

Research Guide

Michigan Statesman and St. Joseph's Chronicle

On microfilm at the Local History Branch of Cass District Library

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The *Michigan Statesman and St. Joseph's Chronicle* was the first newspaper published in Southwest Michigan when it was still a territory. Under the editorship of John D. Defrees, the first issue of the *Statesman* came off the press at White Pigeon, St. Joseph County in December 1833.

John Defrees continued as editor of the *Michigan Statesman* until the third week of June 1834. All issues of the *Statesman* under Defrees' editorship are missing.

On June 28, 1834 Henry Gilbert assumed the role of editor. Fortunately for history, most issues of the *Statesman* dating from 1834-1836 survive, containing valuable historical information regarding the regions early development.

Gilbert operated the newspaper out of White Pigeon until September 17, 1835. After that he moved north to the village of Bronson, Kalamazoo County. In March 1836 the village name of Bronson was changed to Kalamazoo. Beginning in January 1837 Henry Gilbert changed the name of his paper to the *Kalamazoo Gazette*. As of this writing (May 2023), the *Kalamazoo Gazette* is still published and remains one of the oldest continuously published newspapers in Michigan.

Below is a detailed index of the issues of the *Michigan Statesman and St. Joseph's Chronicle* contained on a single roll of microfilm at the Local History Branch of the Cass District Library. The master reel is archived the Library of Michigan in Lansing.

1834: Jun 28; Jul 5; Jul 12; Jul 19; Jul 26; Aug 2; Aug 9; Aug 16; Aug 23; [No issue published Aug 30]; Sep 6; Sep 13; Sep 20; Sep 27; [No issues published Oct 4, 11, or 18 due to lack of newsprint]; Oct 25; Nov 1; Nov 8; Nov 15; Nov 22; Nov 29; Dec 6; Dec 13; Dec 20; Dec 27.

1835: Jan 3; Jan 10; Jan 17; Jan 24; Jan 31; [Feb 7 issue missing]; Feb 14; Feb 21; Feb 28; Mar 7; Mar 14; Mar 14; Mar 28; Apr 4; Apr 11; Apr 18; Apr 25; May 2; May 9; May 16; May 23; May 30; Jun 6; Jun 13; Jun 20; Jun 27; Jul 1; Jul 9; Jul 16; Jul 23; Jul 30; Aug 6; Aug 13; Aug

20; Aug 27; Sep 3; Sep 10; Sep 17, **LAST ISSUE PUBLISHED AT WHITE PIGEON**; [Sep 24, not published while press is moved to Bronson, Kalamazoo County]; Oct 2, **FIRST ISSUE PUBLISHED AT BRONSON, KALAMAZOO COUNTY**; [Oct 9 not published]; Oct 16; Oct 23; Oct 30; Nov 6; Nov 13; Nov 20; [Nov 27 not published]; Dec 5; [Dec 12 not published due to printing office not being finished. No roof, snow on equipment.]; Dec 26.

1836: Jan 2; Jan 9; Jan 16; Jan 23; Jan 30; Feb 6; Feb 13; Feb 20; Feb 27; Mar 5; Mar 12; Mar 19; Mar 26; Apr 2; Apr 9, **VILLAGE NAME CHANGE IN BANNER FROM BRONSON TO KALAMAZOO**; [No issues published Apr 16, 23, 20; May 7, 14, 21, 28]; Jun 4; Jun 11; Jun 18; Jun 25; Jul 2; Jul 9; Jul 16; Jul 23; Jul 30; Aug 6; Aug 13; Aug 20; Aug 27; Aug 31; Sep 10; Sep 17; Sep 24; Oct 1; Oct 8; Oct 15.