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Genealogy Research Headquarters

The *Holbrook Heritage Room* in the *Branch County District Library* in Coldwater is your complete genealogy resource destination. Named after Phyllis Holbrook who donated her time to index old newspapers, by name and subject, that were published in Branch County dating back to 1841 through current. Not only does the library offer *Branch County Census Records*, they also can rent any *U.S. Census* information on microfilm. The room also contains old *City Directories*, Books on *Immigrate Ship Listings* and Surname Files, *Index of Early Birth Records*, *Michigan Death Records* and *Branch County Marriage Certificates*. They have an extraordinary collection of Compact Discs on Family Trees. the *Civil War*, *Census Information*, *Michigan Civil War History* as well as donated Family History's and Genealogy's are available in book form. If you are looking for family information, *Branch County District Library* should be the first stop on your journey. This elaborate collection of Branch County and Michigan History is a great starting point to research your heritage.

Coldwater Parks

Heritage Park-	Pavilion-Picnic Tables-Grills-Playground-Ball Fields-Swimming Pool-Tennis Courts-Gym-Volleyball Court-Lighted Sled Hill, Ice Skating Rink-Skate Rental-Walking/Roller Blading Trails-Service Building-Restrooms (517) 278-8566
Jaycee Park-	Picnic Tables-Grills-Playground-Ball Field (517) 278-8566
Jefferson Park-	Picnic Tables-Grills-Ball fields-Tot & Baby Swings-Horseshoe Pits (517) 278-8566
Memorial Park-	Pavilion-Picnic Tables-Grills-Playground-Swimming-Bath House-Restrooms-Boat Launch-Docking Area-Ball Fields-Gate Fee (517) 278-2022 (\$1.00 per car admission)
Optimists Park-	Picnic Tables-Basketball Courts-Playground (517) 278-8566
Parkhurst Park-	Pavilion-Picnic Tables-Grills-Horseshoe Pits-Shuffleboard- <i>Kid's Kingdom</i> Playground-Ball Fields-Restrooms (517) 278-8566
Riverbend Park-	Pavilion-Picnic Tables-Grills-Boat Launch-Hiking-Restrooms (517) 278-2022
Rotary Park-	Picnic Tables-Grills-Boat Launch-Walking Trails-Fishing Dock-Restrooms (517) 278-8566
Waterworks Park-	Pavilion-Picnic Tables-Grills-Tennis Courts-Playground-Ball Fields-Ice Skating-Restrooms (517) 278-8566

SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS:

Battery "A" of the Michigan Light Artillery Regiment Courtesy: Burton Historical Collections

Also at Fort Wayne in May, 1861, was a group of Coldwater men who were training as an artillery unit, known as Loomis' Battery, after their commander, Cyrus Loomis. As Battery A of the Michigan Light Artillery Regiment, it would become one of the state's most famous military units, serving with distinction until war's end, more than four years later.

One of the ten-pounder Parrott guns which the Loomis Battery received in 1861. The gun and caisson were part of a six-gun battery of Company "A" of the First Michigan Light Artillery known as Loomis' Battery which is now serving as a monument to the men of the above company, at the Four Corners Park in Coldwater, Michigan. This gun, with four others of the battery, was captured by Confederate troops in the battle of Chickamauga, 19 September 1863, in which battle Lieut. Van Pelt and thirteen men were killed or wounded, thirteen men missing and forty horses killed.

Harriet Quimby Memorial 1st Female Aviator in U.S.

Harriet Quimby was born in Kinderhook in Branch County May 11, 1875. She achieved recognition as one of the first women reporters for a major newspaper, The San Francisco Call. Harriet Quimby was best known for becoming the first American woman to earn a pilots license. The Harriet Quimby Memorial is located just west of Coldwater at the Branch County Memorial Airport. Books depicting the life of Harriet Quimby may be acquired at the Wing House Museum in Coldwater. For more information call 517-278-2871.

Capri Drive-In Theater Named One of the Top 10 in the Nation

Named one of the top ten in the Nation by the New York Times, The Capri Drive-In is truly a jewel to behold. Go back in time when life moved at a slower pace and enjoyment came from the simple things. This one-of-a-kind family entertainment is slowly dwindling in America, but you can view it for a long time in Coldwater. The Capri shows the latest releases on their 2 Huge screens throughout the summer and fall along with special events and weekly specials. For more information call 517-278-5628.

Wing House Museum

The Wing House Museum is an 1875 mansion filled with beautiful antique furnishings including linens and china. Located on South Jefferson Street in Coldwater it serves as the headquarters for the Branch County Historical Society. For more information please call 517-278-2871 www.BranchCountyHistoricalSociety.org

Hammond House Museum

This stately Greek Revival structure was one of the first fine homes in Union City. It was built a century and a half ago by Deacon Chester Hammond who came west from Smyrna County, New York in 1836. The house was originally part of a two hundred acre tract which Hammond platted in 1837 in anticipation of a proposed extension of the Erie Canal. Hammond's influence on Union City's early development is formidable. Before his death in 1849, he was Union City's first town clerk and an original stock holder in the Union City Iron Co. His wife and children were prominent citizens in their own right.

MIA-POW Military Monument

A tower in memory of Vietnam MIA's & POW's is located on US12 on the north side and west of Quincy, MI. Just 4 miles east of Coldwater. The 20 foot tower is a monument to the memory of US Military personnel who were missing in action or were prisoners of war.

The tower was dedicated in memory of Mike Nash on July 19, 1997, who was the National MIA-POW Chairman of the Vietnam Veterans of America. The tower was built by the local Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 730 of Branch County.

North and South Chains of Lakes

Two chains of connecting waterways can take you through parts of Branch County that can only be seen from the water. The North Chain of Lakes consists of 7 lakes with Messenger Lake on the south end and Craig Lake on the north. The South Chain of 8 connecting lakes starts at the north end in Quincy at First Lake and runs south almost to the Indiana state line on Coldwater Lake. Fishing boats and pontoons can be rented on the north chain at Narrows Resort & Campground (517)279-7225 and Waffle Farm Campground (517)278-4315 or on the south chain at Coldwater Lake Marina (517)238-2777.