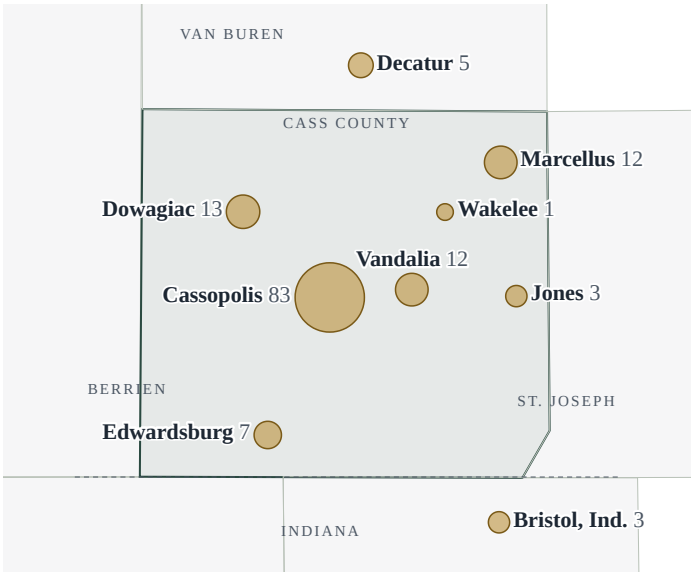
The cabin a county built

In the spring of 1923 the families of Cass County each cut a log from their own woods and hauled it to Cassopolis. In four weeks a two-story cabin stood on the shore of Stone Lake. It was dedicated on 20 June 1923 and first opened as a museum on 18 June 1924.

FIVE THINGS TO LOOK FOR

1. **The logs have names.** The 1923 donor list names a giver for the numbered logs, 144 in all: oak, whitewood, beech, walnut, elm, cherry and more, from all over the county.
2. **Log No. 1.** A 52-foot beech "from the Major Smith Homestead," given by the Major's granddaughter, Mrs. A. N. Armstrong, and her husband.
3. **The fireplace.** Fieldstone, built by Ack Anderson in 1923, with a stick chimney.
4. **The doors.** Black walnut boards already more than seventy-five years old when the cabin was built; the stair rail came from an 1845 barn.
5. **The bird case.** Michigan birds and animals of the 1860s, among them a passenger pigeon.

WHERE THE LOGS CAME FROM



Circles are sized by the number of logs from each post-office town on the 1923 list.

A MUSEUM BEFORE THE MUSEUM

By March 1923 a newspaper said the cabin "is to shelter the historical curios of the county." The Cass County Pioneer Society, founded in 1873, had kept a museum of relics since 1874, in a store and then in a Court House room. A collection shown in the Court House lobby, probably the same one, was moved into the cabin when it opened as a museum in 1924.

DID YOUR FAMILY GIVE A LOG? DO YOU HOLD A PIECE OF THE STORY?

Search the 1923 donor list for your family's name. If you hold a photograph, a letter or a keepsake from those years, we would love to hear about it.

Read the cabin's whole story
projectscroll.com/news/
the-cabin-a-county-built

Read the whole series
projectscroll.com/news/
a-museum-before-there-was-a-museum

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