

LAKE COUNTY GUIDE

ARCHIVES OF MICHIGAN



Originally laid off in 1840 as Aishcum County, Lake County was later officially organized in 1871. The county coordinates are Ranges 11 West through 14 West (11W-14W) and Townships 17 North through 20 North (17N-20N). Adjacent counties include Wexford (northeast), Osceola (east), Mecosta (southeast), Newaygo (south), Oceana (southwest), Mason (west), and Manistee (northwest).

Original records from Lake 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. More detailed lists of these collections can be found in finding aids at the archives.

CEMETERY RECORDS

- **Cemetery records (Elk Township)**, from **1918 to 1996** – RG 2021-86
- **Lake County files**, from **1968 to 1976** – RG 83-53

CENSUS RECORDS

- **State census**, from **1933 to 1934** – RG 78-20

COURT RECORDS

- **Circuit Court case files**, from **1871 to 1963** – RG 78-77

LAND RECORDS

- **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
 - *Lake County GAR posts: Post 218 (Luther), Post 272 (Chase), Post 362 (Baldwin), Post 367 (Glencoe)*
- **Record of Civil War discharges**, from **1871 to 1888** – RG 2000-78

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 stub books**, from **1907 to 1927** – RG 2000-71
- **Declarations of Intention**, from **1874 to 1951** – RG 2000-71
- **Indexes to journals**, not dated – RG 2000-71
- **Petitions**, from **1907 to 1955** – RG 2000-71
- **Petitions granted and denied**, from **1930 to 1951** – RG 2000-71
- **Second papers**, from **1872 to 1906** – RG 2000-71

PRISON RECORDS

See Guide No. 3: Correctional Facilities Records

SCHOOL RECORDS

- **School census (Elk Township)**, from **1922 to 1927** – RG 2021-86

TAX RECORDS

- **Tax assessment rolls (Elk Township)**, from **1889 to 1939** – RG 2021-86
- **Tax assessment rolls (Sauble Township)**, from **1914 to 1932** – RG 2021-86

VITAL RECORDS

- **Register of births (Elk Township)**, from **1906 to 1949** – RG 2021-73 #
- **Register of deaths (Elk Township)**, from **1902 to 1949** – RG 2021-73

Birth records are closed for 100 years

See also Guide No. 19: Vital Records

VOTER RECORDS

- **Party enrollment (Elk Township), from 1906 to 1912** – RG 2021-86
- **Register of electors (Elk Township), from 1882 to 1946** – RG 2021-86
- **Register of school electors (Elk Township), from 1940 to 1949** – RG 2021-86

CONTACT INFORMATION

[Archives of Michigan](#)
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