

# Michigan Records

## Circular No. 2 – Land Records

One approach in locating ancestors is to find the land they purchased or lived on. In this regard, the following records held by the Archives of Michigan may prove to be of interest to genealogists.

### DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

**RG 57-31** Tract books of swamp lands which show for each parcel a land description, rate per acre, amount paid, date of sale, number of certificate, and name of purchaser (series 10).

**RG 62-16** Register of certificates, 1843-1883; 1879-1882; 1888-1900. Shows the date, number of certificate, class of land, name and post office address of purchaser, description, number of acres, county where land situated, and date application was filed (series 22).

Record of homestead lands administered by Lands Division, 1930-1939. Shows case number, date application was received, name of applicant, description of land, date and number of issued homestead certificate, and dates of sale. There is no name index (series 35).

**RG 64-52** Records relating to state tax homestead lands distributed by the state, 1933-1938. They consist of the applications, reports of field examiners, oath of homesteader or final proof, certificate of conveyance, and proof of settlement. The reports on outstanding homestead certificates offer name of homesteader, certificate number, date issued, description of land, improvements and cultivation, condition of occupancy, and source of income to homesteader. There is no name index (series 4).

### DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**RG 81-9** Original maps prepared by federal surveyors subdividing the state into townships, ranges, and sections. Many of these sheets show cultural and physical features as they existed between about 1815 and 1855. Microfilm reels 255-260.

**RG 85-50** Abstracts of land grants, ca. 1837-1900. They identify all land grants bestowed by or received and sold by the state. Information shown includes description of land, name and residence of purchaser, date and number of certificate, name of patentee, and date of patent (series 1).

Tax homestead lands, 1895-1975. Shows deed number, name of grantee, certificate number, plus date of deed volume and page number. Includes name indexes (series 13).

**RG 87-153** Surveys of private claims by Aaron Greely, 1809-1810. They include the claim number, the metes and bounds of the tract, and the name of claimant (series 1).

Resurveys of private claims and concessions, 1807-1877. They provide information on name, date, coordinates, bearings, distances, acreage, and claim numbers (series 2).

**RG 87-153** Private claim surveys in northern Michigan, 1823-1855. Facts contained in these records include distances, bearings, land descriptions, witness posts, names

of claimants, number of tracts, some plats, metes and bounds notes, and dates (series 3).

**RG 89-74** Field notes transcripts of original surveys, 1815-1880. Microfilmed on reels 6528-6615.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

**RG 94-304** Land patents and Certificates, 1847-1943. These records document the first transfer of land from public to private ownership. Provides name of buyer, date of transaction, and legal description of the property.

#### **TREASURY DEPARTMENT**

**RG 72-76** Rural property inventories, ca. 1936-1942. Contains descriptions of the land, buildings, fences, crops, and timber. Gives details on structures like type, year built or remolded, dimensions, condition, nature of foundation and roof, kind of floor, and utility service (water, electricity, heating, etc.). Arranged alphabetically by name of township, then numerically by section number. No name index. Not complete for all counties included.

**RG 80-116** Land Tract books from 1818-1962. These volumes record the initial transfer of property in Michigan from public to private hands. Included is the name and residence of the first person or firm to acquire each tract, date of transaction, and a legal description of the property. Arranged by county, then township and range coordinates. Microfilm on reels 6456-6476.

