

Newspapers of Pipestone County (updated February 2017)
(Early history taken from Arthur Rose's 1911 History of Pipestone County
with updating from the 1984 Pipestone County History Book.)

From Rose's book, he points out that his history book spans 32 years of newspaper history from 1879 to 1911. Pipestone County during these 32 years had 16 weekly, one monthly and one daily publication. 18 total newspapers founded, only five are in existence in 1911. As of February 2017, there are three remaining newspapers in the county.

Pipestone County Star (since 1879) with The Free Star added in 1976.
Edgerton Enterprise (since 1883)
Jasper Journal (since 1888)
Farm Market News (since 1967)
Southwestern Peach

Fallen by the wayside (Arthur Rose's words) before 1911 are:

Pipestone Daily Star – 4/4/1892-12/31/1907
Pipestone Republican – 2/14/1884 – 12/9/1887
Pipestone Republic – 2/2/1884 – 4/11/1885
Pipestone Independent – 9/23/1894 – 11/10/1894
The Public Tribune – previous name of Farmers Leader
Farmers' Advocate – succeeded by name of Farmers Leader
The Week's Review (later went by name of Pipestone Review) – 1902-1904
Minnesota Stjernen (Norwegian) – 1889-1890
Edgerton News – 1880
Woodstock Journal – May 1886
Woodstock Eagle – 1891 – 1892
Holland Advocate – 1903-1905
Holland News – 1906
Holland Index – 1906
Trosky Advertiser – 1893
Ruthton Gazette – 1897-1911

Since 1911, the following have stopped publishing:

Farmers Leader – 2/19/1890 - 5/25/1944
Woodstock News (Pipestone County News) 1895-1946
Ruthton Tribune (later Gazette) per 1984 History – 1914 – 9/5/1962
Buffalo Ridge Gazette (since 5/21/1969) – Bought by Tyler Tribute, Tyler, MN. (News from Ruthton, Holland and Pipestone County is included in the Tyler Tribute.)
Holland Independent -- early 1920s to 1948 per 1984 History
Ruthton Advertiser – 1912
Shopping News – 1940s (Woodstock)
Farm Market News (1964 to 1967) and Pipestone Pioneer (1967) under Publisher Ronald Sorenson. Sold to Pipestone County Star in 1967.

City of Pipestone Newspapers

Pipestone County Star

June 19, 1879 was the first issue of the Pipestone County Star published by Issac L. Hart. At the beginning only two pages were printed at home. It was a weekly publication. Charles Bennett got proof of first copy. First complete copy went to W. N. Davidson of Luverne and second copy went to H.S. Sanford, first regular subscriber. January 22, 1884 until February 11, 1887 the Star was semi-weekly. February 11, 1887 the Star became weekly. February 11, 1887, Issac's son, Gardner E. Hart, joined the firm and was called I. L. Hart & Son.

April 4, 1892, the Pipestone Daily Star was founded and continued until December 31, 1907. An evening journal. The weekly Star was maintained. With the ending of the Daily Star December 31, 1907, the weekly Star became semi-weekly again.

Gardner E. Hart withdrew from business March 31, 1900 and the publishers became Star Printing Company, Ralph G. Hart, younger son of founder. May 1904 Star Printing was organized with I.L. Hart, Manager, K.G. Hart, Secretary/Treasurer and Ralph G. Hart, editor. Rose writes that the Pipestone County Star was republican politically.

As shown in *History of Pipestone County* published in 1984, the Hart Family owned the business for three generations. The last of the Hart owners were David and Reed Hart. They sold the paper in 1965 to Carl and Ruth Erickson. January 1, 1976, the Ericksons sold the paper to Chuck Draper, Ken Anderson and Jim Keul and it was organized as Pipestone Publishing Company. Ray Fuder became partner in 1979. The company established a printing plant in Slayton and at the writing of the *History of Pipestone County* in 1984, 20 publications were printed there. Pipestone Publishing bought out The Shopper owned by Harriet Drury in 1976 and about the same time the company introduced The Free Star, a mass circulation publication.

As of the date of this report, The Pipestone County Star is a weekly publication coming out on Thursdays and The Free Star is a weekly coming out on Mondays and distributed free throughout a large area.

