



Calumet County Historical Society Museum

**Open Sundays June-September 1:00 to 4:00
or by appointment**

Calumet County Weeklies Share a Storied History

By Ray Mueller

Calumet County Historical Society

Since 1857, there have been 16 different weekly newspapers published in Calumet County but only one of them remains in business today under its original name.

That distinction belongs to the Brillion News, which began publication on September 7, 1894 – a history of 128 years. A majority of the other weeklies had a very short publication run.

The Brillion News has been owned and operated by the Zander family since 1899. A microfiche file of the newspaper is available at the Brillion Public Library.

Although it serves as the official newspaper for the Calumet County government, the city of Chilton, the Chilton school district, and other units of local government, the Tri-County News is not counted in the county's total of 16 because it is based in Kiel (technically in Manitowoc County).

The Tri-County News, which has a significant portion of its circulation in Calumet County, enjoys a more diversified history than any of the weeklies that were based in Calumet County. It began publication on January 1, 1893 with the title of Kiel National-Zeitung. That is the basis of today's Tri-County News being its 128th volume in 2022.

The Kiel National-Zeitung name was kept until a change to the Tri-County Record



Kiel TRI COUNTY Record

Kiel, Wisconsin, Thursday, May 28, 1953

in September of 1918 (perhaps a reaction to the attacks on anything “German” during World War I). In 1950, it became the Kiel Tri-County Record.

The next change came on June 7, 2001, when the New Holstein Reporter, which dated to 1902, and the Chilton Spirit, which debuted in August of 1993, were united with the Kiel Tri-County Record to become today's Tri-County News.

Within the borders of Calumet County, the Chilton Times and then Chilton Times-Journal were published from September 26, 1857 until March of 2017. The addition of Journal to the title came from a merger in 1933 with the Independent Journal, which was established in December of 1916.

Among the short-lived Chilton-based newspapers were the Calumet County Reflector (1867 to 1870), Calumet County News (1880 to 1884), Chilton Guardian (1886 to 1887), and Chilton Calumet (1898 to 1902).

Two Chilton-based publications written in German were the Wisconsin Demokrat (1873 to 1917) and Volksbote (1877 to 1883). From August 4, 1859 to December 1861, the Calumet Republican was published in Gravesville, which has since been annexed to the city of Chilton.

Stockbridge had two short-lived newspapers – the Stockbridge Enterprise and the Stockbridge Union. Both started in 1873 and ceased publication in 1874, according to the Guide to Wisconsin Newspapers 1833 to 1957 compiled by the Wisconsin Historical Society. In Hilbert, the Hilbert Favorite was published from 1908 to 1986.

The most recently established weekly newspaper in Calumet County was the Chilton Journal. It debuted in November of 2019 and

was last published in early June of 2022.

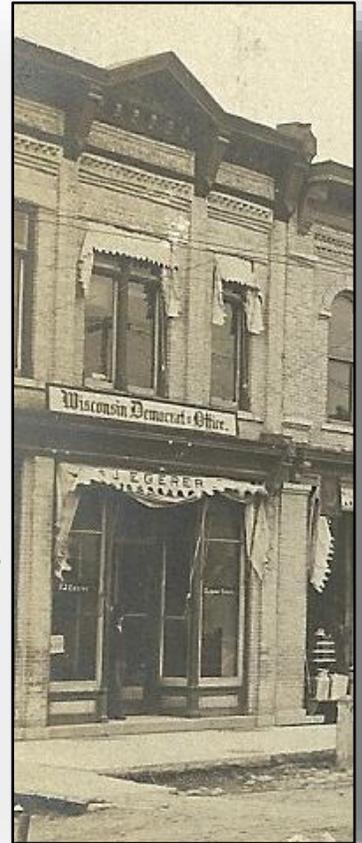
The Wisconsin Historical Society indicates it has bound volumes or microfilm reels for all

or portions of these Calumet County newspapers – Stockbridge Union, New Holstein Reporter, Hilbert Favorite, Calumet Republican, Wisconsin Demokrat, Chilton Times-Journal, Independent Journal, and Brillion News.

Chilton's Public Library has microfilm of the Chilton Times-Journal from September 26, 1857 through December 25, 2008. That library also has microfilm of the county plat books and the federal census data from 1840 through 1930.

The New Holstein Public Library has microfilm of the New Holstein Reporter from September 2, 1908 through 1988, bound volumes of the Reporter and the Tri-County News, and microfilm of the federal census data and county plat books. The Kiel Public Library has a collection of the Kiel Tri-County Record starting on April 30, 1925.

In addition, the Tri-County News office at 606 Fremont St. in Kiel has bound volumes of all of the Chilton Spirit, the New Holstein Reporter starting in the 1930s, the Kiel Tri-County Record dating to the 1920s, and all of the Tri-County News since its debut in 2001. These are available to the public during regular business hours.



Der Volkshote.

Herausgeber:
H. W. Meyer, Appleton, Wis.,
Eigentümer des „Chilton Volksboten“

Chilton, Wis., den 31. August 1888.

Local-Agenten in Chilton:
Theodor & Henry Kersten,
(German Exchange Bank.)