

# *The Black Press in Illinois*

A. GILBERT BELLES

NEWSPAPERS have always been a valuable tool of the **historian**, amateur or professional. The **treatment and emphasis** of national and local **events** together with editorial opinions provide a **constant chronicle** of the attitudes and thinking of community **leaders**, especially **opinion-leading elites** like newspaper editors and **publishers**.

Critics of the **extensive use** of newspapers in **historical** research point out, however, that editors and publishers, in their effort to sell papers, may manipulate or even manufacture stories to make the front page appealing. It is also claimed that editors and publishers represent a **monied elite** and thus **reflect** the perspective of America's white middle class. In other words, some **historians** approach the reliance on newspapers with caution and skepticism. They suggest that the underground and minority press exist to balance the views offered to the public by the popular dailies. Lately, more **attention** has been given to **newspapers** of limited and specialized circulation.

The historian who wishes to consult newspapers published by minority or **underground** groups faces a frustrating **challenge**, Individuals and organizations that

designated themselves as the official keepers of the records disregarded many of the publications of limited circulation. They not only failed to collect these publications but did not even include the names of these papers in catalogs and lists. Even the largest newspaper libraries offer few titles and issues of minority publications.

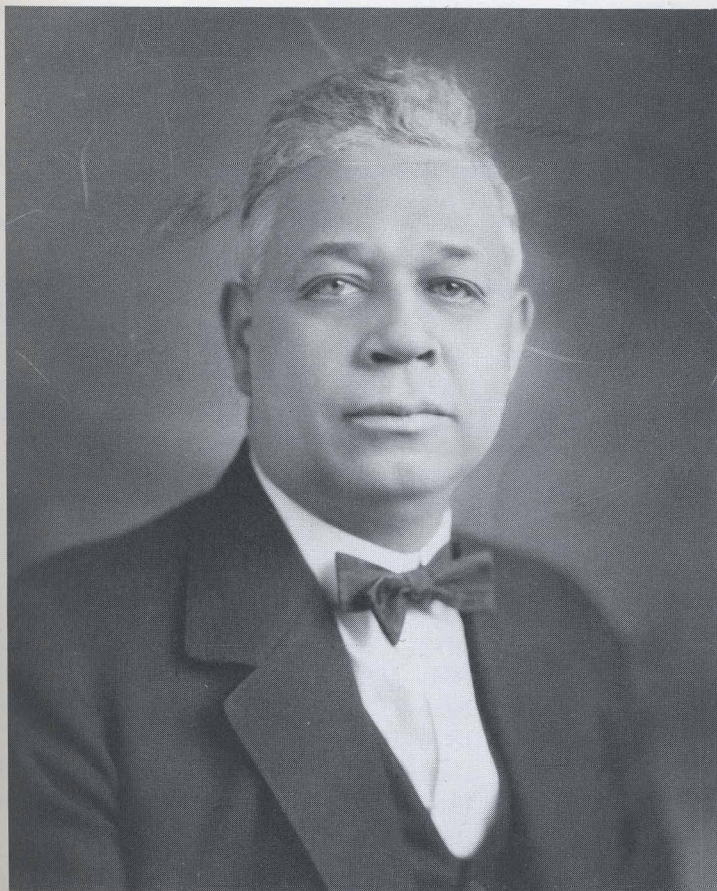
The case of the black press in Illinois is illustrative of the ways in which historical resources have been lost. In part, white librarians and archivists ignored the existence of the black press, apparently assuming it had little legitimacy. Those historical administrators who at least noted the existence of black newspapers failed, either out of apathy or neglect, to collect copies systematically. But the history of towns, states, or the nation is incomplete without the black perspective.

My search for titles of newspapers published by blacks in Illinois ultimately led me to many obscure lists and catalogs in New York and Washington, D.C., as well as in Illinois. As word of the project spread, names of black editors and publishers were recalled or noted by many people as they pursued other research. Each time the growing list seemed complete, an unexpected call or letter brought one or two more names. Verification of titles posed the most formidable task.

