

BAY COUNTY GUIDE

ARCHIVES OF MICHIGAN



Bay County was organized in 1857. The county coordinates are Ranges 3 East through 6 East (3E-6E) and Townships 13 North through 16 North (13N-16N). Adjacent counties include Arenac (north), Tuscola (east), Saginaw (south), Midland (west), and Gladwin (northwest). Lake Huron, specifically Saginaw Bay, is on the eastern border of Bay County.

Original records from Bay County are available at the Archives of Michigan. The list below is organized by record type; each record type lists specific records, the years of coverage and the record group (RG) number assigned to that collection. A more detailed list of each collection can be found in finding aids at the archives.

BUSINESS RECORDS

- **Account of sales of lumber, lath, and shingles, from 1869 to 1875** – RG 71-16
- **Record of notes and bills payable, from 1860 to 1875** – RG 71-19

CEMETERY RECORDS

- **Bay County files, from 1967 to 1976** – RG 83-53

CENSUS RECORDS

- **Federal census, from 1860 and 1870** – RG 65-32
- **State census, from 1884** – RG 84-7
 - from 1894 – RG 65-32

COURT RECORDS

- **Circuit Court docket, from 1900 to 1922** – RG 71-19
- **Justice Court docket, from 1875 to 1900** – RG 71-16

- **Justice returns, from 1858 to 1859 and from 1874 to 1881 – RG 71-19**

LAND RECORDS

- **Deeds, from 1842 to 1886 – RG 74-7**
- **Index to deeds, from 1853 to 1907 – RG 74-7**
- **Index to mortgages, from 1873 to 1906 – RG 74-7**
- **Record of mortgages, from 1836 to 1917 – RG 74-7**
- **Rural Property Inventory, from 1936 to 1942 – RG 72-76**

MILITARY RECORDS

- **Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) post records, from 1876 to 1945 – RG 63-19**
 - *Bay County GAR posts: Post 67 (Bay City), Post 278 (West Bay City), Post 407 (Auburn), Post 419 (Bay City)*
- **Male citizens liable for military duty, from 1862 to 1869 – RG 71-19**
- **Receipts for volunteer bounty, from 1863 to 1866 – RG 71-19**
- **Record of soldiers' burial, from 1887 to 1902 – RG 71-19**
- **Registration for military service, from 1917 – RG 71-16**

See also Guide No. 4: War Records, Guide No. 7: Post-War Records, Guide No. 4 c: Spanish American War, and Guide No. 4 d: World War I

NATURALIZATION RECORDS

- **Certificate stubs, from 1909 to 1936 – RG 94-417**
- **Court orders, from 1929 to 1966 – RG 94-417**
- **Declarations of Intention, from 1858 to 1963 – RG 94-417**
- **Repatriations, from 1940 to 1958 – RG 94-417**
- **Second papers, from 1888 to 1965 – RG 94-417**
- **Transfers, from 1916 – RG 94-417**

OCCUPATIONAL RECORDS

- **Chiropractor register, from 1934 to 1953 – RG 86-9**
- **Chiroprody register, from 1915 to 1948 – RG 86-9**
- **Drugless healer register, from 1913 to 1928 – RG 86-9**
- **Nurses register, from 1910 to 1926 – RG 86-9**
- **Optometrist register, from 1926 to 1937 – RG 86-9**
- **Physician register, from 1900 to 1946 – RG 86-9**

POLITICAL RECORDS

- **Oaths of office**, from **1857 to 1871** and from **1876 to 1895** and from **1900 to 1903** – RG 71-19
- **Record of township and city officers**, from **1874 to 1893** – RG 71-19

POOR HOME / RELIEF RECORDS

- **Bookkeeping records of Superintendent of Poor**, from **1869 to 1914** – RG 71-19
- **Report of inmates of infirmary**, from **1912 to 1913** – RG 71-19
- **Selected welfare case files**, from **1933 to 1959** – RG 67-26*

** Files are closed for 75 years; researchers must show a death certificate.*

PRISON RECORDS

- **Bills to county from Superintendent of Detroit House of Corrections**, from **1868 to 1872** – RG 71-19

See also Guide No. 3: Correctional Facilities Records

PROBATE RECORDS

- **Calendar**, from **1903 to 1906** – RG 2015-138

RECREATION RECORDS

- **Liens on watercraft**, from **1865 to 1869** – RG 71-19

SCHOOL RECORDS

- **Census, Union School District (Bay City)**, from **1878** and from **1888** and from **1891 to 1892** – RG 71-19

VITAL RECORDS

See Guide No. 19: Vital Records

CONTACT INFORMATION

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