

*Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette*

Founded: 1863 (*Fort Wayne Daily Gazette*); 1868 (*Fort Wayne Weekly Journal*); 1899 (*Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette*)

Location:

*Fort Wayne Daily Gazette*: Northeast corner of Columbia and Clinton Streets (1863–69); 25 West Columbia Street; 125 Columbia Street; 54 Calhoun Street (1869–); 25 West Main Street; 207 East Berry Street (–1899)

*Fort Wayne Weekly Journal*: South side of Main Street opposite courthouse (1868–); Court Street, over post office and opposite courthouse

*Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette*: 207–209 East Main Street (1899–1908); 711–713 Clinton Street (1909–28); 701 South Clinton Street (1928–58); 600 West Main Street (1958–)

The *Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette* grew out of the merger of two older papers. D. W. Jones established the *Gazette* as a daily Republican paper in 1863; in the summer of that year Isaac Jenkinson acquired an interest. The paper was only four pages (two of which, the front and back pages, were given over to advertising) and strongly supported President Abraham Lincoln, his draft policy, and the Union cause in the ongoing Civil War. In October 1863 the editors installed a cylinder press and became the first successful steam-printing house in the city. By the next year Jones and Jenkinson claimed to have the largest circulation in the city and were also taking on general printing jobs. Indeed, by 1880 the *Gazette*'s presses were not only printing daily and weekly editions of the paper but also over one hundred other papers distributed throughout the Midwest and Kentucky.

By early 1867 Jenkinson acquired complete ownership of the *Gazette*. In about 1869 the newspaper moved its office to Calhoun Street, in a building across from the courthouse. Over the next decade the paper saw many changes of ownership. In July 1876 the paper was purchased by two brothers, D. S. and Frederick W. Kiel; despite prospering initially, it eventually fell into receivership due to financial distress. In 1887

Nathan R. Leonard, a former professor of mathematics and astronomy in Iowa, purchased the *Gazette* and edited it with his son Frank M. Leonard. Frank retired in January 1889, and Nathan Leonard continued to run the paper for several years. In 1897 Charles Lane and Marion E. Beall purchased the paper.

The *Fort Wayne Weekly Journal*, established in 1868 by Thomas S. Taylor and Samuel Hanna, was, like the *Gazette*, initially a Republican newspaper. In 1872 Taylor and Hanna sold the *Journal* to a partnership that included the paper's editor, Clark Fairbank. Thomas J. Foster, a state senator, purchased the *Journal* in 1880 and made it a Democratic organ. The paper had several owners throughout the 1880s, most notably Samuel Miller, who assumed a controlling interest by the middle of the decade. Miller died in January 1887. On 10 June 1889 William W. and Howell C. Rockhill, two sons of a pioneer Fort Wayne family whose father was a prominent Democratic politician, and Andrew J. Moynihan, an Irish immigrant who had grown up in Fort Wayne, purchased the paper. Moynihan, colorful and cantankerous, served as editor and became a major force in Indiana Democratic politics. His sharp opinions sometimes provoked fistfights, and Moynihan was given to firing employees peremptorily, occasionally throwing editorial shears or paste pots in the process.

On 14 June 1899 the Rockhills and Moynihan purchased the *Gazette*. The resulting *Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette* became the foremost Democratic newspaper in Fort Wayne. In 1907 the Rockhills sold their interest in the paper to Moynihan and members of his family. The *Journal-Gazette* moved from offices at 207–209 East Main Street to 711–713 Clinton between 1908 and 1909. After declining health forced Moynihan to retire, Lewis G. Ellingham, with Edward G. Hoffman, purchased the

*Journal-Gazette* in 1916. Ellingham, the son of English immigrants, owned a succession of Indiana newspapers beginning at the age of nineteen: the *Geneva Herald*, the *Winchester Democrat*, and the *Decatur Democratic Press* (which, after a merger in 1896, became the *Democrat*). Ellingham was active in Democratic politics and served as the Indiana secretary of state from 1910 to 1914. Soon after his purchase of the paper, Ellingham made Claude G. Bowers its editor. At the time Bowers had just finished a six-year stint as Democratic senator John W. Kern's secretary in Washington, D.C. He went on to edit the *New York World* (after he left the *Journal-Gazette* in 1923) and to become a well-known writer, historian, and ambassador to Spain and Chile. Bowers was succeeded as editor by Harry M. Williams and, later, Frank Roberts. In 1928 the newspaper purchased and remodeled a large brick building at the corner of Clinton and Main Streets.

In 1934 William A. Kunkel, a successful Bluffton oil producer, purchased a controlling interest in the paper. Kunkel was also active in Democratic politics, although he held no elective office. After Kunkel's untimely death in 1948, James R. Fleming and Virgil Simmons became publishers. After Simmons's death in 1958, Fleming became both president and publisher. Fleming, originally from Henry County, was a lawyer, prosecuting attorney, and former state legislator in Jay County. From 1933 to 1941 he served as U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Indiana, prosecuting gangsters, including members of the Al Capone gang, as well as an important antitrust case against General Motors. In 1950 the *Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette* established a joint operating agency with its evening rival, the *Fort Wayne News-Sentinel*. Fort Wayne Newspapers, Inc., managed the advertising, circulation, production, and related business functions of

the two newspapers, which maintained separate and independent editorial staffs. In 1958 both papers moved to 600 West Main Street. Upon Fleming's death in 1973, Richard G. Inskeep succeeded him as president.

In 1999 the *Journal-Gazette* had a circulation of over sixty-one thousand and published its news every morning. Fort Wayne Newspapers, Inc., continued in operation, employing 610. Julie Inskeep Walda published the newspaper, a position she ascended to in 1997.