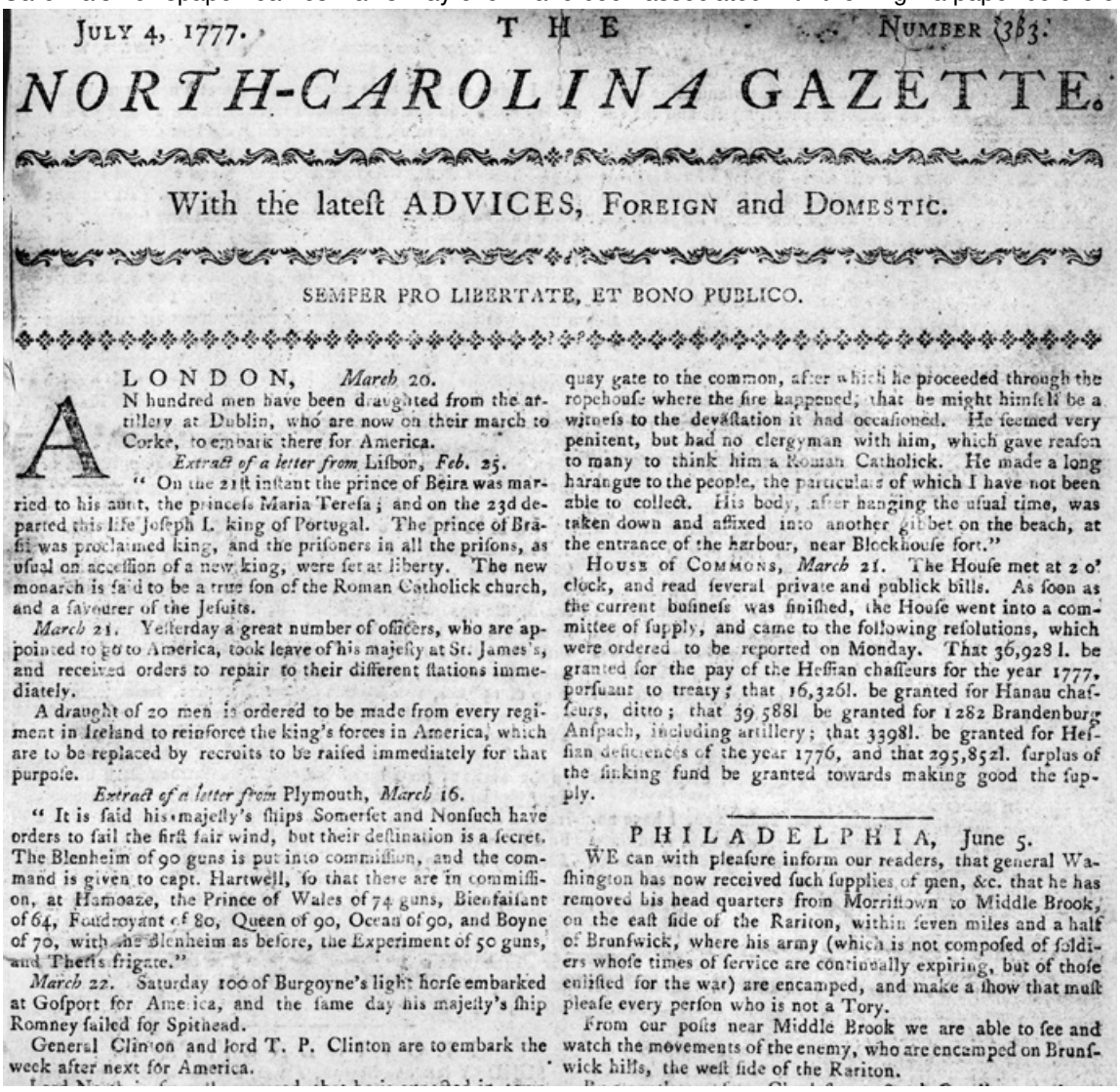
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North-Carolina Gazette [1]

North-Carolina Gazette

by Edwin H. Mammen, 2006; Revised November 2022.

The *North-Carolina Gazette,* established by printer James Davis [2] in New Bern, was North Carolina's first newspaper [3]. Judging from the earliest extant copy-volume 1, number 15-the first issue was published on 9 Aug. 1751. Davis had emigrated from Virginia at the behest of the colonial Assembly, which urgently needed a printer to disseminate revised laws. North Carolina and Georgia were the last original colonies to acquire a printing press; many North Carolinians depended on the *Virginia Gazette* for news and for business and legal advertising. In many ways that paper served as North Carolina's newspaper. James Davis may even have been associated with the Virginia paper before emigrating



JULY 4, 1777. THE NUMBER 383.

NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.

With the lateſt ADVICES, FOREIGN and DOMESTIC.

SEMPER PRO LIBERTATE, ET BONO PUBLICO.

LONDON, *March* 20.

AN hundred men have been draughted from the artillery at Dublin, who are now on their march to Corke, to embark there for America.

Extract of a letter from Liſbon, *Feb.* 25.

