

## IONIA COUNTY SHERIFFS

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

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. Cifley

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



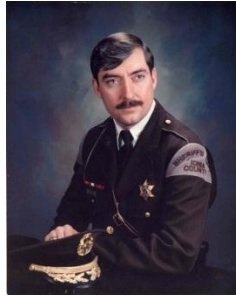
1955 – 1964  
Peter VanVleck



1965 – 1976  
O. Gary Newton



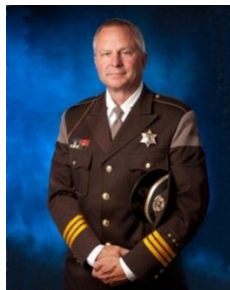
1977 – 1984  
William Bensinger



1985 – 1998  
Terrence L Jungel



1998 - 2012  
Dwain Dennis



2013 - present  
Dale A. Miller

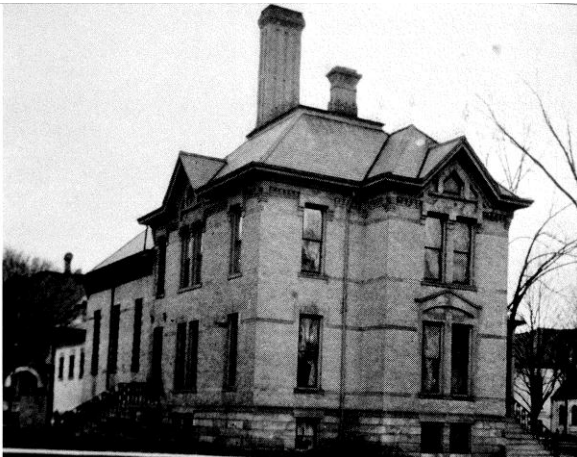
## HISTORY OF IONIA COUNTY JAILS

### 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