

St. Joseph County



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

Here is a listing of original source records available at the Archives for St. Joseph 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.

Cemeteries

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|----------|
| St. Joseph County files | 1968-1976 | RG 83-53 |
|-------------------------|-----------|----------|

Census

| | | |
|----------------|------------------|----------|
| Federal census | 1850; 1860; 1870 | RG 65-14 |
| State census | 1845; 1884; 1894 | RG 65-14 |

Court records

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|------------|
| Assignment docket | 1882-1910 | RG 83-47 # |
| Blotter book | 1839-1876 | RG 83-47 # |
| Chancery calendars | 1846-1901 | RG 83-47 # |
| Chancery case files | 1880-1900 | RG 83-47 # |
| Chancery decrees | 1881-1912 | RG 83-47 # |
| Circuit Court calendar | 1831-1838; 1855-1901 | RG 83-47 # |

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

Held at Western Michigan University Archives, Kalamazoo

Land

| | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Rural Property Inventory | 1936-1942 | RG 72-76 |
|--------------------------|-----------|----------|

Military

| | | |
|------------------|-----------|----------|
| GAR post records | 1876-1945 | RG 63-19 |
|------------------|-----------|----------|

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

* See also *Guide No. 4: War Records, Guide No. 7: Post-War Records, Guide No. 4c: Spanish American War, and Guide No. 4d: World War I*

Naturalization

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Certificate stubs | 1908-1967 | RG 2005-36 |
| Declarations of Intention | 1854-1967 | RG 2005-36 |
| Naturalization journal | 1895-1897 | RG 2005-36 |
| Petitions | 1908-1967 | RG 2005-36 |
| Petitions granted and denied | 1930-1967 | RG 2005-36 |

Prison records

* See *Guide No. 3: Correctional Facilities Records*

Tax records

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

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Vital records

* See *Guide No. 19: Vital Records*

Voter records

Record of voter registration (Sturgis) 1904-1932

RG 67-88 #

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