# Early American Newspapering

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*We are here at the end of the World, and Europe may bee turned topsy turvy ere wee can hear a word of it.*

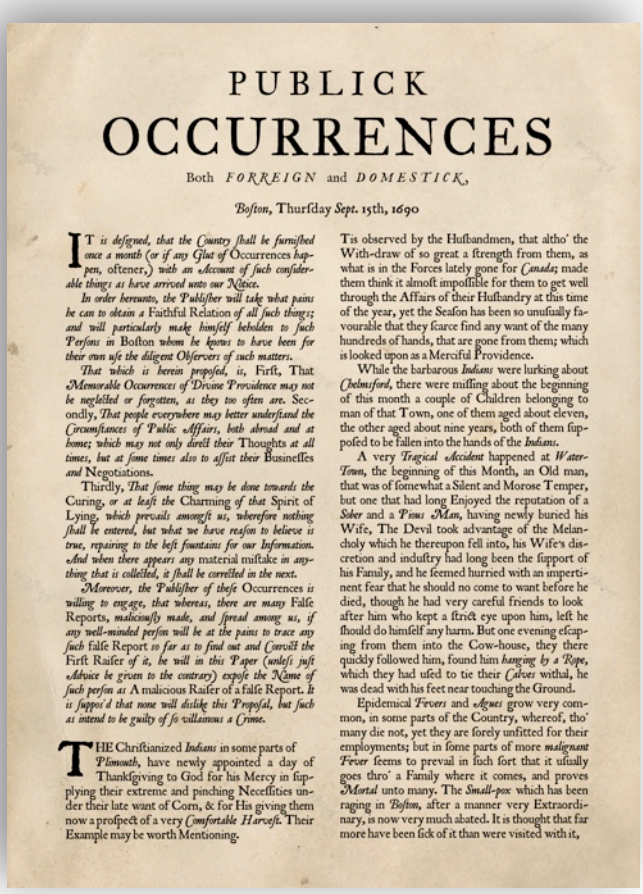
*-Virginia planter William Byrd, 1690*

In seventeenth-century America, colonial governments had rather do without newspapers than brook their annoyance. In 1671, Governor William Berkeley of Virginia wrote: "I thank God, there are no free schools nor printing and I hope we shall not have, these hundred years, for learning has brought disobedience, and heresy, and sects into the world, and printing has divulged them, and libels against the best government. God keep us from both." As the British government once told the governors of Massachusetts, "Great inconvenience may arise by the liberty of printing."

Not until 1690 did the first English-American news sheet debut—Boston's *Publick Occurrences Both Forreign and Domestick*, published by Benjamin Harris. The first story in this the first newspaper printed in America seems well chosen: "The Christianized Indians in some parts of Plimouth, have newly appointed a day of thanksgiving to God for his Mercy..." However, if survival was its goal, other items in this paper were less well chosen. *Publick Occurrences* included an attack on some Indians who had fought with the English against the French and an allusion to a salacious rumor about the king of France. This sort of journalism was typical of the paper's publisher, Benjamin Harris, who had published sensational newspapers in England before he was thrown in jail and then forced to flee to America for printing a particularly incendiary account of a supposed Catholic plot against England. Massachusetts authorities quickly expressed their "high Resentment and Disallowance" of Public Occurrences. The first issue of America's first newspaper was also the last. It would be fourteen years before another newspaper was published in the colonies.

By the end of the eighteenth century, however, scores of homegrown broadsheets and tabloids satisfied the information appetites of Americans hungry for intelligence of the Old World, for news about the Revolution, and for the political polemics of the infant United States. The history of newspapering in that century digests the beginnings of much of what is served on newsstands in this one.

As the century began, the fledgling colonial press tested its wings. A bolder journalism opened on the eve of the Revolution. And, as the century closed with the birth of the United States, a rancorously partisan and rambunctious press emerged.



PUBLICK

OCCURRENCES

Both *FORREIGN* and *DOMESTICK*,

*Boston*, Thurſday *Sept.* 15th, *1690*

IT *is deſigned, that the Country ſhall be furniſhed once a month (or if any Glut of* Occurrences *happen, oftener,) with an Account of ſuch conſiderable things as have arrived unto our Notice.*

*In order hereunto, the Publiſher will take what pains he can to obtain a* Faithful Relation *of all ſuch things; and will particularly make himſelf beholden to ſuch Perſons in* Boſton *whom he knows to have been for their own uſe the diligent Obſervers of ſuch matters.*

*That which is herein propoſed, is,* Firſt, That *Memorable Occurrences of Divine Providence may not be neglected or forgotten, as they too often are.* Secondly, *That people everywhere may better underſtand the Circumſtances of Public Affairs, both abroad and at home; which may not only direct their* Thoughts *at all times, but at ſome times alſo to aſſiſt their* Buſineſſes *and* Negotiations.

Thirdly, *That ſome thing may be done towards the* Curing, *or at leaſt the* Charming *of that* Spirit of Lying, *which prevails amongſt us, wherefore nothing ſhall be entered, but what we have reaſon to believe is true, repairing to the beſt fountains for our Information. And when there appears any* material miſtake *in anything that is collected, it ſhall be corrected in the next.*

*Moreover, the Publiſher of theſe* Occurrences *is willing to engage, that whereas, there are many* Falſe Reports, *maliciouſly made, and ſpread among us, if any well-minded perſon will be at the pains to trace any ſuch* falſe Report *ſo far as to find out and Convict the* Firſt Raiſer *of it, he will in this Paper (unleſs juſt Advice be given to the contrary) expoſe the Name of ſuch perſon as* A malicious Raiſer of a falſe Report. *It is ſuppoſ'd that none will diſlike this Propoſal, but ſuch as intend to be guilty of ſo villainous a Crime.*

THE Chriſtianized *Indians* in ſome parts of *Plimouth*, have newly appointed a day of Thankſgiving to God for his Mercy in ſupplying their extreme and pinching Neceſſities under their late want of Corn, & for His giving them now a proſpect of a very *Comfortable Harveſt*. Their Example may be worth Mentioning.

'Tis obſerved by the Huſbandmen, that altho' the With-draw of ſo great a ſtrength from them, as what is in the Forces lately gone for *Canada*; made them think it almoſt impoſſible for them to get well through the Affairs of their Huſbandry at this time of the year, yet the Seaſon has been ſo unuſually favourable that they ſcarce find any want of the many hundreds of hands, that are gone from them; which is looked upon as a Merciful Providence.

While the barbarous *Indians* were lurking about *Chelmsford*, there were miſſing about the beginning of this month a couple of Children belonging to man of that Town, one of them aged about eleven, the other aged about nine years, both of them ſuppoſed to be fallen into the hands of the *Indians*.

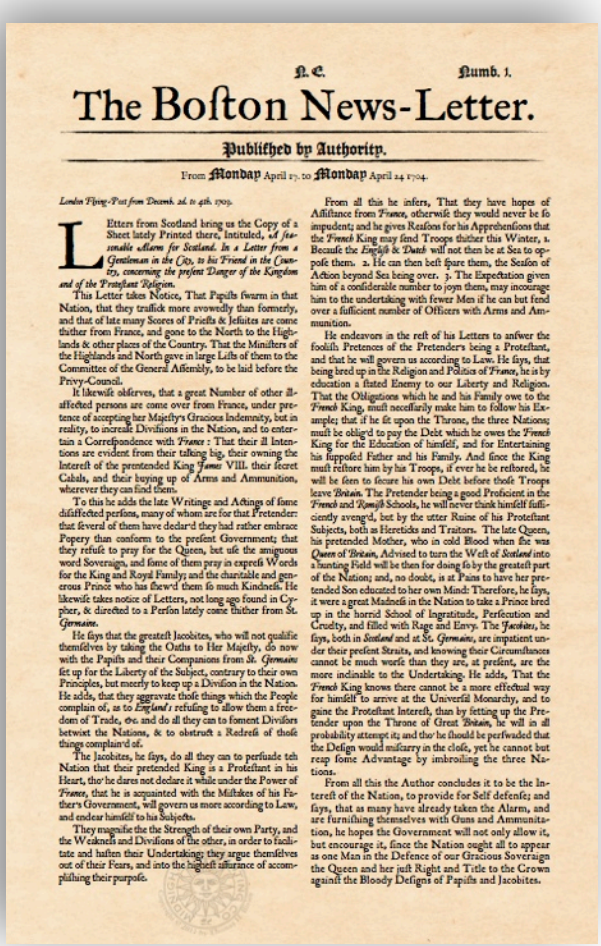
A very *Tragical Accident* happened at *Water-Town*, the beginning of this Month, an Old man, that was of ſomewhat a Silent and Morose Temper, but one that had long Enjoyed the reputation of a *Sober* and a *Pious Man*, having newly buried his Wife, The Devil took advantage of the Melancholy which he thereupon fell into, his Wife's diſcretion and induſtry had long been the ſupport of his Family, and he ſeemed hurried with an impertinent fear that he ſhould no come to want before he died, though he had very careful friends to look after him who kept a ſtrict eye upon him, leſt he ſhould do himſelf any harm. But one evening eſcaping from them into the Cow-houſe, they there quickly followed him, found him *hanging by a Rope*, which they had uſed to tie their *Calves* withal, he was dead with his feet near touching the Ground.

