



## Our History



According to the U.S. Census, Allegan County has grown from a population of 1,469 in 1840 to [113,501 in 2006](#).

In 1834 the county seat was located at Allegan Village. On September 1, 1835 the county was separated into four townships: Newark Township (*now Laketown, Saugatuck, Ganges, Casco, Fillmore, Manlius, Clyde and Lee Townships*), Allegan Township (*now Overisel, Heath, Valley, Cheshire, Salem, Monterey, Allegan and Trowbridge Townships*), Otsego Township (*now Dorr, Hopkins, Watson and Otsego Townships*), and Plainfield Township (*now Leighton, Wayland, Martin and Gun Plain Townships*).

The Allegan County Sheriff's Office was established in 1835, with John L. Shearer serving as its first Sheriff. Since then, 37 different men have followed in his footsteps, with current Sheriff Blaine A. Koops of Hamilton, Michigan serving since January 1, 2001.