

ISABELLA COUNTY GUIDE

ARCHIVES OF MICHIGAN



Isabella County was originally laid off in 1831 but later officially organized in 1859. The county coordinates are Range 3W-6W and Township 13N-16N. Adjacent counties include Clare (north), Gladwin (northeast), Midland (east), Gratiot (southeast), Montcalm (southwest), Mecosta (west), and Osceola (northwest).

Original records from Isabella County are available at the Archives of Michigan. The list below is organized by record type; each record type lists specific records, the years of coverage and the record group (RG) number assigned to that collection. A more detailed list of each collection can be found in finding aids at the archives.

Some of the collections below are housed at the Clarke Historical Library at Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant - these are indicated with a * after the RG number. For assistance with these records, please contact the Clarke Historical Library at Central Michigan University directly.

BUSINESS RECORDS

- **John Maxwell's day book**, from **1855 to 1887** – RG 72-64
- **Partnerships**, from **1879 to 1935** – RG 2002-68*
- **Record of estrays**, from **1881 to 1943** – RG 72-89
- **Sheep claims**, from **1892** – RG 2002-68*
- **Stockholders of the Borden Company**, from **1920** – RG 72-89

CEMETERY RECORDS

- **Isabella County files**, from **1965 to 1976** – RG 83-53

CENSUS RECORDS

- **Appointment certificates for enumerators**, from **1894** – RG 63-17
- **Federal census**, from **1870** – RG 63-17
- **Special census (Mt. Pleasant)**, from **1976** – RG 81-86
- **State census**, from **1884** and from **1894** – RG 63-17

COURT RECORDS

- **Alimony payments**, from **1915 to 1964** – RG 2003-10
- **Annulments**, from **1911** and from **1933** and from **1939** – RG 2002-68*
- **Assignment docket**, from **1891 to 1900** – RG 2003-10
- **Bills of sale**, from **1877 to 1890** – RG 2002-68*
- **Bonds**, from **1882** and from **1889** – RG 2002-68*
- **Chancery case file exhibits (No. 4305)**, from **1949** – RG 72-89
- **Chancery case files**, from **1871 to 1952** – RG 78-91
 - from **1912** and from **1932** – RG 2002-68*
 - from **1952 to 1962** – RG 2003-10
- **Chancery index**, not dated – RG 78-91
- **Chancery journal**, from **1860 to 1918** – RG 2003-10
- **Chancery orders**, from **1874 to 1962** – RG 2003-10
- **Chancery rule books**, from **1870 to 1919** – RG 2003-10
- **Circuit Court calendars**, from **1861 to 1956** – RG 2003-10
- **Circuit Court calendars, proceedings**, from **1895 to 1966** – RG 2002-68*
- **Circuit Court journal orders**, from **1916 to 1918** – RG 2003-10
- **Circuit Court journals**, from **1860 to 1982** – RG 2003-10
- **Circuit Court minute book**, from **1880 to 1933** – RG 2003-10
- **Civil case files**, from **1963 to 1977** – RG 2003-10
- **Clerk's minute book**, from **1894 to 1899** – RG 72-74
- **Court calendars**, from **1894 to 1954** – RG 78-91
- **Criminal calendars**, from **1885 to 1913** and from **1928 to 1947** – RG 2003-10
- **Criminal case files**, from **1914 to 1957** – RG 78-91
 - from **1957 to 1977** – RG 2003-10
- **Criminal docket (Coldwater Township)**, from **1888 to 1926** – RG 76-94*
- **Criminal index**, not dated – RG 78-91
- **Divorce decrees & failure to appear**, from **1914 to 1937** – RG 2003-10
- **Estate settlements**, from **1881 to 1935** – RG 2002-68*
- **General orders**, from **1927 to 1957** – RG 2003-10
- **Indentures**, from **1872 to 1935** – RG 2002-68*

- **Injunctions**, from **1876 to 1935** – RG 2002-68*
- **Justice Court docket**, from **1883 to 1901** and from **1938 to 1967** – RG 2003-15
- **Justice docket (Coldwater Township)**, from **1872 to 1922** – RG 76-94*
- **Justice docket (Mt. Pleasant)**, from **1889 to 1910** – RG 72-74
- **Justice docket (Union Township)**, from **1879 to 1890** – RG 72-74
- **Justice docket, criminal**, from **1882 to 1903** – RG 72-74
- **Landlord and tenant record**, from **1897 to 1965** – RG 2003-10
- **Law case files**, from **1862 to 1957** – RG 78-91
 - from **1957 to 1963** – RG 2003-10
- **Proceedings of chancery court**, from **1859 to 1894** – RG 72-74
- **Testimony & exhibits**, from **1948** – RG 72-89
- **Transcripts from docket of judgements rendered by Justice Court**, from **1869 to 1910** – RG 72-74

LAND RECORDS

- **Chattel mortgages**, from **1868 to 1890** – RG 2002-68*
- **Chattel mortgages (Coldwater Township)**, from **1870 to 1926** – RG 76-94*
- **Foreclosures**, from **1874 to 1935** – RG 2002-68*
- **Mortgages**, from **1870 to 1939** – RG 2002-68*
- **Mortgages of goods and chattels**, from **1869 to 1882** – RG 2003-10
- **Rural Property Inventory**, from **1935 to 1938** – RG 72-65
 - from **1936 to 1942** – RG 72-76

MILITARY RECORDS

- **Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) post records**, from **1876 to 1945** – RG 63-19
 - *Isabella County GAR posts: Post 77 (Sherman City), Post 150 (Salt River), Post 161 (Blanchard), Post 250 (Mt. Pleasant), Post 253 (Dushville)*
- **Record of County Relief Board for Spanish-American War**, from **1900** – RG 72-89

See also Guide No. 4: War Records, Guide No. 7: Post-War Records, Guide No. 4 c: Spanish American War, and Guide No. 4 d: World War I

NATURALIZATION RECORDS

- **Declarations of Intention**, from **1861 to 1964** – RG 2004-71
- **Index**, from **1861 to 1965** – RG 2004-71
- **Naturalization certificate stubs**, from **1912 to 1925** – RG 2004-71

- **Naturalization journal**, from **1895 to 1906** – RG 2004-71
- **Naturalization record**, from **1886 to 1892** – RG 2004-71
- **Petition and record**, from **1907 to 1965** – RG 2004-71
- **Petitions and oaths**, from **1897 to 1903** – RG 2004-71
- **Petitions granted and denied**, from **1930 to 1965** – RG 2004-71

OCCUPATIONAL RECORDS

- **List of judges**, from **1883** – RG 2002-68*
- **Record of attorney licenses**, from **1872 to 1889** – RG 2003-14
- **Record of dental practitioners**, from **1907 to 1936** – RG 72-89
- **Record of deputy sheriffs**, from **1889 to 1939** – RG 72-89
- **Statement of medical practitioners**, from **1883 to 1912** – RG 72-89

POLITICAL RECORDS

- **Bonds & oaths (Coldwater Township)**, from **1897 to 1926** – RG 76-94*
- **Election record**, from **1859 to 1890** – RG 72-64
- **Justice of Supreme Court election returns**, from **1879 to 1892** – RG 2002-68*
- **Oaths (Gilmore Township)**, from **1906 to 1914** and from **1932 to 1933** – RG 2002-3*
- **Record of township officers**, from **1885 to 1906** and from **1917 to 1928** – RG 72-89
- **Township officers elected**, from **1892 to 1893** – RG 2002-68*

POOR HOME / RELIEF RECORDS

- **Poor house & farm account**, from **1884 to 1897** – RG 72-64
- **Record of inmates of county infirmary**, from **1932 to 1953** – RG 63-17
- **Record of inmates of poorhouse**, from **1886 to 1948** – RG 63-17
- **Superintendent of the Poor ledger**, from **1886 to 1926** – RG 72-64
- **Superintendent of the Poor minutes**, from **1894 to 1928** – RG 72-64
- **Superintendent of the Poor records**, from **1929 to 1953** – RG 79-60**

*** Records are closed for 75 years and require a death certificate.*

PRISON RECORDS

- **Jail record**, from **1901 to 1913** – RG 72-74

See also Guide No. 3: Correctional Facilities Records

PROBATE RECORDS

- **Case files**, from **1859 to 1968** – RG 2022-12
- **Probate calendars**, from **1859 to 1958** – RG 2020-18
- **Probate index**, from **1869 to 1996** – RG 2020-18
- **Probate journals**, from **1859 to 1945** – RG 2020-18

RECREATION RECORDS

- **Dog ownership**, from **1893 to 1894** – RG 2002-68*
- **Dog tax list**, from **1885** – RG 2002-68*

TAX RECORDS

- **Assessment rolls**, from **1859 to 1862** and from **1866 to 1950** – RG 72-64
 - from **1863 to 1865** – RG 71-145
 - from **1881 to 1939** – RG 72-89
 - from **1909 to 1912** – RG 2002-68*
 - from **1945 to 1990** – RG 2017-70
 - from **1996 to 2015** – RG 2024-127
- **Assessment rolls (Coldwater Township)**, from **1873 to 1965** – RG 76-94*
- **Assessment rolls (Mt. Pleasant)**, from **1949 to 1950** – RG 72-64
- **Assessment rolls (Shepherd)**, from **1890 to 1956** – RG 72-64
- **Delinquent taxes (Coldwater Township)**, from **1897 to 1901** – RG 76-94*
- **Dog tax record (Coldwater Township)**, from **1900 to 1903** – RG 76-94*
- **Dog tax record (Gilmore Township)**, from **1907 to 1912** – RG 2002-3*

VITAL RECORDS

- **Divorces**, from **1866 to 1913** and from **1932 to 1935** – RG 2002-68*

See also Guide No. 19: Vital Records

VOTER RECORDS

- **Electors**, from **1882** – RG 2002-68*
- **Party enrollment book (Coldwater Township)**, from **1906 to 1910** – RG 76-94*
- **Poll list**, from **1878** – RG 2002-68*
- **Record of elections (Coldwater Township)**, from **1868 to 1911** – RG 76-94*

- **Voter registration book (Coldwater Township), from 1868 to 1946 – RG 76-94***

CONTACT INFORMATION

[Archives of Michigan](#)
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