Epidemical *Fevers* and *Agues* grow very common, in ſome parts of the Country, whereof, tho' many die not, yet they are ſorely unfitted for their employments; but in ſome parts of more *malignant Fever* ſeems to prevail in ſuch ſort that it uſually goes thro' a Family where it comes, and proves *Mortal* unto many. The *Small-pox* which has been raging in *Boſton*, after a manner very Extraordinary, is now very much abated. It is thought that far more have been ſick of it than were viſited with it,

*Facsimile of the first and only issue of the English-American coloniesg first newspaper, published in Boston 1690.* Enlarge

The eras can be traced in the history of the family of Benjamin Franklin—the preeminent journalist of his time. But it best begins with another Boston newspaperman, postmaster John Campbell. In 1704, Campbell served up *The Boston News-Letter*, the nation's second paper. It was a publication the powers-that-be could stomach. The News-Letter lasted seventy-two years, succeeding in an increasingly competitive industry, supported by the growth of communication and of commerce. Campbell's fellow postmasters often became newspaper publishers, too; they had ready access to information to put on their pages. Through their offices came letters, government documents, and newspapers from Europe. Gazettes were also started by printers, who had paper, ink, and presses at hand. Franklin was a postmaster and a printer.

Eighteenth-century editors filled their columns with items lifted from other newspapers—"the exchanges," as they are called still—and from letters, said Mitchell Stephens, a New York University journalism professor and the author of *A History of News*. European news, taken from newspapers that arrived in ports like New York, Philadelphia, and Charleston, got good play. The November 8, 1797, issue of the Pennsylvania Gazette, for example, carried this item from New York: "Yesterday arrived here the ship Mary. . . . By this arrival we are furnished with London Papers . . . from which the most important intelligence is extracted." David Sloan, a University of Alabama journalism professor, lists the sources of stories as "European newspapers, primarily English ones; correspondence sent in by readers; other newspapers in the colonies; and individuals who would drop by the print shop and talk."



N. E. Numb. 1.

The Boſton News-Letter.

Publiſhed by Authority.

From Monday April 17. to Monday April 24 1704.

*London Flying-Post from Decemb. 26 to 28. 1703.*

LEtters from Scotland bring us the Copy of a Sheet lately Printed there, Intituled, *A Seaſonable Alarm to Scotland. In a Letter from a Gentleman in the City, to his Friend in the Country, concerning the preſent Danger of the Kingdom and of the Proteſtant Religion.*

This Letter takes Notice, That Papiſts ſwarm in that Nation, that they traffick more avowedly than formerly, and that of late many Scores of Prieſts & Jeſuites are come thither from France, and gone to the North to the Highlands & other places of the Country. That the Miniſters of the Highlands and North gave in large Lifts of them to the Committee of the General Aſſembly, to be laid before the Privy-Council.

It likewiſe obſerves, that a great Number of other ill-affected perſons are come over from France, under pretence of accepting her Majeſty's Gracious Indemnity, but in reality, to increaſe Diviſions in the Nation, and to entertain a Correſpondence with *France*: That their ill Intentions are evident from their talking big, their owning the Intereſt of the pretended King *James* VIII. their ſecret Cabals, and their buying up of Arms and Ammunition, wherever they can find them.

To this he adds the late Writings and Actings of ſome diſaffected perſons, many of whom are for that Pretender: that ſeveral of them have declar'd they had rather embrace Popery than conform to the preſent Government; that they refuſe to pray for the Queen, but uſe the ambiguous word Soveraign, and ſome of them pray in expreſs Words for the King and Royal Family; and the charitable and generous Prince who has ſhew'd them ſo much Kindneſs. He likewiſe takes notice of Letters, not long ago found in Cypher, & directed to a Perſon lately come thither from St. *Germains*.

He ſays that the greateſt Jacobites, who will not qualifie themſelves by taking the Oaths to Her Majeſty, do now with the Papiſts and their Companions from *St. Germains* ſet up for the Liberty of the Subject, contrary to their own Principles, but meerly to keep up a Diviſion in the Nation. He adds, that they aggravate thoſe things which the People complain of, as to *England's* refuſing to allow them a freedom of Trade, &c. and do all they can to foment Diviſions betwixt the Nations, & to obſtruct a Redreſs of thoſe things complain'd of.

The Jacobites, he ſays, do all they can to perſuade teh Nation that their pretended King is a Proteſtant in his Heart, tho' he dares not declare it while under the Power of *France*, that he is acquainted with the Miſtakes of his Father's Government, will govern us more according to Law, and endear himſelf to his Subjects.

They magnifie the the Strength of their own Party, and the Weakneſs and Diviſions of the other, in order to facilitate and haſten their Undertakings; they argue themſelves out of their Fears, and into the higheſt aſſurance of accompliſhing their purpoſe.

From all this he infers, That they have hopes of Aſſiſtance from *France*, otherwiſe they would never be ſo impudent; and he gives Reaſons for his Apprehenſions that the *French* King may ſend Troops thither this Winter, 1. Becauſe the *Engliſh* & *Dutch* will not then be at Sea to oppoſe them. 2. He can then beſt ſpare them, the Seaſon of Action beyond Sea being over. 3. The Expectation given him of a conſiderable number to joyn them, may incourage him to the undertaking with fewer Men if he can but ſend over a ſufficient number of Officers with Arms and Ammunition.

He endeavors in the reſt of his Letters to anſwer the foolish Pretences of the Pretender's being a Proteſtant, and that he will govern us according to Law. He ſays, that being bred up in the Religion and Politics of *France*, he is by education a ſtated Enemy to our Liberty and Religion. That the Obligations which he and his Family owe to the *French* King, muſt neceſſarily make him to follow his Example; that if he ſit upon the Throne, the three Nations; muſt be oblig'd to pay the Debt which he owes the *French* King for the Education of himſelf, and for Entertaining his ſuppoſed Father and his Family. And ſince the King muſt reſtore him by his Troops, if ever he be reſtored, he will be ſeen to ſecure his own Debt before thoſe Troops leave *Britain*. The Pretender being a good Proficient in the *French* and *Romiſh* Schools, he will never think himſelf ſufficiently aveng'd, but by the utter Ruine of his Proteſtant Subjects, both as Hereticks and Traitors. The late Queen, his pretended Mother, who is cold Blood when ſhe was *Queen of Britain*, Advised to turn the Weſt of *Scotland* into a hunting Field will be then for doing ſo by the greateſt part of the Nation; and, no doubt, is at Pains to have her pretended Son educated to her own Mind: Therefore, he ſays, it were a great Madneſs in the Nation to take a Prince bred up in the horrid School of Ingratitude, Perſecution and Cruelty, and filled with Rage and Envy. The *Jacobites*, he ſays, both in *Scotland* and at St. *Germains*, are impatient under their preſent Straits, and knowing their Circumſtances cannot be much worſe than they are, at preſent, are the more inclinable to the Undertaking. He adds, That the *French* King knows there cannot be a more effectual way for himſelf to arrive at the Univerſal Monarchy, and to gaine the Proteſtant Intereſt, than by ſetting up the Pretender upon the Throne of Great *Britain*, he will in all probability attempt it; and tho' he ſhould be perſwaded that the Deſign would miſcarry in the cloſe, yet he cannot but reap ſome Advantage by imbroiling the three Nations.

From all this the Author concludes it to be the Intereſt of the Nation, to provide for Self defenſe; and ſays, that as many have already taken the Alarm, and are furniſhing themſelves with Guns and Ammunition, he hopes the Government will not only allow it, but encourage it, ſince the Nation ought all to appear as one Man in the Defence of our Gracious Soveraign the Queen and her juſt Right and Title to the Crown againſt the Bloody Deſigns of Papiſts and Jacobites.

