

KALAMAZOO COUNTY GUIDE

ARCHIVES OF MICHIGAN



Kalamazoo County was organized in 1830. The county coordinates are Range 9W-12W and Township 1S-4S. Adjacent counties include Allegan (northwest), Barry (northeast), Calhoun (east), Branch (southeast), St. Joseph (south), Cass (southwest), and Van Buren (west).

Original records from Kalamazoo 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 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

- **Financial records, from 1857 to 1939 – RG 84-75***

CEMETERY RECORDS

- **Account book, Kalamazoo Township Cemetery, from 1851 – RG 68-38**
- **Burial ground plats (Schoolcraft Township), from 1843 to 1873 – RG 71-82***
- **Burial transit permits (Wakeshma Township), from 1908 to 1969 – RG 76-17***
- **Kalamazoo County files, from 1968 to 1976 – RG 83-53**

CENSUS RECORDS

- **Federal census, from 1850, from 1860 and from 1870 – RG 68-38**

- **Federal census (list of persons)**, from **1880** – RG 68-38
- **State census**, from **1837** – RG 89-22
 - from **1884** and from **1894** – RG 68-38

COURT RECORDS

- **Calendars of causes**, from **1867 to 1928** – RG 84-75*
- **Calendars of causes & issues of fact**, from **1834 to 1870** – RG 84-75*
- **Chancery court calendars**, from **1836 to 1932** – RG 84-75*
- **Chancery court case files**, from **1831 to 1932** – RG 84-75*
- **Chancery indexes**, from **1860 to 1920** – RG 84-75*
- **Chancery special orders and decrees**, from **1839 to 1949** – RG 84-75*
- **Circuit court commissioner case files**, from **1932 to 1968** – RG 84-75*
- **Circuit court commissioner docket**, from **1927 to 1931**, from **1951 to 1962** – RG 84-75*
- **Circuit court journals**, from **1832 to 1930** – RG 84-75*
- **Circuit court transcripts**, from **1839 to 1933** – RG 84-75*
- **Civil justice docket (Comstock Township)**, not dated – RG 2016-64*
- **Common orders, Chancery**, from **1847 to 1913** – RG 84-75*
- **Common rule books, Law**, from **1839 to 1916** – RG 84-75*
- **County court calendar**, from **1849 to 1851** – RG 84-75*
- **County court case files**, from **1847 to 1851** – RG 84-75*
- **County court journal**, from **1847 to 1851** – RG 84-75*
- **Criminal court calendars**, from **1857 to 1931** – RG 84-75*
- **Criminal court case files**, from **1857 to 1931** – RG 84-75*
- **Divorce bills of complaint & child support**, from **1871 to 1961** – RG 84-75*
- **Divorce decrees**, from **1871 to 1963** – RG 84-75*
- **Divorce proceedings**, from **1897 to 1915** – RG 84-75*
- **Jurors' time tables**, from **1872 to 1954** – RG 84-75*
- **Justice docket**, from **1837 to 1859** – RG 68-64*
 - from **1849 to 1895**, from **1919 to 1929** – RG 68-98*
- **Justice docket (Schoolcraft Township)**, from **1857** – RG 71-82*
- **Justice journal**, from **1886 to 1929** – RG 68-64*
- **Justice of the Peace docket**, from **1832 to 1877** – RG 84-76*
- **Justice of the Peace docket (Wakeshma Township)**, from **1862 to 1941** – RG 76-17*
- **Justice of the Peace docket, criminal**, from **1877 to 1907** – RG 84-76*
- **Justice of the Peace judgment record**, from **1857 to 1894** – RG 84-76*

- **Justice of the Peace record (Wakeshma Township), from 1868 to 1941** – RG 76-17*
- **Justice of the Peace transcripts, from 1838 to 1888** – RG 84-76*
- **Justice transcript of judgment, from 1839 to 1857, and from 1893 to 1950** – RG 84-75*
- **Justices' court certificate of conviction, from 1842 to 1900** – RG 84-76*
- **Law court calendars and indexes, from 1831 to 1932** – RG 84-75*
- **Law court case files, from 1831 to 1932** – RG 84-75*
- **Minute books, Clerk, from 1861 to 1936** – RG 84-75*
- **Minute books, Jury, from 1890 to 1932** – RG 84-75*
- **Notaries public and Justices of the Peace, from 1865 to 1889** – RG 84-76*
- **Protest records, from 1860 to 1908** – RG 84-75*
- **Recorder's Court certificates of conviction, from 1900 to 1905** – RG 84-76*
- **Recorder's Court docket, from 1884 to 1902** – RG 84-76*
- **Reports to the prosecuting attorney, from 1881 to 1887** – RG 84-76*
- **Special motion books, from 1839 to 1915** – RG 84-75*
- **Testimony re: Michigan Buggy Company, from 1913** – RG 68-38*
- **Testimony re: Shakespeare Company, from 1948 to 1949** – RG 68-38*
- **Testimony re: Thomas Patterson's death, from 1866** – RG 84-75*
- **Testimony transcripts, from 1865 to 1950** – RG 84-75*

HEALTH RECORDS

- **Patient registers (Pine Crest State Sanatorium), from 1930 to 1969** – RG 80-133#

#Death certificate required to view records more than 75 years old.

