

Archives of Michigan



Kalamazoo County County Research Guide: No. 39

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).

Here is a listing of original source records available at the Archives for Kalamazoo County, including the years of coverage and the Record Group number. Finding aids available in the Archives, arranged by RG, give a more itemized listing of each collection.

Several Archives of Michigan collections are housed at the Western Michigan University Archives & Regional History Collections in Kalamazoo, which are indicated below with a #. For assistance with those resources, please check with the staff there: wmich.edu/library/collections/archives.

Businesses

Financial records	1857-1939	RG 84-75 #
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Cemeteries

Account book, Kalamazoo Twp. Cemetery	1851	RG 68-38
Burial transit permits (Wakeshma Twp.)	1908-1969	RG 76-17 #
Kalamazoo County files	1968-1976	RG 83-53

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Census

Federal census	1850; 1860; 1870	RG 68-38
Federal census (list of persons)	1880	RG 68-38

State census 1884; 1894 RG 68-38

Court records

Calendars of causes	1867-1928	RG 84-75 #
Calendars of causes & issues of fact	1834-1870	RG 84-75 #
Chancery court calendars	1836-1932	RG 84-75 #
Chancery court case files	1831-1932	RG 84-75 #
Chancery indexes	1860-1920	RG 84-75 #
Chancery special orders and decrees	1839-1949	RG 84-75 #
Circuit court commissioner case files	1932-1968	RG 84-75 #
Circuit court commissioner docket	1927-1931; 1951-1962	RG 84-75 #
Circuit court journals	1832-1930	RG 84-75 #
Circuit court transcripts	1839-1933	RG 84-75 #
Common orders, Chancery	1847-1913	RG 84-75 #
Common rule books, Law	1839-1916	RG 84-75 #
County court calendar	1849-1851	RG 84-75 #
County court case files	1847-1851	RG 84-75 #
County court journal	1847-1851	RG 84-75 #
Criminal court calendars	1857-1931	RG 84-75 #
Criminal court case files	1857-1931	RG 84-75 #
Divorce bills of complaint & child support	1871-1961	RG 84-75 #
Divorce decrees	1871-1963	RG 84-75 #
Divorce proceedings	1897-1915	RG 84-75 #
Jurors' time tables	1872-1954	RG 84-75 #
Justice docket	1837-1859	RG 68-64 #
	1849-1895; 1919-1929	RG 68-98 #
Justice docket (Schoolcraft Twp.)	1857	RG 71-82 #
Justice journal	1886-1929	RG 68-64 #
Justice of the Peace docket	1832-1877	RG 84-76 #
Justice of the Peace docket (Wakeshma Twp.)	1862-1941	RG 76-17 #
Justice of the Peace docket, criminal	1877-1907	RG 84-76 #
Justice of the Peace judgment record	1857-1894	RG 84-76 #
Justice of the Peace record (Wakeshma Twp.)	1868-1941	RG 76-17 #
Justice of the Peace transcripts	1838-1888	RG 84-76 #
Justice transcript of judgment	1839-1857; 1893-1950	RG 84-75 #
Justices' court certificate of conviction	1842-1900	RG 84-76 #
Law court calendars and indexes	1831-1932	RG 84-75 #
Law court case files	1831-1932	RG 84-75 #
Minute books, Clerk	1861-1936	RG 84-75 #
Minute books, Jury	1890-1932	RG 84-75 #
Notaries public and Justices of the Peace	1865-1889	RG 84-76 #
Protest records	1860-1908	RG 84-75 #
Recorder's Court certificates of conviction	1900-1905	RG 84-76 #

Recorder's Court docket	1884-1902	RG 84-76 #
Reports to the prosecuting attorney	1881-1887	RG 84-76 #
Special motion books	1839-1915	RG 84-75 #
Testimony re: Michigan Buggy Company	1913	RG 68-38 #
Testimony re: Shakespeare Company	1948-1949	RG 68-38 #
Testimony re: Thomas Patterson's death	1866	RG 84-75 #
Testimony transcripts	1865-1950	RG 84-75 #

