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GEORGE W. HOPP: BROOKINGS COUNTY
PRESS 1879-1890

BY
KENNETH E. SCHAACK

A thesis submitted
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the
degree Master of Science, Major in
Journalism, South Dakota
State University

1969

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PREFACE

With the settlement of new territories in the Midwest, some of the first settlers into the area were journalists, the pioneer editors. George W. Hopp was one of these adventurers. He notched into the vast pioneer history a small corner of success which helped mold Dakota, Brookings and its area, into the progressive farm community it is today.

Hopp was unlike some of the early newspapermen who saw only wealth in the newspaper business. He came to Dakota not only to seek wealth, but to perfect a "package" unsurpassed by the other weekly newspapers in the territory.

From the day in 1879 when he unloaded his print-shop material out of a wagon which had traveled the prairies from Canby, Minnesota, to the now non-existent village of Fountain, Dakota, Hopp was intent on giving the people "their money's worth." He moved his paper from its humble beginnings to the "front of pioneer weekly journalism" in eastern Dakota over an 11-year period.

When Hopp's publication, the County Press, first saw the light of day, there were only ten papers in southeastern Dakota. The Enterprise of Flandreau was the sole paper in what is now the immediate Brookings area to begin publishing before the County Press. The Enterprise began the year prior to Hopp's first issue. Flandreau was
originally in the limits of Brookings County when the area was so marked. However, later boundary lines created Moody County, of which Flandreau became county seat.

By examining the early "local comments" in stories written by Hopp in the County Press, it becomes easy to distinguish Hopp's prose from that of his junior editors. His style and references made in the early editions are reflected in later years of the paper and indicate he was the man who directed the policies of the paper.

Hopp's newspaper days in Dakota were marked by Republican thinking. He was as "solid Republican" as any man could be. He was a man extremely loyal to his country and his subscribers. He aimed to serve the people, give them their "subscription's worth," and develop Dakota along with the nation.

He constantly reminded readers of the County Press that he published only the "truth" in his newspaper. He wanted to remain as unbiased as possible. He wanted no part of what he called "the ring, clique or faction" which manipulated the "good people." He fought such groups throughout his 11-year newspaper career in Brookings County. When he moved to Sedro, Washington, in 1890 to search for new adventure and to start a new newspaper, he received high praise from his fellow journalists in the area for his crusading efforts during his County Press days.

A review of Hopp's papers indicates his days in Brookings County were dotted by the many problems which beset pioneer newspapermen.
Winter snow storms often blocked the tracks so that trains were unable to bring a fresh supply of newspaper print. Wallpaper and various other materials were used as substitutes. On one occasion he was forced to haul the needed newsprint on foot from Aurora after the train was stranded there during a lengthy snow storm.

In his third year as an editor in Dakota Territory, Hopp was faced with a $10,000 libel suit. He was later cleared of the charge. Examination of his career also reveals a three-month attempt to publish a daily newspaper in Brookings.

Hopp's editorial performance on one of the early weeklies in the Dakota Territory provides only a speck of the Midwestern journalism picture during the years before 1900. However, Hopp, who was referred to by one of his fellow pioneer writers as "the editor who is afraid of nothing but a cyclone," is well worth studying.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to acknowledge my debt to the many writers and journalists whose contributions to the history of Brookings County and its newspapers are listed in the footnotes and in the bibliography of this paper.

I am also grateful for the invaluable aid of my wife, Karon Ann Schaack.

A broad thank you is in order to the many persons who assisted me at the various libraries I visited and from whom I obtained the material listed on the following pages.

Thanks go also to Dr. George H. Phillips, head of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at South Dakota State University and Paul H. Jess, associate professor of journalism at SDSU, for their advice and assistance.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

John Breenan of Sioux City, Iowa, in 1878 published a poem, "Dakota Invitation." The poem, in part:

To the west of Minnesota,
And beyond the silvery Sioux,
Lies a country called Dakota,
Where the skies are ever blue;
So strangers, come and find a home
If fortune you pursue;
'Tis a glorious land of prairies grand,
And skies forever blue.

It is not a mazy woodland,
Where the civilizer crawls,
But a level and good land,
With its streams and waterfalls.
Where Uncle Samuel gives a farm
To everyone who calls,
A farm of land—or prairies grand,
That to young manhood calls.1

It is the "spirit of adventure for the new" inferred in Breenan's poem which this study attempts, in general, to examine. Specifically, however, it is a pioneer editor, George W. Hopp, and his newspaper, the Brookings County Press, which are the subjects of the study.

Very little has been written about Hopp and his newspaper. The first and primary objective of this study is to uncover and compile information about Hopp and the County Press.

The second and secondary objective of the study is to point out characteristics of the **County Press** and Hopp which seem to be typical of other early Dakota papers and editors. No attempt is made to reach any general conclusions which would be applicable to all papers in all parts of the United States.

What was the Brookings area like before 1890? What did Hopp and the **Press** do for Brookings area development? What type of man was George W. Hopp? What type of newspaper was the **County Press**?

These are the questions which this study attempts to answer.
CHAPTER II

METHODOLOGY

This study was made by the examination of newspapers on microfilm, by researching books and by studying literature.

Additional information was obtained from personal interviews with printers who recall the Brookings County Press and the men who guided it.

The primary source of information was the microfilm file on the County Press, the Brookings Register and the Sentinel newspapers, situated in Lincoln Memorial Library on the campus of South Dakota State University.

Additional information was obtained from the South Dakota Historical Library in Pierre. Information concerning Hopp's parents, brothers and sisters came from volumes situated in the Iowa State Historical Library in Des Moines.

The study is limited to the period up to and including 1890. Only Hopp's 11 years as editor and publisher of the County Press were thoroughly examined.

A limitation is the fact that circulation figures are not available for all the early years of the County Press. The final year of Hopp's reign as editor of the County Press is not preserved on microfilm nor could files be found. Therefore, information on that year has been obtained from the County Press' competitor, the
Data so compiled are limited.

Another limitation results from the fact that only a few persons were located who could recall, with any degree of accuracy, some items relating to the years during which Hopp published his paper in Brookings County.
CHAPTER III

HISTORICAL DATA

Settlement of an Area and the Beginning of a Newspaper

The name "Hopp" carried a special emphasis in the early days of Dakota Territory journalism. It was connected with the establishment of several weekly newspapers in Dakota and with the push for thriving and healthy settlements.

George W. Hopp was the best-known of the Hopp brothers who came from Iowa and sought their living by use of type during the frontier days. His name is linked with the founding of the Brookings County Press, Hamlin County Times at Estelline, Kingsbury County News at DeSmet, Lake Preston Times, Huron Tribune, Huron Dakota Central, Medicine Valley Times at Blunt and Conklin's Dakotian at Watertown.

However, it is the establishment of the County Press February 20, 1879, and the place this paper holds in the growth of Brookings County and Dakota Territory that singles out Hopp as one of the early leaders in Dakota weekly newspaper history.

Hopp wasn't the first journalist to start a newspaper in Dakota Territory. More likely he was probably somewhere between the 22nd and


the 32nd editor to begin publishing in the Territory. 4 He stepped into Dakota about the same time the Dakota Railroad Company, a subsidiary of the Chicago, North Western Railway Company, pushed its rails into the eastern edge of Dakota. Like other pioneers he was seeking adventure and wealth. By 1882 his County Press was listed among 139 other publications which had appeared in Dakota Territory. 5

As noted in the Fiftieth Anniversary Edition of the Brookings Register, there were "wild prairies to be developed . . . there was plenty of hard work. But there was also a willing spirit, a determination to carve out home and fortune . . . ." 6 Hopp and his brothers were a part of this era.

The first of the early trails into the region later acclaimed by Hopp in County Press pages was followed by the Rev. Stephen R. Riggs and Alexander Higgins in 1840. This was an Indian trail from Lac qui Parle, in Minnesota Territory, to Fort Pierre, on the Missouri River. It parted at Chan-nonpa (Two Woods Lake) near Altamont in what is now Deuel County; the branch they took went south past Oakwood Lake, following the Big Sioux Valley toward Lake Madison. 7

The first settlements in Dakota were in the southeastern area by pioneers from Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin. The settlements

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4 County Press, Jan. 4, 1883, p. 3.
5 County Press.
were promoted by the Dakota Land Company of Saint Paul, Minnesota, and the Western Town Company of Dubuque, Iowa. Many villages sprang up along the Big Sioux River in 1857, including Medary, Flandreau and Sioux Falls.  

Indians first relinquished their claims to land now included in Brookings County when they ceded the Big Sioux valley east of the Big Sioux river to the Federal government in the Traverse des Sioux treaty in 1851. In 1858, they ceded the land west of the river. They did not, however, immediately leave the territory to be freely populated by white man, and the first settlement, established at Medary in 1857, was abandoned the following year for fear of Indians. Another settlement was not established until 1869. The earliest recorded exploration of the territory in which Brookings County is located was conducted by a party commanded by E. N. Nicollet in 1838. He was accompanied by John C. Fremont.

The Medary attempt at settlement in May, 1857, was under the auspices of the Dakota Land Company. The expedition headed by Major F. J. DeWitt came up the Minnesota River by boat as far as New Ulm, moved overland by ox teams and established a townsite near the Big Sioux River. The location was named Medary in honor of Governor Medary of Minnesota. The intent at that time was to make Medary the capital of the new territory. The expedition then went along the river, establishing Flandreau and ending where Sioux Falls now stands. Later Major DeWitt with a party of 14 men returned to Medary, built quarters and remained for the winter. A hostile band of Sioux Indians, headed by Smutty Bear, in June, 1858, ordered Major DeWitt and his crew to

8 M. K. Armstrong, "History and Resources of Dakota, Montana and Idaho," in South Dakota Historical Collections, 1928, p. 35.

leave immediately. The settlers left and there was no bloodshed. It was then 11 years before the next influx of settlers.\(^\text{10}\)

Census figures of 1860 show only one inhabitant of Medary, namely Francois LaPaire, a hunter. Records indicate only ten adults and four children residing in the entire area from the Sioux River at Medary to Big Stone Lake.\(^\text{11}\)

Dakota obtained its territorial government in 1861 and remained under such jurisdiction until November 2, 1889, when it was divided into North and South Dakota. When Dakota became a territory in 1861 the population of the territory included 1,669 persons.\(^\text{12}\)

Brookings County, Dakota Territory, came into being April 5, 1862, when such an act was authorized by the legislature in Yankton and approved by Governor Jayne. Brookings was one of five counties named by the governor at that time. The other four were Bon Homme, Deuel, Lincoln, and Minnehaha. The boundaries of Brookings County have since been changed.\(^\text{13}\)

Brookings county and Brookings city were named after Wilmot W. Brookings, who settled in Sioux Falls in 1857 and for many years was identified with the development of the new territory. When the Indian scare frightened away the early settlers, he moved to Yankton where he lived for a quarter of a century.

