**Dayton Tattler**

Weekly

Office: Dayton, Ohio

Published by the Dayton Tattler Co.

[This newspaper was published by Paul Laurence Dunbar, but it does not promote black Americans’ life for specific. I am not sure if this newspaper should be considered one of the black press. 🡪 I changed my view! This was introduced as a newspaper to represent black Americans in the city.]

Editor: Paul Laurence Dunbar and Orville Wright (the latter does not appear in the extant copies, Orville began commercial printing business with his brother Wilbur. One of their clients was his friend and classmate, Paul Laurence Dunbar. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wright_brothers#cite_note-wb-nps-chapter4-27>); Preston Finley (Associate), Chester B. Broady (Business Manager), Frank J. Mitchell (Assistant)

Local reporters: William Mason, Val. W. Anderson (“Good live agents wanted in the surrounding towns”)

Extant Copies: Vol. 1, No. 2, December 20, 1890; Vol. 1, No. 3, December 27, 1890

4 pages, five columns on each page

Advertisements

[For this newspaper, check *The Complete stories of Paul Laurence Dunbar* because he uses many pennames.]

“Price $1/50 a year. The TATTLER should go into every family of our race in this state. The price is so low that all can afford it. Send in your subscription at once.”

[many of the articles are illegible.]

Poems, short stories including love stories, humors (Conte)

**Vol. 1, No. 2, December 20, 1890**

Article 1: “Gambler’s (?) Wife” [a story by Frank Mayne Templeton (probably Dunbar himself?]

Article 2: “Kissing as Medicine” When this [a black man’s kissing of a teething baby for relief] was done the mother took the child, and both ladies left the shop. Apparently perfectly satisfied that the operation would give the infant relief from that pain incidental to teething. They seemed to be ladies of refinement and from their actions firmly believed that caresses from a colored person would have the effect desired.

Article 3: The birth of the TATTLER has not been unnoticed by contemporary sheets. Says the Journal: “The TATTLER is the name of a bright, new weekly paper, just started by the Dayton Tattler Co,, as an organ and representative of the colored population of this city, numbering it says 5,000. Politically it will represent republicanism and will do all in its power to otherwise promote the interest of the people it represents. It ought to be encouraged in its proposed good works. Mr. Paul L. Dunbar is editor.” . . . “DAYTON TATLLER is the name of a newspaper published in this city for the benefit of the colored people and edited by Mr. Paul L. Dunbar. The first number is a bright and newsy issue.” . . . Thanks, brother editors: we feel more safe in our position after being accorded a welcome by the two leading city papers. We shall endeavor to make each succeeding issue as bright and newsy as the first, or what is better, improve on it.

Article 4: This idea about the negro race being more superstitious than any other is erroneous, anyway.

Article 5: Mr. Larry Andrews, our genial blacksmith, appears from all points of view to be an all-round society man.

Article 6: “City Items” [including “church notes”]

Article 7: “Items of Interest”

**Vol. 1, No. 3, December 27, 1890**

Article 1: “Dodges of London Beggars”

Article 2: “A Golden Chance”

Article 3: “Air Ship Soon to Fly”

Article 4: [about the death of Mr. Valentine Winters, related to Jordan Anderson <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan_Anderson>, the author of *Letter from a Freedman to His Master*]

Article 5: [reader’s letter to editor] I am proud of your bright weekly, but I think it was poorly named. The name will eventually kill it. As a friend we advise you to change the name and it will live. AFRO. [Dunbar’s response follows] But we cannot believe that there is more than one such ignoramus, (excuse the word) in this city, or like Sodom and Gomorrah it would long ago have been justly destroyed. “As friend I advise you to change the name.” Cool. If “Afro” had been kind enough to use his own congnomen, instead of sneakingly hiding behind the shadow of a name, we should advocate electing him immediately a member of the TATTLER company, and paying him a salary, to offer friendly advice. No, friend “Afro,” not even for your sake can we change our name, for it is a good one. The province of the newspaper is to tattle, that’s what we’re going to do. So overlook the name so displeasing to you. “What’s in a name?” A rose by any other name would smell as sweet. So Shakespeare said and so say we. Selah.

Article 6: “True Manhood” [essay by F.J. Mitchell] [T]here ae certain qualities that we must possess, to do, and be all that becomes men. We must possess integrity in order that we may win public esteem and confidence. Industry, that we may gather as it were honey from the flowers of labor. Energy, that we may rise above everything that may impede our progress. Economy and frugality, that we may preserve the fruits of our labor. Last but not lease, intelligence. The man that possesses these qualities is a man in the sense of being true. Such a man stands immovable before every onslaught from the world. . . . True manhood is a jewel, whose luster outshines the dazzling sun, it grows brighter and brighter every day of its use.

Article 7: “The Language We Speak” [by Cameo] Some one has said that the elegance of one’s language, more than elegance of attire, is the mark of the true lady or gentleman. A little observation on the part of any reasonably intelligent person will convince him that this conclusion is, in a large measure, correct. . . . Let all to whose notice this may be brought endeaver [sic], by all means in their power, to improve themselves in this regard. Let us strive to make the language we use, and the words we utter, drop from our lips like coins fresh from the mint, pure, perfect and exact.

Article 8: [Christmas events in town. Many black leaders’ names are mentioned]

Article 9: “City Items” [black people’s news] [community loan program] We are glad to hear that a number of enterprising Westsiders have organized a building and loan association. It is a good thing and push will make it go. Keep it up for you are benefiting not only yourselves, but your race.

Article 10: “Humorous”

Article 11: “Cincinnati” [Jay Doubleyou: is this person also Dunbar?] The Colored Orpha Asylum received $17,000 by bequest of Mrs. Hannah Cooper. Mrs. William Hall, wife of our popular letter-carrier, who has been on the sick list, is convalescing. [the *Tattler* had a letter-carrier between Cincinnati and Dayton!]

Article 12: “Cincinnati Churches” It is a pity that the two great Baptist churches, Mound street and Zion cannot come to an agreement, and save the only church ever built by colored people in Cincinnati. [written by Progress, must be another penname of Dunbar]

Article 13: “The Gambler’s Wife” [play, continued from the previous issue]

Article 14: “Dick Slater’s New York’s Gift” [written by Frank Mayne Templeton, the same penname]

Article 15: “She Knew All About it”

Article 16: “Humorous”

**Contributors:** AFRO, F.J. Mitchell, Cameo, [Most likely, Dunbar uses various pennames for the newspaper. Newspaper as a fiction.], W. J. M, Jay Doubleyou, Progress,

**Quoted periodicals:** *Sel., Ex., Florence (?) American, Texas Siftings, Munsey’s Weekly, Baltimore American, Binghamton Leader, Boston Courier, Evening Herald, Chicago News, Milwaukee Sentinel, Life, Yenowines News, San Francisco Wasp, New York Herald, Chicago Tribune, Bazar, New York Weekly, Judge, Chatter, Lawrence American, Boston Transcript, West Shore, Texas Siftings, Leeds Mercury,*

**Advertisements:**

1. Clothes and shoes: 9
2. Beauty product: 2
3. Medicine and doctor’s office: 1
4. Books/postcard/portrait:
5. Barbershop/beauty parlor:
6. Farming: 1
7. Construction (roofing and plumbing): 1
8. Furnishing (furniture, carpet, cabinets, rugs, locks): 4
9. Employment:
10. Printer/binder:
11. Hotel/Boarding house:
12. Jewelry: [art works 4] 5
13. Groceries and coal: 7
14. Cleaning and laundry: 3
15. Music lessons:
16. Sewing machine:
17. Restaurant/saloon/tavern: 2
18. Cemetery/funeral home:
19. Insurance:
20. Bank/Loan/investment:
21. Real estate:
22. Liquors and cigars:
23. Law office:
24. Photography:
25. Eyeglasses (stereoscopes):
26. Private school/training school: