

MECOSTA COUNTY GUIDE

ARCHIVES OF MICHIGAN



Mecosta County was originally laid off in 1840, but was later officially organized in 1859. The county coordinates are Ranges 7 West through 10 West (7W-10W) and Townships 13 North through 16 North (13N-16N). Adjacent counties include Osceola (north), Clare (northeast), Isabella (east), Montcalm (south), Newaygo (west), and Lake (northwest).

Original records from Mecosta 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.

Some of the collections below are housed at the Ferris State University Archives in Big Rapids - these are indicated with a * after the RG number. For assistance with these records, please contact the Ferris State University Archives directly.

BUSINESS RECORDS

- **Register of log marks, from 1868 to 1885** – RG 69-54

CEMETERY RECORDS

- **Burial transit permits (Big Rapids Township), from 1945 to 1946** – RG 2007-49*
- **Mecosta County files, from 1968 to 1980** – RG 83-53

CENSUS RECORDS

- **Federal census, from 1870** – RG 69-54
- **List of persons in Mecosta County, from 1880** – RG 69-54

CHURCH RECORDS

- **Records of Methodist Episcopal Church (Big Rapids), from 1880 to 1885** – RG 69-54

COURT RECORDS

- **Circuit Court calendars, from 1874, from 1885, from 1889, and from 1893** – RG 69-54
- **Circuit Court case files, from 1895 to 1940** – RG 2013-90
- **Circuit Court chancery orders, from 1859 to 1874** – RG 69-54
- **Circuit Court common rule book, from 1875 to 1915** – RG 69-54
- **Circuit Court general orders, from 1859 to 1876** – RG 69-54
- **Circuit Court records, from 1931 to 1940** – RG 2007-49*
- **Circuit Court special motions, from 1860 to 1912** – RG 69-54
- **Coroner inquests, from 1872 to 1889** – RG 69-59
- **Records of Justice Court, from 1859 to 1890** – RG 69-54

LAND RECORDS

- **Certificate of state tax lands sold & deeded, from 1892 to 1893** – RG 72-45
- **Chattel mortgages (Big Rapids Township), from 1905 to 1933** – RG 2007-49*
- **Record of state tax land sold, from 1891 to 1893** – RG 72-45
- **Rural Property Inventory (Austin Township), from 1936 to 1942** – RG 72-76

MILITARY RECORDS

- **Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) post records, from 1876 to 1945** – RG 63-19
 - *Mecosta County GAR posts: Post 164 (Morley), Post 271 (Mecosta), Post 294 (Big Rapids), Post 389 (Chippewa Lake), Post 415 (Remus), Post 446 (Remus)*
- **Record of soldiers and sailors in service of the Great War, from 1920** – RG 69-59
- **Report of burial of indigent soldiers, sailors, and marines from Union Army, from 1888 to 1915** – RG 69-54
- **Return of ex-soldiers from war, 1861-65, from 1888** – RG 69-59

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

- **Declarations of Intention**, from **1859 to 1983** – RG 90-274
- **Oaths**, from **1852 to 1891** – RG 90-274
- **Petitions**, from **1907 to 1956** – RG 90-274
- **Second papers**, from **1893 to 1906** – RG 90-274

OCCUPATIONAL RECORDS

- **Labor liens on logs**, from **1883 to 1886**, and from **1895-1912** – RG 69-59

POLITICAL RECORDS

- **Record of township and city officers**, from **1879 to 1897** – RG 69-54

POOR HOME / RELIEF RECORDS

- **Soldiers' relief commission records**, from **1899 to 1909** – RG 69-59

PRISON RECORDS

See Guide No. 3: Correctional Facilities Records

PROBATE RECORDS

- **Appraiser's warrants & inventories**, from **1868 to 1946** – RG 70-33
 - from **1901 to 1912** – RG 72-45
- **Bonds and letters relating to appraisal**, from **1862 to 1888** – RG 72-45
- **Case files**, from **1862 to 1972** – RG 2022-52
- **Index**, from **1862 to 2010** – RG 2022-52
- **Index to estates in probate**, not dated – RG 72-45
- **Journal**, from **1860 to 1917** – RG 72-45
- **Order of hearing & proof of publication**, from **1894 to 1915** – RG 72-45
- **Probate calendars**, from **1862 to 1977** – RG 2022-52
- **Record of administration of claims**, from **1894 to 1903** – RG 72-45
- **Record of administrator**, from **1902 to 1915** – RG 72-45
- **Record of appointment of administrator**, from **1896 to 1907** – RG 72-45
- **Record of probate of will**, from **1887 to 1910** – RG 72-45
- **Record of sale of real estate**, from **1895 to 1906** – RG 72-45
- **Selected case files**, from **1870 to 1938** – RG 72-45

RECREATION RECORDS

- **Dog assessment list (Big Rapids Township)**, from **1916** – RG 2007-49*
- **Record of hunter's license**, from **1895 to 1896** – RG 69-54

TAX RECORDS

- **Assessment rolls**, from **1869 to 1880** – RG 72-45
- **Assessment rolls (Grant Township)**, from **1890 to 1970** – RG 2013-70*
- **Record of redemption receipts**, from **1885 to 1899** – RG 72-45
- **Statement of unpaid taxes lands**, from **1863 to 1875** – RG 72-45
- **Tax rolls**, from **1859 to 1910** – RG 72-45

VITAL RECORDS

- **Birth records (Big Rapids Township)**, from **1911 to 1914** – RG 2007-49*
- **Death certificates (Big Rapids Township)**, from **1951** – RG 2007-49*

See Guide No. 19: Vital Records

VOTER RECORDS

- **Statement of county board of canvassers**, from **1860 to 1890** – RG 69-54
- **Voter registration (Big Rapids Township)**, from **1910** – RG 2007-49*

CONTACT INFORMATION

[Archives of Michigan](https://www.archivesofmichigan.org/)
Michigan History Center
[Michigan.gov/mhc/archives](https://www.michigan.gov/mhc/archives)
702 W. Kalamazoo Street
Lansing, MI 48915
archives@michigan.gov

Revised April 2023