

History of the Press in Geneva

Geneva has had newspapers since the village's founding in 1796. Lucius Carey printed the *Ontario Gazette* for a few years, then moved the press to Canandaigua.

James Bogert began printing *The Expositor*, once a week, in 1806. A newspaper at that time was a single large sheet folded in half. Each piece of type was set by hand in a frame, and inked and pressed one page at a time.

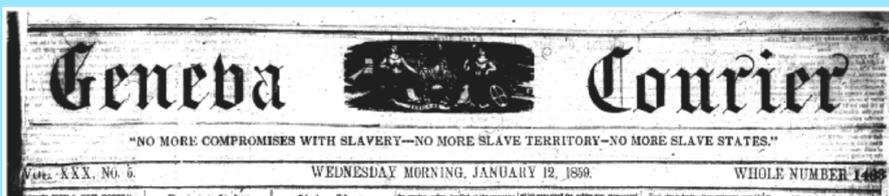
The Expositor became the *Geneva Gazette* in 1809; it became the *Advertiser-Gazette* in 1901 and continued to 1914. Many other Geneva papers started and stopped in the 1800s. A few names were:

- The Impartial Observer and Seneca Museum*
- The Geneva American*
- The Young Ladies' Mirror*
- The New York State Intelligencer*
- The Herald of Truth*



James Bogert's printing press, as imagined by Norman Kent in a 1940s woodcut

In the 1800s, objectivity had no place in the newspapers. *The Geneva Courier* was Republican and ran the party's candidates below the masthead in every issue. *The Geneva Gazette* was Democratic and they hated the *Courier* and Lincoln. While the *Gazette* paid honor to Lincoln when he was killed, they mocked him in 1861 for his fear of assassination on the way to his inauguration (lower right).



Geneva Courier.

WILLIAM JOHNSON,
Editor and Proprietor

Terms—\$2,00—\$1,50 In Advance

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 5, 1860.

Republican Nominations.

For President,
ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

For Vice-President,
HANNIBAL HAMLIN.

For Presidential Electors.

At Large:
WILLIAM C. BRYANT, JAMES O. PUTNAM.

Districts:

1. JOHN A. KING.	18. HENRY CHEACHELL.
2. EDWARD W. FARR.	19. JAMES R. ALLAN.
3. ANDREW CARLISLE.	20. EDNA N. HUNTINGTON.
4. JAMES KELLY.	21. STEWART D. FURBER.
5. SAMUEL KATZMAN.	22. JOHN J. FOSTER.
6. FREDERICK KAPP.	23. HIRSH DEWEY.
7. WASHINGTON SMITH.	24. JAMES L. YONGE.
8. WILLIAM A. DAVENPORT.	25. WILLIAM VAN METER.
9. WM. H. ROBERTSON.	26. JOHN E. NEELY.
10. GEORGE M. GIBBS.	27. FRANK L. JONES.
11. RICHARD KING.	28. JAMES S. WEDGWOOD.
12. JACOB B. CARPENTER.	29. EDNA M. FARRIS.
13. JOHN B. WYBLOW.	30. CHARLES C. FARRIS.
14. JACOB H. TAYLOR.	31. ELIZABETH WALKER.
15. N. EDSON FARRIS.	32. JOHN GARDNER, JR.
16. ROBERT S. HAY.	33. JAMES FARRIS.
17. ARJAN BUCKWOLD.	

For Governor,
EDWIN D. MORGAN.

For Lieut. Governor,
ROBERT CAMPBELL.

For Canal Commissioner,
SAMUEL H. BARNES.

For Inspector of State Prisons,
JAMES K. BATES.

Congressional Convention.

The Republican Electors of the 25th Congressional District, composed of the Counties of Ontario, Seneca and Yates, are requested to send Five Delegates from each Assembly District to a Convention to be held at the Veszie House, in the village of Geneva, on SATURDAY, THE 15th DAY OF SEPTEMBER NEXT, at 11 o'clock at noon, for the purpose of nominating a candidate for Representative in Congress, and such other business as may be deemed proper.