\(^{10}\) Robert R. Kerr, \textit{Brookings Register}, July 18, 1929, p. 4.


\(^{12}\) \textit{County Press}, Jan. 11, 1883, p. 3.

\(^{13}\) \textit{Register}, July 18, 1929, p. 4.
In 1869 President Grant appointed him as one of the associate justices of the supreme court for Dakota Territory. He served until 1873.  

In 1869, the first permanent settlement in Brookings County was started about four miles northwest of the original Medary site on the east bank of the Sioux River. The homesteading group included Nils O. Trygstad and sons, O. C., Martin, Cornelius, Erick, and Michael. They were later joined by Ole Jermstad and Christopher Baltrud, all coming from Salem, Minnesota. Elias, Thomas H. and John H. Thompson joined the Medary settlers in 1870, followed by numerous others in 1871. The total population in the county in 1870 was 163. Although township lines had been established, the land wasn't surveyed into sections until 1871. The census for the territory of Dakota showed an increase of 12,669 people from 1861 to 1870. There were 14,182 people in Dakota in 1870.  

Political activity gained momentum in Medary in the early 1870's and on July 3, 1871, the Brookings County Commissioners held their first meeting at Trygstad's home. They appointed county officials and established voting precincts. Polling places were named in July, 1872. In June, 1872, C. H. Stearns opened the first store in the county on the old Medary site. A plat of Medary was recorded, signed by John  

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14 Register, p. 7.  
15 Sandro, p. 5.  
16 Register, p. 4.  
17 County Press.
Bippus and Henry N. Urmy, September 11, 1872. The first lots were sold to C. H. Stearns. During the fall of 1873, James Natesta opened the county's second store about one-half mile up the river. Natesta's entire stock invoiced at $40. Much of Stearns' and Natesta's business was with the Indians. 18

The early 1870's also saw settlements established at Oakwood and Lake Hendricks. The Oakwood village was abandoned in 1882 when the railroad bypassed the site. 19 A group of 31 settlers colonized in the Lake Hendricks region July, 1873, traveling in 11 canvashood wagons drawn by ox teams. They came primarily from Houston County, in southeastern Minnesota, and Winneshiek and Alamakee Counties, in northeastern Iowa. Most of the people were immigrants recently arrived from Norway. Some squatters, however, were at the Lake Hendricks site in 1871. 20

Agriculture immediately became, out of necessity, a livelihood for most settlers in this area; in 1874, for example, C. E. Cook planted near Medary what was believed to be the first field of wheat in the Brookings vicinity. 21

The period from 1875-79, during which J. P. Kidder was the delegate to Congress from Dakota Territory, 22 saw the establishment of

18 Register.
20 Sandro, pp. 10-14.
21 Register, p. 3.
22 Brookings Sentinel, Jan. 18, 1889, p. 3.
another prairie town, Fountain. It was in this settlement that the County Press began publishing February 20, 1879, with Hopp and Dr. C. A. Kelsey listed as editors.23

Fountain was founded during April, 1878, by Dr. Kelsey and J. O. Walker, about eight miles northeast of the present site of Brookings and twenty miles southwest of Lake Hendricks, in Section 2, Township 110, Range 49. The settlement was said to have received its name from the many natural fountains which flowed in that area. It was near the geographical center of Brookings County. Among the other early settlers of Fountain were J. H. Kelsey and Harrison Williams. Most of the pioneers came by railroad from Dodge County, Minnesota, to Canby, Minnesota, and then journeyed by wagons across the border to Fountain. Several business places were erected on the Fountain site soon after its founding, including Walker's hotel, B. J. Kelsey's store and E. B. Harte's blacksmith shop. By May, 1878, claims on all the land from Fountain to Medary and east to Elkton were filed.24 Many of the early settlers of Fountain went back East to their homes after filing claims in 1878 and returned during spring, 1879. Fountain, however, did not flourish; when early hopes for a railroad through town faded, many of the buildings were moved by ox teams to Brookings and Aurora,25 towns which were situated along the railroad.

23 County Press, Feb. 20, 1879, p. 3.
24 Sandro, p. 13.
Hopp first visited Fountain in December, 1878, while many of the settlers were back East for the winter. In later County Press columns, he says that during this stay he "first wanted to leave the geographical subdivision of Brookings county" after he had "just quitted the coach" and had become "discouraged looking for the town; but Jake Walker's hospitality and Dr. Kelsey's persuasion finally overcame the homesickness," and when the stage coach returned to Canby the next morning he didn't go. Hopp soon invested $200 in a second-hand printing outfit which was shipped by railroad to Canby, where the tracks ended. A lumber wagon, pulled by horses, transported the equipment to Fountain.

The man who thus started the County Press in Fountain was born January 31, 1854, in Pennsylvania. He was 24 years old when he ventured out of Iowa to Fountain. His father, John Hopp, was born in Germany, September 29, 1820, and came to America in 1840. He landed at New York, and from there went to Pennsylvania where he married Sarah Gambe, April 24, 1853. Sarah was born October 12, 1820, in Pennsylvania. The pair moved to Clayton County, Sperry Township, Iowa, in the spring of 1853; the elder Hopp acquired 60 acres of land. John and Sarah Hopp's offspring included George, born January 31, 1854;

26 County Press, Jan. 2, 1890, p. 3.

John Jr., born January 24, 1856; Jacob, born January 13, 1858; Henry, born January 31, 1861; Thomas, born January 20, 1863; and Mary, born August 2, 1872. 28

George first ventured into printing at about age 12. He gained initial experience on the Strawberry Point, Iowa, Press, and also worked on the Fayette County, Iowa, Union, before heading into Dakota Territory. 29 Only three papers were publishing in all the territory north and west of Sioux Falls to the Missouri River in what is now South Dakota when Hopp founded his County Press. The three other papers were the Egan Express, Flandreau Enterprise and the Gary Inter-State. In all of southeastern Dakota there were only ten newspapers publishing in 1879. 30

In the third issue of Hopp's County Press it is noted that the paper was published by a stock company with Hopp and Kelsey as editors. 31 The first stockholders' meeting was held May 2, 1879, at 10:30 a.m. with S. G. Mayland acting as president and C. A. Kelsey as secretary. 32 Within three months, on August 28, 1879, Hopp was listed as the sole editor and publisher of the County Press. 33

28 History of Clayton County Iowa.
29 County Press, July 7, 1887, p. 3.
30 County Press, Dec. 28, 1882, p. 3; March 20, 1879, p. 3.
31 County Press, March 6, 1879, p. 3.
32 County Press, April 24, 1879, p. 3.
33 County Press, Aug. 28, 1879, p. 3.
Hopp's editorial policy, which remained constant throughout his years on the County Press, was set in the first issue of his paper. He said:

We this morning hand you the first number of the Press. Read it, criticize it, and then patronize it to the extent you think it deserves. We have no excuses to offer and no apologies to make. The Press will represent the thrift and guard the interests of the people of the county: will be Republican in politics, supporting no 'half-way' men or measures; will endeavor at all times to give all the news of the county--in fact be a county paper. We propose to give the people a paper to which they will point with pleasure; which they may distribute to their friends and acquaintances in foreign countries and with a feeling that it will be for the best interests of the county to do so. The Press will not pretend to agree with your opinions to secure your favor, but will try to deal fairly with you, whether you are the richest man in America or the poorest man in Christendom.

Hoping it will meet your expectations and the wants of the people, and giving you all a hearty invitation to call that we may become better acquainted, our readers may rest assured that no effort will be spared to make the Press more and more worthy of their support each week.34

The first edition of the County Press had an appearance of prosperity. About two and one-half pages of the four-page paper contained advertisements. Each page was divided into seven columns. The first three columns of the first page consisted of advertising from stores in Canby, Minnesota. The only headline on the front page appeared over a short story, "Bunch of Red Berries," by Fanny Driscoll. This literary selection filled nearly three columns. The remainder of this first front page contained short fillers and clips of news items from other newspapers. The advertising rates were also listed on the front page, including prices such as "one-half inch of space--50 cents

34 County Press, Feb. 20, 1879, p. 2.
for one week, 75 cents for two weeks and $1.25 for three weeks." A four-inch advertisement for one week cost $3.

The first three and one-half columns on the second page of the first issue contained news stories and a comment from Hopp, while the last three and one-half columns consisted of store advertisements from business places in Fountain and about two inches of legal advertising. There were no headlines at the top of the columns. The third page was about one-half advertising and one-half news. The advertisements were from businesses in Medary and Fountain. The last page of the first issue was all advertising, heralding shopping places in Flandreau, Goodwin, and Sioux Falls. Some national advertisements, mostly for other newspapers, were also on the fourth page of the first issue of the County Press. 35

After outlining the editorial policy of his paper on the second page of the first issue, Hopp immediately commented on items which were affecting the residents of Fountain and surrounding area at that time. Noting the proposed Council and Representative Districts which gave Minnehaha and McCook Counties one member of the Dakota House and the same to Lake, Moody, Brookings, Deuel, Codington, Hamlin, Wood, and Grant counties combined, Hopp said, "There may be a show of justice in the proposed division, but it is safe to say these eight counties will hold next fall at least four times as many votes as Minnehaha and McCook Counties." 36 When a gold strike was reported in the area about

35 County Press, pp. 1-2.
36 County Press.
38 miles southwest of Fountain, Hopp urged the adventurers to "go a little slow." He added, "According to reports there are five hundred visitors at the ground today. This is rather more than can be accommodated, and we think by the time they have to lay outdoors a few nights their ardor will be cooled." 37

Hopp, also in this first paper, showed his intent to make money by publishing a notice that the "law now requires all contests of claims to be advertised in the paper published in the county wherein the contested claim is located." Hopp said these notices in his paper would cost $1.50, and he was "not particular whether gold, silver or Uncle Sam's money is sent" in payment. 38 Such "proving up" land notices, as they were termed, resulted in considerable profit for pioneer printers.

Politics received some ink in Hopp's second County Press as the youthful editor praised the Republican Party whenever a comment seemed appropriate. He called the Democrats and Greenbacks "soft money disciples." He endorsed General Grant and Blaine for the national Republican Party ticket in this second issue. 39

One of the items which appeared every week in the County Press throughout its existence at Fountain was an advertisement by the Fountain Town Site and Land Company. This notice indicated that the

37 County Press, p. 3.
38 County Press.
39 County Press, Feb. 27, 1879, p. 3.
town site contained "160 acres held jointly by nine businessmen" and that an "equal share is offered to all parties who come, settle, build and engage in business." Lots were also given away to those erecting buildings on them. 40

Comments made by other Dakota editors, re-printed by Hopp in the County Press, pegged Hopp's infant publication as "fresh looking" and "literally crammed with advertisements." 41

The first three issues of the County Press were published despite the fact that Hopp was without an imposing stone. In the sixth issue, the editor indicates that he has added a man to his staff to set type due to the increase in demand for job work. He noted that job work was being done on a "Peerless press which can print 1,000 to 1,500 impressions per hour." 42

At the end of his first three months in Fountain, Hopp published an article saying that the first quarter advertising bills were being posted and that the County Press would continue to serve the whole county. He wrote: "Any mistakes of the Press in the past were of the head and not of the heart." 43

40 County Press.
41 County Press, March 6, 13, 20, 27, 1879, all p. 3.
42 County Press, March 27, 1879, p. 3.
43 County Press, May 15, 1879, p. 3.
By this time he had firmly taken a stand against the Greenback Party and noted that "if the Greenback party isn't dead it is indulging in an exceedingly long and sound slumber." He liked the Republican Party because it "was the party of the poor and oppressed" and "it was the friend of equal and exact justice to all men." However, both houses of the national Congress at this time were in the hands of the Democrats.

The second three months of the County Press' existence saw the pages remain about 75 percent advertising each week. The law which stated that "all land must be filed and published in a paper once a week for a month" went into effect June 2, 1879, and more notices of "final proof" of land filings began to appear in the County Press with each issue the second quarter of its first year.

Local history reflected in the small label heads and accompanying stories of the 1879 issues is varied. The sport of baseball began to attract attention in the Fountain social calendar at this time. After a team was organized in March, 1879, and the first game was played in April and the second in May, talk of a game on July 4 for determining the "county champion" was noted by Hopp. The Brookings

44 County Press, March 6, 1879, p. 3.
45 County Press, March 27, 1879, p. 3.
46 County Press, March 6, 1879, p. 3.
47 County Press, March 6, 1879, p. 3.
County Protective Association was also formed at this time to stop horse thieving and other stealing. Stages initiated regular runs between Fountain and Canby, Minnesota, according to another story in the County Press.48

The first appearance of a major headline in the County Press was over a story in the August 7, 1879, issue. It was a five-deck, one-column headline which informed readers of a tornado and resulting damage to property in the county. The head was written in sentence form. Small label headlines over the news briefs also appeared at this time.49

Kelsey's name was dropped from the paper's masthead August 28, 1879, and Hopp was listed as the sole editor.50 The editorial policy remained the same in this third quarter of the paper's first year of publication. Final "proof notices" from land contests now filled about three-fourths of a column in each issue, providing even more revenue than before. Hopp began to put more emphasis on the up-coming 1880 national election as he attacked the Democrats and Greenbacks on their political stands. He became more outspoken in his columns in an attempt to persuade voters to elect Republicans to national offices. In one

48 County Press, June 19, 1879, p. 3.
49 County Press, Aug. 7, 1879, p. 3.
50 County Press, Aug. 21, 1879, p. 3.
such effort, he said:

This nation is sown thick, today, with the elements of the most bloody and ruinous revolution the world ever saw . . . There is such a crime as treason. There are such things as traitors. If you would have a list of the latter about which there is no possibility of mistake, you have but to read the Southern Democratic roll-call of the present national Congress . . . Yes, every vote cast against the Republican ticket this year means the encouragement of Southern supremacy and a bolstering up of Rebel Brigadiers. 51

Hopp also championed the preservation of the Union. He noted it "is time for the South to maintain an eloquent silence, and for the North to assert it was not whipped during the rebellion, the more emphatic the assertion the better." 52 He said every vote cast against the Republican ticket meant a bolstering of the "Rebel Brigadiers, be it Democratic, Greenback, Prohibitionist or what not." 53 Hopp wanted the "rebel brigadiers and 'nigger' shooters to take a backseat." 54

The third quarter of the paper's existence was marked by the County Press' move from Fountain to Brookings. The tracklayers for the Dakota Railroad Company reached the eastern edge of Brookings County September 30, 1879, and the people of Fountain and Medary began to gather materials for their move to the new site of Brookings, along the soon-to-be-laid rails. 55 The original plat of Brookings was made

51 County Press, Sept. 11, 1879, p. 3.
52 County Press, Aug. 28, 1879, p. 3.
53 County Press, Sept. 11, 1879, p. 3.
54 County Press, Sept. 18, 1879, p. 3.
55 County Press, Oct. 3, 1879, p. 3.
October 3 and 4, 1879, and included five blocks along what is now Main Avenue. The land was purchased from H. S. Aaby and Lewis Limesand by a group of settlers, mostly from Fountain, who then donated the land to the railroad company for town-site purposes. Prior to this, the settlers had requested a meeting with railway officials to discuss the site. A railroad official named Folsom and eight men met in a sod stable owned by Ever Peterson on the southwest quarter of Section 23—near the present-day intersection of Medary Avenue and Sixth Street in Brookings. Hopp was one of these eight men who met to secure a railway station from the company and to plan the town of Brookings. The others included Ed Spurling, J. O. B. Scobey, Dr. C. A. Kelsey, Dr. C. W. Higgins, George W. Pierce, W. H. Skinner and possibly James Natesta and W. H. Roddle. 56

The first train cars, carrying supplies for the track-laying crew, entered Brookings County October 2, 1879, at a point 25 miles from the Sioux River. Workmen were able to put down a mile of track a day. Hopp noted his intentions to move the County Press in the October 9 edition of the paper. Along with this news, he added that within four days after Brookings was surveyed and platted, 20 lots were located. 57

The County Press equipment arrived in Brookings at the same hour—"six o'clock, Saturday, October 18," 1879—as did the tracklayers.

56 Register, July 18, 1929, p. 4.
57 County Press, Oct. 9, 1879, p. 3.
"Will Shortley had the cannon ready and the national salute was given in honor of the occasion," the editor noted. There wasn't enough room for all of Hopp's printing equipment in the available small building, so for a time his job press stood outside the building. This structure was the fourth to be erected on the new Brookings site. Built first was Shortley's blacksmith shop, followed by Pierce's warehouse, Roddle's hardware and finally the County Press office.

However, Hopp did not maintain his offices in that building for long; the County Press indicates that he moved into a new building in November. This structure cost $600, and was 25 feet wide, 40 feet long, and two stories high. The second floor was built to be the center of town life—it was a public hall where city business, church services, public meetings and social dances were held. Hopp writes that the Methodists founded a society in Brookings about this time and their first service was held in his hall with the Rev. J. W. Dibble officiating. Another story in the same issue indicates that a "grand ball" was held in Hopp's hall Christmas Eve, 1879.

The County Press editor emerged as the first postmaster of Brookings shortly after the town was established. When he moved his offices to his two-story building, the post office was located there,

58 County Press, Oct. 9, 1879, p. 3.
59 Register.
60 County Press, Oct. 22, 1879, p. 3.
61 County Press, Nov. 13, 1879, p. 3.
too. The paper indicates that the post office was in the north half of the building, and the printing office in the south half. There was some delay in officially naming the post office "Brookings" because a post office in Miner County was already on the books as "Brookings Crossing" and officials feared confusion would result. 62

The issues of the final four months of Volume I of the County Press contained considerable information on the national elections, increased local news and an editorial campaign for Brookings to be the county seat. Brookings' plea for the county seat, as published in the Press, included a pledge signed by several men, of which Hopp was one, guaranteeing the town "would furnish the county a place in which to transact its business for the next two years, free of charge." 63 Over 700 votes were cast in the November, 1879, election, and the county seat was awarded by a two-thirds majority to Brookings. The Democrats, it should be noted, also won both branches of the national Congress in this election, despite Hopp's vigorous editorial opposition. 64

In December, as the first year of publishing drew to a close, the price of each "final proof" land notice was raised from $2 to $3. Hopp's brother, Jake, at this time joined him in his printing business in Brookings. A rush of legal advertising had Hopp musing editorially

62 Register.
63 County Press, Oct. 22, 1879, p. 3.
64 County Press, Nov. 6, 1879, p. 3.
whether he should go to a nine-column format and become "one of the largest papers in the Territory." 65

The County Press and Hopp Prosper; Assume a Position in the Front Rank of Dakota Journalism, 1880-1885

Hopp heralded the onset of his second year of County Press production with a note of optimism and a bright outlook. In the anniversary issue, he observed:

The Press today starts its second annual voyage. It starts with a fair sky, a favorable breeze and a quiet sea. During the year just passed it has met with more or less storms ... No man, though he be an editor, is infallible in judgement. Our errors come to us so forcibly after they have been committed ... Apologies are insipid, useless. As an eminent man once said, in offering a work to the public, 'an apology would be senseless to my enemies, useless to my friends and unread by strangers.' We candidly say that we have done the best we could ... Experience is the grandest of all instructors ... We start on volume two with a light and happy heart and genuine good prospects. 66

In 1880 the County Press, in its second year of publication, reflected myriad transformations in the immediate vicinity and in all of eastern Dakota. The town of Brookings and surrounding farmland began to grow rapidly in population. The Dakota Central branch of the Chicago and North Western Railroad had opened the county to quick settlement. The railroad reached Volga in 1879 and went westward to Fort Pierre in the spring of 1880. 67 With the opening of new areas

65 County Press, Jan. 29, 1880, p. 3.
66 County Press, Feb. 19, 1880, p. 3.
67 Sandro, p. 17.
by the railroad, Hopp branched out from his **County Press** to establish a series of frontier newspapers. He is listed as the founder of the **Dakota Central** in Huron in the spring of 1880. He is also recognized with Ben Shannon as the founder of the Huron **Tribune** that same year. By 1886, however, Hopp's two Huron papers had been swallowed, along with the **Dakota Leader** and the **Alcand**, by the **Huronite**. Shannon was a long-time friend of Hopp who came from the Elkader **Journal** in Iowa to Dakota in 1880.

Also in the spring of 1880, Hopp and George B. Mathews established the Kingsbury **County News** in April, after a wagon of printing equipment was transported to DeSmet from Volga. Hopp named his brother, Jake, who had been in the **County Press** offices in Brookings, editor of the **County News** in DeSmet. In 1891 it consolidated with the DeSmet **Leader** to form the still-existing **DeSmet News**. The fourth paper Hopp started in the spring of 1880 was the Hamlin **County Times** at Estelline. However, in 1882 the **Times** offices were moved to Castlewood and C. P. Parsons and C. T. Lake became the owners.

Hopp traveled to Milwaukee in February, 1880, prior to his flurry of paper-founding, to buy presses for the papers at DeSmet and

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68 **County Press**, June 17, 1880, p. 3.
69 Bergman, p. 67.
70 **County Press**, Dec. 14, 1886, p. 3.
71 **County Press**, March 27, 1879, p. 3.
72 **County Press**, Aug. 12, 1880, p. 3.
73 Bergman, pp. 102-103.
Huron. The materials were brought by rail to Volga and then taken on to DeSmet and Huron. Hopp also purchased a new press for his paper in Brookings and he announced in April, 1880, that the County Press would expand to a nine-column format. Elsewhere in the same issue, he refers to the "$4 fee" for "final proof" land notices, indicating that the price had jumped from the $3 set in December, 1879. In announcing his planned expansion, he said:

The Press is to . . . appear in a new and enlarged form. We have, for some time, been contemplating this change. The liberal patronage which has been bestowed on us demands it. The outlay will necessarily be large, but we feel warranted in doing so by the increasing demand on our advertising space and the rapidly increasing circulation list. The Press boasts of nothing, but its subscription list is one which it may feel proud of, for it is only exceeded by one or two in the Territory. In its enlarged form it will have more space to devote to news, political and other items, besides an increased amount of advertising room. It will uphold the right, be firm in tone, and honest and fair in its discussions on all topics, and will continue in politics, as it always has been, Republican of the stalwart kind.

Prior to this change in format for the County Press, a second newspaper began publication in Brookings County. The Sioux Valley Journal issued its first paper in March, 1880, under the editorship of J. M. Miles and W. H. Skinner. At this time, Brookings County had a population of 4,965 and Dakota Territory reported 135,177.

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74 County Press, Feb. 26, 1880, p. 3.
75 County Press, April 1, 1880, p. 3.
76 County Press.
according to census figures. This was an increase of 120,995 people since the 1870 census. 78

J. J. George joined the County Press as a printer about the time of the nine-column expansion in 1880. Upon noting this addition, Hopp immediately reassured his readers that the paper intended to remain a "county paper in every sense of the word." 79

In the summer of 1880, the County Press backed Republican James G. Blaine for President, but the Republican convention nominated the eventual President James A. Garfield of Ohio, and selected Chester A. Arthur for his running-mate on the Vice-Presidential ticket. 80 Hopp, who later became Brookings County's Republican Party chairman, was a member of the three-man committee which conducted a "Brookings County Republican Convention" in Brookings Saturday, August 28, 1880. 81

Printer George moved to Estelline in September, 1880, in order to publish the Hamlin County Times, founded that spring, for Hopp. Taking his place on the County Press staff was "a first class printer," in Hopp's own words, George Breed of Brodhead, Wisconsin. 82

Hopp's outspoken editorial approach resulted in the filing of a $10,000 law suit against him during the County Press' second year. The

78 County Press, Jan. 11, 1883, p. 3.
79 County Press, April 8, 1880, p. 3.
80 County Press, June 24, 1880, p. 3.
81 County Press, Aug. 12, 1880, p. 3.
82 County Press, Nov. 4, 1881, p. 3.
quarrel broke out when Hopp revealed, in the September 28, 1880, issue, alterations made in the results of the 1880 county election by members of the canvassing board, W. H. Skinner, James Hauxhurst and E. P. Smith. At the time, Skinner was a county commissioner and Hauxhurst was county clerk running for re-election to a second term. Hauxhurst was shown the winner by popular vote in the clerk contest, but the courts later declared this invalid and named P. O. Peterson the rightful winner. This reversal, brought by the revelations Hopp made in the County Press, led Skinner to initiate his libel suit against Hopp. Finally, June 11, 1885, approximately four and one-half years after the action was started, a jury of 12 persons declared that Hopp was not guilty of libel. 83

Severe winter weather caused considerable hardship to all of eastern Dakota, including the County Press, during the winter of 1880-81. Heavy snows began mid-October, 1880, and isolated the area until mid-April, 1881. 84 Railroad annals refer to this period as the "longest and worst blizzard ever." Shutdown of rail service forced newspapers in eastern Dakota to print on whatever shape, size, or quality of material they could come up with. The Dell Rapids Exponent ran out of newsprint and so its March 26, 1881, issue appeared on nine-by-nine inch book paper. The April 2, 1881, issue was printed on fancy wallpaper.

83 County Press, Jan. 11, 1885, p. 3.
84 Register.
The Moody County Enterprise of Flandreau and the Volga Gazette appeared in March and April on manila wrapping paper. Hopp didn't print several issues of the paper during the winter, skipping from Volume II, Number 52, to Volume III, Number 9. He walked to Aurora during April and lugged home whatever paper he could find so that he could resume operations. One side of the sheets he brought home from Aurora was already printed with news from the Lake Benton Times. Hopp used the blank reverse side for the County Press. Because he had only two outside pages to use, he moved all the local news to the front page, thus changing the format of the Press. Before this time, the only local references on the front page were contained in the advertisements. Since he was postmaster, Hopp found it necessary to take a cutter and a small team of broncoes to Sleepy Eye, Minnesota, several times during "the bad winter" to get the mail for Brookings.

By mid-year, 1881, Hopp's County Press operations were back to normal. For a period of five weeks, May 14 to June 11, the paper had been published on Saturday. However, he returned to the usual Thursday press day on June 16, 1881, and he breathed a sigh of relief as he wrote, "We are glad to see the dawn of the era of prosperity."

About this same time, Brookings secured the "Agricultural College," now South Dakota State University. The Brookings location

85 Bergman, p. 152.
86 County Press, April 21, 1881, p. 3.
87 Register, p. 13.
88 County Press, May 14, 1881; June 16, 1881, both p. 3.
was approved by a Territorial Act of the Dakota Legislature, passing in both Houses, February 21, 1881. In the County Press, Hopp said, "Not only will the school bring much money to the town which we would otherwise never get, but it cannot fail to attract persons to our town who wish to be near a good school." The editor was named a director and trustee of the college March 10, 1883. He was appointed, along with W. G. Lockhart of Brookings and George H. Hand of Yankton to the building committee. Hand refused to serve and the other two began planning the first building on the campus.

Hopp left for Chicago in April, 1881, to "finish buying material" for the Huron Tribune. He also intended to select new material for the County Press. In the paper he noted that the business of publishing the Press would be in the hands of his printer, Breed, while he was gone.

In the spring business in Brookings began to boom. The "Brookings House" hotel register showed 240 arrivals in one week. Residents of Brookings voted to incorporate the village May 2, 1881.

During the summer, much of the County Press' national news concerned the attempted assassination of President Garfield and his subsequent battle for life. His death September 19, 1881, and the

89 County Press, March 31, 1881, p. 3.
90 County Press, March 15, 1883, p. 3.
91 County Press, April 21, 1881, p. 3.
92 County Press, May 14, 1881, p. 3.
93 Register, p. 6.
swearing in of Vice-President Arthur were reflected in the Press. 94
Hopp was bitterly upset with the news of the assassination; he called
the assassin, Charles J. Guiteau, "insane." The editor said, "Never
since the lamented death of Lincoln, have the people expressed such
perfect condemnation of any crime as this." 95 In the next issue, Hopp's
editorial columns carried the comment, "The man who utters a treason­
able sentence should be shot on the spot as quick as the man who would
pull down the American flag." 96 He also worried aloud about Arthur not
carrying on the policies established by Garfield before his death. 97

During October, November and December, 1881, Hopp's County Press
waged a battle of words with its competitor, the Sioux Valley Journal.
Since the time Skinner, former county commissioner and now Journal
editor, had been involved in the altering of election results and had
sued Hopp for libel, Hopp set out editorially to crucify the Sioux
Valley Journal and the co-editors, Skinner and Miles. Another reason
for the battle was that the Journal had begun to attract the county
legal advertisements. Commenting on the legals and the Journal, Hopp
said:

The honorable county officers will give the county work to
the Press when they believe that course will be best and they
will never be asked to do it on any other score . . . The
Journal came because a clique needed an organ. That is the

95 County Press, July 7, 1881, p. 3.
96 County Press, July 14, 1881, p. 3.
97 County Press, Aug. 18, 1881, p. 3.
whole story. There was no long-felt want to invite it. The clique bought the material, and then it bought a thing to run it, and then it laid for public plunder with which to feed it. It is simply a leech on the community. The Press will never admit, by word or deed, that it is so dependent upon fifty or sixty dollars worth of county printing as to base its action in public affairs upon the hope of getting it. The Journal has a monopoly of all that sort of motive for running a paper here.\footnote{98}