*Boston News-Letter from American Antiquarian Society. "Numb. 1" of the colonies' second paper, which lasted seventy-two years. It was also published in Boston.* Enlarge

Julie K. Williams, a history instructor at Alabama's Samford University, said publishers had such altruistic motives as improving communication and educating the public, but profit was their primary purpose. Maurine Beasley, a University of Maryland journalism professor, puts it plainly. The purpose of newspapers was "to make money."

Williams said, "Newspapers brought in ad revenue and circulation revenue." That income supplemented receipts from books, government printing jobs, merchant invoices, forms, and other ephemera.

Making money is still what keeps newspapers in business, and that is but one similarity between eighteenth-century papers and the twenty-first's. As Sloan said, "Newspapers are still printed with ink on paper." But more than that, newspapers then and now "still have opinions and letters. There was a sense then that newspapers should publish both sides of an issue, even during the Revolution and factional periods."

Williams ticks off the surface differences in the newspapers of the two centuries—there were no headlines and few illustrations then, for example—as well as cosmetic similarities. "You can look at an eighteenth-century newspaper and recognize the column layout and the general news-ads look of a paper today," she said. "It is interesting that the 'look' is still basically there.

"But the biggest similarity is what news is. We decided in the eighteenth century that newspapers were about 'occurrences,' and basically we have stuck to that. I think 'departments' are clearly an idea in the eighteenth century. The colonial printer had a standing format that he followed religiously that involved dividing the news by type. These sections were often labeled 'foreign reports' and so on."

To Carol Humphrey, an Oklahoma Baptist University journalism professor and secretary of the American Journalism Historians Association, "The primary legacy of the eighteenth century for modern journalism is the right to comment on political events. The modern-day editorial has its beginnings in that era."

The DNA of modern newspapers is found in the eighteenth century, Stephens said. "The look is the same," and "the sense of what news is, is basic to human beings."

Most colonial newspapers were weeklies, had four pages, and printed most of their advertisements in back. With little space, printers kept many stories brief, encapsulating even significant information into "one short paragraph, even a sentence," Sloan said.

Newspapers also contained "essays, poems and humorous material, some of which they wrote themselves, like Ben Franklin," Beasley said. "Sometimes, items that had a sensational or religious aspect appeared, such as a report of a strange creature being sighted or some unusual event occurring attributed to 'divine providence.'"

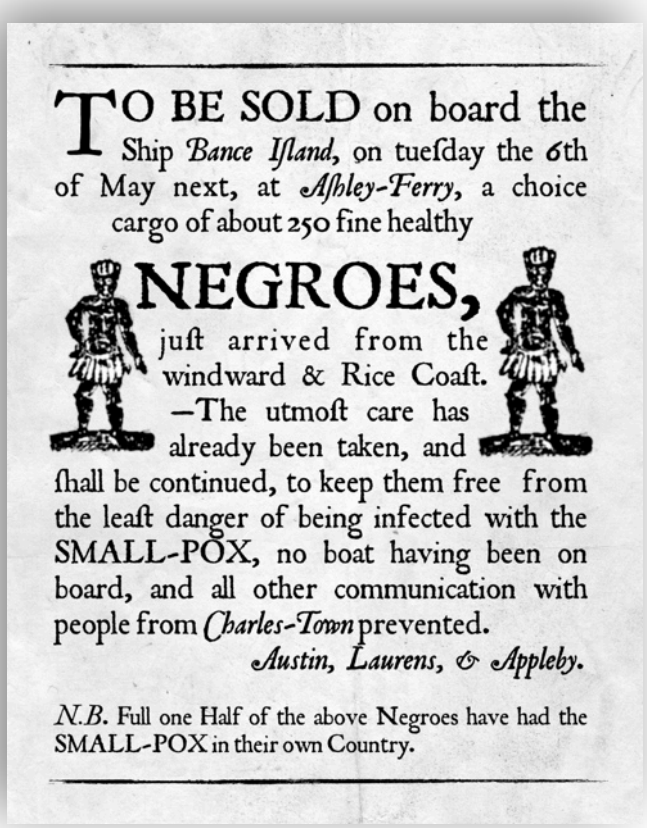
Readers wondered about the course of wars in Europe and were curious about happenings in other towns and colonies—especially events that could affect their lives. But they were as interested as readers of today in the ordinary events of the life of their times. When they got their newspaper, subscribers perused such advertisements and news as:

*Run away . . . a small yellow Negro wench named Hannah, about 35 years of age, had on when she went away a green plain petticoat and sundry other clothes, but what sort I do not know.*—from a 1767 issue of Williamsburg's *Virginia Gazette*

*For Sale—The spars, anchors, rigging, and hull, of a brig, sixty four feet keel, twenty four and a half feet beam, and ten feet hold.—*from a 1782 issue of the *Virginia Gazette and Weekly Advertiser*

*The noted High Bred Horse Old Mark Anthony, now in high perfection, and as vigorous as ever, stands at my stable this season in order to cover mares, at £3. the leap.—* also from a 1782 issue of the *Virginia Gazette and Weekly Advertiser*

*Last Friday, the fatal and ever memorable Day of the Martyrdom of King Charles the First, a most extraordinary Misfortune befell this Place, by the Destruction of our fine Capitol. . . . The Cupola was soon burnt, the two Bells that were in it were melted, and, together with the Clock, fell down, and were destroyed.*—from a 1747 issue of the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, but datelined Williamsburg, February 5.


TO BE SOLD on board the Ship *Bance Iſland*, on tueſday the 6th of May next, at *Aſhley-Ferry*, a choice cargo of about 250 fine healthy

NEGROES,

juſt arrived from the windward & Rice Coaſt. —The utmoſt care has already been taken, and ſhall be continued, to keep them free from the leaſt danger of being infected with the SMALL-POX, no boat having been on board, and all other communication with people from *Charles-Town* prevented.

*Auſtin, Laurens, & Appleby.*

*N.B.* Full one Half of the above Negroes have had the SMALL-POX in their own Country.

*Typical of the type of ads seen in colonial newspapers for the sale of slaves.*

When, as the century began, Campbell and his colleagues set up their forms, they entered a risky business. Printers were licensed by the government, and they could be unlicensed swiftly, and imprisoned. That happened to Benjamin Franklin's older brother James, publisher of the New-England Courant.

James Franklin inspired his sibling's interest in printing. "In 1717," the younger Franklin wrote, "James returned from England with a press and letters to set up his business in Boston. . . . My father was impatient to have me bound to my brother." The boy was at length "persuaded, and signed the indentures when I was yet but twelve years old." But like the publisher of *Publick Occurrences*, James Franklin ran afoul of the authorities. In the first issue James began a political crusade. The issue was smallpox inoculations, which were first being used in Boston that year used to fight an epidemic. Cotton Mather, one of the most powerful men in Boston, supported inoculation. James Franklin did not. So the first American newspaper crusade was a crusade against smallpox inoculation. The next year, the *Courant* took on the colonial government, which it accused of failing to do enough to protect the area from pirates. This crusade landed James Franklin in jail.

Later a court decried that "James Franklin be strictly forbidden…to print or publish the New- England Courant…." To evade this order, James Franklin made his younger brother Benjamin, who was apprenticed to him, the paper's official publisher. Ben used the situation to escape from his apprenticeship. Benjamin Franklin took over control of the *Pennsylvania Gazette* in Philadelphia in 1729, made it into one of the finest papers in the colonies and embarked upon an extraordinary career as a writer, journalist, printer, businessman, postmaster, scientist and statesman.

John Peter Zenger, editor of the *New-York Weekly Journal*, was arrested in 1734 and charged with seditious libel for criticisms of Governor William Cosby. The facts were against Zenger, but a jury more sympathetic to free speech than to authority acquitted him. Franklin, who had moved to Philadelphia, where he founded *Poor Richard's Almanac* and the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, endorsed the verdict in a couplet:

*While free from Force the Press remains,*

*Virtue and Freedom cheer our Plains.*

Typical for Franklin and his colleagues, the lines are lifted from a poem by Mathew Green, "The Spleen," published in 1737.

As happy as editors were to see Zenger vindicated, they noticed that he had spent ten months in jail awaiting trial. His wife had carried on the *Journal*, but clearly a newspaperman's livelihood and liberty depended on the forbearance of the government.

At mid-century, the press began to alter its stance and became more outspoken. In 1754, during the French and Indian War, