

Early Missaukee Newspapers

Steven Koster, dutchroot.com, June 2022, Draft 0.8

Missing issues from the early Missaukee newspaper archives in bold; comments in brackets

Missaukee *Reporter* (1873-1875)

- **Not in archive**
- [Published by Singleton W. Davis, Lake City, October 1873 - 23 October 1875]
- [See clippings below for descriptions]

Lake City (Republican) *Journal* (1877-1884),

- [First issue, 27 April 1877 (v1, n1), Ren Barker, Editor]
- **8 Jan 1879 (v2 n38; 1 issue missing)**
- **[September 1883, H.N. McIntyre begins publishing the *Leader* (independent); not in archive]**
- [Last *Journal* issue by Ren Barker, 29 Apr 1884 (v8 n2)]
- [*Journal* sold to H.N. McIntyre and combined with *Leader*, as *New Era* (independent)]
- ***New Era*, published by H.N. McIntyre: 29 Apr 1884 – Jan 1887; not in archive**
- ***Republican*, by W.E. Morris & Son, begins publication in Dec 1886; not in archive**
- **Jan 1887, McIntyre sells *New Era* to D.M. Day, but reclaims it later that year, merges with Morris and creates *Era & Republican*, not in archive**
- [In July 1888, the *Era & Republican* offices burned, and shortly after McIntyre sold out; paper was renamed *Republican*; see below]

Missaukee *Independent* (1887-1892)

- [Archive begins 16 March 1887 (v1 n1), published by Woodruff]
- [Issue for 28 Dec 1887 likely never published: Dec 21 is n40 and Jan 4 is n41]
- [Ends 1892-03-23 v5 n52]
- **Missing 1892-03-29 (v6 n1) – 1892-12-07 (v6 n37)**
- <https://www.loc.gov/item/sn98066970/>

The *Plain Dealer* (1892-1919)

- George Stout changes *Independent* name to *Plain Dealer*
- [Archive starts with 14 Dec 1892 (Vol 6 No 38), damaged]
- <https://www.loc.gov/item/sn98058166/>
- **1 April 1896 – 31 Mar 1897 (all of v10)**
- **28 July 1897 (v11 n17)**
- **6 April 1898 (v12 n1)**
- **4 Jan 1899 (v12 n40)**
- **15 Feb 1899 (v12 n46)**
- **5 Apr 1899 (v13 n1)**
- **28 June 1899 (v13 n13)**
- **26 July 1899 (v13 n17)**
- **2 August 1899 (v13 n18)**
- **30 Aug 1899 (v13 n22)**
- **11 Oct 1899 (v13 n28)**
- **29 Nov 1899 (v13 n35)**
- **27 Dec 1899 (v13 n39)**
- **7 March 1900 (v13 n49)**

- 18 July 1900 (v14 n16)
- 25 July 1900 (v14 n17)
- 8 Aug – 12 Sep 1900 (v14 n19-25)
- 11 Feb 1903 (v16 n46)
- 4 -11 March 1903 (v16 n49-50)
- 15 April 1903 (v17 n3)
- 8 July 1903 (v17 n15)
- 14 Sep 1904 (v18 n25)
- 26 Oct 1904 (v18 n31)
- 13-27 Dec 1904 (v18 n38-40) [+more]

McBain *Chronicle* (1890 – 1964)

- [L. Van Meter, Publisher]
- **Not in archive**

Missaukee *Republican*

- [Circa 1888, *Era & Republican* was renamed *Republican*]
- **1888-1905 Not in Archive**
- **Missaukee Republican archive begins 25 May 1905 (v22 n1);**
 - By that numeration, presumably v1n1 was May 1883,
 - perhaps numeration begins with *New Era* in 1884?
- **Republican archive missing 1907, 1953, 1955, 1958**
 - [Published until 1963]
- <https://www.loc.gov/item/sn98066988/>

Lake City *Waterfront*, June 17, 1959 – 1995

- <https://www.loc.gov/item/sn98066974/>
- **LIB OF MICH NEWSPAPER MICROFILM 2S**

Missaukee *Sentinel*, December 20, 1990

- *Missaukee Sentinel*. 1990-2008 **LIB OF MICH NEWSPAPER MICROFILM 2S**

FIRST NEWSPAPERS

In Milwaukee County, and the Men who Controlled Them.

The Reporter Editor's Send—Many News paper Works—Brief Mention of Some Recent Ventures.

MILWAUKEE REPORTER.

Some time in July, 1873, Singleton W. Davis came to Lake City, (which had been chosen as the county seat of Milwaukee county at an election held the previous month,) and after looking over the situation and talking with the few people who were here, agreed to return in a few weeks and establish a news paper.

In September following, he returned with his family, and built himself a small log hut, containing but one room, which served as a printing office, kitchen, dining room, sitting room and bed room, all in one. The first paper was issued about the last of October or first of November, 1873. But very few copies of the paper remain in existence: one of which is a copy of the last paper printed, owned by Mrs. D. Reeder, to whom we are indebted for most of the material for this sketch. That issue contained his farewell address, which we reproduce herewith:

"VALEDICTORY."

"The Milwaukee Reporter was established two years ago. It commenced a small sheet, only half as large as at present, and by dint of hard labor, by economy marked out by the compass, square and rule, by a desperate struggle it has been not only kept alive, but growing. But the time has arrived when forbearance ceases to be a virtue in such case, and we must simply say, Good-by."

THE EDITOR."

The last issue is a 7-column folio (same size as THE INDEPENDENT prior to the recent enlargement and change of name), two pages printed at home. It contained no political articles, but was a republican sheet.

During his stay, he erected a large two-story frame building just north of his log hut—both buildings were on the lot just north of where the opera house now stands—and occupied it during the latter part of his stay. It may be readily guessed that the Reporter was not a very profitable investment, since the population of Lake City at that time numbered just twenty-five men, women and children. Population of county, according to census of 1874, was 608—less than half the population of Lake City at the present time.

From accounts given by some of the pioneers the mechanical outfit must have been something of a curiosity. The press was manufactured by the editor, and consisted of a common table on which the type was placed, and the impression was given by rolling across the type a small hollow log, filled with sand to give it weight. Nevertheless, with this primitive appliance, the press-work on the sample at hand would put to shame many papers of today, with far better equipments.

At this time, D. Reeder drove the stage which carried the mail and formed the only connecting link between Lake City and the railroad—the nearest station being Clam Lake (now Cadillac) fifteen miles away. For a time, Mr. Reeder brought in weekly from the express office the bundle of "patent inside," and charged nothing for the cartage. Some disagreement arose between them, after a time, and the paper began "missing." Mr. Reeder with considerable regularity. In retaliation the latter left the package of paper in Clam Lake, thereafter, and the editor was compelled to trudge after iron foot, and carry his paper in on his shoulder!

Of course there was not sufficient patronage in the county to decently support a paper, if undisturbed, but with the loss of the bulk of it by reason of quarrels with the Reeder Brothers and several others, starvation was only a question of time. If he stayed, so he moved out and the Reporter died young. When last heard from, he was publishing a paper somewhere in Kansas, but all trace of his present whereabouts have been lost by people here.

As an appropriate closing to this brief sketch of Milwaukee county's first paper, we give a few quotations from the "local news" column of the last issue, which is dated Saturday, October 23, 1873.

Wild game seems to be scarcer in this vicinity than usual.

Sheriff Caldwell is at Grand Rapids attending Uncle Sam's Court.

Large numbers of men are going into the lumber woods east of this village.

When will Milwaukee county have another newspaper? Echo answers, when!

Owing to our time having been occupied in work as a member of the Board of Supervisors last week we were compelled to omit the issue of the Reporter for that week.

We made a pedestrian visit to Clam Lake Wednesday last. Found business lively over there. The roads are very muddy and we "enjoyed" a very tiresome walk. Next morning we felt so sore and so badly used up that we almost imagined those two fellows who threatened to "horsewhip" the editor had stolen a march on us and jam-packed us while asleep. We are now convalescent, however.

LAKE CITY JOURNAL.

In April, 1877, L. A. Barker founded the Lake City Journal, a 7-col folio—the second paper established and the first successful one in the county. The town and county were still new and sparsely settled, but "Ben," was "one of the boys," quite a hustler, and got acquainted very quickly. The Journal was "stalwart" republican in politics, and of course got the tax sales, county printing etc., and besides worked up considerable advertising in Cadillac and Manou, and taking it all around, made some money for its owner. Some good stories are told about the early days of the Journal and its editor, but here is one that has seldom been told, because very few people knew it:

In the summer of 18—, Mr. Barker and family wanted to go on a visit to friends in Iowa, proposing to be absent about three weeks. His office force consisted of a 14-year-old "devil" who had served in that capacity but a few months, and was incapable of running the paper. Here was a dilemma. But "Ben," was not to be balked in his expected holiday by such a trifle, so by a liberal use of "plate" matter, he printed three separate editions, properly dated ahead—to last the three weeks of his absence. These were addressed ready for mailing before he left, so on each successive publication day, all the "devil" had to do was to go to the barrel in which they were kept, take out the supply for that week and mail them—being an easy and economical way of running a paper. It happened that nothing of any particular importance occurred during his absence, and very few of the Journal readers discovered the trick. Readers of local newspapers are more exacting now than then.

The Journal was published until April 1884, when Barker sold out to H. N. McIntire who had started the Leader in September previous, and the two papers were merged into what was then called the New Era. Mr. Barker is now owner of the Reed City Chronicle.

OTHER PAPERS.

This article is already longer than was originally intended, and a brief notice must suffice for the other papers which have existed in this county. The Leader alluded to above, was established in September, 1883, burned out the following March, and was merged a few weeks later with the Journal, and the name changed to the New Era. Both the Leader and New Era were independent in politics. In December, 1886, W. E. Morris & Son started the Milwaukee Republican. Next month, McIntire transferred the New Era to D. M. Day and it became a republican sheet. The following March The Independent was established. A couple months later, McIntire again took possession of the New Era former's partnership with the senior Morris, and consolidated the two papers under the name of the Era and Republican. In July 1888, the office burned, but most of the plant except the presses, was saved. A little later, McIntire sold out, and the name was again changed to the Milwaukee Republican, which it still bears.

McBain has also had a couple short lived sheets of no particular importance, until L. Van Meter established the Chronicle in 1890, which he still conducts.

All Free.

Those who have used Dr. King's New Discovery know its value, and those who have not, have now the opportunity to try it Free. Call on the advertised Druggist and get a Trial Bottle, Free. Send your name and address to H. E. Burdick & Co., Chicago, and get a sample box of Dr. King's New Life Pills Free, as well as a copy of Guide to Health and Household Instructor. Free. All of which is guaranteed to do you good and cost you nothing. Yes! Write Druggist.

Rigans Talmage cure the Klans. Short teach creed by Dr. Miller's Heart Cure.

ternate year, would be a fair compromise.

FRONTIER LIFE.

Mr. WILLIAM BUCHTEL has handed us a copy of the *Missaukee Reporter*, published at Lake City, Michigan, which is a decided novelty. It is in its eighteenth number, vol. 1; a small four column weekly that reminds one of the old continental newspapers—and the biggest of its size we have ever seen.

The following correspondence will enlighten our readers as to the place of its publication:

AKRON, O., January 12, 1874.

EDITOR REPORTER: [1.] What and where is Lake City? I have 9000 acres of land in Missaukee county and feel some interest in your county.

[2.] How do you get to your city?

[3.] What Town and Section are you located in?

[4.] Have you any other cities in Missaukee?

[5.] Send me a copy of your paper.

WM. BUCHTEL.

Reply:—1. LAKE CITY is the seat of Justice for Missaukee County. The village was laid out last Spring by Dr. Reeder, and the County Seat was removed from Falmouth to this place by vote of the citizens, June 10th, '73. Lake City now contains 1 hotel, 2 stores, 1 shoe shop, 1 lawyer's office, 1 Real Estate Broker's office, 1 Postoffice, 1 Newspaper and Job Printing Office, and 6 dwelling houses and a Court House. Population, 23! A saw mill is now in process of erection and will commence cutting lumber and shingles about the 1st of May next.

2. Come to Clam Lake via Grand Rapids & Indiana R. R., and walk, or come via "livery rig," the remainder of the journey. In the one case you "foot" a long road, in the other case you "foot" a long bill! We are 15 miles N. E. of Clam Lake.

3. Section 6, Town 22 N., R. 7 W.

4. No, sir. Don't need any more.

5. With all our heart. Non-resident land-owners of this county, who want to keep posted in the progress of this locality invariably subscribe for the *Reporter*.

A local notice tells that the first sermon ever preached in Lake City was delivered in the court room by Rev. John Robinson of the M. E. Church, on the 18th inst. Every inhabitant of the village was present.

Mr. ASA W. ELSWORTH, the enterprising shoe maker, has this emphatic advertisement:

NOTICE!

Boots and Shoes mended or made by me must be paid for within one week after the work is done or they will be sold to pay costs.

A well-digger proposes to dig wells at 50 cents per foot, "but he will undertake to dig only on condition that he receives payment therefor as soon as finished." The editor himself advertises to teach "short-hand writing." Snow is reported a foot deep.

On the whole the *Missaukee Reporter* is a decidedly interesting little paper and thoroughly reflects the novel life and doings of a new frontier town.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS