

# History of Hudson, Michigan Newspapers

## Hudson Newspaper Titles and Published Dates

Most of these can be viewed on micro-film at the Hudson Public Library.

Newspaper	Start	End		Restart	End
Hudson Gazette	1858	1902	then	1905	1919
Hudson Post	1872	1919			
Republican	1895	1896			
Vibrator	1896	1896			
Post-Gazette	1919	Present		In 1919 Post & Gazette merge	

Newspapers prior to 1876 - reference pg. 79 *The Bean Creek Valley* by James J. Hogaboam, 1876

Newspaper	Date	Editor	Proprietor	Publisher
<i>Hudson Sentinel</i> <sup>1</sup>	1853 July 9	Mr. Montgomery		William H. Bolsby
<i>Hudson Sentinel</i>	1854 about July	Andrew Mercer	Canniff & Montgomery	
<i>Hudson Sentinel</i>	1854 November	Canniff		Joseph Davenport
<i>Hudson Sentinel</i>	1854	Joseph Davenport, who soon after consolidated with the <i>Michigan Republican</i> and was for a short time published in Adrian by Hobart		
<i>Hudson Courier</i>	1855 Sept 13	A. C. Mercer	Published by H.M. Boies, W.H. Johnson, Enos Canniff, Benjamin Turner, A.C. Mercer, L.G. Hall & Alonzo Palmer	
<i>Saturday Evening News</i>	1857 Aug 15	E. Woolverton		
<i>Hudson Gazette</i> <sup>2</sup>	1858 March 26	W.T.B. Schermerhorn		
<i>Herald</i> <sup>3</sup>	1862 (late)	Titus Babcock until 1865 when succeeded by Russell Babcock & Daniel Russell. They in turn were succeeded by A. H. Pattee who changed the name.		
<i>Transcript</i>	unknown	A.H. Pattee		
<i>Post</i>	1868	Laird & Penfield followed by Chauncey W. Stevens in 1869, A.H. Pattee in 1870 with Dr. Andrews as editor & manager, followed by James Scarritt in 1872		
<i>Record</i>	Rev. Jesse T. Webster of the Trinity Church published a monthly parish newspaper that was printed by the <i>Hudson Post</i> . This newspaper served two dioceses, until Scarritt moved to Detroit			

## Hudson Newspaper Titles in Museum Collection

Original copies of the Post, Gazette & Post-Gazette to 2008 are also held, plus 44 years of the Bi-County Herald

Newspaper	Date	Volume/Issue	Newsprint size	Page	Publisher
<i>Hudson Sentinel</i>	Nov. 2, 1854	Vol. 2 - No. 18			Enos Caniff
<i>Saturday Evening News</i>	July 4, 1857	Vol. 1 - No. 10	31.25" L x 23.5" W		E. Woolverton & Miner
<i>The Hudson Weekly Herald</i>	Jun 11, 1863	Vol. 1 - No. 23	35" L x 23.5" W	17.5 x 23.5	T. Babcock & Co.
<i>The Hudson Daily Register</i>	May 31, 1878	Vol. 1 - No. 3	14½" x 21"		Schermerhorn
<i>The Hudson News</i>	May 12, 1898	Vol. V - No. 7	44" L x 15" W	22" L x 15"	The News Publishing Co. Henry C. Hall, Editor
<i>The Hudson News</i>	June 3, 1926	Vol. 1 - No. 1	22" L x 17" W		The Community Publishing Co. located near the Famous Manitou Beach Summer Resort (as appears within the banner) George O. Bancroft, Manager- Editor
<i>The Hudson News</i>	June 6, 1933	Vol. 1 - No. 3			David Slyter, Ed. & Pub.

<sup>1</sup> Only two known examples of the *Hudson Sentinel* exist. The Hudson Museum copy Volume 2-No. 18 dated 1854 was donated by Marvin Murphy. The second copy, Volume 3-No. 1 dated July 6, 1855 is held by the Commonwealth Library Bureau of State, Harrisburg, PA.

<sup>2</sup> The *Gazette* continued for 18 years under one management, it was at first politically neutral, then Independent, but in 1876 it squarely came out for the Democracy

<sup>3</sup> This was a Republican newspaper when formed.

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One hundred years and what a change! A century ago a vast wilderness, today one of the most beautiful small Michigan cities of charming homes, lining well-shaded streets and avenues, whose names recall presidents, statesmen and many kinds of trees.

The celebration of Hudson's centennial has revived a new interest in the stories of pioneer life and the history of the city. Fortunately, the public library contains many authentic records of the city. For instance there is J. J. Wood's, "The Wilderness and the Rose," J. J. Hogaboam's "History of the Bean Creek Valley," Chapman and Page's Hudson Directory and Historical Record, printed in 1869 and various other books of reference. Of all the sources of references, however, are the files of the Hudson Post, and the Hudson Gazette, both of which extend over half a century. The Hudson Gazette is this year celebrating its Diamond Jubilee. **The Hudson Post was founded in 1862 as the Hudson Herald, the name being changed first to the Transcript and later to the Hudson Post.**

So important is the town's newspaper, that they have become synonyms for the city itself with people in Hillsdale and Lenawee counties and the border counties of Ohio. Here it will be well to cite that a town's newspaper is an index to the town's business and social activities.

It is hardly probable that a copy of **the first issue of the Hudson Sentinel, dated July 9, 1852,** is in existence today. If there is it certainly is eligible to be placed on exhibition during the centennial celebration August 2, 3, and 4 this year. **The first attempt at journalism in Hudson was made by William Bowlsby and was edited by T. D. Montgomery. In 1854 Enos Canniff, the father of Mrs. Lena Foster of Hill street and Mr. Montgomery became proprietors and Andrew C. Mercer the editor and publisher. The paper was discontinued in 1855,**

when it was consolidated with the Michigan Republican and afterward was published in Adrian.

Hudson, however, was not left without a newspaper for about two months before it was discontinued. **The Hudson Courier was founded.** In fact, Hudson has not been without a newspaper since it was organized as a village in 1853. **In the organization of the Courier appear the names of two men identified with the old Sentinel staff, Mr. Canniff and Mr. Mercier. The rest of the organization were H. M. Boies, one of the owners of the old Exchange Bank, now the Hudson State Savings Bank, a former grocer and druggist, L. H. Hall, H. W. Johnson, Benjamin Turner and Alonzo Palmer, who probably are remembered by some of the oldest Hudson residents...**

Early newspapers in Hudson lacked stability of ownership as there were many changes of proprietors. Politically, the town was divided between the Republican and Democratic parties and after the advent into the newspaper field of the Hudson Post and the Hudson Gazette party spirit was particularly manifested at election time by both papers printing bitter controversies and editorials and the editors wrote very sarcastic articles about each other.

**The Hudson Gazette first appeared under the name of the Saturday Evening News, with A. Wolverton editor and publisher.** It had a very limited circulation and patronage. **William TenBroeck Schermerhorn came from New York state and purchased the paper in 1858.** He gained a wide reputation as a fighting Democrat. Mr. Schermerhorn was born in Claverack Columbia county, N. Y. and entered the office of the Wayne County Sentinel at Palmyra, N. Y. at the age of thirteen years. To start with he had a limited amount of learning, but possessed a keen and observing mind. Later he worked in Utica, N. Y. and then for the Wayne County Democrat at Lyons, N. Y.

When desiring to enter business for himself he came to Hudson and bought the Gazette. Under his progressive temperament it became one of the leading journals of the state. He died of heart disease December 15, 1884 and **the business was carried on by the Schermerhorn sons, who have won prominence in newspaper and printing lines. The Gazette was later purchased by Stanley C. Stone and a stock company composed of Byron J. Foster, W. R. Thompson and B. D. Chandler, under whose able management the Post-Gazette is still published. (As of 1933)**

With the able editorials of Mr. Schermerhorn the Republicans in Hudson were for years alert to have an equally able newspaper to advance their political views, and several editors were brought into the field to conduct the Hudson Post, but each owner failed to meet the requirements until James Laird and William Penfield assumed the ownership and for a time more than fulfilled the requirements as Republican journalists. They however, lacked financial resources, but later these men won national fame. Mr. Laird being a congressman from the West and Mr. Penfield with his great legal ability was internationally known as council to the Secretary of state of the President's cabinet and was sent to the Hague to ...peace...

Finally **the Hudson Post was purchased by James Madison Scarritt, who came here from Clyde, N. Y. Mr. Scarritt was born in Smyrna, N. Y. Sept. 1, 1834, his father being one of the pioneers of Chanango county, moving when a boy with his parents, into the wilderness and engaged in milling. The earliest recollections of Editor Scarritt were of hard labor in old fashioned saw and grist mills at Upperville, N. Y.**

Ambitious to learn the printers trade he served an apprenticeship in the Hamilton, N. Y. Republican. In contrast with the modern printing

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office equipment the furnishings of this office were crude. He has often told the writer about this old system of apprenticing. Each office took a new apprentice every year, who received a small compensation for his work. He served four years, when his employer gave him a certificate that stated he was a master printer. He then had to find a new job and generally had to teach the trade to other apprentices. Among the writer's keepsakes is Mr. Scarritt's grandfather's certificate of a master printer.

Mr. Scarritt's first newspaper venture was the founding of the Sherburne, N. Y. Transcript; later he was foreman of the rural American, then published at Clinton, N. Y. In another office he worked beside Thomas James, who later became postmaster of New York City and afterward postmaster general. At another time, he worked for Horace Greeley and often spoke in later years of the difficulty in deciphering Greeley's handwriting.

Mr. Scarritt later owned a job printing office ub St. Louis, MO and was the salesman representative of a printing press. After he discontinued the Sherburne Transcript he formed a partnership with another man and founded the Mexico N. Y. Independent, which he sold five years later and purchased the Clyde (N.Y.) Times. **The old newspaper files of the Transcript and Independent are now owned by the Steuerwald's of this city.**

When Mr. Scarritt came to this city The Hudson Post was a run-down property. There were less than 200 paying subscribers and had no reputation for job work and little material to do the work with. There was an old Washington press. Scarcely any one would subscribe for the paper, as changes in previous ownerships had been a pecuniary loss to the subscribers and they would not trust the paper more than to pay three months in advance. Mr. Scarritt said it was harder business than starting a new paper for he had

a reputation to obliterate and another to make. It required Mr. Scarritt three years to put the paper on a paying basis. He later equipped the office with a power newspaper press and a job power press run by steam power and a better supply of material.

**The Record, an official organ of the Trinity (Episcopal) church in Hudson, was edited by the Rev. Jesse T. Webster and later became the official organ of two dioceses. For some time it was printed by the Hudson Post, but later when the editor moved away was printed in Detroit.**

When Mr. Scarritt purchased the Hudson Post it was located in the northeast corner of the second floor of the Union block, but in the late 70's Mr. Scarritt built the building where the Post-Gazette is at present located, and it became the new newspaper quarters.

The preceding article's headline and source document appears below:

## **STORY OF NEWSPAPERS IN HUDSON GOES BACK NEARLY EIGHTY YEARS**

**Hudson Post story written by Arthur Steuerwald on June 16, 1933 for the Centennial celebration**