

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY GUIDE

ARCHIVES OF MICHIGAN



St. Joseph County was officially organized in 1829. The county coordinates are Range 9 West through 12 West (9W-12W) and Township 5 South through 8 South (5S-8S). Adjacent counties include Kalamazoo (north), Calhoun (northeast), Branch (east), Lagrange [IN] (southeast), Elkhart [IN] (southwest), Cass (west), and Van Buren (northwest). Indiana is on the south border of St. Joseph County.

Original records from St. Joseph 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

- **St. Joseph County files**, from **1968 to 1976** – RG 83-53

CENSUS RECORDS

- **Federal census**, from **1850**, from **1860**, and from **1870** – RG 65-14
- **State census**, from **1845**, from **1884**, and from **1894** – RG 65-14

COURT RECORDS

- **Assignment docket**, from **1882 to 1910** – RG 83-47*
- **Blotter book**, from **1839 to 1876** – RG 83-47*
- **Chancery calendars**, from **1846 to 1901** – RG 83-47*

- **Chancery case files**, from **1880 to 1900** – RG 83-47*
- **Chancery decrees**, from **1881 to 1912** – RG 83-47*
- **Circuit Court calendar**, from **1831 to 1838** and from **1855 to 1901** – RG 83-47*
- **Circuit Court commissioners docket**, from **1881 to 1895** – RG 83-47*
- **Circuit Court journal**, from **1833 to 1901** – RG 83-47*
- **Common order books**, from **1847 to 1895** – RG 83-47*
- **Common rule book**, from **1855 to 1904** – RG 83-47*
- **County court journal**, from **1847 to 1851** – RG 83-47*
- **County court record**, from **1847 to 1851** – RG 83-47*
- **Criminal calendars**, from **1860 to 1907** – RG 83-47*
- **Criminal case files**, from **1880 to 1903** – RG 83-47*
- **Decrees for divorce**, from **1894 to 1912** – RG 83-47*
- **Law case files**, from **1898 to 1903** – RG 83-47*
- **Orders and decrees**, from **1858 to 1900** – RG 83-47*
- **Record book**, from **1837 to 1854** – RG 83-47*
- **Special motion book**, from **1876 to 1902** – RG 83-47*
- **Transcripts**, from **1870 to 1894** – RG 83-47*

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
 - *St. Joseph County GAR posts: Post 71 (Burr Oak), Post 72 (Three Rivers), Post 73 (Sturgis), Post 115 (White Pigeon), Post 124 (Constantine), Post 131 (Colon), Post 135 (Centreville), Post 193 (Mendon), Post 207 (Leonidas)*

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 **1908 to 1967** – RG 2005-36
- **Declarations of Intention**, from **1854 to 1967** – RG 2005-36
- **Naturalization journal**, from **1895 to 1897** – RG 2005-36
- **Petitions**, from **1908 to 1967** – RG 2005-36
- **Petitions granted and denied**, from **1930 to 1967** – RG 2005-36

PRISON RECORDS

See also Guide No. 3: Correctional Facilities Records

TAX RECORDS

- **Assessment rolls (Sturgis), from 1876 to 1922 – RG 67-88***
- **Record of electric light consumption (Sturgis), from 1899 to 1903 – RG 67-88***
- **Register of water takers and rates (Sturgis), from 1890 to 1908 – RG 67-88***
- **Special assessment rolls for sewers and paving of streets (Sturgis), from 1913 to 1919 – RG 67-88***

VITAL RECORDS

See Guide No. 19: Vital Records

VOTER RECORDS

- **Record of voter registration (Sturgis), from 1904 to 1932 – RG 67-88***

CONTACT INFORMATION

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