The competition provided by the \textit{Journal} forced some changes upon the \textit{County Press}. In November, 1881, the \textit{Press} announced that it had engaged a man to write poetry for the paper. "We are not going to let the ancient 'Milsey' \textit{Journal co-editor Miles} get away with us on the poetry business," the \textit{County Press} noted.\footnote{99} Also in November, 1881, Hopp announced: "If the \textit{Press} is prospered another six months, we shall print the whole of it at home, this enabling us to make a better paper. This is the point we have endeavored to reach ever since the paper started. The highest grade a county paper can hope to reach is this one of publishing a clean sheet all at home."\footnote{100}

\footnote{\textit{Emphasis added.}}

Despite the \textit{Journal}, business for the \textit{Press} was so good at this time that a two-page, three-column printed supplement, filled with local news, was issued each week for three weeks.\footnote{101}

The battle for the county legal business between Hopp's paper and the \textit{Journal} ended in January, 1881, with the announcement that the

\begin{itemize}
\item \textit{County Press}, Oct. 27, 1881, p. 3.
\item \textit{County Press}, Nov. 3, 1881, p. 3.
\item \textit{County Press}, Nov. 17, 1881, p. 3.
\item \textit{County Press}, Dec. 1, 1881, p. 3.
\end{itemize}
County Press had been designated the official paper of Brookings County. Noting this, the County Press carried an item saying: "We stand with the taxpayers, the men who bear the real burden, and we propose to do our full duty as a journalist touching the watchfulness of public affairs." 102

In the opening issue of Volume IV, published February 16, 1882, Hopp noted that his paper was a "hundred-fold stronger than when it began... We have the one single leading ambition, to make a good, live, earnest, honest, useful newspaper of the Press... The newspaper... is the product of the whole community." 103 Hopp also started out the new year by raising his subscription price from $1.50 to $2. 104

The fourth year of County Press publication was a big year for Hopp. After gaining stature as the official county paper, the Press hired C. B. MacDonald as "city editor" in February, 1882. From that time on, the pages of the Press were filled more and more with home and area news written by MacDonald; Hopp contributed to the Press infrequently thereafter. 105

In March, 1882, Miles ceased publication of the Sioux Valley Journal and moved his printing equipment to Redfield. The County Press

102 County Press, Jan. 19, 1882, p. 3.
103 County Press, Feb. 16, 1882, p. 3.
104 County Press, Feb. 23, 1882, p. 3.
105 County Press, Feb. 23, 1882, p. 3.
subscription list increased to over 1,000 subscribers as Miles turned over the *Journal*'s subscription list to Hopp. In fact, he placed an advertisement in the *County Press* so informing his readers: "To *Journal* Subscribers: we have made arrangements with Mr. Hopp to send the *Press* to all our subscribers. Those who have paid us in advance will receive the *Press* in place of the *Journal* until the subscription runs out. J. M. Miles."  

The *County Press* began its long-awaited total home production March 30, 1882, the same month that its subscription list got the unexpected boost from Miles. From the first issue until this time, a period of three years and one month, two pages of the four-page *Press* format had been printed elsewhere by a news agency. After March 30, the national news agency news on the front page was replaced by two columns of local advertising and seven columns of Brookings County and Dakota Territory news stories. The Huron *Tribune*, founded by Hopp, also began total home production at this time.  

After the *Journal* stopped publishing in March, Hopp was not without competition for very long as the Brookings County *Sentinel* issued its first edition March 30, 1882, the same day that Hopp started his total local production. The *Sentinel* competed with the *County Press* for subscribers and advertising throughout the years Hopp remained in Brookings. Breed, the printer who had joined Hopp in September, 1880,

106 *County Press*, March 23, 1882, p. 3.
107 *County Press*, March 30, 1882, p. 3.
was listed in the Sentinel's masthead as co-publisher, along with Fred
Wright.  

Another Hopp brother, Tom, is mentioned as leaving the Brookings
printing business at this time, although his presence in town had gone
unmentioned in Press columns until now. The May 18, 1882, issue of
the paper notes that "Tom Hopp has gone to Huron where he will make
himself felt on the Huronite." Mention is also made of the fact that
the Huronite is now "using a steam press." The extent of Tom's
influence in Huron is not known; however, in July the County Press notes
that he was instead on the staff of the Lake Preston Times.  

Another area of readership expansion was explored by the Press' May 25, 1882, issue with the trial publication of a "Scandinavian
Department" with two columns of news printed in Norwegian. Announcement of this addition in the paper said it "is being issued for the
benefit of the many Scandinavian patrons . . . It is an experiment
and may be abandoned at any time." 

Editor Hopp's wife received her first mention in Press pages in
July, 1882, when a social news note said she had house guests. The

108 Kerr.

109 County Press, May 18, 1882, p. 3.

110 County Press, July 27, 1882, p. 3.

111 County Press, May 25, 1882, p. 3.
same issue carried an account of a meeting of the Presbyterian Mission Society held in her home.\textsuperscript{112}

Several other events mark the final months of this fourth year of County Press publication. The paper installed a new $1200 Campbell steam power press November 30, 1882, and changed its format to eight columns per page. The same issue announced the birth of a boy to editor Hopp and wife.\textsuperscript{113} In December, MacDonald, city editor of eleven months, announced his move to the \textit{News} at DeSmet as city editor there. Hopp also announced that L. P. McClarren, known as "Mack," had bought a half interest in the \textit{County Press}, effective January 1, 1883. McClarren, who had been with the Yankton \textit{Press} and \textit{Dakotan} until this time, filled the city editor's desk vacated by MacDonald.\textsuperscript{114} In the first copy he produced for the \textit{County Press}, appearing in the January 4, 1883, issue, McClarren noted that he "came to Brookings for the purpose of making a little money, building a home and business, and becoming a citizen of one of the best counties in Dakota." He began with "no axes to grind," he said.\textsuperscript{115} However, he stayed with the \textit{County Press} only until July; from then on, Ben J. Shannon, Hopp's friend from Iowa with whom he had earlier founded the Huron \textit{Tribune}, was listed with

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textsuperscript{112} \textit{County Press}, July 6, 1882, p. 3.
  \item \textsuperscript{113} \textit{County Press}, Nov. 30, 1882, p. 3.
  \item \textsuperscript{114} \textit{County Press}, Dec. 14, 1882, p. 3.
  \item \textsuperscript{115} \textit{County Press}, Jan. 4, 1883, p. 3.
\end{itemize}
Hopp as the co-editor and publisher of the County Press. With McClaren's departure for the Sioux City Journal July 26, 1883, the "Scandanavian Department" also ceased its appearance in the paper.116

Hopp's activities on behalf of the Agricultural College increased during 1883, the fifth year of County Press publication. He was named a director of the college, according to a story in the Press, and was one of two men who gathered bids for construction of the first building on campus. After the bids were opened and it was announced that I. H. Baldrick of Des Moines had submitted the low bid of $19,750, Hopp went to Iowa to get the bond.117

During this fifth year, Brookings County officials reversed their earlier decision to name the Press as the official county paper, and decided instead to divide the county legal advertising between the Press and its competitor, the Sentinel.118 Also on the political scene, a Press story notes that Hopp resigned from his postmaster job in March, 1883, and was replaced by P. C. Johnson. Another item in the paper tells that Tom Hopp, the brother who was Huron and Lake Preston, moved to Blunt in February, 1883, to found the Medicine Valley Times with A. C. Lanch; County Press editor George Hopp invested money in the Times.119

116 County Press, July 26, 1883, p. 3.
117 County Press, March 15, 1883, p. 3.
118 County Press, Jan. 4, 1883, p. 3.
119 County Press, March 8, 1883, p. 3.
Another local print shop addition was heralded in the April 26, 1883, issue of the County Press: "The Press is now printed by horsepower ... The machinery works splendidly, and the jobber and Campbell presses run nicely ... the boys who have sweat for some months turning the power press are now the happiest printers in the territory." 120

Skinner forced the issue of the libel suit he initiated in 1880, and May 9, 1883, Hopp was "arrested at the insistence of Skinner" for the supposed libel "perpetrated in cold blood and with malice aforethought." Hopp had to post a $500 bond. 121 The grand jury brought an indictment against Hopp and the case was set for the next term of circuit court. 122

A third paper began publishing January 24, 1884, in Brookings County; this was near the end of the Press' fifth year. The new paper was the Commonwealth, published in the Sentinel office on a Prouty press. L. H. White was the editor; N. K. Van Husen, Dr. C. W. Higgins, and C. A. Kelsey, Hopp's co-editor in Fountain, were his associates. In the County Press, the birth of the Commonwealth was noted: "The first number of the Commonwealth, the new temperance paper, is out. It is not started as a business enterprise, but to advance the temperance ideas of its editors ... It comes with the home page printed bottom

120 County Press, April 26, 1883, p. 3.
121 County Press, May 10, 1883, p. 3.
122 County Press, June 21, 1883, p. 3.
side up, which certainly has a bad look for a temperance paper."

A final event in the fifth year of Press existence as the re-naming of the County Press as the official county paper by the board of commissioners.

The sixth year, 1884, was marked by another change in the County Press masthead. Shannon, who first joined the County Press in 1880, and purchased half-interest in the paper in July, 1883, sold the half-interest back to Hopp October 23, 1884, and went west to Huron. Shannon's association with Hopp included a year on the Press staff, 1880-81, followed by a two-year absence, and culminating in his half-interest purchase July 1, 1883. After he left in October, Hopp was again the sole owner of the County Press until 1889.

During the election campaigns of 1884, the Press backed James G. Blaine for President. Grover Cleveland, however, carried 20 states, according to an account in the paper, and secured 219 electoral votes compared to Blaine's 182, and therefore won the general election.

On the local political scene, Hopp regained the postmaster's job June 26, 1884. He had not held the position for over a year because he wouldn't support the nomination of R. F. Pettigrew to Congress. When he was reappointed, the salary was $1,100.

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123 County Press, Jan. 31, 1884, p. 3.
124 County Press, Oct. 23, 1884, p. 3.
125 County Press, Nov. 13, 1884, p. 3.
126 County Press, June 26, 1884, p. 3.
Despite the two other papers in town, the County Press continued to print about 60 percent advertising and 40 percent news copy in each issue during its sixth year, 1884.

Considerable space was devoted to the promotion of the Agricultural College during July and August of that year. The August 7, 1884, issue noted that "the preparatory school of the College will be opened September 10, as provided by the Board of Regents." Various news stories throughout these months mention that Hopp attended numerous meetings concerning the future of the college.

Another bit of local history was reflected in the Press during the fall of 1884, when it was noted that small pox was plaguing the Brookings area.

Hopp's brothers, John and Tom, moved once again, according to stories in the County Press. In December, 1884, John returned to Brookings from White to join the staff of the County Press. Tom had returned from Blunt to Aurora where he had purchased the Aurora Times.

The County Press once again lost its official county paper designation January, 1885, but nevertheless closed Volume VI by noting: "The six years of existence of the Press is one of which we are truly proud . . . We feel justified in saying the Press has ever maintained an onward course . . . It has also been profitable for us." 128

127 County Press, Aug. 7, 1884, p. 3.
128 County Press, Feb. 12, 1885, p. 3.
The Press Matures; Editor Looks to a New Challenge, 1885-1890

Hopp began his final five years as editor of the County Press with a new city and area editor, H. L. Sill, and his usual bright outlook for the future. Commenting in the February 12, 1885, paper, he said: "The Press was the first paper in the present Brookings county and it will be the last . . . The Press came to stay and when every man now in the county shall have died and his body returned to dust and that dust shall have grown into grain, a small part of the proceeds of the sale of that grain will be paid . . . for the Brookings County Press." 129

A new series, "Men of Today," was started in the County Press in February of this seventh year. The column featured persons who were especially prominent at the time. The format included an engraving of the selected person and a resume of his biographical data. "Men of Today" marked the first time an engraving was used in County Press pages; the first reproduction Hopp chose for this column was a line drawing of General Charles Gordon, which appeared Feb. 12, 1885, 130 eight days before the Press' sixth anniversary.

The publication College Sheaves, forerunner of today's Collegian at South Dakota State University, was printed in the County Press shop starting with its first issue in January, 1885. This was one of several

129 County Press.
130 County Press, Feb. 19, 1885, p. 3.
publications which Hopp's shop produced for the Dakota Agricultural College during its early years.  

Hopp's second child, a girl, was born in May, 1885, according to the Press. Also about this time, Hopp's brother, Tom, was at the helm of the Arlington Sun, along with a man referred to as "Smith." The final page in the $10,000 libel suit against Hopp was turned in June, 1885, when he was found "not guilty" of the charge. After reviewing the facts of the libel proceedings, Hopp closed the story by saying: "Thus ends the farce, conceived in hatred, born in malice, and reared in the avenging mind of a corrupt public official."  

Issues during the final six months of 1885 carried little mention of editor Hopp. A trip he made to Chicago near the end of June to purchase a thoroughbred Hereford bull for himself and Sam McBride was noted. The seven-month-old Hereford he brought back led him to found the Brookings Hereford Association; he was elected its first secretary-treasurer.  

During the final months of this seventh year of publication, the County Press backed Huron as the site of the capital of Dakota. It can also be noted that advertisements increased even further, now filling five of the eight columns on the front page.

131 Bergman, p. 59.  
132 County Press, May 7, 1885, p. 3.  
133 County Press, June 11, 1885, p. 3.  
134 Daily Press, June 25, 1885, p. 3.
Sill, Hopp's city and area editor, left the County Press in November, 1885, after 10 months. He went to Aberdeen to write the editorial content of the Aberdeen Republican. Hopp's only comment in the Press was that "he left on his own accord and we wish he would return."  

The eighth year of County Press existence provided what proved to be one of the last big challenges for Hopp as an editor in Brookings County. With 24-year-old M. A. Jones writing many more inches of local news each week than had previously appeared in any one issue of the paper, and with a healthy amount of advertising continuing its appearance in Press pages, Hopp decided to begin an experimental daily newspaper. The first issue of the Daily Press appeared June 7, 1886. It was a five-column folio. Announcing its birth in the County Press, he said:

On Monday evening, June 7th, the Brookings Daily Press will make its bow to the citizens of Brookings and Central Dakota. It will be continued just as long as enough support is accorded it to make expenses. It is a costly venture, but we believe there is enterprise enough among our business and professional men and property owners to make the Daily Press a success ... The Daily Press will be delivered at your door at the extremely low price of 20 cents a week. It will contain a full and complete local resume of the day, short and pithy editorials and the current news of the day in a condensed and readable shape.  

The daily edition of the Press ceased in its fourth month on September 4, 1886, due to "lack of support." A total of 78 issues were

135 Daily Press, Nov. 12, 1885, p. 3.

136 County Press, June 3, 1886, p. 3.
published during the experimental period at the rate of six issues per week. The County Press continued its weekly appearance during this period. Young Jones left the paper shortly after the failure of the daily.

Editorials by Hopp in both the daily and the weekly Press in 1886 campaigned for admission of Dakota as a state into the Union. The County Press in February, the beginning of its eighth year, noted:
"Dakota needs admission to secure relief from school taxation. Our farmers realize that the bulk of the taxes they pay is in support of their schools. Admission would make school lands available for that purpose."  

This eighth year, 1886, was marked by the appearance in County Press pages of another innovation. A "Washington News" column was published in each issue, featuring happenings in Washington, D. C. and in Dakota Territory. It was furnished by the Dakota News Bureau of Washington. The paper's job printing department was modernized during this period, too. George Breed, who had joined the County Press in 1880 and founded the Sentinel in 1882, returned to Hopp's employ in July to take charge of the "Press steam job outfit." This addition to the staff came three months after Hopp's proclamation of April 29

137 County Press, Sept. 4, 1886, p. 3.
138 County Press, Feb. 11, 1886, p. 3.
139 County Press, March 25, 1886, p. 3.
140 County Press, July 15, 1886, p. 3.
that the paper "has one of the most complete printing offices in the Territory." He said, "Tomorrow the power press will be moved to the second floor. We are constantly adding new material and making improvements in our job department."\footnote{County Press, April 29, 1886, p. 3.}

Hopp led a drive to secure an artesian well for Brookings during his eighth year as \textit{Press} editor. A special election was held in August, 1886, to decide whether the city would issue bonds to tap an artesian well. The vote was 118 for and 12 against. Hopp and other city officials made several trips, including one to Aberdeen, according to \textit{Press} issues, to investigate artesian wells already in operation. According to the paper, scientists had determined that southeastern Dakota had an "artesian basin down from 400 to 800 feet." It was said to be of "white sand, 30 or 40 feet thick and was once a sea bed or bottom." W. A. Gray of Milwaukee was secured as the contractor to sink the well,\footnote{County Press, Aug. 19, 1886, p. 3.} and issues of the \textit{County Press} followed his progress.

The first advertisement that was large enough to fill a half page was placed by Higgins and Mattice Drug Store in the October 14, 1886, issue of the \textit{Press}.\footnote{County Press, Oct. 14, 1886, p. 3.}

Dakota continued to prosper in numbers and wealth and this was reflected in Hopp's newspaper. Agriculture expanded as 72,467 farms were "opened and tilled in 1886." This, the \textit{Press} noted, was in
contrast to "17,435 farms in Dakota in 1880."

Railroad track mileage totaled 3,491 miles in Dakota at the close of 1886, an increase from 698 miles in 1880. Much of this construction had been completed in 1886, boosting Dakota economy. Newspapers in the Territory numbered 325 in 1886, 25 of which were dailies.

Hopp launched Volume IX of the County Press February 11, 1887, with what he termed "no new promises," but assurance that the Press would not "swerve from its former policy of working ... for the future advancement of Brookings and her people."

Press pages in this ninth year were filled with much news of continued town growth but little news of editor Hopp. The city gained a "new brick hotel, a creamery, a brick yard, and electric lights" by April 28, 1887. At a special meeting March 24, the city council granted the Dakota Emmer Telephone Company a franchise to establish and operate a telephone system in Brookings. Another Press story notes that Brookings "has five and one-half miles of sidewalk on her streets or 29,040 running feet."

In a rare mention of Hopp at this time the paper indicates that he and other Brookings County editors met in 1887 to discuss legal...
advertising, one of the main sources of revenue for newspapers. In fact, in 1886 some 237 "proof notices" had been published in Brookings County. During the meeting the editors decided to sign and publish in their papers a "compact binding themselves to print no notices for less than legal rates." Final "proof notices" were set at $6.50 each and "contest notices" at $5. A "mortgage foreclosure notice" cost about $30.148

County Press pages failed to announce the birth of a literary publication which Hopp and "Conklin" founded in 1887. Called the Dakotian, it was produced in Watertown until late in 1890.149

Other activities of editor Hopp which were published in Press pages include his loss of the postmaster position in 1887. A story indicated that Hopp, who had been postmaster in all years but one since the beginning of Brookings, was replaced by C. W. Hastings because of "civil service reform policy of the President." At the same time, the editor announced that a lunch counter would occupy the former post office quarters in his building. Another item indicated Hopp was now a member of the Brookings School Board and "urged support of the new school building which will cost $5,000."150

Once again, in July, 1887, the County Press was designated the official paper for Brookings County.151 Later that summer, in August,

148 County Press, Feb. 17, 1887, p. 3.
149 Bergman, p. 100.
150 County Press, Aug. 11, 1887, p. 3.
151 County Press, July 21, 1887, p. 3.
the paper noted that Hopp now owned a "mammoth wheat field." The same issue also mentioned that he bought lots near his home in order to erect a barn for his thoroughbred horses and cattle.  

The ninth year of Hopp's editorship of the County Press closed with a summary in the February 16, 1888, issue:

The year just past has been one of unprecedented prosperity in the paper's existence . . . It has been our aim to give value received for every dollar, every penny obtained. To this policy we shall continue to adhere, 'if we don't make a cent.' The Press is not getting rich very fast, but it shares the general prosperity of the community . . . Our first mission is to present the local news in concise, readable form, adhering to the motto, 'Home first, the world afterward.'

Considerable space in the County Press was devoted to national election issues in 1888. Hopp's paper began its editorial campaign for Republican victory with an editorial in March arguing against President Grover Cleveland's possible re-election. In another March issue, it listed possible Republican candidates on its front page, along with an editorial urging a strong Republican showing at the polls.

June issues indicate Hopp attended the Republican national convention in June, 1888, as a delegate from Dakota. The convention's nominee, Benjamin Harrison, defeated Cleveland in the Presidential election; the Press rejoiced aloud, noting that Dakota would now be admitted to the Union as a state because the Republicans gained a
majority of 16 in Congress. Before the election, the Press carried a Democratic County Committee advertisement listing the Democratic candidates. A story on the Republican platform of 1888 in the paper indicated that the Party favored modification of the tariff, division of Dakota and a speedy admission as two states, free market for farm produce, relief for the oppressed and equal taxation that wouldn't be burdensome.

In addition to national election coverage, Press local news noted that Brookings "has a population of 1,500 in April [1888] without a marshall or night watchman because she has no need for such officers." A July story listed editor Hopp as one of the directors of a corporation organized to obtain electricity for Brookings, the Brookings Electric Light Company. Later issues indicated that the electric light poles arrived in August; Brookings erected "arch lights" early in October. One story highly praised E. E. Gaylord for his efforts in this venture.

In September, 1888, the County Press noted that E. C. Suiter was now the editor's assistant; at the same time, Hopp was referred to

156 County Press, Nov. 8, 1888, p. 3.
157 County Press, Oct. 25, 1888, p. 3.
158 County Press.
159 County Press, April 12, 1888, p. 3.
160 County Press, July 19, 1888, p. 3.
161 County Press, Dec. 27, 1888, p. 3.
as the president of the Dakota Editorial Association, a group he earlier helped establish. 162

According to a story in the November 15, 1888, issue, Hopp's brother, John, his wife and her sister, Miss Rose Riddle, left Brookings to establish a new home in the Washington Territory. 163

Files on the Volume XI issues of the County Press, from February, 1889, to January, 1890, are not available. 164 Pages of the rival Sentinel carry editorial mention of Hopp and the Press during this period, indicating that the paper was publishing. Also, one of the last issues of Volume X indicated that the paper had been re-named official county paper for 1889. 165 Finally, a story in the Press early in 1890 notes that Suiter became part-owner of the paper during 1889. 166

Local history during 1889 included the admission of South Dakota to the Union—an action climaxing Hopp's long editorial campaign carried on in the pages of the Press. This year, the eleventh of Hopp's editorship of the Press, also was the "year of the great drouth." The people were "unprepared for such an entire failure of crops" and it

162 County Press, Sept. 6, 1888, p. 3.
163 County Press, Nov. 15, 1888, p. 3.
164 Microfilm is not available in Lincoln Memorial Library, South Dakota State University, or Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Library, Pierre.
165 County Press, Jan. 17, 1889, p. 3.
166 County Press, Jan. 2, 1890, p. 3.
"reduced most of them to distress and poverty;" as a result, many left the state.\textsuperscript{167}

Added to journalistic history during 1889 was a newspaper printed in the Norwegian language, the \textit{Syd Dakota Ekko}, started August, 1889. It was founded in Brookings by S. O. Nordvold, who also established the \textit{Vesterheimen} in Flandreau in 1884. G. Bie Ravndal bought the publication in 1890 from Nordvold and moved it to Sioux Falls in 1891.\textsuperscript{168}

After the missing Volume XI, Hopp's final words to his subscribers appear in the January 2, 1890, issue. He said:

We stand on the threshold of a new year, and 'tis not to be expected that the year just born will be but a repetition of the other one that has served its time and died the death of the aged. We look for the new to be an improvement upon the old, and to this end we should bend our energies.

The \textit{Press} shares this year in the turning of a 'new leaf.' New hands are at the helm. A new pilot mans the rudder. Vigorous young blood permeates its every vein, fills the arteries of its being, and will henceforth guide its destinies onward to the labor. To be less figurative, the ownership of the \textit{Press} has passed into the hands of Chas. F. Allen and Kirby A. Holbrook, two sterling young men from Rochester, Minn., both of whom are practical printers—young in years but post-graduates in the school of newspaperdom. They have bought the \textit{Press}, with all its attendant equipments, etc., and it is theirs. It is through their courtesy that we speak these parting words.

The selling of the \textit{Press} was a voluntary business transaction, and we therefore have no right to regret it. Yet that heart must be made of stone that does not feel the impress of sadness at parting from friends who have been friends through long years together of intimate association,

\textsuperscript{167} Donald Dean Parker, \textit{History of Our County and State} (Brookings: Published by author, 1960) p. 41SD.

\textsuperscript{168} Bergman, p. 60.
and who associates more intimately than do the editor and his readers?

It is now more than eleven years since the senior member of the firm first wanted to leave the geographical subdivision known as Brookings county. We had just quitted the coach at Fountain, and became discouraged looking for the town; but Jake Walker's hospitality and Dr. Kelsey's persuasion finally overcame our homesickness, and when the train returned to Canby next morning we didn't go. We are here yet, and in this fact have nothing to regret. How long we may remain is a matter of uncertainty. As soon as we clear up matters here we shall feel at liberty to go wherever financial inducements seems to offer best, be that far or near.

The Press has been, and still continues to be, a prosperous institution. This fact cannot be otherwise than a matter of pride to the one who nursed it in its infancy, invigorating its life with his, even as a mother does that of the babe born upon her breast; the one who steadied its tottering footsteps as it left its swaddling clothes, and now looks upon its vigorous and sturdy youth with something akin to a feeling of paternity. Its pathway, while free from insurmountable barriers, has not been exclusively one of roses. The journalistic pathway in Brookings is thickly strewn with the lifeless bodies of papers that have come at different periods to supplant the Press in the hearts and homes of the people of Brookings county. It is enough to say that several editors have abandoned this work wiser, and poorer, than when entering upon it. The Press, meantime, has constantly extended its circulation, carried its head above life sapping mortgage, continued to make a living for the families dependent upon it.

By no means the last sad tie to sever is that which is only understood in the newspaper sanctum. Day after day and week after week through all the years we have communed with our co-laborers in other sanctums until we have come to regard them almost as a part of our own being. Especially is this true of such brethren of the craft as Williamson, of the Flandreau Enterprise, Nash, Sioux Valley News, Hackett, Parker New Era, and the other 'old timers.' The later formed associations are dear to us, but the hallowed memories of the old can never be erased from memory's tablet while the lamp of life shall continue to burn.

The junior editor, having been with the Press but a brief three years, and much of that time but as an employee, feels that he has but a small part in this farewell. We feel impelled, however, to voice the gratitude we deeply feel at the many kind words of encouragement that have been our stimulus in our work. We have felt guilty, oftentimes, that it has been no better; but we have humbly tried to do our
part, and an indulgent constituency has charitably overlooked
the shortcomings. 'To err is human, to forgive divine;' and
we must give Press patrons credit for the possession of a
great deal of divinity. As for ourself, we are intensely
human . . . 169

The January 9 issue of the County Press, published by Allen and
Holbrook, noted that Suiter "left Wednesday for Pierre, where he has
secured a position on the Free Press." 170

Several articles praising Hopp, written by other South Dakota
editors, were re-printed in the January 9 issue of the County Press.
The Flandreau Enterprise's editor said: "As a newspaperman he has
always ranked with the best in the state . . . To his enterprise and
business ability the city of Brookings is indebted for vastly more
than its citizens are willing to admit." An article in the Huron
Herald Democrat noted, "Hopp has put 11 years of hard work upon the
Press and has made it a success. He has held the position of president
of the South Dakota Press Association for two years. The fraternity
will miss him. We wish him success." 171

In late January, 1890, according to the Press, Hopp was on his
way to "Fair Haven, Washington, where he hoped to re-engage in the
newspaper business." 172 The former editor returned to Brookings in

169 County Press, Jan. 2, 1890, p. 3.
170 County Press, Jan. 9, 1890, p. 3.
171 County Press.
172 County Press, Jan. 30, 1890, p. 3.
mid-February; on March 17, 1890, he headed again for Washington, this time to the town of Sedro, where he "had completed all arrangements for publishing a paper." 174

Suiter, Hopp's co-owner of the County Press during 1889, also left for Sedro, Washington, March 31, 1890, where he "cast his lot again with Hopp" in publishing the Sedro Era, 175 of which the first issue appeared Thursday, April 17, 1890. Editor Allen of the County Press told local readers that "typographically it is a neat looking sheet . . . and the matter it contains indicates that George has got into a wide awake community." 176

Hopp returned to Brookings Friday, June 6, 1890, to get his family. On June 18, 1890, Hopp, accompanied by his wife and their children and Robert McBride, Mrs. Hopp's father, said his final "good-bye" to Brookings County and set off for his new home and new adventure. 177 Hopp's brother, Jacob, the senior editor of the Desmet News, sold his interest in that paper in September, 1890, to his partner, C. B. MacDonald, and joined the Hopp migration to Washington. He started a paper in Puget Sound County, Washington, later that year. 178

173 County Press, Feb. 21, 1890, p. 3.
174 County Press, March 20, 1890, p. 3.
175 County Press, April 3, 1890, p. 3.
176 County Press, May 1, 1890, p. 3.
177 County Press, June 19, 1890, p. 3.
178 County Press, Sept. 18, 1890, p. 3.
SUMMARY AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

Summary

The primary purpose of this study was to uncover information about George W. Hopp and the Brookings County Press during the period 1878-1890. No attempt has been made to prove an hypothesis; rather the attempt has been to follow the chronological movements of Hopp and his paper, and to discover their influence on the development of Brookings and its area.

Data was collected by examination of newspapers on microfilm, by researching books, and by studying literature. Personal interviews supplied additional information.

It was found that Hopp and his County Press played a major role in the early development of Brookings and its area.

