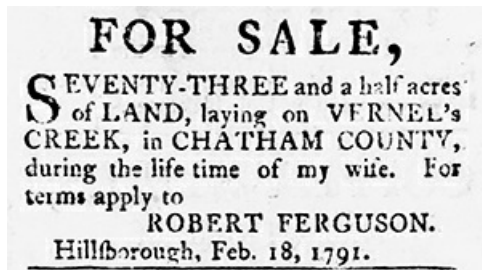


## Ferguson, Robert <sup>[1]</sup>

## Ferguson, Robert

by Mark F. Miller, 1986; Revised by SLNC Government and Heritage Library, December 2022

fl. 1785–93



[advertisement]. *North-Carolina Chronicle*; or *Fayetteville Gazette* 2, no. 25 (February 28, 1791). 198.

<sup>[2]</sup>Robert Ferguson, printer, operated a printing press <sup>[3]</sup> next to the courthouse in Hillsborough from 1785 to 1792. There he printed the *North Carolina Gazette* <sup>[4]</sup> in 1785 and 1786 and perhaps even longer, as well as the journal of the Constitutional Convention of 1788 <sup>[5]</sup>. In the latter year and at other times he may also have printed for the state. On the 1790 Hillsborough tax list he is recorded as owning two town lots, a 150-acre farm, and as the enslaver of one person. In 1791, Governor William Blount <sup>[6]</sup> of the Southwest Territory engaged the services of Ferguson and George Roulstone <sup>[7]</sup>, editor of the *Fayetteville Gazette*, to establish a printing press beyond the mountains. Some time that year they began printing the *Knoxville (Tenn.) Gazette* <sup>[8]</sup> in Rogersville. Ferguson and Roulstone moved to the new town of Knoxville about seven months after it had been established. Ferguson retired with the issue of 4 May 1793, and no further record of his life has been found.

### References:

George F. Bentley, "Printers and Printing in the Southwest Territory, 1790–1796," *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* 8 (1949).

Clarence S. Brigham, *History and Bibliography of American Newspapers, 1690–1820*, vol. 2 (1947).

*Fayetteville Gazette*, 21 Feb. 1791, 9 Oct. 1792.

William H. Masterson, "William Blount and the Establishment of the Southwest Territory, 1790–1791," *East Tennessee Historical Society's Publications* 23 (1951).

*North Carolina Gazette*, scattered issues, 1785–86.

*State Gazette of North Carolina*, 4, 1 Feb. 1791.

Samuel C. Williams, "George Roulstone: Father of the Tennessee Press," *East Tennessee Historical Society's Publications* 17 (1945).

### Additional Resources:

Himebaugh, Glenn A. "Publishing." *Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture* version 2.0.. <http://tennesseeencyclopedia.net/entry.php?rec=1087> <sup>[9]</sup> (accessed February 25, 2014).

"Tennessee Newspaper and Printing Museum." Rogersville Heritage Association. <http://www.rogersvilleheritage.org/rha/details.asp?ID=17> <sup>[10]</sup> (accessed February 25, 2014).

"TAX LIST, 1790—HILLSBORO TOWN." *State Records of North Carolina* vol. 26. Goldsboro, N.C.: Nash Brothers. 1906. 1286-1313 <https://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/document/csr26-0055#p26-1313> <sup>[11]</sup> (accessed February 25, 2014).

### Image Credits:

[advertisement]. *North-Carolina Chronicle*; or *Fayetteville Gazette* 2, no. 25 (February 28, 1791). 198. <https://newspapers.digitalnc.org/lccn/sn83025827/1791-02-28/ed-1/seq-2/#words=Fayetteville+Gazette> <sup>[12]</sup> (accessed February 25, 2014).

**Subjects:**

Biographies <sup>[13]</sup>

Writers, journalists, and editors <sup>[14]</sup>

**Authors:**

Miller, Mark F. <sup>[15]</sup>

**Origin - location:**

Orange County <sup>[16]</sup>

Hillsborough <sup>[17]</sup>

**From:**

Dictionary of North Carolina Biography, University of North Carolina Press.<sup>[18]</sup>

1 January 1986 | Miller, Mark F.

---

**Source URL:**<https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/ferguson-robert>

**Links**

[1] <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/ferguson-robert> [2] <https://newspapers.digitalnc.org/lccn/sn83025827/1791-02-28/ed-1/seq-1/> [3] <https://www.ncpedia.org/printing> [4] <https://www.ncpedia.org/north-carolina-gazette> [5] <https://www.ncpedia.org/government/convention-1788> [6] <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/blount-william> [7] <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/roulstone-george> [8] <http://www.loc.gov/rr/news/18th/704.html> [9] <http://tennesseencyclopedia.net/entry.php?rec=1087> [10] <http://www.rogersvilleheritage.org/rha/details.asp?ID=17> [11] <https://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.html/document/csr26-0055#p26-1313> [12] <https://newspapers.digitalnc.org/lccn/sn83025827/1791-02-28/ed-1/seq-2/#words=Fayetteville+Gazette> [13] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/biography-term> [14] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/writer> [15] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/authors/miller-mark-f> [16] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/piedmont/o> [17] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/piedmont-6> [18] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/dictionary-no>