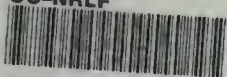


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FRANKLIN SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS.

THE Franklin Society of the City of Chicago has already published, in beautiful style, on tinted paper, broad margins, limited editions of the following papers:

- I. THE PRINTER: WHAT HE MIGHT BE. Read before the Society Oct. 27, 1869, by JAMES W. SHEAHAN. 20 pp. Price, 50 cents.

This paper, with the exception of technical and similar terms, is written in Anglo-Saxon, and is an unique sample of what may be said in our mother tongue.

- II. EARLY NEWSPAPERS IN ILLINOIS. Read before the Society Jan. 20, 1870, by HENRY R. BOSS. 48 pp. Price, \$1.00.

Other papers are already prepared, or in course of preparation, to be read before the Society, on topics connected with our craft, which will be published in uniform style with the foregoing. Among the contributions promised are the following:

- "History of the Press of Lake County, Illinois."
- "History of Printers' Unions in Chicago."
- "The Old Booksellers of Chicago."
- "History of the Religious Press of Illinois."

As but limited editions of these publications are issued, and no more will be printed, early application should be made in order to secure complete sets.

Copies of each of these publications will be sent, free of postage, on receipt of price. Also, for sale by Marder, Luse & Co., Rounds & James, Western News Co., Callaghan & Cockcroft, Keen & Cooke, S. C. Griggs & Co., Chicago; Joel Munsell Albany, N. Y. Address

FRANKLIN SOCIETY,
168 South Clark Street, Chicago.

ERRATUM. — Page 32, second line, for "Ferry" read "Terry."

PAPERS

OF CHICAGO,



CHICAGO:

PUBLISHED BY THE FRANKLIN SOCIETY.

1870.

FRANKLIN SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS. II.

EARLY NEWSPAPERS IN ILLINOIS:

READ BEFORE THE

FRANKLIN SOCIETY OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO,

BY

HENRY R. BOSS,

JANUARY 20, 1870.



CHICAGO:
PUBLISHED BY THE FRANKLIN SOCIETY.
1870.

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PREFATORY.



EARLY in 1861 the writer essayed to collect the materials for writing the history of the Newspaper Press of Illinois, with a view to its publication in book form. The Chicago Historical Society generously allowed free access to its valuable collection of manuscripts, and many friends in different portions of the State promptly responded to the request for information. In this manner, and by persistent correspondence, a considerable amount of material was gathered, very nearly all of which has, happily, been preserved till now. The breaking out of civil war, calling men to the making, rather than the writing, of history, and the pressure of other avocations, effectually interfered with the proposed work, and the design was abandoned. Now, however, when the formation of the FRANKLIN SOCIETY has brought together a class of individuals especially inter-

ested in the subject, it seems appropriate to put these memoranda in proper shape to constitute a contribution to the history of the Fourth Estate.

No one can more fully appreciate or more regret the fragmentary character and incompleteness of this paper than myself; but it is believed that it is far better to preserve these details in this manner than trust any longer to the chances of loss or destruction of the memoranda gathered here. The fact that we are compelled to speak of so many of the pioneer editors in the past tense, as, "the late Hooper Warren," etc., affords another warning to collect the materials for the history of our craft before all opportunities are lost; and it is fervently hoped that the present effort will prove an additional incentive to some one, more competent, to write a full history of Journalism in Illinois and the United States.



EARLY NEWSPAPERS.



AT the outset of our discourse we are compelled to make the statement that no record exists which gives us the date of the first newspaper issued in what is now the great State of Illinois. Certain it is, that in the year 1814 *or* 1815 a newspaper—the first in the State—was issued at Kaskaskia, Randolph County, by Matthew Duncan, a brother of the late Gov. Duncan. This paper, it is asserted, was named the *Illinois Intelligencer*; but the late Robert Blackwell, himself one of the pioneer editors of the State, asserts that it was named the *Statesman*. On this subject, the late Hooper Warren, a careful and painstaking editor, wrote, under date of March 26, 1861:

“That paper” (the *Intelligencer*), “under that title, I believe to be the *first* regularly issued newspaper in Illinois. None of the first settlers, such as Gov. Edwards, Mr. Cook, Mr. Messinger and dozens of others, who appeared to be intent on telling me all they knew, ever mentioned to me the name of any other paper previous to that. Joseph Charless, who established the *Missouri Gazette* at St. Louis in 1807, and who was very communicative to me of his editorial

experience, never mentioned the name of any other paper in Illinois until 1818. George Churchill, who came to Illinois the year before I did, says he never heard of any other paper before the *Intelligencer*. W. H. Brown's *Herald* and Mr. Blackwell's *Statesman*, I suspect, were nothing more than quarter or half-sheet handbills, irregularly issued. Otherwise, the old pioneer settlers heretofore mentioned would have had something to say about them."

Mr. Warren adds:

"I think Gov. Reynolds makes a great mistake in regard to Matthew Duncan bringing his press to Illinois in 1809. That was the year in which the Territorial Government was formed—it being in the first grade, the Governor and Judges making the laws the first three years. When I established myself at Edwardsville, in 1819, Gov. Edwards would speak to me of his employing Mr. Charless, of the *Missouri Gazette*, to do public printing, and would compare his prices with mine, as I was then doing it. I also heard Mr. Charless speak of doing Territorial work for Gov. Edwards. So I am led to believe that Matthew Duncan did not bring his press to Illinois until several years after Gov. Edwards came and organized the Territorial Government."

The Chicago Historical Society's collections contain a file of the *Illinois Intelligencer*, commencing with Vol. V, No. 8, which was dated Saturday, December 23, 1820, and "published by Brown & Berry, Printers for the State." If the paper had been published without interruption from the time of its foundation, this would fix the date of its first issue at November 9, 1816. As, however, country newspapers were then, even more than now, subject to mischances which prevented their regular appearance, we may take it for granted that the first Illinois newspaper was issued at an earlier date. The late Hon. W. H. Brown, of this city, in a paper read before the Historical Society in 1860, asserted it as *certain*

that in 1814 Matthew Duncan had a press at Kaskaskia, the then seat of government, and issued a weekly newspaper called the *Illinois Herald*.* Mr. Brown adds:

“Mr. Duncan was a native of Kentucky, and brought his press and types with him upon his removal to Illinois. It was, apparently, a bold experiment to have entered upon the publication of a newspaper at that early day. In 1810, when the census was taken, there appears to have been but a fraction over 12,000 inhabitants, and the year preceding the war (1811) marked by the restless and semi-hostile state of the Indian tribes, and the three years of direct hostilities, must have so deterred immigration that, with the exception of the natural increase, the population of 1815 could hardly have exceeded that of 1810. Madison County, on the north and west, was composed of frontier settlements. All the population of the Territory was south of the township line of 5 north of the third principal meridian, running east to the Ohio and Wabash rivers. Kaskaskia and Belleville were the principal towns on the western side of the State, the former containing a population (two-thirds of whom were native French) of from six to eight hundred, and the latter about two hundred; and Shawneetown, on the Ohio river, with rather a larger population, than the county town of St. Clair. The settlements were altogether confined to the timbered land skirting the various water-courses, leaving large intervening prairies wholly unoccupied. Our early inhabitants, like all pioneers, were not a reading population—indeed, quite too large a proportion of them could not read at all—and, as there were scarcely any mail facilities, very little, if any, profit could have been anticipated from the publication of a weekly newspaper. In 1820, the list of the subscribers to the *Intelligencer*, which succeeded the *Herald*, did not exceed five hundred, and it is therefore reasonable to suppose that Mr. Duncan’s list did not exceed three hundred. The *Herald* was

* Mr. Blackwell says Matthew Duncan continued the publication of the paper *for several years*, and in 1816 it was purchased by D. P. Cook, Esq., and in the spring of the same year he (Blackwell) came to the Territory and purchased half of it, and the paper was published by Cook & Blackwell for one or two years, until Mr. Cook was elected Attorney General of the Territory. The firm was changed to Blackwell & Berry in 1818, at which time Mr. Blackwell was Territorial Auditor. The printing of the convention of 1818 was executed by them. It is in honor of the above Mr. Cook that Cook County is so named.

printed upon a sheet of 18 by 22 inches, and afforded to subscribers at \$3 per annum if paid in advance, or \$4 at the end of the year. The printed matter, with its large type and displayed advertisements, consisting mainly of legal notices and stray animals, might be easily compressed into three or four columns of our modern daily papers. * * * It was before the day of telegrams, railroads, or even stage coaches. The duties of an editor were not onerous. No leaders were expected or required. The readers of the *Herald* or the *Intelligencer* were neither fastidious or critical, or at all particular as to the manner of the 'getting up' of the hebdomadal sheet for their weekly repast. As the advertising patronage was limited, and the circulation small, the newspaper itself must have been a losing concern, and even up to 1827—I speak from experience—the newspaper barely paid expenses. The Territorial and State patronage, however, and the liberal price paid for the public printing, not only sustained the office, but afforded a fair remuneration for the capital invested."

Col. Elijah C. Berry, the first of our State Auditors, and also a native of Kentucky,* purchased the office and paper of Mr. Duncan, and, according to Mr. Brown's statement, changed its name to the *Illinois Intelligencer*, and enlarged its size to 20 by 25 inches. This transfer was probably made in October, 1815. The late Daniel P. Cook and Mr. Robert Blackwell had an interest in the paper in 1817, and in the following year it was jointly owned by Mr. Blackwell and William Berry, a brother of the Auditor.

The seat of government was removed to Vandalia in 1820, and the *Intelligencer* followed the public offices in their migration. In the winter of 1820, Hon. W. H. Brown purchased the interest of Robert Blackwell in the paper, his salutatory appearing in the issue of Dec. 23.

* Mr. Berry was publishing *The Correspondent*, at Louisville, in 1817, and sold out that paper in the fall of the same year.

Mr. Brown's description of the condition of the office at the time of his purchase is of interest to all of us at this time. He says:

"The material of the office consisted of an old, dilapidated press, nearly similar in form and construction to that of Franklin now on exhibition at the Patent Office at Washington, but about one size larger. It worked off a form of 20 by 25 inches, or a sheet somewhat larger than is used for octavo book printing. The type, when brought to Kaskaskia, had doubtless performed severe duty in some interior Kentucky office, and was justly entitled to an honorable discharge. There were but two varieties — a respectable font of Small Pica and a small one of Minion. These were used for the newspaper and the laws and journals, oftentimes causing the delay of a partially composed form, until matter from other forms could be distributed.* The printing ink in use was an impromptu work of one of the printers, from oil and lampblack inartistically combined, producing rather a dingy blue than a fair black color. The office was an open log building, one story high, with a roof of clapboards held in place by longitudinal weight-poles. Its ventilation was perfect, except when the thermometer indicated severe freezing weather. At such times there was a cessation of business, and the printers became gentlemen of leisure, until, by a prodigal use of fuel, a general thaw throughout the office took place. In 1821, very important changes were made. The printing establishment was moved into a better building, the old press was laid aside, and the worn-out type sent to the foundry."

Early in the Legislative session of 1822-3, the famous "Convention resolutions" were introduced. Mr. Berry was a member of the Legislature and in favor of the resolutions, and Mr. Brown was opposed to them. This led to a disagreement between the partners, when the last named withdrew from the paper, which then passed into the hands of the pro-slavery party, Robert Blackwell being

* Hon. Sidney Breese, one of the Supreme Court Judges of this State, on one occasion, when work was "crowding" and workmen were scarce in the office where "Breese's Reports" were being printed, placed a portion of one volume in type, "studying" the case till he found the sorts required.

associated with Mr. Berry. A year later, the latter failed, and David Blackwell purchased his interest in the paper, and at once turned its batteries against the Conventionists and in favor of free soil. In 1826 or '27, Mr. Brown again became a partner in the paper, which he conducted for about two years, when he made way for the late Judge James Hall.

In March, 1832, we find the *Vandalia Whig and Illinois Intelligencer*, new series—which was, in reality, a continuation of the *Intelligencer*—by Meinrad Greiner, continued by Greiner & Sherman, and subsequently by S. C. Sherman.

The removal of the seat of government to Springfield in 1839, and the consequent withdrawal of State patronage, occasioned the discontinuance of the publication of the *Illinois Intelligencer*, and, after an existence of twenty-one years, it ceased to live.

The second newspaper established in Illinois was the *Illinois Emigrant*, at Shawneetown, Gallatin County, by Henry Eddy and Singleton H. Kimmel, the first number of which was issued in the fall of 1818. The title was afterward* changed to *Illinois Gazette*, when Mr. Kimmel gave place to Judge Hall. At the time of its establishment the celebrated salt springs in that vicinity were in operation, attracting thither a class of business men not found in any other part of the State. The *Gazette* supported the Convention or pro-slavery party. It was printed on a sheet 18 by 22 inches, and in point of typo-

* Hooper Warren says it was "some years" afterward, while W. H. Brown says it is certain that in the year 1820 Hall & Eddy were the editors and proprietors.

graphical execution surpassed its elder neighbor at Kaskaskia. In the fall of 1822 Judge Hall ostensibly withdrew from the paper, though most of its subsequent editorials on the Convention question, during the struggle of 1822-4, were attributed to him.

The third Illinois newspaper, in point of time, was the *Edwardsville Spectator*, established by the late Hooper Warren, in May, 1819, at Edwardsville, Madison County. Mr. Warren published this paper for six years, when he transferred it to Thomas Lippincott, who afterward became a clergyman, and Jeremiah Abbott, a practical printer. These gentlemen continued to publish the *Spectator* until Mr. Lippincott's entrance into the ministry, when it was discontinued.

Mr. Warren deserves especial mention here, and we take pleasure in quoting the following from one of his cotemporaries:*

"Mr. Warren was a practical printer, industrious and energetic. He spared no pains to carry out his original design, and was eminently successful. His paper was decidedly the best of its cotemporaries, and exerted a far greater influence. Under all circumstances, Mr. Warren maintained an independence of thought and speech, and failed not strongly to impress upon his readers his own sentiments of right and duty, however unpalatable or unpopular. He was a strong and ready writer—or rather composer, for it is said that his editorial articles came direct from his mind into his composing-stick—seizing the strong points of an argument and presenting them with great force. From the commencement of the paper, it assumed strong anti-slavery ground, yielding neither to intimidations or brute force, the former very frequent, and the latter used in a few instances where Mr. Warren's stubborn facts could not be controverted or his arguments answered. It pursued the even tenor of its way until the spring of 1823, when it was adopted as the organ of the Anti-Conventionists, and considerable

* Hon. W. H. Brown.

money was raised to extend its circulation. Mr. Warren entered the contest with alacrity and zeal. He now occupied a position which, of all others, he would have chosen. His whole soul was enlisted in the work. The great principle of universal liberty was the one for which he had ever contended, and he could not for a moment entertain the idea that our fair and beautiful plains should ever be blighted by the curse of slavery. The *Spectator* was the great engine in the contest, and was found in every settlement."*

Having given this brief sketch of the first three newspapers established in Illinois, we will now briefly note the memoranda in our possession respecting the local press in various counties in the State, regretting our inability to give them in more extended form.

ADAMS COUNTY.

The *Quincy Argus and Bounty Land Register* was commenced in 1835, by John H. Pettit & Co.

* Mr. Warren commenced the *Sangamo Spectator*, at Springfield, February, 1819, which he continued one year. He established the *Galena Advertiser and Upper Mississippi Herald*, at Galena, under the firm of Newhall, Philleo & Co., in 1829. In 1836 he established the *Commercial Advertiser*, at Chicago, and conducted it for about one year. In 1841, in company with Z. Eastman, he established the *Genius of Liberty*, at Lowell, La Salle County, and continued it one year, when the establishment was removed to Chicago and conducted by Mr. Eastman, under the name of the *Western Citizen*. In 1851, Mr. Warren leased for one year the press and type of the *Bureau Advocate*, at Princeton, and published that paper during the time. From 1852 to 1855, he was associate editor with Mr. Eastman, in Chicago, in the *Western Citizen* and *Free West*. Mr. Warren sadly writes: "You will see my editorial experience has been a succession of failures, but most of the pioneer editors can say the same." Yet it is seldom that an editor closes his life with the clear assurance of so deep and enduring influence for good as did Mr. Warren. He died at Mendota, Ill., August 22, 1864, on his return home from a visit to Chicago, at the age of 74 years. He was born at Walpole, N. H., May 4, 1790, and served his apprenticeship as a printer in the office of the Rutland (Vt.) *Herald*. He was buried at Henry, Marshall County, Ill., which had for some years been his place of residence, and where his son, John A. Warren, Esq., is now Postmaster.

BUREAU COUNTY.

George Churchill, Esq., in a communication to the Chicago Historical Society, says that the *Bureau Advocate*—Hooper Warren, editor—was commenced about the year 1848. This establishment, as before noted, was leased by Mr. Warren, in 1851, for one year, which was his sole connection with it.

COOK COUNTY.

We have no disposition to give any extended notice of the press in this county, as it is a subject which of itself would require a lengthy article, which we hope may at an early day be furnished by a member of this Society. We will only append the following:

The first number of the *Chicago Democrat*, the first newspaper in Cook County or Northern Illinois, was issued on the 26th of November, 1833, by John Calhoun. Two years later, Mr. Calhoun sold the *Democrat* to "Long John" Wentworth, who continued its publication without intermission until 1861, when its subscription and advertising lists were transferred to the *Daily Tribune*, and the *Democrat* ceased to exist. Mr. Wentworth now finds more congenial employment in the cultivation of the "Summit Farm," having held the helm of a single newspaper for a much longer term than is often the case among the fraternity.

The *Commercial Advertiser* was commenced by Hooper Warren, October 11, 1836, who continued it for about a year.



The *Union Agriculturist and Prairie Farmer*—which name was afterward abridged to *Prairie Farmer*—was commenced January 1, 1841. It was at first edited by John S. Wright, next by Wright & Wight, and then by Ambrose Wight. It still holds a prosperous career.

FAYETTE COUNTY.

We have already followed the fortunes of the *Illinois Intelligencer*, which was removed to Vandalia with the seat of government, in 1820.

The *Illinois Advocate*, by John York Sawyer, who had been elected State Printer, was removed from Edwardsville to Vandalia in December, 1832, and its first issue at the latter place appeared on the 5th of January, 1833. It was continued till the 4th of April, 1836, when it was succeeded by the *Illinois State Register*, of which more hereafter.

The *Vandalia Free Press and Illinois Whig*, by Colonel Wm. Hodge, was established at Vandalia about the year 1836, and continued several years.

The *Illinois Magazine* was started at Vandalia, in December, 1830, and Judge Hall became its editor. Among the contributors to this magazine were Salmon P. (now Chief Justice) Chase and Rev. James H. Perkins, but the editor was the principal writer. In 1833 Judge Hall removed to Cincinnati, where he conducted the *Western Monthly* until 1837. He died in Cincinnati early in July, 1868.

FRANKLIN COUNTY.

The first number of the *Benton Standard*, a Democratic journal, was issued in December, 1849, but dated January 4, 1850. It was edited by Ira Van Nortwick. In March, 1850, Edward V. Pierce assumed control of the paper, and about the 1st of June following associated with him John G. Goessman. In September, 1851, Mr. Pierce sold his interest in the paper to his partner, though he still continued to write for it. Up to this date the citizens of Benton had owned the press and materials, the publishers paying a yearly rental of \$100. Mr. Goessman soon associated with him James Macklin, the partnership continuing a year or two, when Mr. Macklin retired, and Mr. Goessman purchased the materials. He continued the publication of the *Standard* until his death, in June, 1857. Mr. Pierce again became editor and publisher, which place he held until March, 1858, when he sold the office to Hassett & Outten, who changed the name to *Benton Plaindealer*. Six months later these gentlemen removed the concern to Du Quoin, Perry County, establishing the *Du Quoin Republican*, and advocating the election of Mr. Lincoln as United States Senator.

In the spring of 1860, A. & G. Sellers established a Democratic journal entitled the *Benton Democrat*. On the 29th of August following, they changed their colors, and hoisted the names of Lincoln and Hamlin. When about twenty copies of that issue were printed, "the citizens stopped them issuing any more, and bought them out." The citizens conducted the paper for a few weeks, when it was purchased by G. N. Richards, who continued it as a Democratic journal, without change of title.

FULTON COUNTY.

The *Canton Herald* was commenced at Canton, by P. Stone, in January, 1838.

HANCOCK COUNTY.

The first number of the *Carthagenian*, the earliest newspaper in this county, was issued at Carthage, in June, 1836, under the auspices of an association, by Th. Gregg, editor and printer. It was suspended in the spring following, when the materials were removed to Fort Des Moines, Wisconsin Territory (now Montrose, Iowa).

In the fall of 1836, a campaign paper, called *The Echo*, advocating the election of General Harrison, was issued from the office of the *Carthagenian*.

In the fall of 1839, the Mormons commenced, at Nauvoo, the famous *Times and Seasons*, a small octavo monthly, Don Carlos Smith (brother of the Prophet) and Ebenezer Robinson, editors and proprietors.

In the spring of 1840, David N. White, before and since editor of the *Pittsburgh Gazette*, commenced, at Warsaw, the publication of the *Western World*, a Whig paper. Six months afterward it passed into the hands of Thomas C. Sharp, and at the end of the volume was changed to the *Warsaw Signal*, under which title and editor it continued, with some partnership changes, to the spring of 1847, with the exception of one year (1843), when the office was in the hands of Th. Gregg, who issued the *Warsaw Message*.

In 1842, William Smith, another brother of the Prophet, issued, at the *Times and Seasons* office, Nauvoo, a small weekly newspaper, called *The Wasp*. This was soon after enlarged, and called the *Nauvoo Neighbor*, by John Taylor, one of the Prophet's Twelve Apostles.

In the spring of 1844, dissensions arose among the Latter-Day Saints, and the *Nauvoo Expositor*, established for the avowed purpose of exposing the enormities charged upon the Mormon leaders, was issued by William Law, Wilson Law, Robert D. Foster, Charles Foster, Francis M. and Chauncey S. Higbee, and conducted by Sylvester Emmans. Only one number was issued, as the press was declared a nuisance by the City Council, and the materials and press burned and destroyed by the City Marshal, on the 10th of May, 1844. It was during the troubles which grew out of this offence that the Prophet Smith lost his life, on the 24th of the following month.

In the spring of 1846, the Mormons procured the services of a Mr. Matlack, a Gentile, who took charge of the *Neighbor* office, changed the title to that of the *Hancock Eagle*, and for a short period published a very able and spirited Democratic paper. The death of Matlack, and the removal of the great body of the Mormons, in 1846-7, terminated the career of Mormon papers in Hancock County.

About this time an Anti-Mormon paper was started, called the *New Citizen*. The office soon after passed into the hands of James McKee, who published, until 1850, the *Hancock Patriot*.

In the spring of 1847, the *Warsaw Signal* again passed into the hands of Mr. Gregg, who continued it as a Whig journal until 1850, when the office was purchased by Mr. McKee, who established in its stead the *Warsaw Commercial Journal*. This lived about three years.

In 1851 the *Signal* was resuscitated by Mr. Gregg, and issued for a year or two, and then passed into the hands of Mr. Sharp, who purchased a new office, and issued a new paper, the *Warsaw Weekly Express*. The *Express* underwent various mutations, and was finally discontinued in 1854.

About this time the *Hancock Democrat* was commenced at La Harpe. This was short-lived, and after a few months was transferred to Carthage, where it was conducted by Child & Marrier, and afterward by G. M. Child, as the *Carthage Republican*. It was at first American, but afterward Democratic, in politics.

In 1855 W. K. Davison and John F. Howe commenced, at Warsaw, the *Warsaw Weekly Bulletin*, Republican in politics, which, in 1860, was published both daily and weekly, being the first daily sheet issued in the county.

About 1849 or 1850, the French Icarian Community settled at Warsaw, and for several years issued a Communist sheet, the *Popular Tribune*, M. Cabet, their leader, being its chief conductor.

In 1856, Mr. L. S. Grove started a new paper at Augusta, the *Augusta Times*, which lived about a year.

In the following spring, the citizens of Plymouth organized a stock company, hired Mr. Gregg as editor, and commenced the *Plymouth Locomotive*, which suspended in 1858.

During the year 1860, there were six newspapers being published in Hancock County — the *Warsaw Bulletin*, *Carthage Republican*, *Nauvoo Democratic Press*, *Dallas City Star of Dallas*, *Hamilton Representative*, and *Carthage Transcript*. On the 1st of January, 1861, all save the *Bulletin* and *Republican* had suspended. From 1836 to 1860 twenty-four publications had been commenced in Hancock County, twenty-two of which had expired.

Previous to the establishment of newspapers in the county, the journals most widely circulated there were the *Bounty Land Register*, published at Quincy, by Judge Young, since United States Senator; the *Sangamo Journal*, now the *Illinois State Journal*, published at Springfield, by Simeon Francis; and the *Missouri Republican*.

JERSEY COUNTY.

The Backwoodsman, edited by John Russell, of Bluffdale, was commenced at Grafton, in 1837. Jersey County at that time formed a part of Green County.

JO DAVIESS COUNTY.

On the 4th of July, 1828, James Jones issued the first newspaper in Jo Daviess County — which had been organized in 1827, and then included the territory embraced in the present counties of Jo Daviess, Stephenson, Carroll, Ogle, Lee, Whiteside, parts of Rock Island and Winnebago, and perhaps of Rock Island and Boone — and called it the *Miners' Journal*. In 1829, Mr. Jones associated with him, as editor, Thomas Ford, after-

ward elected Governor. The *Journal* died out in 1832, and Mr. Jones subsequently published at his press a form book, of his own compilation, which he sold throughout the State.

Jones' establishment was purchased by Dr. Philleo, in 1832, who began the publication of the *Galenian*.

In the spring of 1829, Hooper Warren started the second paper at Galena, under the firm of Newhall, Philleo & Co., called the *Galena Advertiser and Upper Mississippi Herald*, in the interest of John Reynolds as a candidate for Governor. The *Galena Advertiser* (now *Galena Gazette*, published daily and weekly), was for nearly thirty years edited and published by H. H. Houghton, now occupying a diplomatic position, in the service of the United States, in the Sandwich Islands, and who is probably the oldest Illinois editor now living.

[It is our impression that the *Northwestern Gazette and Galena Advertiser*—begun by Loring & Bartlett, in November, 1834—was the successor of both the *Galenian* and the *Advertiser and Herald*. Until some time after Mr. Houghton severed his connection with the paper, the weekly edition bore the title of *Northwestern Gazette*, while the daily edition was called the *Galena Advertiser*.]

The *Galena Courier*, a Democratic journal, daily, tri-weekly and weekly, was established in January, 1856, by L. F. Leal and H. G. Crouch, both gentlemen from Central New York. On the morning of the 1st of April following, the entire establishment was destroyed by fire. The daily was then issued as a half sheet until the arrival of new materials, in May, enabled the proprietors to

resume full operations. In April, 1859, Mr. Crouch disposed of his interest to his partner and returned to New York, Mr. Leal continuing the publication of the *Courier*.

KANE COUNTY.

The first newspaper in Geneva, the county seat, was printed in the winter of 1845-6, by Robert J. Thomas and H. Hough, and was called the *Fox River Advocate*. It was continued for only a few months, when its publication was temporarily suspended. It was afterward revived by Mr. Hough, under the title of *Star of the West*, of which, however, only two issues were printed. In the spring of 1847, the material of the office was purchased by Messrs. Wilson & Cockroft, who, on the 1st of April, issued the first number of the *Western Mercury*. About three months later, the materials of the *Prairie Messenger*, printed at St. Charles, fell into the hands of the above firm, who continued the *Mercury*, for four years, through very "hard times," when it succumbed, for lack of support. In January, 1856, the same firm, who had meanwhile continued a book and job printing business, established the *Kane County Advertiser*, which is still in existence.

The *Prairie Messenger* was published in St. Charles in 1846.

KNOX COUNTY.

The *Knox Intelligencer* was commenced at Galesburg, by Charles R. Fisk, in 1848.

The *Northwestern Gazeteer*, by Southwick Davis, was commenced at Galesburg in 1849.

LAKE COUNTY.

We had gained considerable information regarding the newspapers of this county, but are constrained to omit it from the fact that a distinguished member of this Society—a resident of Waukegan—has promised to furnish a complete history of the Lake County Press, which will be far more interesting than the brief memoranda we could furnish.

LA SALLE COUNTY.

The *Genius of Liberty* was commenced at Lowell, in January, 1841, by Hooper Warren and Z. Eastman.

MADISON COUNTY.

We have already noticed the establishment of the *Edwardsville Spectator*, the third paper in Illinois, by Hooper Warren, in 1819, and will briefly relate the facts in our possession concerning subsequent enterprises in Madison County.

The *Star of the West* was started at Edwardsville, by Miller & Stine, September 14, 1822. Six months later—April 12, 1823—they sold out to Thomas J. McGuire & Co., by whom the name of the paper was changed to *Illinois Republican*, and continued till August 1, 1824. The late Judge Smith and Emanuel J. West were the leading editors of the latter. This paper advocated the call for the State Convention to legalize slavery, to which the *Spectator* was opposed.

A paper called the *Illinois Corrector* was commenced at Edwardsville in 1828, by R. K. Fleming, who had

previously printed at Kaskaskia the *Republican Advocate*, begun in 1823.

The Crisis, by Samuel S. Brooks, was issued at Edwardsville, on the 3rd of April, 1830. Thirty-four numbers were published, when it was followed by the

Illinois Advocate, also by Mr. Brooks and at the same place. Mr. Brooks issued eighteen numbers, when the establishment went into the hands of John York Sawyer, who soon afterward associated with him Mr. J. Angevine. Afterward, Mr. Angevine retired, and Mr. William Peach became a partner, but subsequently retired from the concern. Judge Sawyer, having been elected State Printer, removed to Vandalia, the seat of government, in December, 1832.

The *Alton Spectator*, the first newspaper in that town, was established at Upper Alton by Edward Breath (who, in 1861 and for many years previous, resided in Oroomiah, Persia), about the month of January, 1832, and removed to Lower Alton (now Alton City) October 10, 1832. Mr. Breath afterward sold the concern to J. T. Hudson, who was proprietor of it at some time in 1836. "From June 24 to November 25, 1836, it was 'printed weekly' by W. A. Beatty (afterward connected with the *Telegraph*). Eight numbers were then 'printed weekly' by D. Ward. From February 10 to October 19, 1837, it was published by William Hessin and Seth T. Sawyer. From October 26, 1837, to February 15, 1838, and perhaps longer, it was printed by William Hessin. In December, 1838, it was published by J. Clark Virgin."

On the 15th of January, 1836, the first number of the *Alton Telegraph* was issued by Richard M. Treadway

and Lawson A. Parks, both of whom had previously been engaged in the publication of the *Evening Herald*, the first daily paper ever issued in St. Louis. The *Telegraph* was a warm supporter of the Whig party, and advocated the claims of Hugh L. White, of Tennessee, for the Presidency. Finding, however, that William H. Harrison was the first choice of the Whigs of Illinois; it fell in with the current of popular feeling, and urged the union of the party strength upon him. The Democrats in that canvass supported and succeeded in electing Martin Van Buren. In the spring of 1836, Samuel G. Bailey became a partner in the *Telegraph* establishment. During the fall of that year arose the great excitement consequent upon John Quincy Adams' contest in Congress in favor of the right of petition; and Mr. Parks now boasts that the *Telegraph* was at that time the only paper west of Cincinnati which supported Mr. Adams in that struggle. During the first year of its publication, the paper was a profitable one, and exerted a wide influence, having subscribers from Cairo to Galena. On the 8th of January, 1837 — just one year after his arrival in Alton — Mr. Treadway died. Mr. Parks soon after purchased Mr. Bailey's interest, and conducted the paper alone until the May following, when the late Judge Bailhache purchased one-half of the establishment, and assumed the exclusive editorial control of the paper. The crash of '37 and the murder of Lovejoy in the same year nearly gave a death-blow to the prosperity of Alton, and of course greatly diminished the receipts of its newspapers, and the *Telegraph* sunk money. In the spring of 1838, Mr. Parks sold out his interest to Judge Bailhache, who, after publishing the paper alone for a

short time, associated with him Mr. S. R. Dolbee. In the year 1840, Mr. W. A. Beatty formed a connection with Messrs. Bailhache and Dolbee, in the publication of the paper, but soon after died, and the old proprietors carried it on as before. In the year 1841, G. T. M. Davis, Esq., was employed as principal editor, and held that position for four or five years. In 1849, Mr. Dolbee withdrew from the firm, and was succeeded by W. H. Bailhache, a son of Judge B. In 1852, Mr. E. L. Baker was associated in the editorial management of the paper, and soon after purchased an interest, after which the firm was known as J. Bailhache & Co. Previous to this, however, a tri-weekly had been commenced. In the same year, arrangements were commenced for the issue of the *Daily Alton Courier*, but before they were completed, the *Telegraph* came out as a daily. In July, 1854, Mr. Parks purchased Judge Bailhache's interest in the paper, which from that time to May, 1855, was published by Messrs. Parks, Baker and W. H. Bailhache, under the style of E. L. Baker & Co. The Kansas-Nebraska issue broke up old partisan associations and caused the formation of new ones, and the *Telegraph* and the *Courier* both advocated the fortunes of the Republican party. Under these circumstances, the subscription and good-will of the *Telegraph* were sold to George T. Brown, proprietor of the *Courier*. From that time until about the 10th of January, 1861, it was published as a part of and under the title of the *Courier*. The latter having died out, the *Telegraph* was revived on the 13th of March, 1861, by Mr. Parks, John T. Beem, S. V. Crossman and Benj.

Teasdale, under the name of L. A. Parks & Co. The *Telegraph* is still published daily and weekly.

Judge Bailhache was a native of Jersey, one of the islands in the British Channel, but emigrated to the United States at an early age. He occupied the station of a public journalist in Ohio for more than thirty years, and was connected with the Alton *Telegraph* about seventeen years. The venerable George Churchill says of him, that "as a gentleman, a printer, and an editor, he was of the old school." He died at Alton, September 2, 1857.

The *Illinois Temperance Herald*, monthly, by A. W. Corey, was commenced at Alton, in 1836, and continued for several years.

The *Western Pioneer and Baptist Standard Bearer*, which had formerly been published at Rock Spring, St. Clair County, appeared at Upper Alton, July 7, 1836, enlarged to almost twice its former size, and published weekly, by A. Smith & Co.; Rev. J. M. Peck, editor. In September, 1837, the name was abridged to *Western Pioneer*, and Rev. Messrs. E. Rodgers and W. Leverett added to the editorial staff. Rev. John Mason Peck was the author of the "Western Annals," a valuable historical work, and took a prominent part in the affairs of the State, in its early days.

We come now to the saddest part of our record. In 1836, Rev. Elijah P. Lovejoy, editor of the *Observer*, a religious paper, made himself obnoxious to the citizens of St. Louis, by his denunciations of slavery. To avoid trouble, he was induced to remove his paper to Alton, where his press and materials arrived on Sunday after-

noon, July 21. Between two and three o'clock the next morning, the press was destroyed. A public meeting held on the same day denounced the outrage, and the citizens voluntarily pledged themselves to make good the loss occasioned by it. The friends of the paper determined that it should not be "so crushed out," and materials for a new printing office were, without delay, procured from Cincinnati. On the 8th of September, Mr. Lovejoy issued the first number of the *Alton Observer*, and it continued to be regularly issued until the 17th of August, 1837, when it again became the object of the wrath of the mob. On the 11th of July, a public meeting was held, in which the *Observer* and its editor were denounced for disseminating "Abolition" doctrines. A committee appointed for that purpose waited upon Mr. Lovejoy to learn if it was his intention to continue such publication, and received a reply in the affirmative. Threats of violence were then freely made, and on the night of the 21st of August the office was entered, and press, type, and everything else destroyed. Providentially, the editor himself escaped rough treatment from the mob. Soon afterward, another meeting of the friends of the *Observer* resolved that the paper should go on, and Mr. Lovejoy again purchased a new outfit. On the 11th of September he offered to withdraw from the paper, but his friends would not permit it. Ten days later, the third press arrived, and on the same night was destroyed and thrown in the river, and gross outrages upon Mr. Lovejoy and his family were perpetrated.

* * * To cut the story short, in October Mr. Lovejoy sent for the fourth press, which arrived on the 7th of

November and was stored in a warehouse. The occurrences of that night are matters of history. An attack upon the press was made, and in the melee one of the rioters was killed and several were wounded. Mr. Lovejoy himself was shot dead while defending his property, and several of his friends were severely wounded. This, of course, extinguished the *Observer*, the printing materials of which were destroyed by the mob. The fair fame of the city of Alton has even yet hardly recovered from the blow it received in these disgraceful riots, and we can readily appreciate the meaning of the declaration made by Hon. Owen Lovejoy on the floor of the National House of Representatives, while denouncing the advocates and apologists of slavery: "Twenty years ago, you murdered my brother on the banks of the Mississippi, and I am here to-day to avenge his blood!"

The *Western Weekly Mirror*, by James Ruggles, was published at Edwardsville in 1839.

The Sovereign People, by James Ruggles, was commenced at Edwardsville in March, 1840.

Afterward, a son of Mr. Ruggles published at Edwardsville the *Madison County Record*.

The Sucker, printed by Parks & Beaty, and edited by "Ourselves," was published at Alton in 1840. Who "Ourselves" were we are unable to say.

The *Alton Presbytery Reporter*, in pamphlet form, published at first every other month, and latterly published monthly—edited by Rev. A. T. Norton and printed by L. A. Parks—was commenced in 1852 or earlier. In 1860 it was removed to Chicago.

The *Alton Courier*—daily, tri-weekly and weekly—was commenced in May, 1852, by George T. Brown, John Fitch, and James Gamble, as a Democratic organ. In the excitement growing out of the Repeal of the Missouri Compromise, it became a Republican journal. In 1855, the subscription and good-will of the *Telegraph* were transferred to the *Courier*. In January, 1860, Mr. Brown sold the paper to B. J. F. Hanna and S. V. Crossman, who published it until the 17th of January, 1861, when it was discontinued.

The *Madison Enquirer* was commenced at Edwardsville by Theodore Ferry, in 1853.

The *Alton National Democrat* was commenced July 13, 1855, by John Fitch and George M. Thompson—the former as editor and the latter as publisher. The paper was continued by Mr. Fitch until June, 1860, when the building, type and fixtures were destroyed by the terrible tornado which visited Alton at that time, and the paper was thereupon discontinued.

The *Daily Evening Democrat*—probably another edition of the foregoing—was commenced by J. & T. S. Fitch about the 1st of January, 1858.

The *Weekly Alton Telegraph* was published in 1858 as a campaign paper by Messrs. Parks & Ennis—Mr. Parks being the political editor.

The *Madison Advertiser* was commenced at Edwardsville, June 26, 1856, by James R. Brown, who issued four numbers, when it was transferred to O. C. Dake. Afterward, it was managed by Joseph L. Craft, and still later by W. G. Pinckard, Jr., as publisher, and Hon. Joseph Gillespie, as editor.

The *Madison Weekly Press* was, in 1861, published at Edwardsville by Theodore ~~V~~erry. *Henry*

The *Alton National Democrat*—daily and weekly—was commenced on the 10th of July, 1860, as a Douglas-Democratic organ, by R. P. Tansey.

The Ladies' Pearl, a monthly magazine, was published at Alton in 1861, by Messrs. Logan & Brown.

MARSHALL COUNTY.

The first paper established in Marshall County was in 1838, while it was a part of Putnam, by Allen N. Ford, as a Whig journal. It was entitled the *Illinois Herald*. It underwent some changes, and was once transferred; but in 1861 it was conducted by its original proprietor, under the name of the *Illinois Gazette*, with the addition of Henry Miller in the editorial department.

In 1861, the *Lacon Intelligencer* was published at Lacon, the county seat.

The *Marshall County Courier*, by Robert H. Rugles, was established on a small sheet, in Henry, December 23, 1852; changed to *Henry Courier*, February 14, 1854; enlarged to the usual size of country newspapers, and changed to *Henry Weekly Courier*, January 7, 1857. B. F. Perley, a lawyer of Henry, was assistant editor from 1856 to 1861, and perhaps later.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY.

The *Prairie Beacon*, edited by Charles Clapp and printed by David S. Hobart, was commenced at Hillsboro in 1839.

MORGAN COUNTY.

Liberty's Sentinel—W. H. Coyle, editor, and J. B. Fulks, publisher—was commenced at Jacksonville in 1835.

OGLE COUNTY.

The initial number of the *Rock River Register*, the earliest newspaper in this county, was issued on the 1st day of January, 1842, at Mount Morris, by Jonathan Knodle, an elderly gentleman, then recently from Maryland. Mr. Knodle was a cabinet-maker by trade, and was employed to superintend the business department of the undertaking. The paper was established by the friends of Rock River Seminary, among whom the most active were Rev. T. S. Hitt (father of R. R. Hitt, of Chicago) and his brother, Samuel M. Hitt, Esq., both of whom contributed liberally of their means, guaranteed the support of the paper, and subscribed for a large number of copies. They and the other friends of the enterprise were interested largely in the lands in that section, and wished to have a newspaper in the community for the purpose of making known the advantages of the county, and especially the inducements offered by the Seminary, which then promised to become a flourishing and extensive institution. Emanuel Knodle, the first editor, had previously been connected with the *Odd Fellow*, at Boonsboro, Md. He was a young man of good talent and much amiability of character, but possessed hardly the energy requisite to success in a new country, which might have been owing to his constant ill health. As a

writer he displayed considerable humor and vivacity. He was a pale, sickly man, and the twelfth issue of the paper announced his death, in the thirty-second year of his age. The same issue of the paper bore the names of Knodle & Stephens as publishers. The latter was one of the first compositors on the paper, and is now residing at Mount Morris, where he is practicing medicine. Emanuel Knodle was succeeded as editor, in April, by D. C. Dunbar, a graduate of Yale College—a young man of pleasant personal appearance, much intellectual culture, talent, and gentlemanly manners. On the 7th of October, his death, at the age of twenty-eight, was announced. On the 10th of July, the *Register* abandoned its neutral position, and hoisted the Whig flag, headed with the name of Joseph Duncan for Governor, in opposition to Judge Ford, the Democratic candidate, then a resident of Ogle County. Under this banner it fought the partisan battle with peculiar vigor and acrimony. In September, the paper was removed to Grand Detour, twelve miles distant, in order to secure better mail facilities. In the issue of the *Register* for May 10, 1843, we find the names of Charles H. Lamb and A. G. Henderson as proprietors. In July following, Mr. Henderson withdrew from the concern, leaving Mr. Lamb in sole charge. The issue of the *Register* for August 25, 1843, is the latest of which a copy is now in existence, and the paper probably survived but a short time thereafter.

We have seen No. 7, Vol. I, of the *Illinois Tribune*, dated at Grand Detour, December 26, 1844, and published by John W. Sweetland. We are unable to give any further intelligence respecting this paper, but, from its

typographical appearance, suppose it to be the *Register's* successor.

In the month of October, 1856, the *Polo Sentinel*, the first Democratic newspaper published in Ogle County, was commenced by F. O. Austin. It lived but about three months.

In June, 1857, the *Polo Transcript* was commenced by Chas. Meigs, Jr., the press and materials being owned by citizens of the town. Mr. Meigs published the *Transcript* until about the 1st of April, 1858, and soon after the materials were sold to Henry R. Boss, who, on the 6th of May, issued the first number of the *Polo Weekly Advertiser*. The writer continued to publish the *Advertiser* until the 22nd of November, 1860, when he sold the materials to Morton D. Swift, who, a few months afterward, consolidated it with the *Rock River Press*, which was removed to Polo from Mt. Morris — the consolidated concern being published by Swift & Dopf. The three preceding journals were Republican in politics.

On the 14th of April, 1858, Richard P. Redfield, publisher for a joint stock company, issued the first number of the *Ogle County Banner*, a Democratic journal. In January, 1859, Mr. Redfield purchased the materials, and ran the paper for a few months. Subsequently it was published by James M. Williams, and then by George D. Read, Postmaster. It died in 1860.

The *Mt. Morris Gazette* was established in April, 1850. It was published by J. F. Grosh, and edited by D. J. Pinckney. The second volume bears the names of Brayton, Baker & Co., as publishers, and Prof. Pinckney as editor: The latter is now a member of the State Sen-

ate, and has for a long time been identified with the prosperity of Ogle County. Though published at Mt. Morris, the *Gazette* was printed elsewhere, probably at Oregon, the county seat.

The *Northwestern Republican* was commenced at Mt. Morris in 1855, by Atwood & Williams. About 1856, it was purchased by Myron S. Barnes, who changed the name to the *Independent Watchman*, and continued it for several years. Col. Barnes commanded an Illinois regiment at the battle of Pea Ridge, and for some time after the close of the rebellion edited and published the *Rock Island Daily Union*.

The *Ogle County Gazette* was commenced at Oregon, the county seat, in May, 1851, by R. C. Burchell, afterward State's Attorney. The materials used were the same employed on the first volume of the *Mt. Morris Gazette*. At the close of the first volume, Mr. Burchell changed the name of his paper to *Ogle County Reporter*, a name it still bears, notwithstanding many changes of editors and proprietors. It is now published by Mortimer W. Smith.

The *Lane Leader*, the first paper published in Ogle County east of Rock River, was commenced at Lane (now Rochelle), on the 1st of October, 1858, by John R. Howlett, now or recently publishing a journal at Lanark, Carroll County.

PEORIA COUNTY.

On the 19th of March, 1834, the initial number of the *Illinois Champion*, the first newspaper in the county, was issued by Abraham L. Buxton and Henry Wolford.

Mr. Buxton had formerly been a partner with George D. Prentice, of the *Louisville Journal*, and is said to have been a writer of much ability. He soon became a prey to consumption, and died in Peoria. Mr. Wolford, who was a practical printer, shortly after Mr. B.'s death, disposed of the office to Messrs. Armstrong & Shewalter, and removed to Louisville, Ky. In 1837, Samuel H. Davis purchased the *Champion* office, and merged it in the *Peoria Register and Northwestern Gazetteer*, which he continued for five years, or longer. Like his predecessor, Mr. Buxton, he was a man of considerable ability, and is said to have produced an interesting and valuable newspaper.

RANDOLPH COUNTY.

We have already given, *in extenso*, the history of the *Illinois Intelligencer*, the first newspaper in Randolph County, or Illinois. We have but few notes to add respecting the press in this county.

The *Republican Advocate* was commenced at Kaskaskia in January, 1823, by R. K. Fleming.

The *Kaskaskia Republican* was commenced in the same year, at the same place.

In 1832, the *Randolph Free Press* was published at Kaskaskia, by R. K. Fleming.

SANGAMON COUNTY.

The *Sangamo Spectator* was established at Springfield, by Hooper Warren, the first number being issued Feb. 27, 1827, it being the first enterprise of the kind

north of Edwardsville and Vandalia. Mr. Warren continued the publication for one year, when he transferred it to Samuel C. Meredith.

The *Illinois Courier* was commenced in 1829, by Mr. Meredith.

