

**FRANKLIN SOCIETY
PUBLICATIONS II. EARLY
NEWSPAPERS IN ILLINOIS: READ
BEFORE THE FRANKLIN SOCIETY
OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO**

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HENRY R. BOSS

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EARLY NEWSPAPERS

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READ BEFORE THE

FRANKLIN SOCIETY OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO,

BY

HENRY R. BOSS,

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* Deceased.

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