

## *A Brief History of the IPA*

Since its beginnings as an organization for Illinois publishers, the Illinois Press Association has grown to serve a diverse group of family and chain newspaper owners, editors and reporters, clients and advertising representatives, and editorial writers and politicians. That's quite a balancing act.

The scales remain level because of IPA and Illinois Press Foundation programs that support educational efforts in journalism, its lobbying efforts in the state legislature, and its movements to raise the standards of writing, editing and advertising through professional seminars and workshops.

These missions did not appear overnight. They evolved with the help -- and sometimes the prodding -- of Illinois newspaper publishers for more than a century.

### Lovejoy & Early Illinois Journalists

Turbulence characterized the political climate of the mid-1800s in Illinois. Abolitionists argued with pro-slavery forces throughout the very state that claimed Abraham Lincoln as its favorite son.

Elijah P. Lovejoy was the epitome of the activist publisher prevalent in the 1800s. After being driven out of St. Louis for his views, the Presbyterian minister launched the crusading Alton Observer in 1837 with one mission: to agitate for the abolition of slavery.

Lovejoy had been driven from St. Louis the year before because of his abolitionist ideas. As his circulation grew from 500 to 2,500 in six months, vandals destroyed his printing presses three times. Even his friends suggested Lovejoy temper his publication.

"I cannot surrender my principles, though the whole world besides should vote them down," Lovejoy wrote. "I can make no compromise between truth and error, even though my life be the alternative."

His words proved prophetic. On Nov. 7, 1837, Lovejoy and his followers locked themselves in a warehouse as a mob assembled to attack his fourth press. The group set the warehouse roof on fire, and shots were exchanged. Lovejoy and a rioter named Lyman Bishop were both killed; seven others were wounded before the mob succeeded in tossing Lovejoy's press into the Mississippi River.

Lovejoy was buried on Nov. 9, 1837 - his 35th birthday. Seven men were later charged in the attack; only one saw trial, and none were convicted.

But Lovejoy's belief in speaking his mind was embraced by others. Publishers at newspapers in Jacksonville, Springfield, Macomb, Galena, Quincy, Lacon, Joliet and Mt. Carmel openly advocated their political views, sometimes at the threat of blows by readers.

Newspapers many weeks old were read whenever they reached a distant town, and copies were safely stored as family records.

### Bailey Urges Publishers' Association

Turbulence characterized the political climate of the mid-1860s in the state. Illinois was the first state to ratify the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery, and President Abraham Lincoln returned to his beloved state for burial after being shot by John Wilkes Booth. New publications sprang up around the state, fueled by political agendas and the desire to mold communities around like ideas. By the start of the Civil War, Illinois had at least 60 newspapers.

In 1863, John Withnal Bailey of Ohio acquired ownership of a 16-year-old newspaper called The Bureau County Republican in Princeton where Lovejoy's brother, Owen, had relocated. Soon after picking up his Princeton pen, Bailey began to urge the creation of a statewide coalition of newspaper people. By the end of the Civil War, other editors had been enlisted into the preliminary work of forming the IPA. Bailey advocated that publishers band together for concerted action in such matters as lobbying for legislation, eliminating unprofitable business methods and developing professional ideals and standards.

In the fall of 1865, Bailey was joined by Enoch Emery and William Rounseville of Peoria, Olive White of Toulon, George Smith of Jacksonville, James Shoaff of Decatur, W.R. Steele of Wilmington, John Merritt of Springfield, A.N. Ford of Lacon, Louis Taft of Salem, C.R. Fisk of El Paso, J.H. Burnham of Bloomington, J.W. Bush of Pittsfield, J.R. Flynn of Centralia and D.S. Crandall of Champaign.

About 80 daily and weekly publishers attended the first Illinois Press Association convention on Feb. 22-23, 1866, where Merritt was elected as the first president of the IPA. Membership cost \$1 a year, establishing a trend of economic membership rates that continues today when dues account for less than 13 percent of the association's operating revenue.