### **Circular No. 16 – Rural Property Inventories**

The Depression period found many surveyors, engineers, land appraisers, and other trained Michigan citizens out of work. At the same time, it became clear to tax administrators and government officials that there was a dearth of basic data, particularly in the state's non-urban areas, upon which to establish uniform assessment rates. In an effort to employ this unused skilled labor force, and to create a comprehensive source of information about real and personal estates, the Rural Property Inventory was established. This undertaking, sponsored by the State Tax Commission in cooperation with the Works Progress Administration (WPA Project S-110), was started late in 1935. Employing about 2,000 "white collar" workers throughout the state, the Inventory was designed to prepare detailed descriptions of all 1,500,000 distinct parcels of land in the rural parts of Michigan (excluding Wayne County). Cards (about 8x10 inches) were created for each piece of property, providing such facts as description, ownership, utilization, and improvements. This massive undertaking—the first of its kind in the nation—continued until 1942, when the last of the 1,249 townships involved in the project were surveyed. Though the data entered on these records is now obsolete, the details they reveal serve to provide a remarkably sharp picture of the character of Michigan country life a half-century ago. The collected data describes lands; buildings; fences; crops; woodlands; means of communication; sources of heat and light; number of school district; legal description of the land; name of village, township and county wherein located; name and post office address of individual assessed; together with amount of acreage within certain classifications. Classifications are: "A" agricultural; "B" special agriculture; "C" swamp; "D" commercial orchard, vineyards and berries; "E" forest and timber areas, farm woodlot and cutover; and "Other" sugar bush, road, marsh, lake, waste and recreational.

Sketches of house and general land area are included. Building description includes type; year built or remodeled; dimensions in linear and cubic feet; condition and type of foundation; kind of exterior and roof; type of floor; and nature of utilities. Buildings of lesser

importance—such as cribs, poultry houses, garages, fruit storage, and the like—are described by brief narrative. Farm fences are described by kind and condition of fence and posts. The “woodlot and forest timber tally” offers type, board feet, cord, stem cut and density. Valuations placed by board of review are occasionally included.

In the listings on the back of this sheet, the holdings for any given county may be incomplete. Most are arranged alphabetically by name of township, then numerically by section number. The maps that are associated with these records can be found in RG 94-438.

<b>County</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Record Group</b>	<b>Location</b>
Alcona	1938-1939	84-33	Archives of MI
Alger (Limestone Township)	1938-1954	98-47	Archives of MI
Antrim	1936-1942	72-76	Archives of MI
Arenac	1936-1942	72-76	Archives of MI
Barry	1939	89-25	Archives of MI
Bay	1936-1942	72-76	Archives of MI
Calhoun	1936-1942	72-76	Archives of MI
Charlevoix	1937-1939	75-70	Archives of MI
Cheboygan	1937-1939	94-380	Archives of MI
Chippewa (Raber Township)	1938	94-381	Archives of MI
Crawford	1936-1942	72-76	Archives of MI
Dickinson	1936-1942	72-76	Archives of MI
Eaton	1939	94-303	Archives of MI
Emmet	1936-1942	72-76	Archives of MI
Genesee	1936	81-52	Archives of MI
Gladwin	1936-1942	72-76	Archives of MI
Gogebic	1936-1942	72-76	Archives of MI
Grand Traverse	1936-1939	84-55	Archives of MI
Hillsdale	1936-1942	72-76	Archives of MI
Houghton	1936-1942	77-105	*MTU Archives
Huron	1936-1942	72-76	Archives of MI
Ingham	1936-1942	72-76, 83-88, 88-25	Archives of MI
Ionia	1937-1938	54-10, 66-73	Archives of MI
Iosco	1936-1942	72-76	Archives of MI
Iron	1936-1942	72-76	Archives of MI
Isabella	1935-1942	72-65, 72-76	Archives of MI
Jackson	1936-1942	72-76	Archives of MI
Kalkaska (Clearwater Twp)	c. 1937	2000-70	Archives of MI
Keweenaw	1936-1942	84-71	Archives of MI
Lake	1936-1942	72-76	Archives of MI
Lapeer	1936-1942	72-76	Archives of MI
Lenawee (Ogden Township)	1938-1939	94-307	Archives of MI

Luce	1936-1942	72-76	Archives of MI
Mackinac	1936-1942	72-76, 84-70	Archives of MI
Mason	1936-1942	72-76	Archives of MI
Mecosta (Austin Township)	1936-1942	72-76	Archives of MI
Menominee	1938	70-118	Archives of MI
Midland	1936-1939	76-88	Archives of MI
Monroe	1936-1942	72-76, 84-27	Archives of MI
Montcalm	1938-1939	94-339	Archives of MI
Montmorency	1936-1942	72-76	Archives of MI
Newaygo	1936-1942	72-76	Archives of MI
Oakland	1936-1942	72-76	Archives of MI
Oceana	1936-1942	72-76	Archives of MI
Ogemaw	1936-1942	72-76	Archives of MI
Ontonagon	1936-1942	72-76	Archives of MI
Oscoda	1936-1942	72-76	Archives of MI
Osceola	1936-1942	70-112	Archives of MI
Ottawa	1936-1942	72-76	Archives of MI
Otsego	1936-1942	72-76	Archives of MI
Presque Isle (Bearinger and Metz Township)	1940	69-46	Archives of MI
Saginaw	1937-1938	70-89, 71-146	Archives of MI
Sanilac	1936-1942	72-76	Archives of MI
Schoolcraft (Germfask Twp)	1938	94-394	Archives of MI
Shiawassee	1936-1942	72-76	Archives of MI
St. Clair (East China Twp)	1938	64-13	Archives of MI
St. Joseph	1938	72-76	Archives of MI
Tuscola	1935-1938	70-113	Archives of MI
Van Buren	1935-1938	72-76	Archives of MI
Washtenaw (Lyndon Twp)	1938	90-283	Archives of MI
Washtenaw (Ann Arbor Twp)	1939	2003-69	Archives of MI
Washtenaw (Northfield Twp)	1937-1938	2000-69	Archives of MI
Washtenaw (Pittsfield Twp)	1938	70-87	Archives of MI
Washtenaw (Superior Twp)	1940	2005-23	Archives of MI
Washtenaw (York Twp)	1936-1938	71-139	Archives of MI

\* Michigan Technological UNIV

## Circular No. 47 – Bounties, Premiums, Subsidies, and Relief

Agency	Record Group	Lot	Box	Description	Date
Administration	55-25	3	All	Civil War Bounties	1919-1921
Administration	68-109	32	1	Wolf Bounties	1843
Agriculture	61-23	5	1	*FFA and 4-H	1949-1953
Agriculture	69-17	12	26-29	FFA, 4 H and Fairs	1960-1961
Agriculture	74-41	25	16	Fair Premiums	1968
Agriculture	73-87	26	12	Fair Premiums	1966
Agriculture	75-53	29	32	Fair Premiums	1970
Agriculture	79-06	40	6	Horses	1974
Agriculture	79-73	42	2	Fair Premiums	1967-1976
Agriculture	81-87	45	17	Fair Premiums	1975
Agriculture	81-87	45	33	Horses	1975
Agriculture	82-24	46	13	Horses	1977
Agriculture	82-98	47	5	Horses	1976
Agriculture	85-98	56	6	Fair Premiums	1978-1980
Agriculture	85-37	63	9	Fair Premiums	1981
Agriculture	85-37	63	32	Fair Grants	1980-1981
Agriculture	89-35	79	2	Breeder Awards	1980-1983
Attorney General	53-5	1	3-4	Welfare Relief	1933
Attorney General	76-102	37	2	Trading Stamps	1962-1963
Auditor General	57-24	1	V18	Spanish-American War	1899-1923
Auditor General	57-24	1	V30-31	Animal Bounties	1838-1917
Auditor General	57-24	1	11	Wolf Bounties	1838-1840
Auditor General	57-24	1	12	Civil War Veterans	1867
Auditor General	57-24	1	15	World War I Veterans	1917-1919
Boy's Vocational School	61-16	1	95	Civil War Veterans	1863-1866
Commerce	74-75	50	12	Private Industry Aid	1961-1965
Commerce	81-103	116	1	Energy Subsidies	1975-1976
Commerce	81-103	116	11	Food Stamps	1974
Commerce	85-131	141	9	Fuel Assistance	1977
Conservation	57-31	3	V29	Sugar Beets	1898-1900
Conservation	57-31	3	V33	Homestead Lands	1917-1922
Conservation	60-8	9	14-15	Railroad Land Grants	1846-1890
Conservation	60-8	9	34-35	Homestead Lands	1904-1909
Conservation	60-8	9	49	German Christian Society	1867
Conservation	62-16	14	35	Land Grant Board	1863-1874