" On the 21ſt inſtant the prince of Beira was married to his aunt, the princeſs Maria Tereſa; and on the 23d departed this life Joſeph I. king of Portugal. The prince of Braſil was proclaimed king, and the priſoners in all the priſons, as uſual on acceſſion of a new king, were ſet at liberty. The new monarch is ſaid to be a true ſon of the Roman Catholick church, and a favourer of the Jeſuits.

March 21. Yeſterday a great number of officers, who are appointed to go to America, took leave of his majeſty at St. James's, and received orders to repair to their different ſtations immediately.

A draught of 20 men is ordered to be made from every regiment in Ireland to reinforce the king's forces in America, which are to be replaced by recruits to be raiſed immediately for that purpoſe.

Extract of a letter from Plymouth, *March* 16.

" It is ſaid his majeſty's ſhips Somerſet and Nonſuch have orders to ſail the firſt fair wind, but their deſtination is a ſecret. The Blenheim of 90 guns is put into commiſſion, and the command is given to capt. Hartwell, ſo that there are in commiſſion, at Hamoaze, the Prince of Wales of 74 guns, Bienfaiſant of 64, Foudroyant of 80, Queen of 90, Ocean of 90, and Boyne of 70, with the Blenheim as before, the Experiment of 50 guns, and Theſis frigate."

March 22. Saturday 100 of Burgoyne's light horſe embarked at Goſport for America, and the ſame day his majeſty's ſhip Romney ſailed for Spithead.

General Clinton and lord T. P. Clinton are to embark the week after next for America.

quay gate to the common, after which he proceeded through the ropehouſe where the fire happened; that he might himſelf be a witneſs to the devaſtation it had occaſioned. He ſeemed very penitent, but had no clergyman with him, which gave reaſon to many to think him a Roman Catholick. He made a long harangue to the people, the particulars of which I have not been able to collect. His body, after hanging the uſual time, was taken down and affixed into another gibbet on the beach, at the entrance of the harbour, near Blockhouſe fort."

HOUSE of COMMONS, *March* 21. The Houſe met at 2 o' clock, and read ſeveral private and publick bills. As ſoon as the current buſineſs was finiſhed, the Houſe went into a committee of ſupply, and came to the following reſolutions, which were ordered to be reported on Monday. That 36,928 l. be granted for the pay of the Heſſian chaſſeurs for the year 1777, purſuant to treaty; that 16,326l. be granted for Hanau chaſſeurs, ditto; that 39 588l be granted for 1282 Brandenburg Anſpach, including artillery; that 3398l. be granted for Heſſian deficiences of the year 1776, and that 295,852l. ſurplus of the ſinking fund be granted towards making good the ſupply.

PHILADELPHIA, June 5.

WE can with pleaſure inform our readers, that general Waſhington has now received ſuch ſupplies of men, &c. that he has removed his head quarters from Morriſtown to Middle Brook, on the eaſt ſide of the Rariton, within ſeven miles and a half of Brunſwick, where his army (which is not compoſed of ſoldiers whoſe times of ſervice are continually expiring, but of thoſe enliſted for the war) are encamped, and make a ſhow that muſt pleaſe every perſon who is not a Tory.

From our poſts near Middle Brook we are able to ſee and watch the movements of the enemy, who are encamped on Brunſwick hills, the weſt ſide of the Rariton.

A portion of the front page of the North-Carolina Gazette for 4 July 1777. A news item with the byline "Philadelphia, June 5" describes the movements of George Washington and his army. North Carolina south.Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Library.

The *North-Carolina Gazette* had neither headlines nor column rules. It mostly provided international news, with emphasis on the arrivals and departures of ships. It thus presented little local or state news and offered no editorials. Periodically, the paper carried advertising [4], mainly notices from local merchants about new stocks of goods, some legal advertisements, and rewards for freedom-seeking enslaved people. Although it was supposed to be a weekly newspaper, the *Gazette* had no regular day of publication during its early years. The day of publication was altered or stopped temporarily many times and ultimately suspended in about 1759.

After four years of experimenting with the state's first magazine, the *North Carolina Magazine* [5], Davis revived the *North-Carolina Gazette* on 27 May 1768 with a larger page size and a new volume 1. But a violent storm in September 1769 destroyed his printing shop and buried the type in sand. A few months later he resumed operations but only intermittently. Due to the great difficulty in obtaining paper during the Revolutionary War [6], no other newspaper had appeared in North

Carolina since 1775. In 1778 Davis was also forced to suspend publication when his son and assistant, Thomas Davis [7], was conscripted into the colonial army.

James Davis subsequently made another attempt to revive the*North-Carolina Gazette*, this time with Pennsylvanian Robert Keith. The first issue was dated 28 Aug. 1783, two years before Davis's death. With Davis in ill health, Keith took charge, naming the paper the *North Carolina Gazette; or, Impartial Intelligencer and Weekly General Advertiser*. The paper still had no headlines or column rules and offered little local news. The last known issue is that of 2 Sept. 1784. Another version of the newspaper was published from 1786 to 1798 by François X. Martin, who used the paper to support the Bill of Rights and other causes.

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Newspapers and magazines [14]
Authors:
Mammen, Edwin H. [15]
Origin - location:
New Bern [16]
From:
Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.[17]

1 January 2006 | Mammen, Edwin H.

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