LAND RECORDS

- **Assignments, from 1881 to 1902** – RG 84-75*
- **Chattel mortgages, from 1854 to 1860** – RG 68-98*
- **Chattel mortgages (Wakeshma Township), from 1895 to 1937** – RG 76-17*
- **Decrees and order of sale, from 1870 to 1908** – RG 84-75*
- **Deeds, from 1836 to 1925** – RG 80-131
- **Historical survey records, from 1936 to 1942** – RG 68-38*
- **Index to chattel mortgages (Kalamazoo), from 1884 to 1885** – RG 80-131
- **Land patents and bonds, from 1838 to 1868** – RG 68-38*
- **List of lands offered for sale for taxes delinquent in Kalamazoo County in 1837 & 1838, sold in 1840, 1842, from 1837 to 1842** – RG 69-44*

- **Quit-claim and warranty deeds, from 1839 to 1880** – RG 68-64
- **Record of approval of plats, from 1915 to 1942** – RG 84-76*
- **Record of deeds, from 1834 to 1836** – RG 68-38*
- **Rural Property Inventory, from 1937** – RG 70-117
- **Rural Property Inventory (Wakeshma Township), from 1937** – RG 76-17*
- **Statement of lands delinquent for taxes, from 1845 to 1851** – RG 68-98*

MILITARY RECORDS

- **Discharges, from 1866 to 1945** – RG 84-76*
- **Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) post records, from 1876 to 1945** – RG 63-19
 - *Kalamazoo County GAR posts: Post 79 (Orcutt), Post 215 (Fulton), Post 220 (Vicksburg), Post 295 (Galesburg), Post 303 (Schoolcraft), Post 312 (Scotts)*
- **List of volunteers, from 1861 to 1862** – RG 84-76*
- **Record of county relief board for Spanish-American War servicemen's families, from 1898 to 1899** – RG 68-64*
- **Record of soldiers' discharge from service, from 1862 to 1865** – RG 68-98*
- **Soldiers' burials, from 1901 to 1948** – RG 84-76*

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 1903 to 1926** – RG 94-343
- **Declarations of Intention, from 1839 to 1968** – RG 94-343
- **Journal of orders: Admitting, from 1893 to 1903** – RG 94-343
- **Journal of orders: Denials, from 1929 to 1968** – RG 94-343
- **Military petitions, from 1919** – RG 94-343
- **Petitions, from 1907 to 1967** – RG 94-343
- **Repatriations, from 1940 to 1950** – RG 94-343
- **Transfers, from 1957 to 1964** – RG 94-343

OCCUPATIONAL RECORDS

- **Applications for admission to the Bar, from 1862 to 1895** – RG 84-75*
- **Appointments (Kalamazoo), from 1847 to 1904** – RG 80-81
- **Appointments by Sheriffs and oaths, from 1905 to 1931** – RG 68-64*
- **Auctioneer bonds (Kalamazoo), from 1867 to 1903** – RG 80-81
- **Certificates of medical registration, from 1900 to 1922** – RG 84-76*

- **Chiropractors' register, from 1934 to 1959** – RG 84-76*
- **City employee bonds (Kalamazoo), from 1894 to 1908** – RG 80-81
- **City official bonds (Kalamazoo), from 1869 to 1908** – RG 80-81
- **Constable bonds (Kalamazoo), from 1886 to 1904** – RG 80-81
- **Contractor bonds (Kalamazoo), from 1869 to 1904** – RG 80-81
- **Dairy registration, from 1929 to 1942** – RG 84-76*
- **Dentist register, from 1907 to 1957** – RG 84-76*
- **Druggist bonds (Kalamazoo), from 1895 to 1898** – RG 80-81
- **Employment applications (Kalamazoo), from 1883 to 1904** – RG 80-81
- **Fire department personnel roster (Kalamazoo), from 1877 to 1909** – RG 80-81
- **Liquor dealer bonds (Kalamazoo), from 1890 to 1897** – RG 80-81
- **List of physicians and students, from 1884 to 1893** – RG 80-81
- **Medical practitioner record, from 1900 to 1975** – RG 84-76*
- **Nurses' registration, from 1911 to 1969** – RG 84-76*
- **Oaths and bonds, from 1900 to 1947** – RG 76-17*
- **Oaths of office (Kalamazoo), from 1866 to 1896** – RG 80-81
- **Optometry register, from 1910 to 1957** – RG 84-76*
- **Osteopath register, from 1904 to 1954** – RG 84-76*
- **Plumber applications (Kalamazoo), from 1884 to 1899** – RG 80-81
- **Plumber bonds (Kalamazoo), from 1883 to 1898** – RG 80-81
- **Plumbers' returns (Kalamazoo), from 1879 to 1884** – RG 80-81
- **Pool hall bonds (Kalamazoo), from 1899 to 1904** – RG 80-81
- **Saloonkeeper applications (Kalamazoo), from 1894 to 1900** – RG 80-81
- **Resignations (Kalamazoo), from 1874 to 1926** – RG 80-81
- **Restaurant applications (Kalamazoo), from 1920 to 1926** – RG 80-81
- **Scavenger bonds (Kalamazoo), from 1898 to 1899** – RG 80-81
- **Sheriff's appointment record, from 1931 to 1972** – RG 84-76*
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- **Statement of medical practitioners, from 1886 to 1900** – RG 68-98*
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 - from 1955 to 1973 – RG 85-45*
- **Petitions for constable (Kalamazoo), from 1919 to 1955** – RG 85-28*
- **Petitions for municipal justice (Kalamazoo), from 1919 to 1967** – RG 85-28*

- **Record of elections (Comstock Township), from 1835 to 1852** – Manuscript Collection 70-58

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- **Board of Corrections and charities agents, from 1878 to 1911** – RG 84-76*
- **Children’s home journal, from 1911 to 1922** – RG 84-76*
- **Journal of county poor board, from 1838 to 1859** – RG 68-84*
- **Ledger of Superintendent of Poor, from 1863 to 1871** – RG 68-84*
- **Poor book (Wakeshma Township), from 1901 to 1903** – RG 76-17*
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- **Case files of the Transient Bureau, from 1934 to 1940** – RG 56-50*
- **History of criminals, from 1860 to 1908** – RG 84-75*
- **Jail booking record, from 1967 to 1980 and from 1990 to 1995** – RG 2019-12*
- **Jail record, from 1873 to 1977** – RG 2018-141*
- **Mug shot and fingerprint ledgers, from 1975 to 1980** – RG 2019-12*
- **Mug shots, from 1899 to 1934** – RG 2018-141*

See also Guide No. 3: Correctional Facilities Records

PROBATE RECORDS

- **Adjournments, from 1872 to 1984** – RG 94-309*
- **Appraiser’s warrant and inventory, from 1852 to 1865** – RG 94-309*
- **Appraiser’s warrant for minors, from 1856 to 1865** – RG 94-309*
- **Calendars, from 1833 to 1964** – RG 94-309*
- **Case files, from 1947 to 1959** – RG 94-309**
- **Claims before the Court, from 1916 to 1964** – RG 94-309*
- **Commissioner’s warrants and reports, from 1855 to 1939** – RG 94-309*
- **Condemnations, from 1889 to 1904** – RG 94-309*
- **Dower assignment, from 1861 to 1906** – RG 94-309*
- **Indexes, from 1833 to 1940** – RG 94-309*
- **Journals, from 1833 to 1950** – RG 94-309**
- **Orders – Allowances to widows, from 1879 to 1959** – RG 94-309*
- **Orders – Appointments of administrators, from 1898 to 1953** – RG 94-309*
- **Orders – Determination of heirs, from 1882 to 1926** – RG 94-309*

- **Orders – Discharge of guardian administrators**, from **1895 to 1907** and from **1949 to 1960** – RG 94-309*
- **Orders – General**, from **1855 to 1931** – RG 94-309*
- **Orders – Personal service**, from **1910 to 1925** and from **1947 to 1960** – RG 94-309*
- **Orders – Sale of real estate**, from **1864 to 1923** – RG 94-309*
- **Orders – Settling accounts**, from **1908 to 1958** – RG 94-309*
- **Partitions**, from **1865 to 1909** – RG 94-309*
- **Private sales of real estate**, from **1900 to 1957** – RG 94-309*
- **Probate of wills**, from **1856 to 1953** – RG 94-309*
- **Publication orders – Appointment of administrators**, from **1907 to 1949** – RG 94-309*
- **Publication orders – Determination of heirs**, from **1911 to 1936** – RG 94-309*
- **Publication orders – Final administration accounts**, from **1911 to 1942** – RG 94-309*
- **Publication orders – General**, from **1911 to 1947** – RG 94-309*
- **Publication orders – Probate of wills**, from **1908 to 1950** – RG 94-309*
- **Publication orders – Sale or mortgage of real estate**, from **1909 to 1961** – RG 94-309*
- **Settlement of accounts**, from **1879 to 1949** – RG 94-309*
- **Will of Dallas Boudeman**, from **1925** – RG 84-75*
- **Wills deposited**, from **1858 to 1954** – RG 94-309*

RECREATION RECORDS

- **Dog register (Wakeshma Township)**, from **1918 to 1933** – RG 76-17*
- **Hunters and anglers licenses**, from **1895 to 1917** – RG 94-76*
- **Record of docked horses**, from **1901 to 1931** – RG 84-76*
- **Wolf bounties**, from **1832 to 1840** – RG 84-76*

TAX RECORDS

- **Assessors' plat records (Kalamazoo)**, from **1873, 1884, 1896, 1898** – RG 80-81
- **Assessment rolls (Comstock Township)**, from **1870 to 1970** – RG 2016-64*
- **Assessment rolls (Kalamazoo)**, from **1882 to 1925** – RG 80-131
- **Assessment rolls (Wakeshma Township)**, from **1846 to 1910** – RG 76-17*
- **Delinquent tax statements and sales (Kalamazoo)**, from **1849 to 1883** – RG 80-131
- **Individuals liable for state taxes**, from **1837 to 1912** – RG 84-76*

- **Statement of state tax lands, from 1841 to 1849** – RG 69-64*
- **Tax rolls, from 1844 to 1972** – RG 94-369*
 - from 1973 to 1983 – RG 98-206*

VITAL RECORDS

- **Affidavits for marriage licenses, from 1888 to 1932** – RG 84-76*
- **Birth registers (Wakeshma Township), from 1906 to 1948** – RG 76-17*
- **Death certificates (Wakeshma Township), from 1897 to 1949** – RG 76-17*
- **Death records (Kalamazoo), from 1887 to 1909** – RG 80-131
- **Death registers, from 1898 to 1915** – RG 84-76*
- **Index to births, from 1905 to 1940** – RG 84-76*
- **Index to births & deaths, from 1867 to 1905** – RG 84-76*
- **Index to deaths, from 1867 to 1939** – RG 84-76*
- **Index to marriages, from 1832 to 1924** – RG 84-76*
- **Index to record of marriage, from 1833 to 1919** – RG 68-98*
- **Marriages, Consent to by Judge of Probate, from 1955 to 1983** – RG 94-309*
- **Record of marriages, from 1866 to 1881** – RG 68-64
- **Reports of deaths (Kalamazoo), from 1893** – RG 80-81

See also Guide No. 19: Vital Records

VOTER RECORDS

- **Claims to Village Council (Kalamazoo), from 1869 to 1926** – RG 80-81
- **Election record, from 1856 to 1928** – RG 84-76*
- **Election records (Kalamazoo), from 1866 to 1924** – RG 80-81
- **Nominating petitions for commissioner (Kalamazoo), from 1919 to 1925** – RG 80-131
- **Nomination papers, from 1906 to 1934** – RG 84-76*
- **Orders of Village Council (Kalamazoo), from 1858 to 1904** – RG 80-81
- **Party enrollment book (Wakeshma Township), from 1912 to 1914** – RG 76-17*
- **Poll list, from 1872, 1880** – RG 84-76*
- **Protests to Village Council (Kalamazoo), from 1853 to 1924** – RG 80-81
- **Rebates to Village Council (Kalamazoo), from 1883 to 1922** – RG 80-81
- **Record of City Council meetings (Kalamazoo), from 1843 to 1927** – RG 80-131
- **Record of electors (Comstock Township), from 1928 to 1938** - RG 2016-64 *
- **Record of township, village, & city officers, from 1873 to 1927** – RG 84-76*
- **Register of electors, from 1859 to 1872, 1880, 1890** – RG 84-76*

- **Register of electors (Wakeshma Township), from 1882 to 1940** – RG 76-17*
- **Registration of electors (Wakeshma Township), from 1859 to 1945** – RG 76-17*
- **Statement of votes (Wakeshma Township), from 1931, 1940** – RG 76-17*
- **Voter registration list, from 1925** – RG 84-76*

CONTACT INFORMATION

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