



## Berrien County

Berrien County was established by the legislature in 1831 and organized in 1835. The county coordinates are Range 17W–21W and Township 3S–8S. Adjacent counties include Van Buren (north/northeast), Cass (east), St. Joseph [IN] (southeast), LaPorte [IN] (south), and Porter [IN] (southwest).

Here is a listing of original source records available at the Archives for Berrien 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](http://wmich.edu/library/collections/archives).

### Businesses

Record of chattel mortgages	1941	RG 67-109#
# Held at Western Michigan University Archives, Kalamazoo		

### Cemeteries

Berrien County files	1968–1976	RG 83-53
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### Census

Population schedules	1880	RG 67-24
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### Court records

Chancery rule and order book	1847–1886	RG 67-24#
Circuit Court common rule book	1843–1912	RG 67-24#

Circuit Court exhibits	1921-1922	RG 67-48#
Circuit Court proceedings	1839-1841	RG 67-109#
List of petit jury	1905-1940	RG 67-24#
Justice and Circuit Court decisions	1841-1864	RG 67-24#
Justice Court journals	1832-1893	RG 67-24#
Justice Court transcripts	1864-1929	RG 67-24#
Record of Justices of the Peace & notaries	1837-1888	RG 67-24#
# Held at Western Michigan University Archives, Kalamazoo		

## Land

Index to deeds	n.d.	RG 67-109#
Township plats	1943-1945	RG 67-109#
# Held at Western Michigan University Archives, Kalamazoo		

## Military

GAR post records	1876-1945	RG 63-19
* Berrien County GAR posts: 14 (Benton Harbor); 21 (St. Joseph); 22 (Buchanan); 30 (Coloma); 36 (Berrien Center); 39 (Berrien Springs); 64 (Niles); 85 (Three Oaks); 208 (Galien); 437 (New Troy)		
Record of soldiers discharged from service	1866-1899	RG 67-24#
Report of burial of indigent soldiers, sailors, and Marines	1885-1921	RG 67-24#

\* 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*  
 # Held at Western Michigan University Archives, Kalamazoo

## Occupations

Statements of medical practitioners	1898-1899	RG 67-24#
# Held at Western Michigan University Archives, Kalamazoo		

## Political records

Bonds and oaths of office	1915-1916	RG 67-24#
Election breakdown	1936-1948	
Election returns for village and township officers	1912-1954	RG 67-24#
List of county officers	1836-1839	RG 67-24#
Oaths of office (New Buffalo)	1928-1945	RG 79-100
# Held at Western Michigan University Archives, Kalamazoo		

## Poor home/relief

Journal of Board of Superintendent of the Poor	1847-1868	RG 67-109#
# Held at Western Michigan University Archives, Kalamazoo		

**Prison records**

Reports of jail inspection 1897–1918 RG 67-24#  
 # Held at Western Michigan University Archives, Kalamazoo  
 \* See Guide No. 3: Correctional Facilities Records

**Probate**

Proceedings of probate court 1832–1838 RG 67-109#  
 Vouchers and receipts within case files 1927–1937 RG 67-109#  
 # Held at Western Michigan University Archives, Kalamazoo

**Recreation**

Record of docked horses 1901–1902 RG 67-24#  
 # Held at Western Michigan University Archives, Kalamazoo

**Schools**

Record of attendance in Trinity Lutheran School 1955–1959 RG 67-109#@  
 @ Student records are closed for 75 years unless a death certificate is provided.  
 # Held at Western Michigan University Archives, Kalamazoo

**Tax records**

Abstract of taxable inheritances 1902–1930 RG 67-109#  
 Assessment roll (St. Joseph) 1868 RG 67-24#  
 Record of tax receipts 1850–1879 RG 67-24#  
 Record of tax redemption notices 1898–1910 RG 67-24#  
 Register of delinquent tax receipts 1882–1901 RG 67-24#  
 countersigned by county clerk  
 # Held at Western Michigan University Archives, Kalamazoo

**Vital records**

Marriage records (Berrien Springs) 1939–1968 RG 79-100  
 \* See also Guide No. 19: Vital Records

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