

Broadsides ^[1]



Broadside advertising the Bingham Camp for tourists at Mebane, ca. 1930. North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Library.

Broadsides

by [William S. Powell](#) ^[2], 2006

See also: [Advertising](#) ^[3], [Printing](#) ^[4]

Broadsides, or broadsheets, single sheets of paper with printed text on one or both sides, were used in England as early as 1575 to communicate various kinds of information. The earliest known broadside printed in North Carolina, probably at the press of public printer [James Davis](#) ^[5] in New Bern, appeared in 1757. It was a proclamation from royal governor [Arthur Dobbs](#) ^[6] prohibiting the payment of [taxes](#) ^[7] with notes or bills issued by [James Murray](#) ^[8] and John Rutherford. Broadsides often dealt with strictly local matters such as [politics](#) ^[9], crime, [religion](#) ^[10], [business](#) ^[11], [slavery](#) ^[12], [railroads](#) ^[13], [canals](#) ^[14], [education](#) ^[15], [real estate](#) ^[16], military affairs, and upcoming entertainments.

References:

Ray O. Hummel Jr., ed., *Southeastern Broadsides before 1877: A Bibliography* (1971).

Douglas C. McMurtrie, *Eighteenth Century North Carolina Imprints, 1749-1800* (1938).

Additional Resources:

Broadsides at Documenting the American South, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
<https://docsouth.unc.edu/global/result.html?term=Broadsides>. ^[17]

"Miscellaneous Broadsides, 1814-1979." Southern Historical Collection. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
<http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/m/Misc.Broadsides.html> ^[18]

Harwell, Richard B. *North Carolina broadsides, 1801-1861: a preliminary list from the Duke University Library* ^[19]. 1939.

"North Carolina broadside collection" ^[20], "Rubenstein Libraries, Duke University.

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