



# History Badge



Director Kathleen

Junior Rangers must complete each section in "HISTORY" to qualify for the History patch:

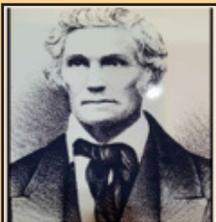
1. **Elijah Root Sawmill**
2. **Tales of Ramona Park**
3. **Build Your Own Sea Serpent**
4. **Portage Archeology—What is it?**
5. **Portage Founding Families**
6. **Write Your Own Family Story**
7. **Portage of the Future**

Once you have completed the HISTORY activities please submit them all in one email to [JrRangerClub@portagemi.gov](mailto:JrRangerClub@portagemi.gov), and in the Subject line write HISTORY BADGE and your name to receive your HISTORY Badge! You can also mail or drop off items to the address on the main page. If you need any assistance email Director Kathleen at [hoylek@portagemi.gov](mailto:hoylek@portagemi.gov) or call 269-329-4522.

**You are on your way to becoming a City of Portage Junior Ranger!**

### 1. Elijah Root Sawmill

Early settlers started many businesses that helped Portage grow. Learn about one of these entrepreneurs, Elijah Root, and how his sawmill changed the face of Portage.



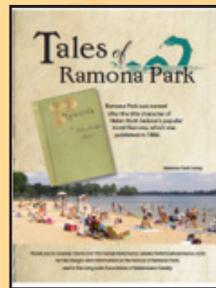
**ELIJAH ROOT**  
Pioneer to Portage Leader



*Click on the picture to take the quiz.*

### 2. Tales of Ramona Park

Ramona Park has long been part of Portage history. Through this exhibition discover the past including who was Ramona; where was the Ramona Palace; and tales of the Ramona Sea Serpent.

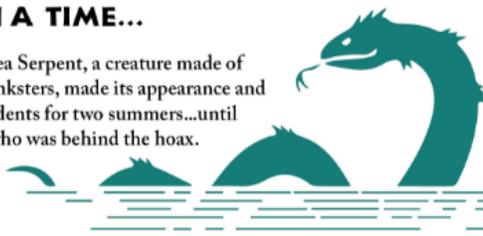


*Click on the picture to take the quiz.*

### 3. Build Your Own Sea Serpent

#### ONCE UPON A TIME...

The Long Lake Sea Serpent, a creature made of wood by local pranksters, made its appearance and terrified local residents for two summers...until they figured out who was behind the hoax.



Design your own creature like Mr. Denner (see "Tales of Ramona Park", page 8) from rocks, branches and other items you find outside. Take a photo of you sea serpent and let us know it's name and send to:

[JrRangerClub@portagemi.gov](mailto:JrRangerClub@portagemi.gov) and put HISTORY and your name in the subject line.





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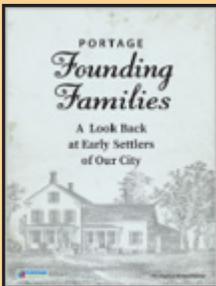
## 4. Portage Archeology

Archaeologists don't just dig, they also have to do a lot of research before they go to a site and start excavating. In Portage one of those places to look for information is on early maps. There is a map in the Founding Portage Families booklet (below) made in 1861 of people who owned land at that time. This City of Portage map is split into 36 sections each with four corners/quadrants. If an archaeologist wanted to look for any trace of the Elijah Root sawmill they would begin looking (with permission of the current land owner) where he once owned land such as Section 3 SE corner or other land he owned.

Where is your house located? Let us know the section and quadrant/corner your house would be located if it was on this map.

## 5. Founding Portage Families

By 1830, settlers began to arrive in what would become Portage Township. Learn who settled in Indian Fields, who created Carpenter's Corners, and about the contributions of Moses Austin, Elijah Root, Henry Tuttle, George Bacon and others who braved the trek westward.



**Click on the picture to take the quiz.**

## 6. Write Your Family Story

Information on the history of early settlers is not always easy to find and gets lost through time. Write about funny stories, a memory you want to keep, activities you like to do, an experience you want to remember or even places you go and what you see in your daily life. All these stories make your city an interesting place to live. Send us one of these stories (one page or less) and tell your tale adding to the history of Portage.

## 7. Portage of the Future: Build a Model of a Place to Visit in the Future

In the future, what type of places would you like to see built in Portage for you to visit? Build a model out of any household item (wood, cardboard, and other materials). Your model should be no larger than 12" x 12". Send us a photo with your building's name and write a couple sentences about why it would be fun to visit.

This summer we will ask you to drop your model off to display in City Hall to highlight your ideas for the future of Portage.