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Land

Assignments	1881-1902	RG 84-75 #
Chattel mortgages	1854-1860	RG 68-98 #
Chattel mortgages (Wakeshma Twp.)	1895-1937	RG 76-17 #
Deeds	1836-1925	RG 80-131
Decrees and order of sale	1870-1908	RG 84-75 #
Historical survey records	1936-1942	RG 68-38 #
Index to chattel mortgages (Kalamazoo)	1884-1885	RG 80-131
Land patents and bonds	1838-1868	RG 68-38 #
Quit-claim and warranty deeds	1839-1880	RG 68-64
Record of approval of plats	1915-1942	RG 84-76 #
Record of deeds	1834-1836	RG 68-38 #
Rural Property Inventory	1937	RG 70-117
Rural Property Inventory (Wakeshma Twp.)	1937	RG 76-17 #
Statement of lands delinquent for taxes	1845-1851	RG 68-98 #

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Military

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

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* See also Guide No. 4: War Records & Guide No. 7: Post-War Records

Naturalization

Certificate stub books	1903-1926	RG 94-343
Declarations of Intention	1839-1968	RG 94-343
Journal of orders: Admitting	1893-1903	RG 94-343
Journal of orders: Denials	1929-1968	RG 94-343
Military petitions	1919	RG 94-343
Petitions	1907-1967	RG 94-343

Repatriations	1940-1950	RG 94-343
Transfers	1957-1964	RG 94-343

Occupational

Applications for admission to the Bar	1862-1895	RG 84-75 #
Appointments (Kalamazoo)	1847-1904	RG 80-81
Appointments by Sheriffs and oaths	1905-1931	RG 68-64 #
Auctioneer bonds (Kalamazoo)	1867-1903	RG 80-81
Certificates of medical registration	1900-1922	RG 84-76 #
Chiropractors' register	1934-1959	RG 84-76 #
City employee bonds (Kalamazoo)	1894-1908	RG 80-81
City official bonds (Kalamazoo)	1869-1908	RG 80-81
Constable bonds (Kalamazoo)	1886-1904	RG 80-81
Contractor bonds (Kalamazoo)	1869-1904	RG 80-81
Dairy registration	1929-1942	RG 84-76 #
Dentist register	1907-1957	RG 84-76 #
Druggist bonds (Kalamazoo)	1895-1898	RG 80-81
Employment applications (Kalamazoo)	1883-1904	RG 80-81
Fire department personnel roster (Kalamazoo)	1877-1909	RG 80-81
Liquor dealer bonds (Kalamazoo)	1890-1897	RG 80-81
List of physicians and students	1884-1893	RG 80-81
Medical practitioner record	1900-1975	RG 84-76 #
Nurses' registration	1911-1969	RG 84-76 #
Oaths and bonds	1900-1947	RG 76-17 #
Oaths of office (Kalamazoo)	1866-1896	RG 80-81
Optometry register	1910-1957	RG 84-76 #
Osteopath register	1904-1954	RG 84-76 #
Plumber applications (Kalamazoo)	1884-1899	RG 80-81
Plumber bonds (Kalamazoo)	1883-1898	RG 80-81
Plumbers' returns (Kalamazoo)	1879-1884	RG 80-81
Pool hall bonds (Kalamazoo)	1899-1904	RG 80-81
Saloonkeeper applications (Kalamazoo)	1894-1900	RG 80-81
Resignations (Kalamazoo)	1874-1926	RG 80-81
Restaurant applications (Kalamazoo)	1920-1926	RG 80-81
Scavenger bonds (Kalamazoo)	1898-1899	RG 80-81
Sheriff's appointment record	1931-1972	RG 84-76 #
Sidewalk builder bonds (Kalamazoo)	1895-1903	RG 80-81
Statement of medical practitioners	1886-1900	RG 68-98 #
Tavern licenses	1833-1838	RG 84-75 #

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Poor home/relief

Board of Corrections and charities agents	1878-1911	RG 84-76 #
Children's home journal	1911-1922	RG 84-76 #

Journal of county poor board	1838-1859	RG 68-64 #
Ledger of Superintendent of Poor	1863-1871	RG 68-64 #
Poor book (Wakeshma Twp.)	1901-1903	RG 76-17 #
Record of inmates of poorhouse	1885-1912	RG 68-98

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Prison records

Case files of the Transient Bureau	1934-1940	RG 56-20 #
History of criminals	1860-1908	RG 84-75 #

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* See also Guide No. 3: Correctional Facilities Records

Probate records

Adjournments	1872-1984	RG 94-309#
Appraiser's warrant and inventory	1852-1865	RG 94-309#
Appraiser's warrant for minors	1856-1865	RG 94-309#
Calendars	1833-1964	RG 94-309#
Case files *	1947-1959	RG 94-309#
<i>* This series is restricted, please contact Kalamazoo County Probate Court for permission to use.</i>		
Claims before the Court	1916-1964	RG 94-309#
Commissioner's warrants and reports	1855-1939	RG 94-309#
Condemnations	1889-1904	RG 94-309#
Dower assignment	1861-1906	RG 94-309#
Indexes	1833-1940	RG 94-309#
Journals *	1833-1950	RG 94-309#
<i>* This series is restricted, please contact Kalamazoo County Probate Court for permission to use.</i>		
Orders – Allowances to widows	1879-1959	RG 94-309#
Orders – Appointments of administrators	1898-1953	RG 94-309#
Orders – Determination of heirs	1882-1926	RG 94-309#
Orders – Discharge of guardian/ administrators	1895-1907; 1949-1960	RG 94-309#
Orders – General	1855-1931	RG 94-309#
Orders – Personal service	1910-1925; 1947-1960	RG 94-309#
Orders – Sale of real estate	1864-1923	RG 94-309#
Orders – Settling accounts	1908-1958	RG 94-309#
Partitions	1865-1909	RG 94-309#
Private sales of real estate	1900-1957	RG 94-309#
Probate of wills	1856-1953	RG 94-309#
Publication orders – Appointment of administrators	1907-1949	RG 94-309#
Publication orders – Determination of heirs	1911-1936	RG 94-309#
Publication orders – Final administration accounts	1911-1942	RG 94-309#
Publication orders – General	1911-1947	RG 94-309#
Publication orders – Probate of wills	1908-1950	RG 94-309#

Publication orders – Sale or mortgage of real estate	1909-1961	RG 94-309#
Settlement of accounts	1879-1949	RG 94-309#
Will of Dallas Boudeman	1925	RG 84-75 #
Wills deposited, Record of	1858-1954	RG 94-309#

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Recreation

Dog register (Wakeshma Twp.)	1918-1933	RG 76-17 #
Hunters and anglers licenses	1895-1917	RG 84-76 #
Record of docked horses	1901-1931	RG 84-76 #
Wolf bounties	1832-1840	RG 84-76 #

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Tax records

Assessors' plat records (Kalamazoo)	1873; 1884; 1896; 1898	RG 80-81
Assessment rolls (Kalamazoo)	1882-1925	RG 80-131
Assessment rolls (Wakeshma Twp.)	1846-1910	RG 76-17 #
Delinquent tax statements and sales (Kalamazoo)	1849-1883	RG 80-131
Individuals liable for state taxes	1837-1912	RG 84-76 #
Statement of state tax lands	1841-1849	RG 68-64 #
Tax rolls	1844-1972	RG 94-369#
Wolf bounties	1832-1840	RG 84-75 #

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Vital records

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

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* See also Guide No. 19: Vital Records

Voter records

Claims to Village Council (Kalamazoo)	1869-1926	RG 80-81
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Election record	1856-1928	RG 84-76 #
Election records (Kalamazoo)	1866-1924	RG 80-81
Nominating petitions for commissioner (Kalamazoo)	1919-1925	RG 80-131
Nomination papers	1906-1934	RG 84-76 #
Orders of Village Council (Kalamazoo)	1858-1904	RG 80-81
Party enrollment book (Wakeshma Twp.)	1912-1914	RG 76-17 #
Poll list	1872; 1880	RG 84-76 #
Protests to Village Council (Kalamazoo)	1853-1924	RG 80-81
Rebates to Village Council (Kalamazoo)	1883-1922	RG 80-81
Record of City Council meetings (Kalamazoo)	1843-1927	RG 80-131
Record of township, village, & city officers	1873-1927	RG 84-76 #
Register of electors	1859-1872; 1880; 1890	RG 84-76 #
Register of electors (Wakeshma Twp.)	1882-1940	RG 76-17 #
Registration of electors (Wakeshma Twp.)	1859-1945	RG 76-17 #
Statement of votes (Wakeshma Twp.)	1931; 1940	RG 76-17 #
Voter registration list	1925	RG 84-76 #

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