

Business Awards

- Vail Rubber Works, Inc. • 1920 • St. Joseph
- Hayhoe Asphalt • 1968 • Holt
- Howard & Howard • 1869 • Royal Oak
- Gerlach's Bowling Center • 1919 • Lapeer
- Kinnie Transportation Group • 1918 • Warren
- Caledonia Farmers Elevator Company • 1918 • Caledonia
- Pioneer State Mutual Insurance Company • 1908 • Flint

Organization Awards

- Grand Rapids Public Library • 1871 • Grand Rapids
- Dexter Area Historical Society • 1971 • Dexter
- Russell Island • 1914 • Clinton Township
- Rotary Club of Port Huron • 1920 • Port Huron
- The Allegan County Historical Society • 1961 • Allegan
- Sanford Centennial Museum • 1970 • Sanford

Municipal Awards

- Village of Rogers City • 1871
- Clare County • 1871
- Village of Clare • 1871
- City of Parisville • 1856
- City of Linden • 1871
- Oakland County • 1819
- City of Portland • 1869
- City of Muskegon • 1869
- City of South Haven • 1869



Left: William Rogers, for whom Rogers City was likely named, purchased the land for the village and donated the site for its courthouse. Above and far left: Views of the village along the Lake Huron shore.



Village of Rogers City

Established: 1871

The northeastern Lower Peninsula village of Rogers City was founded by five men from Detroit who wanted to go into the timber business and establish a community to support their endeavors.

The leader of the group was Albert Molitor, a German immigrant who worked for the U.S. Lake Survey office in Detroit. William Rogers was a West Point graduate and Army veteran who became Molitor's partner in the Rogers-Molitor Sawmill Company. Also in the quintet were John Baptiste Raymond, from one of Detroit's old French families; Frederic Denny Larke, who became Molitor's business manager; and J. Paul Mayer, a Lake Survey civilian employee. Numerous descendants of Raymond and Larke live in the area today.

In 1867 and 1868, Molitor purchased a dozen parcels of timberland in Presque Isle County but needed an investor who could buy land for a village and purchase a sawmill. Rogers filled that need, relying in part on the wealth of his uncle, who was a prosperous citizen of Philadelphia.

After an unsuccessful attempt to purchase the lumbering village of Crawford's Quarry, Rogers and Molitor found a nearby site owned by a Detroit land speculator, John Winder. After nearly a year of negotiating, Winder sold the 96.8-acre parcel, the purchase of which was finalized on November 27, 1869. Rogers paid approximately \$290, or about \$3 per acre.

A plat for the town was filed in July 1871. No information exists on how the community's name was chosen, but perhaps it reflected William Rogers' critical financial investments. Rogers donated land in the center of the community for the construction of a courthouse.

A few years later, local officials were informed that Rogers City was not a city, and it became the village of Rogers. In 1945, it was incorporated as a home rule city, and its name was officially changed back to Rogers City.



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