Conservation	105-106			Homestead Lands	1930-1939
Conservation	64-52	20	19-25	Homestead Lands	1909-1938
Conservation	66-02	23	35	Fox Bounties	1952
Conservation	68-115	46	1-47	Predator Control	1958-1962
Corrections	80-38	23	17	Probation Subsidy	1972
Education	83-82	104	6	G.I. Bill	1968-1969
Education	88-148	136	3	G.I. Bill	1977
Executive (**DMB)	69-60	2	23	Korean War Bonus	1947-1958
Executive (DMB)	RG-44	1	65	Cuban Relief	1898
Executive (DMB)	RG-44	1	65	Oakland and Lapeer Tornado	1896
Executive (DMB)	RG-44	1	65	Tuscola and Sanilac Tornado	1905
Executive (DMB)	RG-44	1	65	Italian Earthquakes	1894-1907
Executive (DMB)	RG-44	1	65	San Francisco Earthquake	1906
Executive (DMB)	RG-44	1	65	Finland and Sweden Famine	1903
Executive (DMB)	RG-44	1	65	Chicago and Michigan Fires	1971-1872
Executive (DMB)	RG-44	1	65	Minnesota Fire	1894
Executive (DMB)	RG-44	1	65	Northern Michigan Fire	1908-1910
Executive (DMB)	RG-44	1	65	Ontonagon Fire Relief	1896
Executive (DMB)	RG-44	1	65	Upper Peninsula Fire	1906
Executive (DMB)	RG-44	1	65	French Relief	1871
Executive (DMB)	RG-44	1	65	Gratiot County Relief	1859-1860
Executive (DMB)	RG-44	1	65	Hubbard Relief	1895
Executive (DMB)	RG-44	1	65	Hungarian Relief	1850
Executive (DMB)	RG-44	1	65	Indiana Relief	1889
Executive (DMB)	RG-44	1	66	Japan Famine Relief	1906
Executive (DMB)	RG-44	1	66	Johnstown Flood Relief	1889
Executive (DMB)	RG-44	1	66	Kansas Farmers Relief	1857
Executive (DMB)	RG-44	1	66	Lake County Relief	1874
Executive (DMB)	RG-44	1	66	Ohio River Flood Relief	1896
Executive (DMB)	RG-44	1	66	Osceola County Settlers Aid	1870
Executive (DMB)	RG-44	1	66	Russian Famine Relief	1892-1907
Executive (DMB)	RG-44	1	66	St. Clair County Hail Relief	1889
Executive (DMB)	RG-44	1	66	Upper Peninsula Miners Aid	1893-1895

Executive (DMB)	RG-44	1	152	Civil War Bounties	1866-1910
Executive (DMB)	RG-44	1	220-225	Spanish War Veterans Relief	1899
Executive (DMB)	RG-44	1	232	Fire Relief Commission	1881-1882
Executive (DMB)	RG-44	1	232	Italian Earthquake	1909
Executive (DMB)	RG-44	1	232	Kansas Immigrants Relief	1859
Executive (DMB)	RG-44	1	233	Oakland and Lapeer Tornado	1899
Executive (DMB)	RG-44	1	233	Ontonagon Fire Relief	1899
Executive (DMB)	RG-44	1	233	Russian Relief	1892
Executive (DMB)	RG-48	1	34	Soldier's Bonus	1923
Executive (DMB)	RG-48		35	Civil War Bounty	1923
Executive (DMB)	RG-49	1	102	Soldier's Bonus	1929
Executive (DMB)	RG-42	1	115	Federal Subsidies	1943-1946
Executive (DMB)	RG-42		143	Veterans' Bonus	1946
Executive (DMB)	RG-43	1	117	Veterans' Bonus	1947
Executive (DMB)	RG-43		120	Veterans' Bonus	1948
Executive (DMB)	88-269	36	18	Veterans' Bonus	1969
Executive (DMB)	88-269		53	Veterans' Bonus	1970
Executive (DMB)	88-269		93	Veterans' Bonus	1971
Military Affairs	71-112	2	All	Veterans' Bonuses	1922-1949
Military Affairs	84-91	17	All	Veterans' Bonuses	1921-1958
Military Affairs	84-107	18	All	World War I Veterans' Bonus	1921-1932
Military Affairs	85-55	19	All	Korean War Bonus	1955-1958
Military Establishment	59-14	1	V108-109	Bounties to Volunteers	1863-1865
Natural Resources	76-56	64	1	Wildlife Bounties	1971
Natural Resources	87-55	159	1	County Animal Bounties	1903-1947
Social Welfare	53-12	3	1-2	Welfare Relief	1922-1939
Social Welfare	57-30	6	All	Welfare Relief	1930-1945
Social Welfare	58-12	7	All	Welfare Relief	1929-1939
Social Welfare	64-48	11	1	Surplus Food Relief	1954-1956
Social Welfare	67-72	16	All	Surplus Food Relief	1960-1963
Social Welfare	68-129	18	16	Surplus Food Relief	1963-1964
Social Welfare	76-01	36	All	Van Buren County Relief	1931-1954
Treasury	62-48	1	1-2	European Relief	1918-1920
Treasury	62-48		2	Near East Relief	1919
Treasury	62-48		2	Kerns Hotel Fire Relief	1934-1935

Treasury	68-35	7	76	Oscoda-AuSable Fire	1911-1912
Treasury	68-35		76	Gratiot County Famine	1859
Treasury	68-35		96	Soldiers' Bonus	1921-1941

\*Future Farmers of America

\*\* Department of Management and Budget

## Circular No. 1 – Tax Assessment Rolls Tax/Assessment Rolls at the Archives

Tax/assessment rolls usually provide a legal description of the property, date, name of individual, acreage, value of real property (and sometimes personal property), kind of taxes levied (state, county, township, road, school, etc.), amount of tax owed, and remarks.

In the list below, not all townships may be represented for the years given. Because tax/assessment rolls are not easy to reference, anyone seeking information from these records is encouraged to visit the Archives to consult the volumes in person.

COUNTY	RECORD GROUP	INCLUSIVE DATES
ALGER	74-72	1885-1899
ALPENA	84-34	1858-1900
ANTRIM	67-105	1929-1941
BRANCH	91-489	1833-1878
CHARLEVOIX	80-62	1877-1940 (MICROFILMED)
CHARLEVOIX	90-171	1945-1975
CHEBOYGAN	69-45	1860-1889
CHEBOYGAN	75-71	1884-1889
CHIPPEWA	63-41	1849-1880
CLINTON	86-126	1844-1880, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940, 1950, 1960
DELTA	84-64	1881-1900
EATON	65-15	1845-1880, 1900, 1920, 1940
EATON	78-72	1844, 1854, 1860, 1862-1865, 1868-1869, 1874-1875,
EATON	78	1878-1899, 1901-1914, 1919-1921, 1928, 1933, 1945-1948,
EATON	78	1951-1953, 1955
EATON	79-66	1902-1928
EMMET	67-47	1864-1940 (MICROFILMED)
GENESEE	67-81	1844-1881, 1890, 1900, 1927-1940
GENESEE	85-63	1960
GENESEE	92-104	1970
GENESEE	2002-5	1980
GLADWIN	67-39	1875-1895
GOGEBIC	2006-49	1887-1985
GRAND TRAVERSE	84-56	1854-1862
GRAND TRAVERSE	72-84	1950
GRATIOT	80-37	1856-1958
HURON	67-93	1864-65, 1877-78, 1884

HURON	84-115	1869, 1876
INGHAM	80-107	1844-1900
INGHAM	87-79	1905, 1915, 1925, 1935
IONIA	68-25	1840-1900
IONIA	69-37	1883
IONIA	71-134	1910, 1920, 1930, 1940, 1950
IONIA	79-49	1903-1906
IONIA	82-101	1960
ISABELLA	71-145	1863-1865
ISABELLA	72-64	1859-1862, 1866-1880, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940
ISABELLA	72-89	1881-1899, 1901-1909, 1911-1919, 1921-1929, 1931-1939
JACKSON	62-47	1844-1880, 1900, 1920, 1940
JACKSON	96-197	1945, 1955, 1965, 1975
KENT	71-49	1871-1900, 1920, 1940
LAPEER	89-75	1839-1880
LEELANAU	84-56	1859-1900
LIVINGSTON	81-113	1837-1880
LUCE	68-72	1887-1920
MACKINAC	72-137	1858-1883
MACKINAC	80-105	1884-1888
MACKINAC	85-46	1884-1899
MACKINAC	80-106	1889-1939 (MACKINAC ISLAND) (MICROFILM #2082-2087)
MACOMB	39	1838-1870
MANISTEE	71-161	1861-1890, 1942, 1948-1949
MANITOU	72-85	1857-1893
MANITOU	80-62	1857-1893
MANITOU	84-56	1891-1894
MECOSTA	72-45	1859-1880, 1890, 1900, 1910
MISSAUKEE	76-77	1871-1955
MONROE	62-55	1845-1890, 1917-1920
MONTCALM	81-64	1850-1930
NEWAYGO	73-22	1853-1880
NEWAYGO	67-36	1900, 1920, 1940
NEWAYGO	71-99	1950
OAKLAND	37	1841-1871, 1888 (MICROFILM # 9151-9185) (ORIGINALS AT OAKLAND UNIV)
OSCEOLA	82-19	1869-1900
OSCODA	67-40	1885-1910, 1920, 1929-1935
OTTAWA	84-85	1960
PRESQUE ISLE	83-103	1878-1920

ROSCOMMON	63-15	1874-1900, 1920, 1940
SAGINAW	38	1844-1870
ST CLAIR	81-107	1839-1900
SANILAC	67-94	1867-1868, 1872-1873, 1875
SANILAC	71-149	1850-1866, 1869, 1871, 1874, 1876
TUSCOLA	90-156	1854-1955
WASHTENAW	55-22	1837-1871
WASHTENAW	66-4	1940
WEXFORD	85-156	1869-1896, 1900, 1920, 1940, 1960

### TAX/ASSESSMENT ROLLS AT THE REGIONAL REPOSITORIES

COUNTY	RECORD GROUP	INCLUSIVE DATES
ALLEGAN	77-58	1843-1900 (WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIV)
BARRY	67-41	1852-1880, 1900, 1940 (WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIV)
BARRY	71-29	1881 (WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIV)
CALHOUN	69-50	1844-1930 (WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIV)
CALHOUN	79-34	1873-1957 (WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIV)
CASS	70-163	1845-1880 (WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIV)
CASS	72-21	1900, 1920, 1940 (WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIV)
CASS	77-70	1944-1957 (WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIV)
HOUGHTON	77-105	1873-1925 (MICHIGAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIV)
HOUGHTON	82-113	1926-1942 (MICHIGAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIV)
HOUGHTON	86-86	1943-1969 (MICHIGAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIV)
KALAMAZOO	94-396	1844-1970 (WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIV)
KEWEENAW	77-106	1857-1956 (MICHIGAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIV)
MARQUETTE	83-96	1868-1940 (NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIV)
MARQUETTE	89-466	1941-1959 (NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIV)
MIDLAND	77-91	1855-1910 (CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIV)
MUSKEGON	71-40	1844-1858 (WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIV)
MUSKEGON	79-32	1859-1944 (WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIV)
OAKLAND	37	1841-1871 (OAKLAND UNIV)
OTTAWA	71-40	1838-1859 (WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIV)
OTTAWA	71-8	1860-1880, 1900, 1920, 1940 (WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIV)
SAINT JOSEPH	71-8	1831-1940 (WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIV)
VAN BUREN	69-12	1838-1840 (WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIV) (MICROFILM)
VAN BUREN	70-54	1854-1869, 1900, 1920 (WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIV)
WAYNE	70-54	1840-1870 (BURTON COLLECTION)