

TRI RIVER MUSEUM NETWORK

Mission Statement: To provide collaborative support to the small museums within the Tri River Area while recognizing the unique qualities of each museum.

Chairperson: Sally Johnson (srjohnson4@charter.net)

Secretary/Treasurer: Marian Bolhuis (616-676-2426)

2011 Brochure Designed by:

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**CAN YOU FIND
THIS ITEM IN ONE
OF THE MUSEUMS
ON THE TOUR?
CAN YOU GUESS
WHAT IT IS? CAN
YOU GUESS WHAT
IT IS MADE OF?
HAPPY HUNTING!**

In 2011 many of the museums will have special displays or events commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War. Check with your local museum for more information.

*Spring into the Past....
with a Tour of
West Michigan's Small Museums*

April 30th and May 1st, 2011

Saturday & Sunday

11am to 5pm

- **Alton Historic Church Museum**
- **Averill Historical Museum of Ada**
- **Belding Museum - Belrockton Dormitory**
- **Boston-Saranac Depot - Museum**
- **Bowne Township Historical Society**
- **Cascade Historical Society**
- **Cedar Springs Museum**
- **Charlton Park & Village - Hastings**
- **Clarksville/Campbell Historical Society**
- **Fallasburg Historical Village & School House**
- **Fighting Falcon Museum**
- **Flat River Historical Museum**
- **Freeport Historical Society**
- **Grafton Township Historical Society**
- **Ionia County Historical Society - Blanchard House & Museum**
- **Ionia Free Fair Antique Village**
- **Lake Odessa Historical Museum**
- **Lowell Area Historical Museum**
- **Lyons Muir Historical Museum**
- **Oakfield Pioneer Heritage Museum**
- **Pine Forest Museum**
- **Portland Area Historical Society**

The listed Museums, located along the Flat River, Grand River and Thornapple River, provide support to each other in the Tri River area. They all invite you to come visit. Each Museum has unique qualities and we invite you to visit and enjoy a time of remembering and learning.



The Alton Historic Church Museum

2780 Lincoln Lake Ave NE, Lowell Michigan
49331. Phone: 616.745.0976

At the intersection of Lincoln Lake road and 3 Mile Ave, just 5 miles north of Lowell, lies the village of Alton. The bare crossroads today give but one clue to the thriving village that once existed. Here, where once the first log school

house in Vergennes township once stood, stands the historic Alton church building, surrounded by cemetery. The Alton church, owned by the community, housed numerous church congregations through the years, and is now home to displays highlighting the village in it's peak during the 1880's and 90's. Families fleeing the Canadian rebellion of 1838 settled the Alton village. The village grew steadily over time, until the 1890's, when the village saw a great immigration of Swiss settlers. It later declined as the railroad passed the village by. The Alton Historic Church museum is open from 2 -4 p.m. of the first Sunday, May - August. To celebrate SPRING INTO THE PAST, we will have a special program on both days at 3:00pm, and we will end with an Old fashioned hymn sing with historical vignettes!

Website: www.commoncorners.com/kent/kent_alton.htm.

Email: altonchurchmuseum@yahoo.com

Averill Historical Museum of Ada

7144 Headley Street, PO Box 741

Ada Michigan 49301. Phone: 616.676.9346

The Averill Historical Museum of Ada is located across from the Post Office. The Museum features exhibits and photographs unique to Ada, Michigan, which tell about the life of the early settlers, including Rix Robinson who took over the established trading post in 1821. Adjacent to the Museum is a wonderful red barn which has been restored and displays many farm implements as well as a restored buggy from days gone by. On the grounds you will also find a farm garden and lovely flower beds. **Open Friday and Saturday 1:00 - 4:00pm March thru December. (Closed January and February). Open other times by appointment.**

