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A HISTORY OF THE PRESS OF MICHIGAN  
PREPARED FOR THE CENTENNIAL BY ORDER OF GOV. JOHN J. BAGLEY

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IONIA COUNTY

This county, with a population of 28,376, has six weekly papers; one is democratic, two are republican, and the remaining three are independent. Two are printed at Ionia, and Hubbardston, Portland, Muir, and Saranac each have a paper.

The first paper printed in the county was established at Ionia, in February, 1843, by Childs & Robinson, and was called *The Ionia Journal*. It was neutral in politics, and gave up the ghost about 1846. In the same year E. D. Burr started *The Ionia Democrat*, but in October, the same year, the press and type were taken from the office in the night and thrown into Grand river. This ended the publication of the paper. In 1849 E. I. Powoll started *The Ionia Gazette*, and continued it until August, 1867, when he moved the office into another county, where he still continues in business as a publisher.

*The Ionia Sentinel* was established May 1, 1866, by Taylor & Stevenson. T. G. Stevenson & Co. are the present proprietors. It is published at Ionia, and is republican in politics.

*The Portland Observer* was established October 24, 1867, by J. H. Wickwire. The next year the office was sold to Joseph W. Bailey, the present proprietor. It is located at Portland, and is independent in politics.

*The Ionia Standard* was established at Ionia in 1869, by W. T. Kinsley. J. P. Stevenson and Wm. E. Kidd are the present proprietors. The paper is democratic in politics.

*The Advertiser*, located at Hubbardston, was established October 6, 1870, by Charles W. Seaver. The second week after its establishment, A. V. Phister was associated with the proprietor. The office burned the first year, but was re-established by A. V. Phister, who still continues the proprietor. It is republican in politics.

*The Grand River Herald* was established at Muir, October 21, 1871, by Benton Bement. The present proprietors are Runge & Mickel. It is independent in politics.

*The Reporter* was established at Saranac, July 14, 1875, by C. H. Smith, who continues its publication. It is independent in politics.