The following list provides, by city, the names of newspapers edited and/or published by blacks in Illinois. Every effort has

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*Oscar DePriest, Illinois congressman and Chicago alderman, was associated with the shortlived People's Voice in 1918*

been made to assure accuracy of the publication dates, but there is no guarantee that the dates are correct or can be verified. Insofar as possible, each newspaper is identified as weekly, daily, or monthly (W, D, M), and as general, business, or religious (G, B, R). Many papers were of such short duration that there was only one editor. For some papers, only the name of the founding editor is known. When the names of more than one editor of a paper are known (usually in papers of the last twenty-five years), the most recent editor is the one listed. Papers still in operation at this writing are indicated by [—]. Unknown entries are indicated by [?].

The publication of the list in no way implies that it is a definitive compilation; instead, the purpose of publishing the list is to

facilitate and encourage the addition of missing entries. A search of libraries, historical collections, or family and personal archives may uncover a fascinating addition to Illinois history. If the history of the state is to be complete, the voices of all the people must be considered.

Anyone possessing copies of these newspapers or knowing the location of copies is invited to inform the Illinois State Historical Library. The Library would like to microfilm these newspapers and thereby make them available to the public. Please address your correspondence to:

Clifford H. Haka  
Field Services Representative  
Illinois State Historical Library  
Springfield, Illinois 62706

# Black Newspapers in Illinois

CITY & NEWSPAPER	DATES, FREQUENCY, AND TYPE OF PUBLICATION		EDITOR OR PUBLISHER
<b>Alton</b>			
<i>Advance Citizen</i>	1892-1932	W G	H. T. Bowman
<b>Bloomington</b>			
<i>American Pilot</i>	1896-1899	W G	H. W. Jameson
<i>Cooperative News</i>	1933-1938	W G	A. R. Rhodes
<b>Brooklyn</b>			
<i>Monitor</i>	1886-18[?]	W G	R. L. Perry
<b>Cairo</b>			
<i>American</i>	1905-1906	W G	T. A. Head
<i>Baptist Truth</i>	1894-1924	W R	C. C. Wilson
<i>Evangelical Herald</i>	1919-1934	M R	Carrie C. Skelton
<i>Gazette</i>	1881-1890	M G	W. T. Scott
<i>Illinois Messenger</i>	1925-1933	W R	Frank M. Liston
<i>Sentinel</i>	1890-1895	W G	T. A. Head
<i>Three States</i>	1881-1883	W G	M. Gladden [Gladding?]
<i>Weekly Gazette</i>	1862-1881	W G	William T. Scott
<b>Champaign</b>			
<i>Illinois Times</i>	1941-1971	W G	Edgar G. Harris
<i>Plain Truth</i>	1967-1969[?]	W G	Roy Williams
<b>Chicago</b>			
<i>Abbotts Weekly and Illus. News</i>	1933-1934	W G	Robert S. Abbott
<i>Advance</i>	1890-1900	W G	R. J. Raymond
<i>Advocate</i>	1873-1877	M B	Martin Ryan
<i>All About Us</i>	1896-1899	W G	T. P. Rawlings
<i>A.M.E. Record</i>	1895-[?]	W R	Editor unknown
<i>American Eagle</i>	1921-1925	M G	Benjamin Pendleton
<i>Appeal</i>	1885-1926	W G	C. F. Adams
<i>Aspect</i>	1908-1908	W G	Editor unknown
<i>Bee</i>	1925-1947	W G	Katherine E. Irvin
<i>Bee-Free Speech</i>	1888-1895	W G	C. H. Shotwell
<i>Black Truth</i>	1968-1970	W G	Sigmonde Wimberli
<i>Black World</i>	[?]-[?]	M G	Editor unknown
<i>Broad Ax</i>	1895-1935	W G	Elvie Porter
<i>Bronzeman</i>	1929-1929	M G	Fireside Pub. Co.
<i>Brotherhood</i>	1890-[?]	W G	J. H. Magee
<i>Bulletin</i>	1958-1972	W G	Hurley Green, Sr.
<i>Busy Bee</i>	1896-[?]	W G	Editor unknown
<i>Chicago Courier</i>	1938-[—]	W G	Lorenzo C. Young

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<i>Chicago Daily Defender</i>	1956-[—]	D G John H. Sengstacke
<i>Christian Gibraltar</i>	1910-1970	W R A. D. Hawkins
<i>Christian Science</i>	1895-[?]	W R Editor <b>unknown</b>
<i>Chronicle</i>	1918-[?]	W G <b>Gerald L. Jamison</b>
<i>Church Organ</i>	1893-1898	W R T. P. <b>Rawlings</b>
<i>Church Record</i>	1895-[?]	W R Editor <b>unknown</b>
<i>Citizen</i>	1965-[—]	W G Gus Savage
<i>Clipper</i>	1885-1898	W G <b>Cornelius Lennox</b>
<i>Conservator</i>	1878-1914	W G <b>Ferdinand Lee Barnett</b>
<i>Courier</i>	1932-1932	W G George <b>Sydney</b>
<i>Crusader</i>	1937-[?]	W G Everett J. Hill
<i>Daily Bulletin</i>	1921-1921	M G <b>Sumner Alexander</b>
<i>Daily Times</i>	[?]-[?]	D G Editor <b>unknown</b>
<i>Defender</i>	1905-[—]	W G John <b>Sengstacke</b>
<i>Dynamite</i>	1936-1939	W G George <b>Davenport</b>
<i>Eagle</i>	1889-1930	W G Henry F. <b>Donovan</b>
<i>East Side Monitor</i>	[?]-[?]	W G Editor <b>unknown</b>
<i>Egyptian Sun</i>	[?]-[?]	W G Editor <b>unknown</b>
<i>Enterprise</i>	1918-1931	W G Jacob Tipper
<i>Evening World</i>	1919-1919	D G Editor <b>unknown</b>
<i>Fellowship Herald</i>	1916-1916	W G Ida Wells <b>Barnett</b>
<i>Free Lance</i>	1895-1926	W G W. Forrest Cozart
<i>Free Speech</i>	1888-1898	W G J. L. Fleming
<i>Gazette</i>	1950-[—]	W G James E. Smith
<i>Hero</i>	1889-1891	W G Cornelius Lennox
<i>Home Journal</i>	[?]-[?]	W G Nettie George Speedy
<i>Home News</i>	1925-1925	W G Editor <b>unknown</b>
<i>Idea</i>	1900-1918	W G W. D. Neighbors
<i>Illinois Chronicle</i>	1900-1921	W G H. W. Rhea
<i>Illinois Idea</i>	1903-1922	W G S. B. Turner
<i>Inquirer</i>	1926-1926	W G [?] Kelly
<i>Lawndale Drum</i>	1970-[—]	W G Shelvien Hall
<i>Leader</i>	1905-1906	W G W. Allison Sweeney
<i>Messenger</i>	1942-1944	W G Editor <b>unknown</b>
<i>Metro News</i>	1972-[?]	W G Charles B. Armstrong
<i>Metropolitan News</i>	1935-1938	W G N. K. <b>McGill</b>
<i>Metropolitan Post</i>	1938-1940	W G Roscoe C. Simmons
<i>Mirror</i>	1937-1944	M G Editor <b>unknown</b>
<i>Mission Star</i>	1890-[?]	W G Cornelius Lennox
<i>Modern Farmer</i>	1930-1932	D B Leon R. Harris
<i>Monitor</i>	1914-1915	W G Editor <b>unknown</b>
<i>Muhammad Speaks</i>	1961-[—]	W G John <b>Woodford</b>
<i>National Aspect</i>	1910-1912	W G Editor <b>unknown</b>
<i>Negro Champion</i>	1925-1929	W G Cyril V. <b>Briggs</b>

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DATES, FREQUENCY, AND  
TYPE OF PUBLICATION

## EDITOR OR PUBLISHER

<i>New Crusader</i>	1940-[—]	W	G	Dorothy Leavell
<i>News Ledger</i>	1938-1941	W	B	Anthony Wharton
<i>Observer</i>	1885-[?]	W	G	Andrew F. Bradley
<i>Observer</i>	1964-[—]	W	G	I. Schrieff
<i>Owl</i>	196[?]-196[?]	W	G	Dan Burley
<i>Pathfinder</i>	[?]-[?]	W	G	Editor unknown
<i>People's Advocate</i>	1900-1926	W	G	R. E. Parker
<i>People's Voice</i>	1918-1918	W	G	Oscar DePriest
<i>Plain Dealer</i>	1888-1922	W	G	Robert Harper
<i>Reflector</i>	1895-1906	W	G	T. P. Rawlings
<i>Republican</i>	1888-1889	W	G	John F. C. Taylor
<i>Review</i>	1929-1932	W	G	Perry C. Thompson
<i>Royal Messenger</i>	1921-1932	W	G	R. A. Williams
<i>Savoyager</i>	1929-1932	W	G	James J. ("Gentle Jimmy") Gentry
<i>Search Light</i>	1910-1932	W	G	Bernard W. Fitts
<i>Smith's Arrow Weekly</i>	[?]-[?]	W	B	Thomas B. Smith
<i>Southside Digest</i>	1931-1931	W	G	Earl Morris
<i>Spokesman</i>	1932-1932	W	G	Roscoe C. Simmons
<i>Standard</i>	1894-1895	W	G	Editor unknown
<i>Star</i>	1910-1946	W	G	Sylvester Russell
<i>Sun</i>	1924-1924	W	G	Editor unknown
<i>Sunday Bee</i>	1925-1947	W	G	Olive Myrl Diggs
<i>Supreme Liberty Guardian</i>	[?]-1938	W	B	Harry H. Pace
<i>Times</i>	1927-1927	M	G	Editor unknown
<i>Voice</i>	1910-[?]	W	G	J. Max Barber
<i>Voice of the Negro</i>	1901-1901	M	G	Editor unknown
<i>Weekly Reporter</i>	1906-1906	W	G	Editor unknown
<i>West Side Torch</i>	1969-1969	W	G	Editor unknown
<i>Western Opinion</i>	1906-1909	W	G	Alton H. Blake
<i>Whip</i>	1919-1939	W	G	Joseph B. Bibb
<i>Woodlawn Booster</i>	1932-1973	W	G	Hurley Green
<i>World</i>	1900-1902	W	G	B. F. Harris
<i>World</i>	1918-1953	W	G	Jacob R. Tipper
<b>Danville</b>				
<i>Black Vanguard</i>	[?]-[?]	W	G	Editor unknown
<i>Illinois Times</i>	1939-1941	W	G	Edgar G. Harris
<i>International</i>	1901-1902	W	G	J. M. Batchman
<i>Inter-State Echo</i>	1909-1920	W	G	Charles W. Colley
<b>Decatur</b>				
<i>Advance Citizen</i>	1892-1932	W	G	H. T. Bowman
<i>The Voice</i>	[?]-[?]	W	G	Editor unknown
<b>East St. Louis</b>				
<i>Advance Citizen</i>	1892-1932	W	G	H. T. Bowman

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<i>Beacon</i>	196[?]-[—] W G	W. Nicholas Bowie
<i>Crusader</i>	1941-[—] W G	Wesley <b>McNeese</b>
<i>Eagle</i>	1908-1914 W G	W. H. H. Pitts
<i>East Side Monitor</i>	1970-197[?] W G	Editor unknown
<i>Empire Weekly News</i>	196[?]-197[?] W G	Editor unknown
<i>Forum</i>	1928-1929 W G	Editor unknown
<i>Monitor</i>	1962-[—] W G	Roy Jordan
<i>Negro Democrat</i>	[?]-[?] W G	Editor unknown
<i>Sentinel</i>	1904-1909 W G	L. E. Christy
<i>Southern Illinois Press</i>	1922-1924 W G	W. E. Officer
<i>Spotlight</i>	1937-[?] W G	Elmer Miller
<i>Tri State Tribune</i>	[?]-[?] W G	Benjamin J. <b>Perkins</b>
<b>Evanston</b>		
<i>Evanston Guide</i>	1929-1932 W G	Editor unknown
<i>Evanston Newsette</i>	1941-[?] W G	Editor unknown
<i>Evanston Weekly</i>	1915-1931 W G	W. H. Gill
<i>North Shore Examiner</i>	1968-[—] W G	Randolph R. Tomlinson
<b>Galesburg</b>		
<i>Western Herald</i>	1884-1885 W R	Richard de Baptiste
<b>Harvey</b>		
<i>Chicago South Suburban News</i>	1964-[—] W G	Charles Armstrong
<i>Journal (Chicago)</i>	1968-[—] W G	C. T. Jones
<i>Journal (Chicago Heights)</i>	1968-[—] W G	C. T. Jones
<i>Journal (Joliet)</i>	1968-[—] W G	C. T. Jones
<i>Journal (Markham)</i>	1968-[—] W G	C. T. Jones
<i>Journal (Robbins)</i>	1968-[—] W G	C. T. Jones
<i>Suburban Journal</i>	1968-[—] W G	C. T. Jones
<b>Joliet</b>		
<i>Voice</i>	1950-[?] W G	Lucien Holman
<b>Kankakee</b>		
<i>Progressive Era</i>	1924-1942 W G	Harry Anderson
<b>Litchfield</b>		
<i>Afro-American Advocate</i>	1892-1893 W G	Editor unknown
<b>Maywood</b>		
<i>Suburban Echo-Reporter</i>	1964-[—] W G	Myrtle Jefferson
<b>Metropolis</b>		
<i>Baptist Truth</i>	1896-1900 M R	J. B. McCrary
<i>Christian Anchor</i>	[?]-[?] W R	J. D. Alston
<i>Gazette</i>	1897-1938 W G	J. B. McCrary
<b>Moline</b>		
<i>Modern Farmer</i>	[?]-[?] D B	Editor unknown

## CITY &amp; NEWSPAPER

DATES, FREQUENCY, AND  
TYPE OF PUBLICATION

## EDITOR OR PUBLISHER

**Mound City***Egyptian Sun*

1924-1940 W G

Gwendolyn Chambliss

*Star*

1908-1925 W G

Adron W. Webb

**Peoria***Advance Citizen*

1892-1932 W G

H. T. Bowman

*Assoc. of Pub. Services Press*

1972-1972 [?] B

James F. Arbuckle

*Black Rapper*

1968-1970 W G

Alvertus Jenkins

*Bronze Citizen*

1944-1950 M G

Dorothy A. Mitchell

*Bronze Citizen Magazine*

1945-1948 M G

Clifford Hazelwood

*Bronze Informer*

1945-1946 W G

Clifford Hazelwood

*Bronze Peoria Herald*

1964-1968 W G

Valeska S. Hinton

**Forum**

1906-1915 W G

E. L. Rogers

*Informer*

1934-1939 W G

William Evans

*Peoria Whirlwind*

1962-197[?] W G

W. R. Gardner

*spectator*

1955-1955 W G

Geirud Crockett

*Traveler Weekly*

1968-197[?] W G

J. O. Allen

*Weekly Enterprise*

1952-1952 W G

Editor unknown

**Quincy***Advocate*

1906-[?] W G

Editor unknown

*Illinois Informer*

192[?]-1926 W G

S. N. Schumacher

*Illinois Progress*

1892-1900 W G

T. L. Allen

**Robbins***Herald*

1917-1950 W G

C. E. Brown

*Informer*

1948-1949 W G

Marion Lee Smith

**Rockford***Crusader*

1950-1972 W G

Richard T. Hodges

**Rock Island***Tri City Oracle*

1898-1900 W G

J. W. Washington

**Springfield***Advance Citizen*

1892-1932 W G

H. T. Bowman

*Argus*

1913-1915 W G

Editor unknown

*Capitol City News*

1942-1951 W G

Simeon Osby

*Chronicle*

1917-1917 W G

Editor unknown

*Eye*

1890-1893 W G

Editor unknown

*Forum*

1904-1927 W G

E. L. Rogers

*Illinois Chronicle*

1912-1969 W G

Inman E. Foster

*Illinois Conservator*

1902-1950 W G

E. L. Rogers

*Illinois Record*

1897-1899 W G

Charles Hall

*Illinois State Messenger*

1897-1900 W G

H. T. Bowman

*Industrial Journal*

[?]-[?] M

Karl Monte

*Leader*

1902-1918 W G

W. T. Scott

*Liberia Advocate*

[?]-[?] M

Editor unknown

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<i>Messenger</i>	1888-1889 W G	Thomas T. Brown
<i>National Standard Enterprise</i>	1896-1903 W G	G. H. McDaniel
<i>Negro Democrat</i>	1934-1936 W G	Editor unknown
<i>Spirit of Black Springfield</i>	1968-1968 W G	Irvin Jackson
<i>Springfield's Voice</i>	1973-[-] W G	William Washington
<i>State Capital</i>	1886-1915 W G	S. B. Turner
<b>Urbana</b>		
<i>Informers</i>	[?]-[?] M G	E. W. B. Curry

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