Website: www.adahistoricalsociety.org



Oakfield Pioneer Heritage Museum

11009 Podunk Avenue NE, Greenville MI 48838

Phone: 616.874.6271 and 616.874.8434

The Museum is located in a building that was once the meeting place for the "Gleaners". This historic building was restored and now houses many photographs and artifacts of area businesses, churches, schools and families. Prominent exhibits include the White Swan School display with the original bell and flag holder and a mailman's delivery sleigh. The upper floor of this historic building has the original raised stage with backdrops and advertising sideboards. A highlight of the kitchen area is a Stevens Dishwashing Machine patented in 1886. Genealogical material available. **The Museum is open to the public the second and fourth Sunday from May through September from 2 to 4pm.**

Website: commoncorners.com/oakfield



Pine Forest Museum

402 East Home Street, Edmore Michigan 48829

Phone: 989-427-3843 or 989-427-5801

Take a fantasy filled stroll back through the wonders of America gone by and visit Edmore's museum. Opened in 1983, the museum is located in the former Our Savior's Lutheran Church. A couple of the more exotic exhibits include Victorian jewelry made from hair and a glass bookcase owned by a former State Treasurer of Illinois - a close personal friend of Abraham Lincoln. **Museum Opens the first Sunday of each month from May to Oct. and every Thur. from 2-4. Also open by appointment.**

Email: frankon@cmsinter.net or wshirley2@frontier.com or opawsome@aol.com

Portland Area Historical Society, Portland City Hall

259 Kent Street, Portland MI 48875. Phone: 517-647-2231

The Portland Area Historical Society will be showcasing two high-quality lines of furniture made in this small community where the Grand and Looking Glass Rivers come together. In the early 20th century, the Ramsey-Alton Company specialized in their Oak-Craft brand of Mission-style seat rockers, chairs and settees. The company turned out product that received substantial approval not only in the states but also in foreign countries. In 1919, the Ypsilanti-Reed Company moved a branch of its operation into the former Ramsey-Alton building. Headquartered in Ionia, the company made wonderful reed furniture and employed approximately 400 people at its Portland Plant. The exhibition will be held on the second floor of the Portland City Hall this year.

Lake Odessa Area Historical Society & Depot Museum

1117 Emerson Street, Lake Odessa MI 48849
Phone: 616.374.7518 or 616.374.8420



The Lake Odessa Area Historical Society began in 1968 with the purpose of preserving and representing the history of the Lake Odessa area. This beautiful onion-dome depot was built by the D.L. & N. Railway in 1888 and was moved to its present location 100 years later. After extensive restoration, the depot opened to the public in 1995. The depot complex also offers a replica Freight house and the historic Hosford house. **It is open to the public the last full weekend of each month. Saturday, 10am to 2pm and Sunday 2pm to 5 pm and for special events and tours.**



Lowell Area Historical Museum

325 West Main Street. Lowell Michigan 49331
Phone: 616.897.7688

The Museum is located in the historic Graham home, built in 1873. It features permanent galleries surrounding the founding and early history of the Lowell area, its industry and retailing and the Lowell Showboat. In addition a Victorian Dining Room, Parlor, Porch with Garden and a Special Exhibits Gallery which changes annually creates a wonderful visitor experience. The Museum will have guided tours of this event. Genealogical material available. **The Museum is also open to the public throughout the year on Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays 1 to 4pm and on Thursdays 1 to 8pm.** Website: www.lowellmuseum.org Email: history@lowellmuseum.org

Lyons-Muir Historical Museum

311 E Bridge Street, Lyons Michigan
Phone: 616.527.2436 or 989.855.2271



The Lyons-Muir Historical Museum is located in a historic store front that was once the home of the Lyons Herald, a weekly newspaper serving the City of Lyons. Open since 1987, the Museum has exhibits depicting the history of the Lyons-Muir area. Of particular significance is their extensive collection of graduating class photographs from both the Lyons and Muir schools. **June, July, August on Sundays from 1-4. The Museum is open throughout the year by appt.**



Belding Museum – Belrockton Dormitory

108 Hanover Street, Belding Michigan 48809
Phone: 616.794.0126

The Belding Museum is located in the historic Belrockton Dormitory, at 108 Hanover Street. It was built in 1906 when Belding was known as the “Silk Capital of the World.” The Belrockton provided the housing needed for the large number of single women employed at the silk mills. **The museum occupies three floors of the Belrockton and is open to the public on the first Sunday of each month 1 to 4pm.** Visitors may tour a Victorian garden on the grounds and tour the museum to see an exciting glimpse of Belding’s past!



