

Boston's Black Periodicals

Last Updated 10/31/2019

1830s-1850s

The Anti-slavery Herald - (April to October 1838)- The founder was Benjamin F. Roberts.

The Impartial Citizen - (1850) This was an abolitionist weekly.

The Self Elevator - (1853) The founder of this paper was also Benjamin F. Roberts.

1880s-1890s

The Boston Advocate- (1885- ?) Editor and Proprietor Mr. Powell; Society editor was Lillian A. Lewis (Penn, 381-384). Feb. to Nov. 1902 issues available in microform at Harvard and Brandeis University libraries. Not to be confused with later Jewish newspaper(s) of the same or similar name.

The Observer- (1880s ?) Reporter or editor was Robert Teamoh. Only existed for a short duration (Penn, 360).

The Boston Leader - Managing Editor was Howard L. Smith and its City Editor was Robert Teamoh.

The Boston Courant (1890 or 1892-1897) was founded by George W. Forbes (The Boston Leader and the Boston Advocate were still operating in the early 1900s.)

See also *The Liberator* (1831-1865), edited by William Lloyd Garrison, but with many relevant articles. Note also Frederick Douglass's *North Star* (not based in Boston but in Rochester, N.Y.) which had a competitive, conflicting relationship with *The Liberator*. Some original copies available at the Boston Athenaeum. The Boston Public Library has Garrison's complete original set which is also available online.

<https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/collections/commonwealth:9w032b61n>

See also:

Jacobs, Donald M. "William Lloyd Garrison's *Liberator* and Boston's Blacks, 1830-1865." *The New England Quarterly* 44, No. 2 (June 1971): 275-76.

Freedom's Journal (1827-1830) published in New York, had among its advocates,

supporters, and contributors in Boston, David Walker and Rev. Thomas Paul. Several other African American newspapers around the country had Boston correspondents.

Twentieth Century

The Guardian (1901-1955) – Editor and cofounder: William Monroe Trotter;
Cofounder and editor until 1910- George W. Forbes. The paper strongly opposed Booker T. Washington's views.

The Boston Colored Citizen (Received funds from Booker T. Washington)

The Boston Chronicle (1915-1960) – (West Indian) Editors: Alfred Houghton and William Edward Harrison

The Bay State Banner (Sept. 25, 1965-) Founder and publisher: Melvin Miller

The Colored American Magazine (May 1900- November 1909)
Published initially out of Boston by the Colored Co-Operative Publishing Company. It was the first general, monthly national magazine on African American culture, history, and biography. Pauline Hopkins of Boston was an editor, board member, and major contributor and writer.

Reference Works on the Black Press

Campbell, Georgetta M. *Extant Collections of Early Black Newspapers: A Research Guide to the Black Press, 1880-1915, with an Index to the Boston Guardian, 1902-1904*. Troy, N.Y.: Whitston, 1981. 401 pages.

Cooper, Kenneth J. "Black Opinion in Early African American Newspapers in Boston." Boston: Trotter Institute, University of Massachusetts Boston, n.d. accessed 26 June 2019.

https://www.umb.edu/editor_uploads/images/trotter/trotterblackpresspaper.pdf

Kountze, Mabe. *A History of the Early Colored Press in Massachusetts*. Typescript. 1967.

Penn, I. Garland. *The Afro-American Press and Its Editors*. Springfield, Mass.: Willey and Company, Publishers, 1891.

This early and detailed work mentions several of Boston's early Black Newspapers and also gives brief biographies of Boston's Black journalists and editors including Robert Teahmoh and John Gordon Street.