Hopp's voice in this early era of Dakota history reflected the "willing spirit" and "determination to carve out new homes and fortune" which pioneers possessed. He consistently identified with Dakota pioneer thinking of the day, nearly always within the framework of the Republican Party.

Historical data collected indicate that Hopp and his brothers were involved, in some respect, with the publishing of 12 Dakota newspapers during the years 1879-1890.
When Hopp wrote that his paper "would be Republican in politics, supporting no 'half-way' men or measures; will endeavor at all times to give all the news of the county," he accurately predicted his course of action as a Dakota Territory journalist. He displayed his position in the mainstream of Republican thought through his numerous and vigorous editorials urging support for Republicans running for office, and eventually through his acceptance of the Brookings County Republican Committee chairmanship.

Observation of County Press columns during the period covered by the study indicates the law which required that "proving up notices" be printed before land became rightful property of homesteaders was a great source of revenue for the paper. Such legal advertisements filled nearly two and one-half columns of one page in the County Press during late 1879 and the early 1880's. Total advertising inches amounted to over 60 percent of Hopp's paper during these days, suggesting that the paper was prospering and that the editor was aggressive in his business practices as well as in his editorial policies.

Stories in early County Press volumes indicate Hopp was able to accomplish many of the goals he set for himself. In 1881, the paper carried an article written by Hopp which said, "The highest grade a county paper can hope to reach is this one of publishing a clean sheet all at home." Realization of this goal came in 1882. The beginning of a daily paper, the Brookings Daily Press, marked the reaching of another goal in June of 1886. The daily paper ceased publication September 4, 1886.
After its initial months of existence, during which time the County Press was owned by a stock company with Dr. C. A. Kelsey and Hopp as editors, the controlling financial interest appeared to remain in the hands of Hopp until he left for Washington in 1890. Seven months after the paper's founding, it was announced in the August 28, 1879, issue that Hopp was sole owner and publisher; thus it remained until 1883 when L. P. McClarren bought an interest. McClarren sold his interest the same year to Ben. J. Shannon, who was then listed as co-editor and publisher with Hopp until October 23, 1884, when Shannon left the County Press. Hopp was sole owner and publisher again until 1889 when E. C. Suiter entered the management picture as a partner. Since Hopp was not the partner which left in each dissolution of a co-ownership, indications are that he maintained the controlling interest in the County Press during his entire 11 years as editor, except for the first seven months.

During his tenure on the Brookings County Press, Hopp was highly respected by fellow journalists and area officials alike. When he left Dakota, the Flandreau Enterprise editor printed this tribute: "To his enterprise and business ability the city of Brookings is indebted for vastly more than its citizens are willing to admit."

Positions of responsibility which Hopp assumed during his 11 years in the county include his membership in the group which first secured land and railroad station for the city of Brookings, his terms as postmaster, his election to the Board of Director and Trustees of the Agricultural College, his chairmanship of the Republican County
Committee and his attendance of the national party convention as a state delegate, his co-founding and two-term presidency of the Dakota Press Association, his election to the Brookings School Board, and his directorship of the Brookings Electric Light Company.

Reasons for Hopp leaving the County Press and South Dakota are not clear. Hopp's own announcement of his departure in the January 2, 1890, issue of the paper calls the selling of the Press to Charles F. Allen and Kirby A. Holbrook a "voluntary business transaction;" he notes also that he had "no right to regret it." In the same editorial, Hopp says "the Press has been, and still continues to be, a prosperous institution." In a later paragraph, he points out that "the Press... has constantly extended its circulation, carried its head above life-sapping mortgage, continued to make a living for the families dependent on it." This seems to indicate that Hopp did not sell the County Press because it was failing financially. However, in another section of his farewell editorial, he says, "as soon as we clear up matters here, we shall feel at liberty to go wherever financial inducements seem to offer best." If Hopp meant matters such as selling his house and other land holdings when he said "clear up matters here," it would further support the observation that he was not deeply in debt from County Press operation.

Perhaps, then, a foreshadowing of his departure in 1890 first appeared 14 months before the leave-taking in the November 15, 1888, issue of the County Press. This issue contained a small story telling that Hopp's brother, John, John's wife and her sister, had left
Brookings County for the Washington Territory. One can surmise that adventure-filled letters from the brother in Washington, plus dismal conditions in Dakota in 1889—a year marred by drought, out-migration, and a lack of buoyant prosperity—led Hopp westward once again, in search of new challenges and another opportunity to shape a frontier area and its people through the pages of a newspaper. That brotherly influence was a determining factor in actions of Hopp family members is indicated by the fact that a third brother, Jacob, left the DeSmet News five months after the County Press editor departed from Brookings; Jacob likewise traveled to Washington and founded a new paper.

Suggestions for Further Study

This paper has been concerned only with Hopp's 11-year reign in Brookings County as editor of the County Press. The years of his life prior to his appearance in Dakota Territory and those following his tenure here offer much uncharted ground for study. Information compiled could then be correlated with this paper, resulting in a "total picture" of George W. Hopp, pioneer printer and editor.

The County Press continued its publication until 1948, at which time it merged with the Brookings Register. The post-Hopp years from 1890 to 1948 provide another opportunity for research into Brookings County history as recorded in a pioneer paper. Finally, the many men who edited the County Press after Hopp's departure open other study opportunities.
## APPENDIX

Brookings, South Dakota, and Its Newspapers, 1882-1948

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Newspaper</th>
<th>Publisher or Editor</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Circulation</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County Press (begun 1879)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>weekly, Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Press</td>
<td>McClaren and Hopp</td>
<td>Republican</td>
<td></td>
<td>weekly, Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Sentinel</td>
<td>D. J. Darrow</td>
<td>Republican</td>
<td></td>
<td>weekly, Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commonwealth (begun 1884)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Republican</td>
<td></td>
<td>weekly, Tuesday</td>
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</table>

1882 Brookings population: 600  Brookings County: 4,965

1883 Brookings: 1,000

1884 Brookings: 950  County: 10,000

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2 Ayer, 1883, p. 434.

3 Ayer, 1884, p. 332.
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Publisher or Editor</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>County Press</strong></td>
<td>Geo. W. Hopp</td>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>888</td>
<td>weekly, Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>County Sentinel</strong></td>
<td>Howell and Skinner</td>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>weekly, Thursday</td>
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1886 Brookings: 730  County: 8,288

<table>
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<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Circulation</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Republican</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>weekly, Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>County Sentinel</strong></td>
<td>D. W. Kutchin</td>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>720</td>
<td>weekly, Thursday</td>
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4 Ayer, 1885, p. 563.
5 Ayer, 1886, p. 358.
6 Ayer, 1887, p. 498.
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<td>Republican</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>weekly, Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>County Sentinel</td>
<td>H. A. Whiting</td>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>weekly, Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>820</td>
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<td>1890 Brooking: 1,200</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>850</td>
<td>weekly, Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Press</td>
<td>Hopp and Suiter</td>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>weekly, Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>County Sentinel</td>
<td>W. E. and H. A. Whiting</td>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>820</td>
<td>weekly, Friday</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>weekly, Friday</td>
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<td>1890 Brooking: 1,200</td>
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<td>Allen and Holbrook</td>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>weekly, Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>County Sentinel</td>
<td>W. E. and H. A. Whiting</td>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>820</td>
<td>weekly, Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sud Dakota Ekko</td>
<td>Scandinavian Pub. Co.</td>
<td>Norwegian Danish</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>weekly, Wednesday</td>
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7 Ayer, 1888, p. 736.
8 Ayer, 1889, p. 480.
9 Ayer, 1890, p. 631.
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<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Circulation</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
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<tr>
<td>1891 County Press</td>
<td>Charles F. Allen</td>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>County: 10,132</td>
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<tr>
<td>Register (begun 1890)</td>
<td>Paul Dutcher and Geo. N. Breed</td>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>weekly, Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>1892 County Press</td>
<td>Charles F. Allen</td>
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10 Ayer, 1891, p. 668.
11 Ayer, 1892, p. 690.
12 Ayer, 1893, p. 717.
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\(^{13}\) Ayer, 1894, p. 719.

\(^{14}\) Ayer, 1895, p. 829.

\(^{15}\) Ayer, 1896, p. 893.
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| Individual    | S. A. Cochrane             | Populist       |             | weekly, Friday          |
| Register      | Dutcher, Breed and Storgaard | Republican   | 960         | semi-weekly, Wed. and Sat. |

| County Press  | Charles F. Allen           | Republican     | 960         | weekly, Thursday        |
| Register      | Dutcher, Breed and Storgaard | Republican   | 960         | weekly, Thursday        |

16 Ayer, 1897, p. 744.
17 Ayer, 1898, p. 749.
18 Ayer, 1899, p. 882.
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19 Ayer, 1900, p. 768.
20 Ayer, 1901, p. 779.
21 Ayer, 1903, p. 795.
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²² Ayer, 1907, p. 813.
²⁴ Ayer, 1910, p. 822.
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26 Ayer, 1913, p. 863.
27 Ayer, 1914, p. 879.
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29 Ayer, 1917, p. 891.
30 Ayer, 1918, p. 909.
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³¹ Ayer, 1919, p. 891.
³² Ayer, 1920, p. 891.
³³ Ayer, 1921, p. 899.
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34 Ayer, 1923, p. 944.
35 Ayer, 1924, p. 960.
36 Ayer, 1925, p. 972.
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38 Ayer, 1927, p. 986.
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40 Ayer, 1930, p. 916.

41 Ayer, 1931, p. 894.

42 Ayer, 1932, p. 878.
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43 Ayer, 1933, p. 869.
44 Ayer, 1934, p. 840.
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46 Ayer, 1936, p. 834.
48 Ayer, 1938, p. 830.
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49 Ayer, 1939, p. 840.
50 Ayer, 1940, p. 851-52.
51 Ayer, 1941, p. 872-73.
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52 Ayer, 1942, p. 882.
54 Ayer, 1944, p. 842.
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1945 Brookings: 5,346

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1946 Brookings: 5,346

55 Ayer, 1945, p. 842.

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1948 Brookings: 5,346

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(For categories left blank, no information was listed in the N. W. Ayers Guide)

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