, Belmont, MI 49306
Your Hosts: The Plainfield Grand Rouge Historical Society
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
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.
20. Oakfield Museum

11009 Podunk Avenue NE, Greenville, MI 48838
(No mail delivery at this address)
Phone 616.754.4553
www.commoncorners.com/oakfield

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 1931-1987. This historic building was restored and now houses photos and artifacts of the area including the White Swan School, Podunk Mill, Oakfield Union Chapel and Harvard businesses. Upstairs is a raised stage with scenic backdrop and advertising sideboards, as well as agricultural and home life displays, including a Stevens Dishwasher patented in 1886! Genealogical research material is also available. **The Museum is open the first weekend in May for the Spring Into the Past and then the 4th Sundays in June, July, August and September from 2:00-4:00pm.**

21. Pine Forest Historical Museum

402 East Home Street, Edmore, MI 48829
Phone: 989.427.3843 or 989.427.5801
Farm7838@gmail.com
Facebook: Edmore Pine Forest Historical Museum

Take a fantasy filled stroll back through the wonders of America gone by and visit Edmore’s museum. Opened in 1983, the museum is located in the former Our Savior’s Lutheran Church. A couple of the more exotic exhibits include Victorian jewelry made from hair and a glass bookcase owned by a former State Treasurer of Illinois – a close personal friend of Abraham Lincoln. **Museum Open May to Oct. every Thur. from 2:00-4:00. Also open by appointment.**

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**TRI RIVER ACTIVITIES ON FACEBOOK**

- 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
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 or through our Facebook page: Portland Area Historical Society. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend our meetings.
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.
25. Sand Lake Salisbury Park Museum / Historical Society
2 E. Maple Street, Sand Lake Mi. 49343
Located in Salisbury Park.
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
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
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.**

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**In Memory of Former Tri-River Members**

- Sue Ferguson: Boston/Saranac Historical Society, 2008
- Larry Cahoon: Boston/Saranac Historical Society, 2012
- Wilma Ackerson: Lyons/Muir Historical Museum, 2013
- 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
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.

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

Ionia County Historical Society

www.ioniachistory.org

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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
(616) 866-2235