The *Sangamo Journal* was established in 1831, by Simeon W. and Josiah Francis. Afterward, Josiah Francis retired, and the *Journal* was conducted by Simeon Francis alone. J. Newton Francis and Allen Francis subsequently became associated with him. In July, 1855, the establishment was purchased by W. H. Bailhache and E. L. Baker, formerly of the *Alton Telegraph*. It is now known as the *Illinois State Journal*.

For the following sketch of the history of the *Illinois State Register* we are indebted to the thoughtful kindness of Hon. Charles H. Lanphier, of Springfield, who writes from that city, under date of January 9, 1870:

"The *Register* was established at Vandalia, the first number being issued on the 12th of February, 1836, by William Walters, who had for some dozen years before been foreman of the *National Intelligencer*. At the date mentioned, another paper was being published in Vandalia, by Judge John York Sawyer, called the *Illinois Advocate*. Sawyer died a few months after the establishment of the *Register*, and both concerns were merged into one, and called the *Illinois State Register and People's Advocate*. Upon the removal of the seat of government, in 1839, the *Register* was moved to Springfield. George R. Weber was then publishing the Democratic paper here, called the *Illinois Republican*. It was suspended on the removal of the *Register* here, and Weber was taken into partnership with Walters in the publication of the *Register*, the *People's Advocate* tail being dropped. The first issue here was August 10, 1839. The partnership continued until the fall of 1845, when Weber went out, Walters continuing the paper alone, until the call for volunteers in the Mexican war, when he went into Baker's regiment as a private, and marched with the regi-

ment to St. Louis, where he was met with a Captain's commission as Captain Commissary in the regular army. A few weeks after, he was taken ill, and died at the Planters' House, July, 1846. On leaving here, the paper was placed in charge of your humble servant, as editor, etc. I had been in the establishment from its commencement, as apprentice, journeyman, clerk, or anything else that I was put at. Upon Walters' death, I became the owner of the paper, which I conducted alone until June, 1847, when I took into partnership our old friend, George Walker, who continued with me until January 1, 1858, he having sold his interest to Edward Conner, for many years foreman of the office. Conner remained with me one year, and drew out, when I continued alone until November, 1863, selling out to a joint stock company, who run it one year and sold out to the present proprietors, Messrs. E. L. Merritt & Bro. In one capacity or other I was in the establishment from its foundation until November, 1863 — nearly twenty-eight years — and have been thanking the Lord every day since, for my release from the drudgery of newspaper life."

ST. CLAIR COUNTY.

The *Western News* was commenced at Belleville in 1828, by Dr. Joseph Green.

The Pioneer of the Valley of the Mississippi, by Thos. P. Green, was commenced at Rock Spring, April 24, 1829, and published weekly about one year. In 1830 and 1831, the publication was continued by Rev. John M. Peck, editor and publisher. It appeared once in two weeks, each number containing eight octavo pages. It took the name of *The Western Pioneer*.

The *Western Baptist*, under the same supervision, was published about the same time.

The *Pioneer and Western Baptist*, being a union of the two last-named papers, was commenced June 15, 1831, in folio form, and published semi-monthly by Rev. J. M. Peck, Ashford Smith being the printer. On the



2nd of January, 1835, the name was abridged to the *Pioneer*, and so continued till the establishment was removed to Upper Alton. (See "Madison County.")

The *Representative and Belleville News*, by E. S. Cropley, was commenced in 1837, at Belleville.

The *American Bottom Reporter* was commenced at Illinoistown, by Vital Jarrott & Co., March 5, 1842.

STEPHENSON COUNTY.

The first newspaper in this county, the *Prairie Democrat*, was commenced by Stephen D. Carpenter, at Freeport, on the 7th of November, 1847. In this undertaking, Mr. C. was materially assisted by Hon. Thos. J. Turner, then Member of Congress from that district, now a member of the State Constitutional Convention, who, to enable him to commence operations, advanced four hundred dollars from his own pocket, and used his influence to raise another hundred dollars among the friends of the enterprise throughout the county. Mr. Carpenter had formerly conducted the *Free Press*, at Girard, Pa. He was the inventor (and patentee, we believe) of a pump, from whence came his soubriquet of "Pump" Carpenter, by which he is familiarly known throughout the West. Mr. Carpenter's account of the beginning of his enterprise is so characteristic and racy that we cannot forbear giving it in his own words:

"I was recommended to one Thos. J. Turner, who afterward served a term in Congress, as a leading Democratic politician, and at nine in evening I sought him out at his office, and introduced myself by requesting a loan of four hundred dollars. This request, by an entire stranger, was a novel introduction, and seemed to somewhat puzzle

Mr. T., who inquired the object, which I soon unfolded. He then inquired if I could show him a reference; I replied that I had a very good reference, and requested him to look at my *face*, as good enough for my purpose. (I had in my pocket a very flattering 'document' from the Hon. James Thompson, M. C., of Pa., but as I had great confidence in my face, I chose to get that cashed first, if I could.) This self-impromptu introduction, and the impudence of offering my face as security, as Mr. T. has often remarked, alone secured his confidence. Suffice it to say, without the tedium of further details, that, at five o'clock the next morning, I was whirling over the prairies, in the Chicago stage, homeward bound, with the loan of four hundred dollars in gold in my pockets, never having been asked for even a receipt for the same."

Mr. C. continued to publish the *Democrat* until October, 1850, when it was purchased by J. O. P. Burnside, now in the employ of the Government at Washington, D. C., who, in the spring of 1852, sold it to George Ordway. Mr. Ordway, after publishing the paper about a year, sold it again to Mr. Burnside, who discontinued the *Democrat* and established in its stead the *Freeport Bulletin*. On the 21st of September, 1854, F. W. S. Brawley, afterward Postmaster at Freeport, became the editor and proprietor of the *Bulletin*; and on the 21st of December following, Charles S. Bagg, who afterward succeeded Brawley as Postmaster, became a partner, and the paper was published by Bagg & Brawley until September 13, 1855, when the latter retired. Mr. Bagg published it until March 1, 1857, when he sold the concern to W. T. Giles, who is now the editor and proprietor.

The first number of the *Freeport Journal* was issued in October, 1848, as a Whig organ, by H. G. Grattan and A. McFadden. In 1850, the latter gentleman disposed of

his interest to his partner, who, in April, 1851, associated with himself the late Hiram M. Sheetz. In the fall of the same year, Mr. McFadden again became a partner, purchasing Mr. Grattan's interest. This partnership continued until April, 1853, when Mr. Sheetz became the sole proprietor. In April, 1856, Mr. Sheetz sold the paper to Charles K. Judson and Chas. W. McCluer, both natives of Chautauqua County, N. Y., the former graduating from the reportorial corps of the *Albany Evening Journal*, and the latter from the devilship, foremanship and junior proprietorship of the *Fredonia Censor*. Judson & McCluer soon established a *Daily Journal*, which they continued for about two years. In 1858, Wm. T. Tinsley, from Lyons, N. Y., became a partner, but after a few months he returned to Lyons, where he purchased the *Lyons Republican*, which he still continues to publish. In 1861, Mr. Judson became Postmaster at Freeport, still continuing his connection with the *Journal*. In 1866, Judson & McCluer sold the concern, which they had made one of the first and best in the State outside of Chicago, to Bailey & Ankeny. Mr. Judson returned to Chautauqua County, where he divides his time between life insurance, the culture of grapes, and "tending post office," while Mr. McCluer is the Manager of the Chicago Printing Company, and was the first Treasurer of this Society. The *Journal* is now published by Gen. S. D. Atkins, who purchased it, a few months since, from Jas. S. McCall.

UNION COUNTY.

The first number of the *Jonesboro Gazette and Southern Illinois Reflector* — published by Thomas J. Finley

and John Evans, and edited by H. E. Hempstead — was issued on the 13th of September, 1849, at Jonesboro. At that time, the only papers in Southern Illinois were the *Delta*, at Cairo, the *Reveille*, at Chester, and the *Advocate*, at Shawneetown. Each of these papers enjoyed the legal advertising of a number of counties besides its own, but the establishment of the *Gazette* in a central position made it the official paper for Union, Jackson, Johnson, Pulaski and Massac counties. Some three months later, the Cairo *Delta* was discontinued and the office removed to Evansville, Ind., which added Alexander County to the above list. Notwithstanding all this, we are told that it was only by the strictest economy that the paper was made to pay its current expenses for over a year, and the publishers were left without any remuneration whatever. Toward the close of 1850, Mr. Evans sold his interest in the office to F. A. McKenzie, of Tennessee, and the paper was continued for a short time by Finley & McKenzie, under the editorial control of C. G. Simons. Mr. Finley disposed of his half to Mr. McKenzie, and the paper was published a year by that gentleman. Although his only assistants in the office were two boys at \$5 per month, the concern failed to prove remunerative, and was abandoned by Mr. McKenzie, when it again passed into the possession of Mr. Evans, who formed a partnership with Mr. Simons, then editor, and, by close economy on their part, the paper was made to yield a moderate return. Mr. Simons, becoming deeply engaged in the business of his profession, sold his portion of the establishment to his partner, who again became sole publisher. The paper passed through various mutations until Jan. 1, 1857, when

A. H. Marschalk became connected with it, under whose control the paper was published nearly two years. At the expiration of this time, the office passed into the hands of other parties — Mr. Marschalk continuing as publisher, and assuming the additional duties of editor. On the 8th of January, 1859, the *Gazette* appeared in its fourth new dress, the result, we opine, of having, the previous year, received a good slice of "fat," in the shape of the publication of the Federal laws. On the 1st of January, 1860, the office was placed under the control of James Evans. The *Gazette* was originally started as a neutral paper, but soon espoused the cause of Democracy.

The *Union Democrat* was commenced at Jonesboro, August 22, 1860, by A. H. Marschalk, who had formerly been publisher of the *Gazette*, and who, by the way, is the youngest son of the *first* editor and publisher in what we usually term the Mississippi Valley — Andrew Marschalk. The *Democrat* was removed to Anna in the following November.

The *Union County Record*, Republican, was commenced at Anna (one mile east of Jonesboro), in April, 1860, by W. H. Mitchell. In about three months, Mr. Mitchell retired from the paper, and was succeeded by N. W. Fuller, who continued its publication until the Presidential election of 1860, when it quietly breathed its last.

WINNEBAGO COUNTY.

The first paper established in this county was the *Rock River Express*, commenced at Rockford, May 5, 1840, by B. J. Gray, and was Whig in politics. It was published just a year, and then the press and materials were sold and taken from the place.

The *Rockford Star*, Democratic in politics, was commenced by P. Knappen, in August, 1840. The next season the paper ceased, because the office was destroyed by a mob on account of the editor having denounced the lynching of the Driskells, in Ogle County.

The *Rockford Pilot*, Democratic, commenced July 22, 1841, succeeding the *Star*, by John A. Brown, afterward prominent as an editor at Madison, Wis., was published till October of the following year.

During a portion of the same time, the *Better Covenant*, an Universalist paper, was printed at the *Pilot* office, edited by Rev. Seth Barnes, an Universalist clergyman.

The *Winnebago Forum*, Whig, was commenced in February, 1843, by J. Ambrose Wight, who transferred it, the August following, to Austin Colton. The title was afterward changed to *Rockford Forum*, and Mr. Colton continued its publisher for nearly eleven years, when the establishment was purchased by E. W. Blaisdell, Jr., in January, 1854, and the name of the paper changed to *Rockford Republican*. Mr. Blaisdell afterward admitted his brother, Richard P., as a partner, and the twain published it, we believe, till it was merged in the *Register*, in 1862. The senior of the brothers was elected a member of the Legislature in 1858, and served with credit to himself and his constituents, being chiefly distinguished for his opposition to professional money-lenders and their schemes.

The *Rockford Free Press*, Freesoil Democrat in politics, was commenced in October, 1848, by Henry W. DePuy, who published it until February, 1850, when it was discontinued. Mr. DePuy removed to New York,

and afterward became Private Secretary to Gov. Horatio Seymour. He was, we believe, the author of several works, which, at the time of their issue, had an extended popularity.

The *Rock River Democrat* was commenced in June, 1852, as a Democratic paper, by Benjamin Holt. D. T. Dickson was subsequently admitted as a partner with Mr. Holt, and still later Mr. Holt sold his interest to Mr. R. A. Bird. At the time of the formation of the Republican party, consequent upon the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Bill, the *Democrat* and its Whig cotemporary, the *Republican*, espoused the cause of that party. Mr. I. S. Hyatt afterward became proprietor of the concern. The *Democrat* was consolidated with the *Register* in 1865.

The *Spirit Advocate*, a monthly issue, advocating the doctrines of the Spiritualists, was published in 1854 and 1855, printed at the *Republican* office. Dr. George Haskell had the chief supervision of this sheet.

The *Rockford Register*, Republican in politics, and issued weekly, was established in February, 1855, by E. C. Daugherty. The *Daily Register* was issued from the same office during the summer of 1859, but was discontinued on account of the ill health of the publisher. The *Register*, in June, 1865, passed into the hands of an incorporated company, but not until Mr. Daugherty, by his unfailing energy, strict probity and excellent tact, had made it one of the most remunerative country newspapers in the State. At this time, Mr. I. S. Hyatt, who had previously been connected with the paper as associate editor, and was more recently editor and proprietor of the *Rockford Democrat*, became the principal editor, with

E. H. Griggs (now President of the Illinois Press Association) as associate. He was afterward succeeded by Mr. Daugherty, and still later by Mr. Griggs, who is now the editor, assisted by J. E. Fox. Mr. Daugherty died at Jacksonville, Fla., on the 19th of February, 1868.

The *Rockford Standard*, Douglas Democrat, was commenced in October, 1858, by Springsteen & Parks, the latter of whom had been an assistant editor of the *Register*. The ensuing spring, the establishment was purchased by D. G. Croly & Co., who also commenced the publication of the *Daily News* in connection with the Weekly, the latter retaining its party character, while the former professed neutrality. The Daily survived till the spring of 1860—a little over a year. Mrs. J. C. Croly—well known to many readers as “Jennie June”—a handsome and accomplished lady, conducted the “Local” department of the paper in a successful and creditable manner. After the discontinuance of the Daily, the publication of the Weekly was assumed by Messrs. Grove & Ticknor, who published it till fall, and then sold out to Fox, Rowe & Co., who resumed the publication of the Daily and changed the name of the Weekly to *Weekly News*—both claiming neutrality. In 1861, the *News* was merged in the *Register*.

The *Rock River Mirror*, mainly devoted to Insurance matters, was established in September, 1859, by Allen Gibson, who continued to publish it weekly till February, 1861, when it was changed to a monthly.

All the above newspapers are those of Rockford alone.

On the 27th of May, 1857, the *Rockton Gazette* was commenced at Rockton by H. W. Phelps, who continued

its publication till April 13, 1859, when he removed the press and materials to Burlington, Racine County, Wis., and established the *Burlington Gazette*, his wife being associated with him in the management of the paper. Mr. Phelps subsequently removed to Horicon, Wis., where he published the *Horicon Gazette*.

The *Pecatonica Independent* was commenced at Pecatonica, May 7, 1859, by J. E. Duncan. In the canvass of 1860, it supported Mr. Lincoln and the entire Republican ticket.

There are now published in Rockford, the *Register*, by the Rockford Register Company; the *Rockford Gazette*, established in 1866, and published by A. E. Smith; the *Winnebago County Chief*, established in the same year, and published by J. P. Irvine; the *Golden Censer*, a semi-monthly Methodist publication, by John Lemley, and *Words for Jesus*, monthly, by T. J. Lamont.

We have now given nearly or quite all the facts in our possession respecting the Newspaper Press of Illinois. We only regret that time and space will not permit us to go more into detail in relation to some portions of our subject; and we fervently hope that this Society will make a vigorous effort, seconded by the hearty co-operation of the entire editorial fraternity, to secure a complete and permanent record of the Press of the State and the Northwest. It is due to our predecessors, the pioneer editors and printers, to ourselves, and to our posterity, that this should be done.



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