### Newspapers Build Business, Political Savvy

Stability following the Civil War led many of Illinois' newspapermen to become little more than commercial printers with a town publication. Their concerns to increase production and get more outside jobs were justified; these tasks were the bread and butter of the business. Their publications had outlived their lives as political papers as the times became more tame.

Publishers meeting in 1886 were economically driven with programs on patent advertising, determining the cost of newspaper production and strategies for advertising sales.

**"The newspapers of today, especially the country papers, are not only growing in power and influence, but they are improving in a financial way," said 1903 IPA President C.W. bliss of the Montgomery County News in Hillsboro. "They are no longer 'organs' of scheming politicians, but they are strictly business propositions." Within 15 years, however, many publishers began to recognized the need to be included in the politics of Illinois through effective lobbying.**

**"There is no class of people in the world who do so much for the general public for nothing and who sit quietly by and see their own interests go unprotected," said 1915 IPA President J.M Page of the Jerseyville Democrat.**

### **Educating Tomorrow's Journalists**

**More than 20 colleges and universities in Illinois now teach journalism and related classes. At one time, however, there was no formal educational opportunities for Illinois' aspiring journalists.**

**In 1927, the IPA drove the creation of a School of Journalism at the University of Illinois. Publishers began to focus on community roles that went beyond being good businesses.**

**"It was a dedication to the importance of journalism in the state and to newspaper publishing as a profession rather than job printing as a political handout," said Charles Flynn of The News-Gazette who also taught journalism at the U of I.**

**In 1930, the IPA Hall of Fame was established at the U of I. Still visible in Gregory Hall, bronze busts of eight journalistic pioneers were unveiled:**

**Owen Lovejoy.**

**Victor F. Lawson, the first publisher of the Chicago Daily News and a founder of the Associated Press.**

**Joseph Medill, an architect of the Chicago Tribune.**

**Henry Clendenin, editor of the Illinois State Register in Springfield.**

**David Barkely, longtime editor of the Wayne County Press in Fairfield.**

**William Davis, editor-publisher of The Pantagraph in Bloomington.**

**Edward Scripps, founder of the Scripps-Howard newspaper chain.**

**Henry Pindell of the Peoria Journal and Peoria Transcript. Four others also were honored, but did not receive busts:**

**John Withnal Bailey.**

**Melville Stone, founder of the Chicago Daily News and Associated Press.**

**Simeon Francis, an Illinois editor before the Civil War.**

**John Clinton, editor of the Ogle County Press.**

**By 1933, 34 newspaper people had been named to the Hall of Fame. By 1938, the induction committee had added another 23 names and established a Freedom of the Press section honoring 12 more editors. Another 20 people were inducted into the Hall of Fame before it was discontinued in 1943.**

### IPA Strengthens Professionalism

**As World War II dawned, the IPA -- from its offices at the U of I -- embraced its three-fold role of educating journalists, protecting the First Amendment and promoting newspaper advertising. Reuel Barlow became secretary of the IPA in 1940, with the IPA Education committee formed in 1948 to promote cooperation between working journalists and journalism teachers.**

**Men returning to start families after World War II and the glory days of radio convinced Illinois publishers that they could no longer afford to dismiss quality in their newspapers. The IPA formed an education committee in 1948 to promote the growing relationship between journalism teachers and professionals - a relationship which eventually led to the creation of the Illinois Press Foundation in 1982.**

**In 1948, Art Strang, publisher of the Bunker Hill Gazette-News, also became secretary of an IPA that had grown to 710 newspapers. Publishers welcomed evolving technology like electric typewriters, but feared secretive government. The IPA formed a Freedom of Information Committee in 1953 to "investigate for possible action complaints reported by Illinois newspapers of violations of free access to the news which occur in their areas."**

**Illinois' newspaper numbers remained steady into the mid 1960s, with 712 publications belonging to the IPA in 1965.**

### IPA Moves to Springfield

### Members Build a Home

**In 1997, members acquired former farmland south of Springfield for construction of a state-of-the-art headquarters. For two years, IPA operated out of leased office space at 2815 Old Jacksonville Road in Springfield as the new IPA/IPF headquarters were built. It's a permanent "home" at 900 Community Drive parallel to I-55 south of Springfield. Completed in April 2000, the \$1.5 million, 11,000-square-foot facility houses the Illinois**

