

# IONIA COUNTY GUIDE

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## ARCHIVES OF MICHIGAN



Ionia County was organized in 1831. The county coordinates are Ranges 2 West through 2 East (2W-2E) and Townships 1 North through 4 North (1N-4N). Adjacent counties include Montcalm (north), Gratiot (northeast), Clinton (east), Eaton (southeast), Barry (southwest), and Kent (west).

Original records from Ionia 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.

### BUSINESS RECORDS

- **Annual reports of manufacturers**, from **1900 to 1965** – RG 2010-20
- **Applications for insurance**, from **1879 to 1890** – RG 68-25
- **Articles of association**, from **1837 to 1923** – RG 66-73
  - from **1855** – RG 2010-20
  - from **1867 to 1927** – RG 2010-20
- **Articles of association, nonprofit (churches)**, from **1843 to 1867** – RG 2010-20

### CEMETERY RECORDS

- **Burial permits**, from **1927 to 1937** – RG 2013-4
- **Burial permits (Belding)**, from **1937 to 1947** – RG 2013-5
- **Danby Cemetery record (Danby)**, from **1890 to 1950** – RG 80-14
- **Ionia County files**, from **1965 to 1981** – RG 83-53

## CENSUS RECORDS

- **Federal census, from 1880 – RG 66-73**

## CHURCH RECORDS

- **First Baptist Church of Smyrna trustees' minutes, from 1871 to 1908 – RG 66-73**
- **First Presbyterian Church of Pewamo records, from 1864 to 1896 – RG 2010-20**
- **Minutes of the Baptist Church of Otisco, from 1848 to 1913 – RG 54-10**
- **Minutes of the Trustees of the Orleans and Belding Circuit Free Methodist Church, from 1873 to 1920 – RG 54-10**

## COURT RECORDS

- **Chancery calendar, from 1849 to 1859 – RG 2010-20**
- **Chancery common order book, from 1891 to 1906 – RG 2010-20**
- **Chancery decrees, from 1857 to 1862 – RG 2010-20**
  - **from 1874 to 1886 – RG 66-73**
  - **from 1886 to 1943 – RG 2010-20**
- **Chancery dockets, from 1857 to 1943 – RG 2010-20**
- **Chancery index, from circa 1845 to 1880 – RG 2010-20**
- **Chancery record, from 1848 to 1894 – RG 79-51**
- **Chancery rule book, from 1894 to 1907 – RG 2010-20**
- **Chancery special motion book, from 1839 – RG 2010-20**
- **Circuit Court blotter, from 1873 to 1876 – RG 66-73**
- **Circuit Court calendar, from 1845 to 1877 – RG 2010-20**
  - **from 1898 – RG 2003-11**
- **Circuit Court case files (unorganized), from 1879 to 1948 – RG 2010-20**
- **Circuit Court commissioner's docket, from 1923 to 1944 – RG 2010-20**
- **Circuit Court docket, from 1837 to 1845 – RG 2010-20**
- **Circuit Court grand jury record, from 1926 – RG 77-102**
- **Circuit Court journals, from 1846 to 1945 – RG 2010-20**
- **Civil transcript docket, from 1878 to 1964 – RG 2010-20**
- **Common rule book, from 1857 to 1866 – RG 2010-20**
- **Common rule book of Circuit Court, from 1839 to 1886 – RG 66-73**
- **County Court calendar, from 1847 to 1882 – RG 2010-20**
- **County Court register of actions, from 1847 to 1858 – RG 2010-20**
- **Criminal and civil orders, from 1916 to 1941 – RG 2010-20**

- **Criminal calendars, from 1874 to 1946** – RG 2010-20
- **Criminal case files, from 1879 to 1948** – RG 2010-20
- **Criminal docket, from 1827 to 1897** – RG 2010-20
- **Criminal docket (Ionia), from 1888 to 1893** – RG 2013-108
- **Divorce decrees, from 1897 to 1932** – RG 2010-20
  - from **1941 to 1962** – RG 2010-20
- **Divorce index, from 1916 to 1990** – RG 2010-20
- **Justice docket (North Plains Township), from 1860 to 1873** – RG 2013-108
- **Justice of the Peace register, from 1909 to 1964** – RG 2008-21
- **Law calendars, from 1874 to 1942** – RG 2010-20
- **Law case files, from 1858 to 1860** – RG 2010-20
- **Prosecuting attorney docket, from 1891 to 1892** – RG 2013-108
- **Selected civil case files, from 1988 to 1989** – RG 2021-12
- **Selected criminal case files, from 1961 to 1989** – RG 2021-12
- **Supreme Court cases, appeals (published cases), from 1883** – RG 2010-20
  - from **1959** – RG 2010-20
- **Transcripts of civil judgments, from 1841 to 1879** – RG 2010-20

## **LAND RECORDS**

- **Abstracts of title, from 1833 to 1939** – RG 80-69
- **Deed indexes, from 1835 to 1950** – RG 80-69
- **Discharge of mortgage indexes, from 1893 to 1937** – RG 80-69
- **Mortgage index, from 1835 to 1913** – RG 80-69
- **Mortgage records, from 1842 to 1923** – RG 80-69
- **Mortgage tax affidavits, from 1911 to 1918** – RG 80-69
- **Mortgages of goods and chattels, from 1869 to 1953** – RG 80-69
- **Pending lawsuit indexes, from 1857 to 1875** – RG 80-69
- **Power of attorney, from 1843 to 1878** – RG 80-69
- **Record of tax abstracts, from 1838 to 1876** – RG 80-69
- **Record of township board (Danby Township), from 1858 to 1916** – RG 57-15
- **Registers of abstracts, from 1907 to 1942** – RG 80-69
- **Registers of levies, from 1860 to 1954** – RG 80-69
- **Rural Property Inventories:**
  - **Berlin Township, from 1937 to 1938** – RG 66-73
  - **Campbell Township, from 1937 to 1938** – RG 66-73
  - **Orleans Township, from 1937 to 1938** – RG 54-10
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    - from **1937 to 1938** – RG 66-73

- **Sheriff's deeds of mortgage sale indexes**, from **1850 to 1915** – RG 80-69
- **Unpaid mortgages book (non-residents)**, from **1879 to 1891** – RG 80-69
- **Unpaid mortgages book (residents)**, from **1879 to 1891** – RG 80-69

## MILITARY RECORDS

- **Agents for burials of soldiers list**, from **1906 to 1914** – RG 66-73
- **American Legion publication**, from **1942** – RG 78-66
- **Burial of indigent soldiers report**, from **1886 to 1930** – RG 66-73
- **Civil War discharge record**, from **1871** – RG 2010-20
- **Emergency farm labor and POW camp records**, from **1944 to 1945** – RG 66-73
- **Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) descriptive book (Post 211)**, from **1883 to 1930** – RG 2010-20
- **Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) post records**, from **1876 to 1945** – RG 63-19
  - *Ionia County GAR posts: Post 100 (Lyons), Post 126 (Smyrna), Post 132 (Portland), Post 151 (Sebewa), Post 153 (Saranac), Post 211 (Ionia), Post 234 (Hubbardston), Post 441 (Mason)*
- **Record of soldiers' graves, East Plains Catholic Cemetery**, from **1910** – RG 2010-20
- **Record of soldiers and sailors in the Great War**, from circa **1930** – RG 66-73
- **Register of veterans, World War II**, from **1939 to 1945** – RG 2010-20
- **Selective service lists**, from **1917 to 1918** – RG 78-66
  - from **1945** – RG 66-73
- **Soldiers' Relief Board minutes**, from **1899** – RG 66-73
- **Veterans' record of burial**, from **1929 to 1950** – RG 2010-20
- **Veterans transfer card register**, from **1944 to 1946** – RG 2008-21

*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

- **Certificate stubs**, from **1907 to 1959** – RG 85-32
- **Court orders**, from **1941 to 1959** – RG 85-32
- **Declarations, oaths, and petitions**, from **1835 to 1920** – RG 85-32
- **Declarations of intention**, from **1869 to 1953** – RG 85-32
- **Petition and record**, from **1895 to 1959** – RG 85-32

## OCCUPATIONAL RECORDS

- **Agricultural questionnaire**, from **1945** – RG 66-73

- **Dentist registers, from 1907 to 1973** – RG 2008-21
- **Justice of the peace registers, from 1892 to 1915** – RG 66-73
  - from **1909 to 1964** – RG 2008-21
- **Notary public lists, from 1857 to 1913** – RG 66-73
- **Optometrist registers, from 1910 to 1981** – RG 2008-21
- **Osteopath, drugless healer, and chiropractor registers, from 1902 to 1968** – RG 2008-21
- **Physician registers, from 1900 to 1971** – RG 2008-21
- **Statements of medical practitioners, from 1883 to 1899** – RG 66-73
- **Veterinary surgeon registers, from 1900 to 1906** – RG 2008-21
  - from **1957 to 1978** – RG 2008-21

## **ORGANIZATION RECORDS**

- **Civilian Conservation Corps records, from 1936 to 1941** – RG 66-73
- **Minutes of the North Plains Grange, from 1878 to 1884** – RG 54-10
- **Records relating to Emergency Farm Labor program and Prisoner of War camp, from 1944 to 1945** – RG 66-73

## **POLITICAL RECORDS**

- **Oaths of office, from 1928 to 1978** – RG 2010-20

## **POOR HOME / RELIEF RECORDS**

- **Admission forms to county poor home, from 1906 to 1967** – RG 83-26
- **Cash receipts journal, from 1920 to 1948** – RG 76-133
- **Children's aid record, from 1883 to 1905** – RG 66-73
- **Inmate record, from 1876 to 1943** – RG 76-133
- **Minutes of the Superintendent of the Poor, from 1919 to 1930** – RG 66-73

## **PRISON RECORDS**

- **Jail record, from 1897 to 1908** – RG 2013-108
  - from **1919 to 1932** – RG 87-137

*See also Guide No. 3: Correctional Facilities Records*

## PROBATE RECORDS

- **Appraisers' warrants and inventories**, from **1858 to 1918** – RG 78-67
- **Assignment of dower petitions**, from **1864 to 1906** – RG 78-67
- **Calendars**, from **1947 to 1966** – RG 2021-23
- **Case files**, from **1837 to 1869** – RG 78-67
  - from **1902 to 1956** – RG 2021-23
- **Correspondence**, from **1911 to 1936** – RG 78-67
- **Final account orders**, from **1871 to 1908** – RG 78-67
  - from **1906 to 1965** – RG 78-67
- **Index**, from **1851 to 1871** – RG 78-67
- **Index to deceased estates**, from **1859 to 1949** – RG 2021-23
- **Index to executors, administrators, and guardians**, from **1839 to 1937** – RG 78-67
- **Journals**, from **1837 to 1895** – RG 78-67
- **Licenses to mortgage real estate**, from **1877 to 1924** – RG 78-67
- **Licenses to sell real estate at private sale**, from **1896 to 1969** – RG 78-67
- **Licenses to sell real estate at public sale**, from **1858 to 1916** – RG 78-67
- **Orders admitting dependent and neglected children to state public school**, from **1885 to 1904** – RG 78-67
- **Orders determining heirs**, from **1917 to 1954** – RG 78-67
- **Partition petitions**, from **1867 to 1905** – RG 78-67
- **Petitions to probate estates**, from **1857 to 1865** – RG 78-67
- **Record of wills**, from **1866 to 1917** – RG 78-67
  - from **1923 to 1969** – RG 78-67
- **Register of veterans, World War II**, from **1939 to 1945** – RG 2010-20
- **Taxable inheritance abstracts**, from **1899 to 1966** – RG 78-67
- **Widows' pension orders**, from **1887 to 1903** – RG 78-67
  - from **1915 to 1921** – RG 78-67

## RECREATION RECORDS

- **Gun permits and license numbers**, from **1932 to 2006** – RG 2010-20
- **Hunting license record**, from **1899 to 1904** – RG 66-73
- **Motor vehicle register**, from **1910** – RG 66-73
- **Record of estrays**, from **1900 to 1911** – RG 2010-20

## SCHOOL RECORDS

- **Attendance & scholarship (Portland and Orange Townships)**, from **1905 to 1956** – RG 2014-42\*
- **Attendance record (Danby Township)**, from **1866 to 1918** – RG 73-64\*
- **Directories of school districts, officers, and teachers**, from **1923 to 1962** – RG 71-153
- **Examination register**, from **1881 to 1914** – RG 54-10\*
- **Minutes of annual school meeting (Orange and Sebewa Townships)**, from **1870 to 1912** – RG 63-4
- **Register of Free Methodist Sunday School of Orleans**, from **1898 to 1912** – RG 54-10
- **Reports of school inspectors**, from **1882 to 1886** – RG 54-10
- **School census**, from **1905 to 1925** – RG 2015-149\*
- **School examiner reports**, from **1905 to 1936** – RG 66-73
- **Teacher classification record (Danby Township)**, from **1893 to 1905** – RG 73-64
- **Teachers' contracts (Danby Township)**, from **1881 to 1892** – RG 73-64
- **Teacher directories**, from **1911 to 1921** – RG 63-4
- **Teacher reports**, from **1894 to 1895** – RG 54-10
- **Teachers' institute fee reports**, from **1917 to 1919** – RG 66-73

*\*Death certificate required for records that are more than 75 years old but created after 1901.*

## TAX RECORDS

- **Assessment rolls**, from **1840 to 1900** – RG 68-25
  - from **1880 to 1883** – RG 69-37
  - from **1895 to 1906** and from **1915** – RG 79-49
  - from **1910 to 1950** – RG 71-134
  - from **1960** – RG 82-101
- **Tax title accounts**, from **1899 to 1979** – RG 2010-20

## VITAL RECORDS

- **Birth record index**, from **1874 to 1891** – RG 79-51
- **Death record index**, from **1885 to 1925** – RG 79-51
- **Marriage affidavits**, from **1893 to 1910** – RG 2013-108
- **Record of marriages (fragment)**, from **1875 to 1885** – RG 2010-20
- **Register of deaths (Belding)**, from **1894 to 1921** – RG 2013-5

- **Return of births (Belding)**, from **1894** – RG 2013-5

*See Guide No. 19: Vital Records*

*See Court records: Chancery and Divorce*

## VOTER RECORDS

- **Register of electors (Danby Township)**, from **1859 to 1879** – RG 57-15

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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