Farm Market News/Pipestone Pioneer/Farm Market News

The Farm Market News was started around December 1964 by Ronald Sorenson. It was mainly an agriculture service newspaper. In April of 1967, Ronald Sorenson converted the newspaper to a community-type publication called The Pioneer. In October of 1967, The Pioneer was sold to Carl and Ruth Erickson, publishers of the Pipestone County Star, who planned to switch the newspaper back to a farm newspaper. The same name – Farm Market News – would be used.

As of the date of this report, the Farm Market News is being published by Pipestone Publishing and comes out the first and third Monday of every month. It is delivered in 10 counties in SW Minnesota, 3 counties in SE South Dakota, and 3 counties in NW Iowa. It is mainly a agricultural service newspaper.

Southwestern Peach

The SW Peach is published weekly on Thursday as a common supplement to 16 newspapers covering a nine county area of SW Minnesota.

Pipestone Republic

Founded February 2, 1884. Devoted to Temperance. Published until April 11, 1885.

Pipestone Republican

Appeared February 14, 1884. Some local politicians dissatisfied with the course of Pipestone County Star offered inducements to start an opposition paper. Organ of Republican Party. Suspended December 9, 1887.

Farmers' Leader/Pipestone Leader

Paper started as the Public Tribune on February 19, 1890 with F. A. Klunder as editor and owner. On April 16, 1890 A.D. Ferris bought interest and name changed to Farmers' Advocate devoted to the interests of Farmers' Alliance and other labor organizations. On August 20, 1890 published under the name of Farmers' Leader with C.C. Goodnow as owner and editor, and after the birth of the Peoples' Party it became a staunch supporter of that organization. In December 1890 George G. Stone bought interest in the Leader and thereafter until January 15, 1895 it was published by Goodnow & Stone. On January 15, 1895 Stone bought Goodnow's interest. Under the leadership of Stone, the Leader was democratic. The name was changed to Pipestone Leader and the first edition with that new name was January 7, 1915. The Pipestone Leader published until May 25, 1944 when it was purchased by the Hart family and incorporated into the Pipestone County Star.

Pipestone Independent

Founded by J. R. Mack on September 23, 1894. Started to support an independent county ticket in campaign in that year. Mack was unsuccessful candidate for county attorney on the ticket and was quite liberal in his abuse of nominees of the regular parties. Only eight issues published, the last one being November 10, 1894. Mack, later in the year, was convicted of embezzlement and sentenced to the state penitentiary.

The Pipestone Review (founded as Week's Review)

Had a checkered career of a little more than two years. The Weeks's Review was founded on the nation's birthday (July 4) in 1902. Two months after the founding of the Week's Review, Paul A. Ewert secured the interests and from that date the journal was conducted by Charles S. Young as manager and Paul A. Ewert as editor. March 4, 1903 Mr. Ewert became the sole owner. A few weeks later Mr. Ewert changed the name to Pipestone Review. May 1904 Mr. Kaplan again took charge. Plant was awarded by court. Mr. Ewert claimed he had traded land for the Review. Mr. Kaplan said no such deal had been made. Mr. Kaplan conducted the paper until June 1904 when it was sold. December 10, 1904 Marshall and Marshall became publishers and a little later the paper was discontinued and the plant moved away.

City of Edgerton Newspaper

Edgerton News

Pipestone County's second newspaper was the Edgerton News. In the summer of 1880, Gardner E. Hart put a plant in the little village of Edgerton and on July 24, 1880 issued the first number of the Edgerton News. October 2, 1880 was suspended.

Edgerton Enterprise

The Edgerton Enterprise was founded by A.R. Burkdoll on April 28, 1883. During the early history, the Enterprise was a republican paper. In the fall of 1887, William Lockwood, J.C. Fay and C.S. Howard bought the plant in company with J.C. Marshall assuming editorial control October 1, 1887. The Enterprise was than a democratic organ. Marshall was in charge until December 31, 1893. The newspaper was sold beginning of the year 1894 when E.C. Brake became owner and then in September 1894 to William Lockwood who installed A.P. McDowell and journal was republican. McDowell left December 25, 1896. Other changes followed. As shown in the *History of Pipestone County*, in July 1913 the paper was sold to J.S. Randolph and in 1946 John Fey bought the business and he went into partnership with brother, Carroll Fey, in 1952. In 1956 the partnership dissolved and in June 1975, following his father's death, Rich Fey became editor and publisher continuing until January 1984 when Mel DeBoer took over. "On the Farm" and "The Penny Saver" were also produced through the Enterprise office. Mel DeBoer sold the business to Brian Ward. As of the date of this report, Jill Fennema is the editor and publisher. Edgerton Enterprise is published every Wednesday in Edgerton.

The Minnesota Stjernen

Printed in the Norwegian language, The Minnesota Stjernen was started at Edgerton October 26, 1889 by H.W. Roll. Published until February 1890 when a removal to Pipestone was made. In the latter part of April 1890, the plant was moved to Albert Lea, MN where publication was continued.

City of Jasper Newspaper

The Jasper Journal

The first and only paper ever started in Jasper. The Jasper Journal was issued first time on July 27, 1888. Founded by Selah S. King and E.W. Davies. Republican paper. According to the *History of Pipestone County* published in 1984, Selah King owned and managed the paper from 1888 until 1914 when it was sold to Alex Sinclair. Merrel J. Mitchell became owner in 1929 and in 1938 the paper changed ownership again when John G. Davidson became publisher. In 1970¹ it was sold to Carl and Ruth Erickson, owners of Pipestone County Star. The Jasper Journal was then sold to Pipestone Publishing in January of 1976. In 1982² the paper changed its format and the publication day was changed to Monday. A weekly paper.

¹ The Jasper Centennial 1888-1988 states that the Davidsons sold the paper to Carl and Ruth Erickson in 1966. The Davidsons worked with the Journal under Erickson for four years until their retirement in October 1970.

² The Jasper Centennial 1888-1988 states that the Jasper Journal took on a new look in 1980.

City of Trosky Newspaper

Trosky Advertiser

Trosky Advertiser was established March 24, 1893 and the last issue was November 1893. Plant moved to Wykoff, MN.

City of Woodstock Newspaper

The Woodstock Journal

Short-lived monthly paper devoted principally to literature – founded May 1, 1886 by Dr. H. Wilson. Only a few were issued.

Woodstock Eagle

Founded in August 1891 by Carl S. Eastwood. C.L. Wing bought interest and until August 1892 joint ownership. Last issue printed December 23, 1892.

The Pipestone County News (became the Woodstock News)

Newspaper was founded by T.A. Stewart March 29, 1895 for the purpose of booming the land business in which he was engaged in Woodstock, MN. Stewart conducted the paper until October 2, 1896 when Guy Lincoln took control. Then on December 11, 1896 took over by M.D. Cadwell and W.R. Brower (editor). March 1897 Cadwell and Brower abandoned the paper. George H. Shields and Alta Bean got out four issues of the News and then T.A. Stewart, the founder, again took control. Stewart ran the paper until October 21, 1898 when William McCune leased the plant and ran it only until January 13, 1899 and then turned it over again to Stewart who ran it until August 15, 1899 when leased to Carl Cloud. The plant of the Pipestone County News was bought on April 20, 1900 by the News Publishing Company leaving Cloud as editor. Cloud then purchased the plant on November 29, 1901 with George H. Shields and published the News as partners until July 11, 1902 when Shields bought interest. He changed the name to Woodstock News October 17, 1902 and continued until March 18, 1904 when he partnered with others until February 1, 1905. October 6, 1905 H.W. Haislet bought plant and published until March 29, 1907. Changed hands again until A.H. Higley leased the plant (this is where the Rose History ends) and published the paper until March 29, 1912 (according to Woodstock, Minnesota 1879-1992 history). Carl P. Cloud again took charge and put out the paper from April 5, 1912 through May 23, 1913 when he took the train and left town, leaving family and debts behind. J.L. Shields stepped in and put out two issues – May 30 and June 6, 1913. John J. Conway conducted it from June 13, 1913 through May 29, 1914. The second woman editor, Edith Jackson, published June 5, 1914 to June 4, 1915. Publisher of Edgerton Enterprise put out seven issues. These efforts continued with various people over the years. John Randolph, who by then had been publishing the Enterprise, bought out share December 1923 and became sole editor and publisher printing the paper in Edgerton through Thursday, May 2, 1946 when he sold his newspaper dynasty to John M. Fey. Fey laid the paper to rest on September 20, 1946. The final issue had one advertisement – by Peter Rohloff. According to the Woodstock history, much of the original hard copy of the News lies buried in the Edgerton city dump. When it was in Woodstock, the paper was printed in the lower level of the town hall.

Shopping News

In the Woodstock History, it is mentioned that for a brief time in the late 1940s, Ben Hendricks published a mimeograph work referred to as the Shopping News.

City of Ruthton Newspapers

Ruthton Gazette

According to the history done by Arthur Rose, the Ruthton Gazette was established by Walter C. Smith on August 6, 1897. After having conducted the paper nearly 12 years (for a time in partnership with L.W. Henderson), early in May 1909³ Mr. Smith suspended the Gazette and left Ruthton without a paper. The Gazette was revived 6 weeks later by Mark Woolstencroft who printed the first issue June 11, 1909. The Ruthton Gazette was suspended in January 1911.

The Ruthton Advertiser

According to the History of Pipestone County, Sigurd Pedersen was talked into starting a paper and have it printed out of town for a year to make it legal to induce a printer to come. The Ruthton Advertiser was edited for a year and passed out of existence in 1912.

Ruthton Tribune

In 1914, Jay Jackson started the Ruthton Tribune. It continued until 1937. On September 28, 1939 Clarence Heidal purchased the Tribune from the Jacksons and continued to publish it until June 1946 when the paper was sold to Russell Grieman. Grieman sold out to Robert Hershberger in December 1950 and he continued until September 5, 1962. Ruthton was without a newspaper so it was arranged with The Edgerton Enterprise that they would do the reporting and cover advertising. They did this until 1969.

Buffalo Ridge Gazette

The businessmen in Ruthton decided they needed their own paper so they started the Ruthton Buffalo Ridge Gazette on May 21, 1969. On May 5, 1971 Duane DeBettignies took over the paper and the name was changed to The Buffalo Ridge Gazette. It was owned and published by Mr. DeBettignies until it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Hunt of Tyler in November 1987. The owners promised that the newspaper would continue for at least two years. As of the date of this report, the Buffalo Ridge Gazette, news from the cities of Ruthton, Holland and Pipestone County, is now part of the Tyler Tribune paper. The Tyler Tribune paper is published weekly on Wednesdays by the Buffalo Ridge Newspapers, LLC in Tyler, MN. Charles R. Hunt is the Publisher.

³ The Ruthton Centennial states Mr. Smith left about 1908.

Holland, MN Newspapers

The Holland Advocate

The Holland Advocate was founded by George N. Kieffer July 31, 1903. It was purchased by Dan Gagen in May of 1904 who conducted it until March 1905. At that time, D.A. Gibbs became editor and publisher. He struggled to continue and gave up late in July 1905.

The Holland News

Last paper founded before the Rose History book was published was the Holland News which made its appearance in July 1906. It was issued from the office of the Woodstock News and H. W. Haislet, editor of Woodstock News, was also the publisher of the Holland paper with A.E. Hatch of Holland, acting as local editor. Because it was not printed in the town from which it was mailed, it was denied admission to the mails as second class matter. The venture was given up. The Holland News had an existence of about one month.

The Holland Index

According to Holland, Minnesota 1888-1988 history, in 1906 there appeared the Holland Index published by James Irving. He ran for a county office and was elected so the paper was then discontinued.

The Holland Independent

According to the Holland, Minnesota 1888-1988 history, in the early 1920s Paul Hubbard moved into the village and started the Holland Independent. After the death of his wife, Paul left Holland and Claus Death took over writing the news. The paper was discontinued in 1948.

Sources:

An Illustrated History of the counties of Rock and Pipestone Minnesota by Arthur P. Rose published in 1911.

The History of Pipestone County published in July 1984

Ruthon Centennial 1888-1988, Ruthon, Minnesota

Jasper Centennial 1888-1988, Jasper, Minnesota

Holland, Minnesota 1888-1988, Holland, Minnesota

Woodstock, Minnesota 1879-1992, Woodstock, Minnesota

Pipestone County Star, October 19, 1967 edition