

1837 – 1838
Elhanan W. Curtis

1839 – 1840
John Porter Place

1843
Alonzo Sessions

1844
Cyprian S. Hooker

1845 – 1846
Hiram Brown

1847 – 1848
Volney Eaton

1849 – 1850
Peter Coon

1851 – 1852
Asaph C. Smith

1853 – 1854
Ami Chipman

1855 – 1858
Charles M. Holmes

1859 – 1862
Abraham Alderman

1863 – 1866
James L Jennings

1867 – 1870
Abraham Alderman

1871 – 1874
Edson P. Gifford

1875 – 1876

William Reynolds

IONIA COUNTY SHERIFFS

1877 – 1880
William Mattison

1881 – 1884
William Toan

1885 – 1888
Hiram N. Lee



1889 – 1892
Hamilton R. Welker

1893 – 1896
Alexander T Montgomery

1897 – 1898
Henry H Jordan

1899 – 1902
Frank L. Moon

1903 – 1906
Elmer E. Fales

1907 – 1910
Elmer F. Cilley

1911 – 1914
William R. Taylor

1915 – 1918
Ed N. Lowery

1919 – 1922
Mark Hoppough

1923 – 1926
Henry J. Cook



1927 – 1932
William A. Franch



1933 – 1938
Herbert A Ross



1939 – 1944
Leslie H Murphy
Maude Murphy



1945 – 1948
Richard H. Dodes

1949 – 1954
Ben Neve



1955 – 1964
Peter VanVleck



1965 – 1976
O. Gary Newton



1977 – 1984

William Bensinger



1985 – 1998
Terrence L Jungel



1998 - 2012
Dwain Dennis



2013 - 2018
Dale A. Miller



2018 – Present
Charlie D. Noll

HISTORY OF IONIA COUNTY JAILS

1851

Ionia County's first jail was completed in 1850 and first occupied in January 1851. Prior to the building of the jail, inmates had been incarcerated in the Kent County Jail. Rooms for dwelling purposes were constructed in 1864. At the time of Sheriff Wm. H. Mattson's time in office, the jail had become unfit for housing inmates. In April of 1880, a proposal to appropriate \$10,000 to build a new jail was submitted to the residents of the county and was passed by a vote of 2838 to 2206. Building of the new jail began in July 1880 and was completed in January of 1881.

In July of 1881, the first jail was moved by large horses and roller logs to its current location on Lafayette Street. *1

1881



The new jail opened in January of 1881. An article from the Ionia Daily Sentinel dated January 5, 1881 told of the new jail being practically completed and reflecting the highest credit upon the county and all concerned. The exterior of the building was composed of Ionia sandstone and brick. The interior of the dwelling was divided into a house for the sheriff and family, sheriff's business office, and the jail. There were 13 cells; one separate from the others for female inmates. The cellar held a large range, vegetable and wood rooms, furnace, pantry, and kitchen. The article noted that, "The kitchen and sinks are supplied with water by simply turning a faucet." *2

1957



After 74 years of use, it was once again time to ask the tax payers to build a new jail. The construction began in 1955 with the “new jail” opening its doors to the public on July 14, 1957 for an open house and tour. Inmates were transferred from the old jail later that week.

1990



Out of necessity and constant threat of federal lawsuits, Ionia County was faced with building a new and larger jail. Sheriff Terrence Jungel led this endeavor and in January 1990 the new 122-bed jail on Adams Street was completed. With concerns of jail overcrowding, the number of beds was increased in 2004 to 132 and to 141 in 2013.

*1 – History of Ionia and Montcalm Counties, Michigan – 1881

*2 – Ionia Daily Sentinel, Wednesday, January 5, 1881