

KENT COUNTY GUIDE

ARCHIVES OF MICHIGAN



Kent County was organized in 1836. The county coordinates are Ranges 9 West through 12 West (9W-12W) and Townships 5 North through 10 North (5N-10N). Adjacent counties include Newaygo (north), Montcalm (northeast), Ionia (east), Barry (southeast), Allegan (southwest), Ottawa (west), and Muskegon (northwest).

Original records from Kent 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 ledger for lighting (Lowell)**, from **1897 to 1898** - RG 56-5
- **Register of log marks**, from **1867 to 1877** - RG 71-113

CEMETERY RECORDS

- **Kent County files**, from **1962 to 1976** - RG 83-53

CENSUS RECORDS

- **State census**, from **1884**, and from **1894** - RG 80-75

COURT RECORDS

- **Circuit Court in chancery cases**, from **1859 to 1861** – RG 71-44
- **Journal of Circuit Court proceedings**, from **1854 to 1873** – RG 71-44
 - from **1875 to 1926** – RG 71-49
- **Justice's transcript**, from **1869 to 1902** – RG 71-49
- **Orders of Circuit Court**, from **1876 to 1882** – RG 71-44
- **Special motions of Circuit Court**, from **1860 to 1877** – RG 71-49

HEALTH RECORDS

- **Register of communicable disease (Lowell)**, from **1921 to 1934** – RG 56-5

LAND RECORDS

- **Rural Property Inventory (Alpine Township)**, from **1939** – RG 2016-14
- **Statement of lands sold for unpaid taxes**, from **1855 to 1860** – RG 71-44
- **Statement of non-resident lands**, from **1861 to 1863** – RG 71-44

MILITARY RECORDS

- **Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) post records**, from **1876 to 1945** – RG 63-19
 - *Kent County GAR posts: Post 1 (Grand Rapids), Post 5 (Grand Rapids), Post 29 (Grand Rapids), Post 62 (Cedar Springs), Post 87 (Lowell), Post 237 (Rockford), Post 243 (Sparta), Post 247 (Harvard), Post 276 (Ada), Post 296 (Alaska), Post 302 (Byron Center), Post 306 (Casnovia), Post 350 (Sand Lake), Post 395 (Grand Rapids), Post 408 (Grand Rapids)*

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**, not dated – RG 89-28
- **Citizenship journal**, from **1860 to 1906** – RG 89-28
- **Declarations of Intention**, from **1871 to 1929** – RG 89-28
- **Petitions**, from **1906 to 1927** – RG 89-28

ORGANIZATION RECORDS

- **Articles of association**, from **1845 to 1900** – RG 65-29

POOR HOME / RELIEF RECORDS

- **Direct relief case files**, from **1933 to 1966** – RG 72-98
- **Journal of Superintendent of the Poor**, from **1930 to 1939** – RG 71-44
- **Record of persons admitted**, from **1930 to 1943** – RG 71-49

PRISON RECORDS

See also Guide No. 3: Correctional Facilities Records

RECREATION RECORDS

- **Liens on watercraft**, from **1869**, from **1901**, and from **1915** – RG 71-113

TAX RECORDS

- **Abstract of sale of state tax lands**, from **1877**, from **1879**, from **1881**, and from **1886** – RG 71-49
- **Assessment rolls**, from **1872 to 1940** – RG 71-49
- **Assessment rolls (Oakfield Township)**, from **1857** – RG 87-65*
- **Bond tax record**, from **1921 to 1939** – RG 71-49
- **Business tax record**, from **1902 to 1908** – RG 71-49
- **Cash book**, from **1877 to 1882** – RG 71-44
- **Index to assessment roll for Grand Rapids**, from **1895** – RG 71-49
- **Liquor tax record**, from **1878 to 1879** and from **1884 to 1898** – RG 71-49
- **Monies received for delinquent taxes**, from **1861 to 1864** – RG 71-49
 - from **1868 to 1874** – RG 71-44
- **Mortgage tax report**, from **1926 to 1939** – RG 71-49
- **Special assessment of Village of Lowell**, from **1912** – RG 71-49
- **Statement of lands with unpaid taxes**, from **1859**, from **1875**, from **1897**, and from **1899** – RG 71-49
- **Statement of lands with unpaid taxes**, from **1878** and from **1886** – RG 71-44

VITAL RECORDS

See Guide No. 19: Vital Records

VOTER RECORDS

- **Voter registration book (Lowell)**, from **1876**, from **1912** and from **1919 to 1946**
– RG 56-5

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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