Boston-Saranac Historical Depot Museum

Bridge Street at the Grand River
PO Box 565, Saranac Michigan 48881
Phone: 616.693.2730 or 616.642.9472

Built in 1907, the Boston-Saranac Depot served the Grand Trunk Railroad. Moved to its present location in 1994, it is now home to the Boston-Saranac Historical Depot Museum. The Depot not only features the history of the Depot, but the history of the Saranac area. Adjacent to the Museum is a Grand Trunk caboose, which will also be open for viewing at this event. The Depot Museum is open to the public from May through September on the second and fourth Sundays from 1 to 4pm. Our gift shop will be open and we will have delicious homemade baked goods for sale.

Bowne Township Historical Society – Museum, Carriage Shed and School House

84th & Alden Nash (M-50), PO Box 35
Alto Michigan 49302, Phone: 616.868.6424



Bowne Township was first settled in 1836. In 1849 Bowne Township elected its first officers. Our township is an agricultural community and for the most part has remained that way over the last 150 years. Our museum is working to preserve the agricultural, residential, and commercial integrity of the community so that future generations can appreciate the past and discover the work that has been done to keep it the wonderful place that it is today. The museum and carriage shed are filled with a multitude of artifacts that have been donated or loaned to us. The school house is full of memorabilia from the eight schools that were once in Bowne Township. Our museums are open the first Sunday of the month from June through September from 2 to 4pm and by appointment. Website: www.bownetwp.org. E-mail: srjohnson4@charter.net

Cascade Historical Society

Mailing address: 2865 Thornhills SE
Building address: 2839 Thornapple River Drive
Grand Rapids Michigan 49546
Twp Phone: 616.949.1500

Township founded in 1848. Cascade Township Hall built in 1898. History group formed in 1974. History book published in 1987. State Historical registry in 1998. Building and gardens located on Thornapple River Drive—East of Cascade Road.



Cedar Springs Museum

60 Cedar Street, Cedar Springs Mi. 49319, Located in Morley Park. Museum: 616.696.3335, Other contacts: Sharon Jett 696.3042, Tanya Eldred 696.3533

The Cedar Springs Museum is a historical museum dedicated to collecting, preserving and presenting our local history to the commu-

nity. Displays include a turn of the century kitchen, parlor, a general store as well as a railroad display and much more. The museum also hosts a wonderful genealogical library with microfilms, many Michigan histories and family histories. Come in and let us help you trace your family tree. Another special feature of the museum is our completely restored turn of the century one room school open to visitors and available to classrooms looking for an authentic experience.

Web: cedarspringsmuseum.org. **Email:** csmuseum@wingsisp.com

Charlton Park

2545 S. Charlton Park Road, Hastings Michigan 49058. Phone: 269.945.3775, Fax: 269.945.0390

Historic Charlton Park encompasses over 300 acres with its historic village, museum and recreation area. The park is a product of the vision and work of Irving Delos Charlton. In 1936, he donated land to Barry County for the purpose of building a museum and recreation facility for area residents. During his lifetime, Charlton collected thousands of artifacts, most of which form the core of our current collection. The historic village began in 1969 and was recreated to portray a typical rural Michigan village at the turn-of-the-century, as well as house Charlton's extensive collection. The park utilizes buildings such as the one room schoolhouse, general store, township hall and stagecoach stop, in order to bring history alive for you!



