



Historic Charlton Park

Turn-of-the-Century Village
Education Programs
Swimming & Boat Launch
Special Events

Father's Day Car Show Old-Fashioned 4th of July
Gas & Steam Show Civil War Muster
Walk-in-the-Spirit Pow Wow Of Christmas Past

300 acres of rolling terrain, river, and lake frontage surround our historic village and recreation area offering you a chance to step back in time.

FREE ADMISSION



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Pioneer Heritage Museum:

Furniture Shed-floorcoverings, storage
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Greenville Car Centre-
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Halfway Restaurant-good food, friends
Mootsies- RV supplies/repairs
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Lowell Area Historical Museum

The Lowell Area Historical Museum offers unique
Victorian Rooms and Garden for that special
occasion, using the beauty of an 1870s setting.

Facility Rental - For reservations and information

325 W. Main St., Lowell, MI 49331

616 897 7688 - www.lowellmuseum.org

history@lowellmuseum.org - facebook

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TOUR WEST MICHIGAN'S SMALL MUSEUMS

The Tri River museum Network invite you to come and visit our participating museums located along the Flat, Grand and Thornapple Rivers. Each museum has unique qualities and we invite you to enjoy a time of remembering and learning.

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





The Alton Historic Church Museum

2780 Lincoln Lake Ave NE, Lowell MI 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/ Ada Historical Society

7144 Headley Street, PO Box 741

Ada, Michigan 49301. 616.676.9346

The Ada Historical Society, formed in 1974, maintains the Averill Historical Museum of Ada.

The museum opened in 1999 and is located across

from the Ada Post Office. Life-long Ada resident, Frank Averill, donated a home built in the 1870's to be used as a museum by the Historical Society. The museum showcases a wide variety of exhibits and artifacts spanning nearly two centuries of Ada history. The collections are rich with images of Ada's past. The museum grounds also feature a late 19th century barn and adjacent farm garden. The Society is dedicated to preserving and promoting the unique heritage of Ada Township. Open Friday and Saturday 1:00-4:00 pm, March through December, or by

appointment. Website: www.AdaHistoricalSociety.org.

Email: AdaHistoricalSociety@gmail.com



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!

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



The Old Fence Rider Historical Center

S of M-46 on Sheldon St., PO Box 451, Edmore, MI

Phone: 989-427-1032 or 989-506-2634.

Located in Historic Edmore, the Old Fence Rider Historical Center hosts displays and presentations that started out as the personal collection of Carm Drain who is the curator and it boasts: Historic Headlines, Flags of United States History, Barb Wire

that Fenced the West, a 1920 Gas station, a 1939 Telephone Office and much more. Admission by donation.

Pine Forest Historical 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 Open May to Oct. every Thur. from 2-4. Also open by appointment. Email: frakon@cmsinter.net or wshirley2@frontier.com



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)

2012 Brochure Designed by: Betsy Davidson – Addorio Technologies, LLC

6749 E. Fulton Street, Suite B#222, Ada, MI 49301

Phone: 616.293.3206 Email: betsy@addorio.com

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 July 19-28, 2012
 **Antique Village**
 Join us for displays,
 demonstrations and entertainment.

Cedar Springs Museum
 Visit our genealogy library!
 Historical Displays: RR, general store,
 military & more
 Open: 10-5 every Wed. & special programs




Boston-Saranac Historical Depot Museum
 Bridge Street at the Grand River, PO Box 565, Saranac MI 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 Sept 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 Commission – Museum, Carriage Shed and School House

84th & Alden Nash (M-50), PO Box 35, Alto MI 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 Fall thru Nov: Sat 10am-4pm Sun 1pm-4pm. Spring beginning May: Sat 10am-4pm Sun 1pm-4pm. Summer Friday 10am-4pm Saturday 10am-4pm. Also by appointment 616-890-6740. Website: www.bownetwp.org. E-mail: srjohnson4@charter.net



Cascade Historical Society

Mailing: 2865 Thornhills SE. Building: 2839 Thornapple River Dr, Grand Rapids MI 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. The Cedar Springs Museum is a historical museum dedicated to collecting, preserving and presenting our local history to the community. 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



HISTORIC CHARLTON PARK

Charlton Park

2545 S. Charlton Park Road, Hastings MI 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!

Clarksville/Campbell Historical Society

Papa Cs, 109 North Main St., Clarksville

Phone: 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 MI 49331

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! Website: www.fallasburg.org

Fighting Falcon Museum

516 W Cass Street, Greenville MI 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.**



 PAPA C'S PIZZERIA & ICE CREAM SHOPPE 109 North Main Clarksville, MI 48815 (616) 693-0058 Monday - Thursday 11:00am - 10:00pm Friday & Saturday - 11:00am - 11:00pm Sunday - 12:00pm - 10:00pm OWNERS - GARY & JOYCE CALLAHAN	CASCADE GALLERY FINE ART/UNIQUE CRAFTS/CUSTOM FRAMING 2840 Thomapple River Dr. SE Grand Rapids, MI 49546 Ph 616.949.4056 Fx 616.954.2991 Mon-Fri. 10-5:30 Sat. 10-3 cascadeartgallery@sbcglobal.net Heritage Collection - pre 1900 paintings & engravings
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“SPRING INTO THE PAST”

MAY 5 AND 6, 2012

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY FROM 11AM TO 5PM

with

THE TRI RIVER HISTORICAL MUSEUM NETWORK

The museums of the Tri River area will hold their annual open house weekend in May.

Visit as many of these museums as you can and discover the history of your family, neighborhood or take a walk into the past to see what life was like before all of today's modern technology.

Each museum will have special displays or fun events during these two days.

All the museums listed in this brochure (except for Ionia Free Fair Antique Village) participate in this annual event.

Admission is free for these two days.

Contact any of these museums for further details.

If you can't visit all the museums this year, you can visit the rest next year. May 4th and 5th in 2013



Ionia Free Fair Antique Village

They will not be participating in the tour but you can visit them at the Ionia Free Fair in 2012.

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. See our new addition! **June, July, August on Sundays from 1-4. Open throughout the year by appt.**



Flat River Historical Museum

213 N Franklin Street, PO Box 188, Greenville MI 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 MI 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.**



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 MI 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.**



1. Alton Historic Church Museum
2. Averill Historical Museum of Ada/Ada Historical Society
3. Belding Museum - Belrockton Dormitory
4. Boston-Saranac Depot Museum
5. Bowne Township Historical Commission - Museum & School House
6. Cascade Historical Society
7. Cedar Springs Museum
8. Charlton Park Museum & Village
9. Clarksville/Campbell Historical Society
10. Fallasburg Historical Village & School House
11. Fighting Falcon Museum
12. Flat River Historical Museum
13. Freeport Historical Society
14. Grattan Township Historical Society
15. Ionia County Historical Society & Ionia Free Fair Antique Village
16. Lake Odessa Area Historical Society & Depot Museum
17. Lowell Area Historical Museum
18. Lyons-Muir Historical Museum
19. Oakfield Pioneer Heritage Museum
20. The Old Fence Rider Historical Center
21. Pine Forest Museum