**Press Foundation, the Illinois Press Association, the Illinois Press Advertising Service and the Illinois Press Clipping Bureau.**

**The Illinois Press Foundation Recognition Bricks bearing names of friends of the Illinois newspaper industry leads visitors into a welcoming hall featuring a black granite reminder of the First Amendment and nameplates from every IPA member newspaper at the time the building was erected.**

**In addition to staff, storage and work areas, the facility includes a fully-appointed office for publishers visiting Springfield, an audio/visual-equipped training room and a complete kitchen. The building also includes:**

**The McCormick Tribune Hall;**

**The Illinois First Amendment Center;**

**The Marajen Stevick Chinigo Newspaper Education Center;**

**The Macfarland Board Room;**

**The Small Family Newspaper Resource Center; and**

**The Joseph L. Ferstl Government Affairs Offices.**

**The structure was funded by the sale of the IPA's South Grand Avenue building and donations from several newspapers and individuals throughout the state. Ongoing fund-raising efforts are now underway to enhance the initial landscaping at the site.**

**More than 500 newspapers are members of the Illinois Press Association, making it the largest state press organization in the country. The IPA and IPF continue to provide professional education, government access and newspaper advertising promotion in addition to assistance for Newspapers in Education and literacy programs, education and promotion of the First Amendment, information on evolving technology and new media, and "hot button" seminars and assistance for a wide variety of newspaper- and business-related questions, concerns and opportunities.**

**19th Century Illinois Newspapers**

**This list of Illinois newspapers starting before 1900 was compiled by Leslie Goddard and Laura Odwazny.**

**1831  
State Daily Register, Springfield  
Jacksonville Journal Courier**

**1833  
Macomb Daily Journal**

**1834  
Galena Gazette and Advertiser**

**1835  
The Quincy Herald-Whig**

**1836**

**Alton Telegraph**

**1837**

**Lacon Home Journal**

**1839**

**Herald-News, Joliet**

**Daily Republican Register, Mt. Carmel**

**1842**

**Times Courier, Charleston**

**Pike Press, Pittsfield**

**1844**

**The Daily Times, Ottawa**

**1846**

**Daily Review Atlas, Monmouth**

**Beacon News, Aurora**

**Carrollton Gazette Patriot**

**1847 Chicago Tribune**

**Bureau County Republican, Princeton**

**Freeport Journal Standard**

**Olney Daily Mail**

**The Geneva Republican**

**1848**

**The Democrat Message, Mt. Sterling**

**Beacon-News, Paris**

**The Rushville Times**

**1849**

**Anna Gazette-Democrat**

**Benton Evening News**

**Daily Ledger, Canton**

**1850**

**Mason County Democrat, Havana**

**1851**

**Dixon Telegraph**

**Oregon Republican Reporter**

**Rock Island Argus**

**1852**

**Macoupin County Enquirer, Carlinville  
News-Gazette, Champaign**

**Henry News Republican**

**Marshall Independent**

**1853**

**The Daily Journal, Kankakee**

**Hillsboro Journal**

**Metamora Herald**

**Amboy News**

**The Daily Gazette, Sterling**

**Chicago Daily Law Bulletin**

**Fulton Journal**

**1855**

**McLeansboro Times-Leader**

**Rockford Register Star**

**Journal Star, Peoria**

**The Fulton Democrat, Lewistown**

**1856**

**Carlinville Democrat**

**Northwest Herald, Crystal Lake**

**Litchfield News Herald**

**Lincoln Courier**

**Geneseo Republic**

**Piatt County Journal Republican,**

**Monticello**

**1857**

**Times-Record, Aledo**

**Whiteside News Sentinel, Morrison**

**1858**

**Belleville News-Democrat**

**Cambridge Chronicle**

**Herald-Enterprise, Golconda**

**1859**

**Putnam County Record, Granville**

**Toledo Democrat**

**Mt. Vernon Register News**

**1860**

**Mirror Democrat, Mt. Carroll  
Salem Times-Commoner**

**1862**

**Union Banner, Carlyle  
Edwardsville Intelligencer  
The Metamora Herald**

**1863**

**Randolph County Herald-Tribune,  
Chester  
The Tri-County Telegraph, Jerseyville  
Robinson Argus  
Robinson Constitution**

