

Nassau & Thompson, Inc.

Founded: 1898

Location: 4711 Forsythe Avenue (now Indianapolis Boulevard), East Chicago (1898–1910); northwest corner of Forsythe and Chicago Avenues (1910–22); 810 West Chicago Avenue (1922–).

Charles Nassau and Harry Thompson received the rights to distribute newspapers in East Chicago on 20 April 1898. Both men had been tending bar and waiting for a chance to do something else. Using a horse and wagon they made their deliveries throughout the city. Sometime before 1910 the partners opened a store on Forsythe Avenue, where they sold not only newspapers, but also magazines and stationery. In 1910 the store was relocated to the Friedman Building, which sat on the northwest corner of Forsythe and Chicago Avenues. At this store the partners opened a small soda and ice-cream stand to augment their business. A little more than a decade later the duo moved once more to the present location of the firm.

When Nassau died his shares in the concern were divided between his sister, Mary Pitzele, and his brother and the secretary-treasurer of the firm, Julius Nassau. When Thompson retired in 1944 he sold his shares to the company. Shortly after the end of World War II David L. Nassau, Julius's son, joined the firm. Mary's son, Ozer S. Pitzele, worked for the company until his retirement in January 1974.

Later that same year David Nassau became the president of the company, and his son Lawrence D. Nassau came into the business. Lawrence rose to the presidency sometime later, a post he held in 1999.

In 1999 Nassau & Thompson, Inc., was primarily engaged in selling office products, furniture, and computer supplies, but they also continued to deliver newspapers.