Dated, August 24, 1860.

J. V. VAN ALLEN,
THOMAS HILLHOUSE,
N. J. MILLIKEN,
ISAAC FULLER,
Congressional Committee.

THE WIDE AWAKES

Will meet at Fremont Hall, on FRIDAY EVENING, at PRECISELY 7 o'clock.

The Waterloo Observer thinks that if Douglas did call Henry Clay an old black bearded traitor, it should not be brought against him now. Douglas has never repented of the mean dirty act, and he should be branded as a low blackguard, just what he is, until he does make an honorable retraction.

Torchlight Procession!!

A SPEECH FROM
Ziba H. Potter.

Wide Awakes Attention!

The Republicans and citizens of Geneva and vicinity are requested to attend a meeting at Fremont Hall, on FRIDAY EVENING, THE 6TH INST., AT 8 O'CLOCK, for the purpose of listening to a speech from Mr. POTTER. Mr. P. has always been a Democrat, until Lincoln's nomination. He will give an interesting account of himself and the causes which have presented themselves to change him from his former course. Let the Hall be filled to overflowing.

THE LITTLE GIANTS.—The first demonstration of this notable organization took place on Friday evening last. The day was an unlucky one and the performance was a little more so. The Club, respectfully represented as regards numbers, started from their room over E Kent's Clothing establishment, and proceeded down Water street, without music, and apparently thus soliloquizing:—

"Hark! from the tombs a doleful sound;
My countrymen they cry:—
Ye Democrats, come view the ground
Where you must shortly lie."

When nearing the Veszie House, the demonstration became a fac-simile of its standard bearer. Their lanterns began to unsocket, as did Douglas' Squatter Sovereignty doctrine after he endorsed the Dred Scott decision.—The hot lead and hot oil began to rain, and it equalled Douglas' race after his mother. The lamps began rapidly to drop from their sockets and fall to the ground, where they were kicked about with as much unconcern as the principles of the party. The procession was principally composed of Irish and Know Nothings, one of each kind walking abreast. Pat was taking care that no twenty-one years resident demonstration was had in the ranks,

decided and the matter thus stands at present.

The public derive the following piece of information from the last Geneva Courier. No other paper has the news:

The Post Master General has ordered all the mails to Pensacola, Florida, to be discontinued, and has given notice to Postmasters throughout the United States, to send all letters directed to that place to the Dead Letter Box, at Washington.

We have had a little experience in postal affairs, but never learned of such an appendage thereto as the "Dead-Letter Box at Washington." Perhaps our neighbor, in his sanguine expectations of soon being "clothed with all the habiliments" of Post Master, has given to the laws and regulations such research that he has discovered a "Dead Letter Box at Washington." If so, he's ahead of all present Post Office functionaries.

A Big Scare!

The remarkable movement of the President elect, in abandoning his family and suite at Harriburgh, and going by stealth and in disguise from thence to Washington, has astonished the people at large, and mortified his political friends in particular. It was a "big scare," which was brought to him while arrayed in his night clothes, in the form of a plot to take his precious life. But isn't it most singular that, if Lincoln really believed of the existence of a conspiracy to run his special train off the track, or to blow it up by means of a laid mine, as is reported, he should have cowardly shunned the danger and left his wife and children to incur the hazards of such a damnable plot?

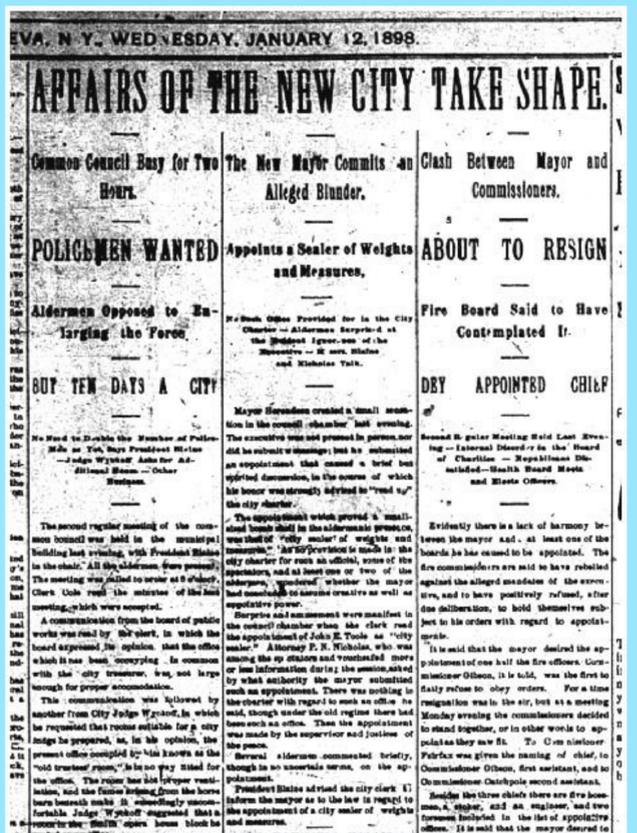
It is all fudge; and the fact existed only in the imagination of some wag, who gave it currency to try the rail-splitter's courage. He has succeeded admirably, and drawn the strongest possible contrast between the chosen Chief Magistrate of to-day, and his iron-nerved predecessor of the Hickory stamp. What would Gen. JACKSON have said to the craven spirits who would advise his flight in disguise to escape a like danger? "By the Eternal gentlemen, I'll go on foot and alone through the enemy's country, and dare the assassins to their murderous work!" He would under no circumstances have deviated from the programme of his travels through fear of an attempt upon his life.

Creation of the Geneva Daily Times



The *Geneva Daily Times* was established May 28, 1895 by M. Jeremiah Dillon, "who was convinced that Geneva should have a daily newspaper." W.A. Gracey (left) became a partner in 1898. In 1903, the *Times* merged with the *Geneva Courier* and the *Geneva Review*.

George B. Williams (right) purchased stock in the paper in 1904. From 1907 to 1944, the *Times* was run by Gracey and Williams. After Gracey's death, his sons Lawrence and Lewis remained as officers; Williams became sole owner in 1955 and changed the name to the *Geneva Times*.



The early *Times* had many features of modern papers—sports, weather, and letters to the editor—but the language of the day was different. "Doings of the Day" was more informal, and we no longer rely on railroad, steamboat, and mail schedules as did Genevans of the 1890s.

NEW YORK CENTRAL
THE FOUR-TRACK TRUNK LINE
PROFESSIONAL
New York Central & Hudson River R.R.
LEHIGH VALLEY R.R.
Schenectady Steamship Co.

DOINGS OF THE DAY
A Record of Current Events in Geneva.
DEEDS BROUGHT TO LIGHT
ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST AND ABOUT THE TOWN AND DAILY HAPPENINGS

CEMBER 13, 1895.
BORBAS BLOWING.
A Decided Fall of Temperature in Geneva.
MERCURY OFF PEDESTAL.
A COLD WAVE SENDS THE TEMPERATURE DOWN TO TWO DEGREES ABOVE ZERO.

DWYER AS AN UMPIRE
His First Decisions Well Received.
Now in the New American Association—Games in Geneva.

THE GENEVA DAILY TIMES
THE TIMES PUBLISHING CO.
H. J. FOWLER, President.
W. A. GRACEY, Secretary and Treasurer.

National Headlines

GENEVA DAILY TIMES WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 11, 1900

IN CLOSE QUARTERS
The British Are Hard Pressed.
Gen. Gatacre Recalled—Troops Rushed to the Relief of Gen. Brabant.

DICK CROKER TRAVELS INCOG.
Is Tammany Leader in New York?
Tammany May Flop to Dewey—The Presidential Outlook.

METHODISTS SCORE SHELDON
His Effort Referred to As Blasphemous.
Report of a Committee Roundly Rebukes the Tepeka Capital Man.

DEWEY DAY DECLARED OFF
Chicago Refuses to Boom the Admiral.
Presidential Aspirations Have Resulted in a Quiet "Arrangement."

ARRESTED AT DUNDEE
Man Who Eloped With Married Woman.
News of Nearby Towns of Interest to Geneva Residents.

LINES SECURE
No Danger of Break in British Communications.
Cape Town, April 11—Your correspondent has just been informed by a friend who has arrived from Bloemfontein that the British line of communication between the capital of the Free State and Norval's Post is absolutely secure. Fifteen thousand men hold every kopje between the two places and they are strongly entrenched.

35,000 HORSES FOR BRITISH ARMY
Will Be Collected at Buffalo For Shipment to South Africa.

GENERAL GATACRE
British General Whose Negligence led to his recall.

DICK CROKER
Who is said to be traveling incognito.

RICHARD CROKER
Who is said to be traveling incognito.

NEW YORK'S POPULATION
Census Bureau Reaches Some Surprising Results.

IN HIGH LIFE
Divorce Case Involves Confidante of Princess of Wales.

NEW YORK'S POPULATION
Census Bureau Reaches Some Surprising Results.

DEWEY DAY DECLARED OFF
Chicago Refuses to Boom the Admiral.

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Man Who Eloped With Married Woman.

GENEVA DAILY TIMES WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 11, 1900

In the early decades of the *Times*, the front page was a mix of national and local news. The second Anglo-Boer War in Africa (far left) was regular news in 1900. National politics were usually at the top of the page, along with a local headline about murder, divorce, or adultery.

GENEVA DAILY TIMES MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 1945

New Atomic Bomb Loosed Upon Japan
Hailed as Most Terrible Destructive Force in All History, Truman Discloses

HERO OF 108 MISSIONS LOST OVER TOKYO
580 Superforts Fire Raid 4 More Forewarned Cities; Industrial Toyama Destroyed

SEN. JOHNSON OF CALIFORNIA DIES, AGED 79

Kweilin and Kanhsien, Former U.S. Air Base Sites Levelled by Japs

TRUMAN NEARS

ACVC ADA TO

EXTRA GENEVA DAILY TIMES EXTRA WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1948

Dewey Concedes Stunning Upset; Democratic Tide Engulfs Congress

Grab 49 Seats Party Leaders End Bitter Vote Struggle In New Senate, Control House

Dewey Trails In Key States; Illinois Wavers

BULLETIN
New York, Nov. 9 (AP)—Gov. Thomas E. Dewey today conceded the presidential election to President Truman.

Decades later, some headlines seem understated. The news was accurate, but there was no way of knowing at the time how the international balance of power had changed.

To keep up with breaking news, the *Times* published "Extra" editions. Unlike the famous *Chicago Tribune* "Dewey Defeats Truman" headline, the *Geneva Daily Times* got it right.

THE GENEVA TIMES FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1963

KENNEDY IS KILLED

35 Million Trees Ready

Night Calls By Doctors?

Berlin—Reds Renew Warning on Autobahn

THE GENEVA TIMES MONDAY, JULY 21, 1969

Eagle orbits...homeward bound

OLD ORBIT

FIRST FOOT

By the 1960s, newspapers faced competition from television. Readers learned of Kennedy's death from Walter Cronkite and followed live coverage of the moon landing. The paper was hampered by layouts and schedules; what they lacked in immediacy they made up for with detailed coverage in the days following major events.

Change Over Time



Sam Williams (left) took over the paper from his father. In 1977 he changed the name to the *Finger Lakes Times* to reflect the regional audience. Sam Williams passed away in 1987; the *Times* was sold in 1988 to Independent Publications, Inc. Today, the *Finger Lakes Times* is a subsidiary of Community Media Group, Inc. that operates publications in six states.



Editorial cartoons (left) have changed less than comic strips like *Bringing Up Father*. Advertisers still take advantage of current events, like E.J. Mulcahy and the fight for women's right to vote. Tonics such as Paine's Celery Compound are no longer advertised, but were they that different from today's "lose weight fast with no diet" pills?