Grattan Township Historical Society

12040 Old Belding Rd., Belding, MI 48809,
Phone: 616.691.6504 or 616.691.7162

The Grattan Township Historical Society was founded in 1984 to preserve the history of Grattan. The Grattan Museum was dedicated on July 5, 1987. The Museum is housed in an historic structure built in 1853 as a Methodist Episcopal Church at Steele's Corners. The church was moved to Grattan Center on log rollers in 1906. In 1930, the church building was sold to Grattan Township and used as the Township Hall until 1971. The building was completely remodeled and became the Historical Museum in 1987. In 1999, the Museum building was moved again to its current location adjacent to the Township Hall. The Museum contains exhibits on area schools, churches, local wildlife, Native Americans, household items, and farm life. There is also a growing genealogy collection. **The Museum is open to the public from 2:00 to 4:00 pm every Sunday from May through October and by appointment.**

Ionia County Historical Society—Blanchard House & Museum

251 East Main Street, Ionia Michigan 48846
Phone: 616.527.3369

This fine example of Italianate styling has remained structurally unchanged since 1880. The Blanchard House is veneered with pink variegated Ionia sandstone. One will appreciate the full acre lot on which it stands, with a running creek on the west. It deserves its affectionate Spanish name "La Palistina" - Delightful Home. The Blanchard House is beautifully decorated in period furnishings that have been donated by residents of Ionia County. The basement houses historical exhibits representing the unique and interesting history of our community. **The Blanchard House is open to the public on Sundays in June, July and August from 1 to 4pm. It is also available for special group meetings, weddings and tours.**



Ionia Free Fair Antique Village

They will not be participating in the tour but you can visit them at the Ionia Free Fair July 21-30, 2011

Flat River Historical Museum

213 N Franklin Street, PO Box 188
Greenville Michigan 48838
Phone: 616.754.5296



The Flat River Historical Museum stands on the most historic site in Greenville. It was here that John Green, of Fulton County, New York, chose to build his cabin in 1844; and with the help of his brother-in-law and nephews, constructed a dam across the Flat River and built a sawmill. With a vast forest of white pine on the North bank of the river the history of Danes in Michigan began. **Open on Saturdays and Sundays 2:00-4:30 p.m. Tours are available upon request.**



Freeport Historical Society

127 Warren Street, Freeport Michigan 49325
Phone: 616.765.8511

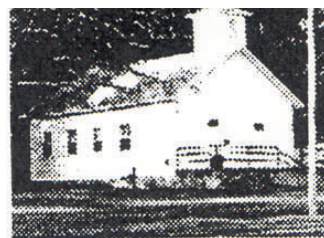
Freeport, on the Little Thornapple (Coldwater River) in northern Barry County boasts the oldest continuously operated wooden handle factory in Michigan. The Museum is behind the Post Office. It exhibits early 1800 - 1900's ways of life on the two floors and basement. **The Museum is open Tuesdays from 9-12 and posted times and by appointment. Closed for winter. Contact Christy at the News Office during the winter for appointments or information.**

Clarksville/Campbell Historical Society

Papa Cs, 109 North Main St., Clarksville on
Saturday & Sunday during Spring Into Past, from 1
to 5 pm.
Contact: 616-868-7255



Clarksville/Campbell Historical Society does not have a museum but will have a display case located in Papa C's Pizza and Sub shop in Clarksville during the weekend of the Spring Into the Past museum tour. As the sub shop does not open until later in the day, you can call the contact number for more information. The historical society is currently collecting information on local barns, businesses and Civil War veterans. They also have a collection of old newspapers.



Fallasburg Historical Village & School House

13944 Covered Bridge Road, Lowell Michigan
49331
www.fallasburg.org

This little village, listed on the National Historic Register, has been passed by with the changes of time over the last 150 years. The old one room school house and two museums are open to the public. We have demonstrations and other surprises planned for our visitors. So come, drive over the Covered Bridge, step back in time, and join us as we share with our history and the village of Fallasburg. We guarantee this is a visit worth making!

Fighting Falcon Museum

516 W Cass Street, Greenville Michigan 48838
Phone: 616.225.1940

The Fighting Falcon Museum displays a restored glider like the one depicted in the movie Saving Private Ryan. The Museum is housed in a 100 year old school building and exhibits showcase the Gibson Refrigerator Company, Greenville Schools and the military men and women of the area. **Open Sundays from 2 to 4pm.**



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14. Grattan Township Historical Society
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18. Lyons-Muir Historical Museum
19. Oakfield Pioneer Heritage Museum
20. Portland Area Historical Society
21. Pine Forest Museum

