

Museums of Cass County, Michigan

are scattered throughout the county. Each offers unique experiences to make the past and present come alive.



Cass County Building, Cassopolis
Site of Freedom Road marker



Marcellus VFW Military Museum

Learn and enjoy!

This brochure was developed by the Cass County Historical Commission



Newton House is a furnished, restored, mid-1800s Quaker home in Russ Forest. Forest and house owned by Michigan State University. House is shown and maintained by the Cass County Historical Comm. Open 1-4:30 p.m. the first Sunday, May-October and by appointment.

20689 Marcellus Hwy, Decatur



The Edwardsburg Museum features area history and has a fine photo and clock collection in the original boarding house and replica of the Sherman Hotel. Special exhibits monthly and annual events.

JoAnn Boepple 269-663-8408
Mon. – Fri. 1 – 4 p.m.; Sat. 10-2.
26818 Main Street, Edwardsburg



The Museum at Southwestern Michigan College features four major exhibits in local history. The museum features artifacts and interactive components exploring the history of the area, including a model railroad, the Round Oak Stove Works, local history-makers, and entertainment of the last 150 years.

Tues. – Fri. 10 – 5 and Sat. 11 – 3
269-782-1374
58900 Cherry Grove Rd, Dowagiac
www.swmich.edu/museum



The Pioneer Log Cabin Museum is a replica of Abram Tiestort, Jr.'s cabin and is crammed full of artifacts from the early days of Cass County. It was built in 1923 with logs donated by area farmers.

Memorial Day – Labor Day; Fri. - Sun. 12 – 4:30 p.m.

Contact phone: 269-445-2965

S. Broadway on shore of Stone Lake, Cassopolis



The Original Old Rugged Cross Church and Memorial Garden is where the final version of world-famous hymn was first performed at a revival meeting in 1913. Call for appointment April – November

269-683-4540

60041 Vermont St. in Pokagon off M - 51

www.the-oldruggedcross.org



The Heddon Museum exhibits and preserves the history of James Heddon's Sons Fishing Tackle Company and the family's contributions to local history and the world. Free admission

Tues. 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.; last Sun. of month 1:30 – 4 p.m. and by appointment. 269-782-5698

414 West Street, Dowagiac

heddonmuseum@lyonsindustries.com



The Edward Lowe Foundation Information Center offers self-guided, historical exhibits that feature Ed Lowe's business ventures and initiatives to support entrepreneurship. Center is open Mon. – Fri. 9 – 4 except holidays: 269-445-4200 or heidi@lowe.org From May – Oct Foundation property tours available: 10 – 5 on Wed. Contact Nancy Cleveland 269-445-4200

58220 Decatur Road, Cassopolis
www.edwardlowe.org

Between the American Revolution and Gulf War, more than 26 million men and women have served our country in wartime. Nearly 900,000 never came home. By the items in this building, may we never forget them and what they went through.

"Lest We Forget" the V.F.W. Post 4054 has a military museum displaying artifacts and memorabilia from the Civil War to the War in Iraq. Tanks and a Vietnam Huey Helicopter are on display outside.

Tues. – Fri. 3 – 9 p.m.; Sat. – Sun Noon – 8 p.m.
 269-646-3498 .

53550 M – 40 south of Marcellus.
www.VFW4054.org



Enter Brick School to step back in time and experience education in a one-room, rural school complete with old books, furniture, maps. Open by appointment during the summer months.

Contact phone: 269-445-2907
 63600 Brick Church Street, Cassopolis

Historic Markers in Cass County – not mentioned inside:

- Original Howard Township Hall - corner of Huntley Street and Barron Lake Road
- Hopewelleian Mounds and Sumnerville Cemetery – west off M-51 on Pokagon Highway
- Church of the Sacred Heart – 51817 Leach Street in Silver Creek Township, north of Dowagiac
- St. Paul's Church – 306 Courtland St., Dowagiac
- Poe's Corners – Intersection of Patterson Hill Road and Born Street southwest of Marcellus
- Smith's Chapel and Cemetery – Redfield Road between Brush and Fir Roads, west of Edwardsburg
- First Presbyterian Church – 68961 Lake St., Edwardsburg
- Mason District #5 Schoolhouse – 17049 U. S. 12 between Edwardsburg and Union



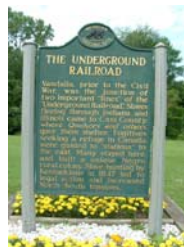
Mason District # 5 School



Smith's Chapel

Underground Railroad Sites

- Chain Lake Baptist Church and Cemetery Chain Lake Road northeast of Calvin Center
- Freedom Road marker commemorating the 1847 fugitive slave raid. Parking lot entrance to Cass - County Building corner of Broadway and State Street in Cassopolis.
- Stephen Bogue House – Home of Quaker who employed African Americans and sheltered runaway slaves south of M-60, 3 miles east Cassopolis.
- Underground Railroad marker on south side of M-60 in the village of Vandalia.



Vandalia Underground Railroad marker



Stephen Bogue House between Cassopolis and Vandalia



Kincheloe Memorial

Other Historic Sites

- Kincheloe Memorial – Southwest corner of M-60 and Decatur Road
- Carroll Sherman Jones House-158 Main Street, Marcellus
- G. W. Jones House – 188 West Main Street, Marcellus
- Civil War Monument – M-51 South and Lowe Street in Dowagiac

You are invited to visit one of **Cass County's Parks**. Three of the larger ones with restroom and picnic facilities are:

Russ Forest/Newton's Woods – adjacent to the Newton House on Marcellus Highway

Arthur Dodd Park – Creek Road off Indian Lake Road west of Sumnerville

Lawless Park – South of M-60 onto to Lewis Lake Road; left on Monkey Run Street (east of Vandalia.)



Military Museum



Civil War Monument, Dowagiac

For more information on these sites, as well as detailed driving instructions, refer to a copy of *Historic Tours of Cass County, Michigan*. This 118-page, spiral-bound book features six historical driving tours through Cass County and a county map. Purchase the tour book at the Local History Library, 145 N. Broadway in Cassopolis for \$15. Open Mon – Thurs. 9 - 4 and Sat. a.m.