

OTTAWA COUNTY GUIDE

ARCHIVES OF MICHIGAN



Ottawa County was organized in 1837. The county coordinates are Range 13 West through 16 West (13W-16W) and Township 5 North through 9 North (5N-9N). Adjacent counties include Muskegon (north), Kent (east), and Allegan (south). Lake Michigan is on the west border of Ottawa County.

Original records from Ottawa 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.

Some of the collections below are housed at the Western Michigan University Archives & Regional History Collections in Kalamazoo - these are indicated with a * after the RG number. For assistance with these records, please contact the Western Michigan University Archives directly.

BUSINESS RECORDS

- **Account book (Plugger Sawmill, Holland)**, from **1863 to 1866** – RG 71-40*
- **Articles of association**, from **1893 to 1927** – RG 2021-62
- **Index record of articles of association**, from **1922 to 1939** – RG 2022-27
- **Record of milk dealers labels and design**, from **1927 to 1950** – RG 2021-62
- **Record of estrays**, from **1871 to 1874** and from **1907** – RG 71-40*

CEMETERY RECORDS

- **Georgetown Township Cemetery**, from **1961** – RG 2019-64
- **Hanley Cemetery (Georgetown Township)**, from **1941 to 1991** – RG 2019-64
- **Jenison Cemetery (Georgetown Township)**, from **1947 to 1948** – RG 2019-64
- **Ottawa County files**, from **1962 to 1976** – RG 83-53

CENSUS RECORDS

- **Federal census**, from **1870** – RG 71-40
 - from **1880** – RG 68-65
- **State census**, from **1884** – RG 71-40
 - from **1894** – RG 68-65

COURT RECORDS

- **Chancery calendars**, from **1838 to 1952** – RG 2022-27
- **Chancery calendars divorces**, from **1897 to 1962** – RG 2022-27
- **Chancery case files**, from **1847 to 1941** – RG 2021-62
- **Chancery record**, **1850 to 1861** – RG 2022-27
- **Circuit Court calendar**, from **1847 to 1857** – RG 2022-27
- **Circuit Court journal**, from **1848 to 1857** – RG 2022-27
 - from **1860 to 1979** – RG 2021-62
- **Civil docket**, from **1963 to 1988** – RG 2022-27
- **Civil docket (Grand Haven)**, from **1876 to 1879** – RG 71-40*
- **Civil docket supplemental divorce**, from **1963 to 1975** – RG 2022-27
- **Court calendars**, from **1899 to 1945** – RG 2021-62
- **Criminal calendars**, from **1859 to 1960** – RG 2022-27
- **Criminal case files**, from **1841 to 1941** – RG 2021-62
- **Criminal docket**, from **1887 to 1907** – RG 2022-27
- **Divorce case files**, from **1901 to 1942** – RG 2021-62
- **Divorce decrees**, from **1908 to 1918** – RG 2022-27
- **Judgements of divorce**, from **1976** – RG 2022-27
- **Justice dockets**, from **1846 to 1890** – RG 71-40*
- **Justice of Peace ledger (Georgetown Township)**, from **1884 to 1933** – RG 2019-64
- **Law calendars**, from **1868 to 1962** – RG 2022-27
- **Law case files**, from **1838 to 1953** – RG 2021-62
- **Record of appeals to Appellate Court**, from **1931 to 1999** – RG 2022-27
- **Record of criminal proceedings**, from **1986 to 1990** – RG 2022-27

LAND RECORDS

- **Chattel mortgages (Georgetown Township)**, from **1852 to 1923** – RG 2019-64
- **Record of land sales**, from **1858** – RG 71-40*
- **Record of receipts for land sold for taxes**, from **1865 to 1867** – RG 71-40*
- **Record of sale of land sold for taxes**, from **1853 to 1856** – RG 71-40*
- **Rural Property Inventory**, from **1936 to 1942** – RG 72-76

MILITARY RECORDS

- **Death certificates (World War II and Korea) for veterans shipped home, from 1942 to 1952** – RG 2021-62
- **Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) post records, from 1876 to 1945** – RG 63-19
 - *Ottawa County GAR posts: Post 51 (Berlin), Post 75 (Grand Haven), Post 136 (Nunica), Post 238 (Coopersville), Post 262 (Holland), Post 279 (Spring Lake), Post 388 (Allendale)*
- **Record of discharge of soldiers & sailors, from 1865 to 1943** – RG 2021-62

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

- **Circuit Court journal, from 1894 to 1906** – RG 2000-72
- **Declarations of Intention, from 1852 to 1961** – RG 2000-72
- **Naturalization oaths, from 1875 to 1896** – RG 2021-62
- **Petitions, from 1907 to 1962** – RG 2000-72

OCCUPATIONAL RECORDS

- **Record of appointment of deputy sheriffs, from 1904 to 1927** – RG 71-40*
- **Nurses registrations, from 1914 to 1956** – RG 2021-62
- **Statements of medical practitioners, from 1883 to 1899** – RG 71-40*

POLITICAL RECORDS

- **Bonds and oaths (Georgetown Township), from 1920 to 1927** – RG 2019-64
- **Discharge of duty (Georgetown Township), from 1881 to 1918** – RG 2019-64
- **Oaths, from 1897 to 1909** – RG 2022-27

POOR HOME / RELIEF RECORDS

- **Superintendent of the Poor records, from 1928 to 1942** – RG 2021-62

PRISON RECORDS

See Guide No. 3: Correctional Facilities Records

RECREATION RECORDS

- **Police automobile permits (Grand Haven), from 1918 to 1919** – RG 88-50*
- **Sparrow bounty receipts (Grand Haven), from 1916 to 1919** – RG 88-50*

SCHOOL RECORDS

- **Attendance and scholarship records (Georgetown Township), from 1907 to 1957 – RG 2019-64****

***Student records are closed for 75 years unless a death certificate is provided.*

TAX RECORDS

- **Assessment rolls, from 1838 to 1873 – RG 71-40***
 - from **1860 to 1940 – RG 71-8***
 - from **1960 – RG 84-85**
- **Statement of lands upon unpaid taxes, from 1841 to 1849 – RG 71-40***
- **Tax assessment rolls (Robinson Township), from 1871 to 1975 – RG 2022-19**
- **Tax roll, from 1853 to 1962 - RG 2019-64#**
 - from **1882 to 1933 – RG 2019-64#**
- **Tax roll (Georgetown Township), from 1878 to 1947 – RG 2019-64**

Not all years and townships are available. See Reference Archivist for further assistance.

VITAL RECORDS

- **Death certificates, from 1976 – RG 2021-62**
- **Death certificates (Holland), from 1906 to 1947 – RG 2021-62**
- **Index to births, from 1901 to 1908 – RG 2021-62**
- **Record of marriages, from 1974 – RG 2021-62**

See also Guide No. 19: Vital Records

VOTER RECORDS

- **Register book of male voters (Georgetown Township), from 1910 to 1924 and from 1938 to 1944 – RG 2019-64**
- **Registration book of men electors (Georgetown Township), from 1920 to 1931 – RG 2019-64**
- **Voter registration book (Georgetown Township), from 1859 to 1875 – RG 2019-64**

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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