

Small Historic Towns across America.

as presented by Mr. Stadt's on-line Freedom Project Education U.S. History classes in the Fall and Winter of 2014. You can learn more about our classes by visiting us at: www.fpeusa.org



Brief History of Idlewild, Michigan.

Idlewild was established in 1912. It was a vacation and retirement community in Yates Township, located east of Baldwin Michigan in southeast Lake County, a rural part of lower northwest Michigan. During the first half of the 20th century, Idlewild was one of the few resorts in the country where African-Americans were allowed to vacation and purchase property before discrimination became illegal in the year of 1964.



An old Market that was located in Idlewild, now renovated as a dwelling place.

Idlewild was an active year-round community and was visited by well-known entertainers and professionals from throughout the country. At its peak it was the most popular resort in the Midwest and as many as 25,000 would come to Idlewild in the height of the summer season to enjoy camping, swimming, boating, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, roller skating, and night-time entertainment.

Location and Driving Directions from closest major U.S. Airport(s).

Grand Rapids Michigan is located midway between Lansing, Mi and Idlewild, Mi. You will then take 44th St. West to US 131 North from the Gerald R. Ford International Airport all the way to Reed City Mi. Once you reach Reed City, you will then hop onto US 10 West which will lead you to Idlewild.

Who was the President when this town was founded? And, what was the political environment in America at that time.

At the time Idlewild was first organized as a town, William Howard Taft was the president of the United States.



During his presidency, he and Theodore Roosevelt were having major differences. William Howard Taft was not a take action kind of man; he was more based off of feeling instead of doing what had/needed to be done. Theodore Roosevelt did not agree with this.

Because of that, they campaigned against one another for presidency.

Oldest businesses/largest businesses today.

To the right is a picture of Idlewild's old Postal Office taken by a residing citizen of Idlewild. It is still there today, but much more modern of course.



City Government.

Idlewild resides in Lake County; henceforth it is run by a county government. The county government operates the jail, maintains rural roads, operates the major local courts, keeps files of deeds and mortgages, maintains vital records, administers public health regulations, and participates with the state in the provision of welfare and other social services.

Historic attractions in the area. Festivals and Events.

Each year "Idlewild" holds something called the "Idlewild Music Fest". It is a 3-day fest of music, empowerment sessions, praisercizes, nightly jam sessions, and more! Each year, the second weekend in July, the Idlewild Music Fest is held to commemorate and celebrate the rich music history of African-Americans in Michigan. Details and dates can be found on this website: <http://www.lakecountymichigan.com/events.html>

Some other Annual events held here or near include: Idlewild Juneteenth Festival, Trout-A-Rama, and Blessing of the Bikes.

Where can we stay if we visit Idlewild?



Outdoor Inn This relaxing heartwarming Inn is located 5 miles outside of Idlewild. It is bright and well furnished for the price. They give a coffee maker, fridge and a microwave oven. It is well heated, clean, and fresh clean towels are supplied every day. Kind of makes you feel like you're at home!

Website: <http://www.outdoorinnbaldwin.com/rooms.htm>

Why would I want to visit this historic small town?

Idlewild is a historical town with a background of discrimination. All the African American greats during the summer vacationing seasons would come to this town for a good time. I want to be a supporter of this town because it holds meaning, with stories untold! It is a town that offers fun and history at the same time, based on what time of the year you visit that is. Idlewild is a great place to visit because it is a new experience of a culture that was once cultivated, that is still sort of present today. Many hold onto the past of Idlewild because what is stood for, which is why certain events such as the "Idlewild Music Fest" are put on today. It reminds us of what it was once like to live here back around the year of 1912. Nothing but rushes of excitement and joy!

Links you may wish to visit. http://www.westmichiganguides.com/stories/idlewild_music_fest

YouTube Video of Idlewild: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zGHAmNlfyOk>