

Michigan Resources

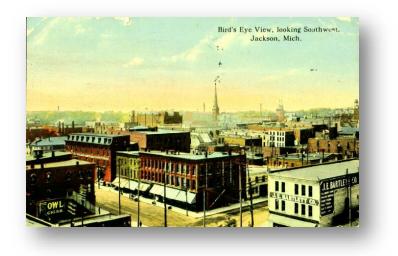
Family History Sources in the Wolverine State



Michigan History

Michigan's rich bounty of natural resources has attracted people for thousands of years. Native Americans, the French, and the British were drawn to Michigan for its rich soil, mineral resources, timber, wildlife, as well as its strategic position in controlling the Great Lakes.

Several Native American tribes have called Michigan "home." These include the Delaware, Fox,



Menominee, Miami, Odawa (Ottawa), Ojibwe (Chippewa), Potawatomi, and Wyandot (Huron).

The French were the first Europeans to explore Michigan, beginning around 1620. In 1668 Jesuit missionary Père Jacques Marquette founded Sault Ste. Marie, the first permanent European settlement in Michigan. In 1671, Marquette also founded St. Ignace. The Jesuits used Sault Ste. Marie and St. Ignace as bases for their missionary work with local Native Americans.

Michigan's position on the Great Lakes made it a prime spot of contention between England and France, each of which sought to control the region. Around 1715 the French constructed Fort Michilimackinac at present-day Mackinaw City. It was originally a base to organize the trade and trapping networks, but its position on the Straits of Mackinac proved valuable from a military standpoint. Though the British technically ceded Michigan at the close of the American Revolution in 1783, in actuality, England maintained control until 1796.

The copper and iron ore mines in the Upper Peninsula attracted Cornish miners beginning in the 1840s. Scandinavians and Italians miners joined them later. German and Dutch immigrants began arriving in Michigan the late 1840s, due in part to the efforts of Michigan's Office of Foreign Emigration encouraging their settlement. Michigan began another push for German immigrants in 1869. This effort was so successful in bringing in German and Swedish immigrants that it was feared they were taking too many jobs. Dutch immigrants played a key role in the development in southwestern Michigan.

Detroit's industrial base grew exponentially in the late 19th century and early 20th century, due in part to the labor of immigrants from eastern Europe.

At the close of World War I, African-Americans began migrating from the southern states to the north to find work. Detroit, with its burgeoning factories, became a popular destination in the Great Migration.



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Michigan took territorial and state censuses in various years beginning in 1820. Most name only the head of household.

Michigan first appears in the federal census in 1840. Michigan is also included in the 1850-1880 agriculture schedules, the 1850-1880 industry schedules, the 1870 social statistics schedule and the 1880 special schedule of defectives, dependent and delinquent classes.

Michigan State and Related Censuses Available on Ancestry.com:

- Michigan, Compiled Census and Census Substitutes Index, 1827-1870 (includes an index of the 1827 Territorial census and the 1845 state census, among others)
- Michigan, State Census, 1894
- <u>Selected U.S. Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-</u> <u>1880 (includes the agriculture, industry, and social statistics</u> schedule)
- U.S. Federal Census 1880 Schedules of Defective, Dependent, and Delinguent Classes

Significant Dates (through 1967)

1668 – Jesuits begin a mission to Native Americans at Sault Ste. Marie. This becomes the first permanent European settlement in Michigan.
1701 – French army officer Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac establishes a settlement at present-day Detroit.

Circa 1715 - The French construct Fort Michilimackinac at present-day Mackinaw City.

1762 – Michigan comes under British control after the French and Indian War.

1763 – Pontiac, an Ottawa chief, leads a confederation of Native American tribes in attacks against British settlements in southern Michigan.

- 1781 The British construct a limestone fort on Mackinac Island.
- **1796** U.S. forces take the fort at Detroit from the British.
- **1800** Land in present-day Michigan is included in the Indiana Territory.
- 1805 Michigan Territory formed; Detroit is the capital.
- 1812 British take Fort Mackinac. Governor Hull surrenders Detroit to the British.
- **1813** Battle of the River Raisin.
- 1815 British cede control of Mackinac Island and Drummond Island to the United States.
- **1817** University of Michigan, the oldest university in the state, is founded.

Population	
1800	3,757
1810	4,762
1820	7,452
1830	28,004
1840	212,267
1850	397,654
1860	749,113
1870	1,184,059
1880	1,636,937
1890	2,093,890
1900	2,420,982
1910	2,810,173
1920	3,668,412
1930	4,842,325
1940	5,256,106
1950	6,371,766
1960	7,823,194

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– The Treaty of Saginaw forces the Ojibwe, Ottawa and Potawatomi to cede land in much of the central portion of the Lower Peninsula.

– The 1821 Treaty of Chicago forces the Ojibwe, Ottawa and Potawatomi to cede land south of the Grand River and around the southern coast of Lake Michigan. Some small reservations within this area were set aside.

– The Erie Canal opens, which spurs a wave of migration from New York and New England.

1835-1836 – The Michigan Territory and the state of Ohio dispute their boundary. Though known as the Toledo War, no battles actually occurred. In the end, Ohio was granted the land in dispute (including the port at Toledo) and Michigan received the Upper Peninsula.

– The Treaty of Washington causes Ottawa and Ojibwe to cede much of the northwest Lower Peninsula and the eastern Upper Peninsula, more than 1/3 of the state.

1837 – Michigan becomes the 26th state on 26 January. Detroit is named as the temporary capital.

– State penitentiary opens at Jackson.

Mid-1840s – Copper boom in the Upper Peninsula.

– Iron ore discovered in the Upper Peninsula.

– Michigan opens the Office of Foreign Emigration in New York to encourage immigrants to settle in Michigan.

– Capital moves from Detroit to Lansing.

– Dutch Calvinist separatists establish the town of Holland.

– Locks open at Sault Ste. Marie, making it possible for ships to clear the rapids that connect Lake Superior and Lake Huron.

– The Agricultural College of the State of Michigan (now Michigan State University) becomes the first land grant college in the U.S.

– Seventh Day Adventists open the Western Health Reform Institute at Battle Creek.

1867 – Women owning property could vote in school elections.

—Great Michigan Fire damages towns including Holland, Manistee, and Port Huron on same night as Great Chicago Fire and the Peshtigo Fire (Wisconsin).

– The Huron Fire kills 282 people; it becomes the first natural disaster that the American Red Cross responds to.

1899 – Henry Ford builds his first car at Highland Park (near Detroit).

– Full vote extended to women.

– Dr. Ossian Sweet, an African-American, moves into a predominately white neighborhood in

Detroit. An angry mob descends upon the house one night; one bystander is killed in the gunfire. Dr.

Sweet, represented by Clarence Darrow, was tried and acquitted in the man's death.

– The Detroit-Windsor Tunnel opens.

1935 – Detroit Tigers win the World Series, the Detroit Lions win the National Football League title, and the Detroit Red Wings win the Stanley Cup.

– Sit-down strike at the General Motors plant in Flint.

– The Mackinac Bridge opens, connecting the upper and lower peninsulas.

– Detroit Riot results in 43 dead, nearly 1,200 people injured and more than 2,000 buildings destroyed.



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Michigan Vital Records

Civil birth and death records began to be recorded in 1867, though general compliance did not occur until the early 1900s. Civil marriage records begin with the creation of the county.

Michigan Vital Records on Ancestry.com

- Michigan, Births and Christenings Index, 1867-1911
- Michigan, Deaths, 1971-1996
- Michigan, Deaths and Burials Index, 1867-1995
- Michigan, Death Records, 1897-1920
- Web: Michigan Find A Grave Index, 1805-2012

Other State Resources

- Archives of Michigan
 - o Seeking Michigan
- Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library
- Historical Society of Michigan
- Library of Michigan
 - <u>Family History</u>
- Michigan Genealogical Council
 - Michigan Genealogical and Historical Societies
- <u>MIGenWeb</u>

Other Collections

- Michigan Passenger and Crew Lists, 1903-1965
- <u>U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989</u> (Use the browse box in the upper right corner to determine what directories are available for your ancestor's area. If they lived in a rural area, check to see if that area was included with a larger city in the vicinity.)

Help and Advice

- Michigan Family History Research
- Michigan County Resources
- Map of Michigan

View all Michigan collections on Ancestry.com