**1864**

**Sparta News-Plaindealer  
Vandalia Leader-Union  
Kendall County Record, Yorkville**

**1865**

**Metropolis Planet  
Wenona Index  
Paxton Daily Record  
El Paso Record  
Scott County Times, Winchester**

**1866**

**Viriden Recorder  
Wayne County Press, Fairfield  
Commercial-News, Danville**

**1867**

**Forreston Journal  
Woodford County Journal, Eureka  
Tri-County Press, Polo  
Chenoa Clipper Times**

**1868**

**Dwight Star and Herald  
Fairbury Blade  
Free Press Progress, Nokomis**

**1869**

**Albion Journal Register  
Earlville Leader  
Montgomery County News, Hillsboro  
Mt. Morris Times  
Pana News-Palladium  
Waverly Journal  
Greene Prairie Press, White Hall**

**1870**

**North Suburban Herald, Loves Park  
The Wilmington Advocate  
Times-Republic, Watseka  
Waterloo Republican-Times  
Gilman Star  
The Review, Hinckley**

**1871**

**Momence Progress Reporter**

**1872**

**Chronicle, Hoopeston  
The Virginia Gazette of Cass County,  
Virginia  
The Register-Mail, Galesburg  
Farmer City Journal  
Daily Herald, Chicago  
Calhoun News-Herald, Hardin**

**1873**

**The Times-Press, Streator  
Gibson City Courier  
Chatsworth Plaindealer**

**1874**

**Auburn Citizen  
Daily Courier News, Elgin  
The Newman Independent  
Neoga News  
Pekin Daily Times  
The Tonica News  
Delavan Times  
Petersburg Observer**

**1875**

**Liberty Bee Times**  
**Mattoon Journal-Gazette**  
**The Tuscola Review**

**1876**

**Rantoul Press**  
**Hardin County Independent,**  
**Elizabethtown**  
**Milford Herald News**

**1877**

**Northern Ogle Tempo**  
**The Orion Times**

**1878**

**Chrisman Leader**  
**Staunton Star-Times**  
**Mendota Reporter**  
**St. Louis Post Dispatch**  
**Galva News**  
**The Dispatch, Moline**

**1879**

**Astoria South Fulton Argus**  
**Collinsville Herald**  
**Herald & Review, Decatur**  
**Daily Chronicle, DeKalb**  
**Girard Gazette**  
**The Mahomet Citizen**  
**The Vienna Times**  
**Oak Leaves, Oak Park**

**1880**

**Trenton Sun**  
**The Democrat, Pinckneyville**  
**The Globe, Port Byron**

**1881**

**Altamont News**  
**Centralia Sentinel**  
**Marissa Messenger**  
**Kane County Chronicle, St. Charles**  
**Flanagan Home Times**  
**Ramsey News Journal**

**1882**

**Hyde Park Herald**  
**Herald-Star, Edinburgh**  
**Newton Press-Mentor**  
**The Heyworth Star**  
**The Raymond News**  
**Farina News**

**1883**

**Chillicothe Bulletin**  
**Forrest News**  
**Kimmundy Express**  
**Ashland Sentinel**

**1884**

**Augusta Eagle**  
**News-Progress, Sullivan**  
**Martinsville Planet**  
**McDonough Democrat, Bushnell**

**1885**

**Cairo Citizen**  
**Des Plaines Times**  
**Hampshire Register**

**1886**

**Antioch News-Reporter**  
**Blue Mound Leader**  
**Downers Grove Reporter**  
**The Manteno News**  
**Daily Clay County Advocate-Press, Flora**  
**Menard County Review, Greenview**

**1887**

**Arthur Clarion Graphic**  
**Rankin Independent**  
**The Enterprise, Plainfield**  
**LeRoy Journal**  
**Hancock County Journal Pilot, Carthage**



**1888**

**Illinoisan Star, Beardstown**  
**Atwood Herald**  
**The Gallatin Democrat, Shawneetown**  
**Sidell Journal**  
**Stockton/Warren Gazette**  
**Colfax Press**

**1889**

**Elmhurst Press**  
**Fisher Reporter**  
**Greenup Press**  
**Independent News, Georgetown**  
**Tazewell News, Morton**  
**Barrington Courier-Review**

**1890**

**The Star, Harvey**  
**Washburn Leader**

**1891**

**Cissna Park News**  
**News-Tribune, LaSalle**  
**The Mercury Independent, Grayville**

**1892**

**The News-Sun, Waukegan**  
**Hancock County Quill, LaHarpe**  
**South West News Sun, Libertyville**  
**Ford County Press, Melvin**  
**Ridgeway News**

**1893**

**Advocate Clifton**  
**Peotone Vidette**  
**The Gridley News**  
**Tremont Sun**  
**Steeleville Ledger**  
**East Dubuque Register**

**Morris Daily Herald**  
**The Okawville Times**

**1894**

**Gardner Chronicle**  
**The Journal Press, New Athens**  
**O'Fallon Progress**  
**Breeze Courier**

**1895**

**Ashton Gazette**  
**Hinsdale Doings**  
**DuQuoin Evening Call**  
**TriCounty Scribe, Plymouth**  
**Daily Leader, Pontiac**

**1896**

**Lake Forester**

**1897**

**Freeberg Tribune**  
**Piper City Journal**

**1898**

**Divernon News**  
**Clay County Republican, Louisville**  
**Teutopolis Press**  
**Carroll County Review, Thomson**  
**Chronicle-Headlight-Enquirer, Cullom**  
**Effingham Daily News**

**1899**

**The Review, Erie**  
**Glasford Gazette**

**1900**

**Grayslake Times**  
**Highland News Leader**  
**Normalite, Normal**

## Who Starts Illinois Newspapers

**Illinois has a lengthy and rich history of family-owned newspapers. But some of the most interesting publishers have launched their own careers:**

**Hosea C. Paddock was a school teacher who sold Rand McNally products before writing for his local newspaper. In 1883, he bought the weekly Wheaton Illinoisan -- and was forced to sell it five years later. He quickly resumed his new career, however, buying the Rochelle Register. His journalistic efforts in Waukegan and Libertyville ended in an uninsured fire that claimed his Lake County Independent. He returned to teaching long enough to raise enough money to buy the Palatine Enterprise -- which has grown into the Daily Herald in Arlington Heights, Illinois' third largest daily newspaper. The newspaper still bears his motto: "To tell the truth, fear God and make money."**

**A 19-year-old kid named Paul Simon turned to his local Lions club for help in buying the Troy Tribune. He exposed illegal gambling operation's ties to government in 1953 and ran for the General Assembly in 1954 at the age of 23 -- and won the first of four terms. He later served as a state senator and lieutenant governor before serving in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate and running a campaign for president. After retiring from the U.S. Senate, Simon led a public policy institute at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. He died in 2003.**

**Ira C. Copley was born on a Knox County farm between Peoria and Davenport, Iowa. His family's business was utilities, and in 1889 he became head of the Aurora Gas Light Co. Six years later, he bought his first newspaper, the daily Aurora Beacon. He served six terms in the U.S. House of Representatives while expanding the utility company's holdings and growing his newspaper group into a nationally noted organization.**

**Donald P. Cook started his journalism career in 1817 by buying the Illinois Intelligencer in Kaskaskia, believed to be the state's first newspaper started by Matthew Duncan in 1814. The next year, however, he sold the newspaper and served as a U.S. Representative for the new state.**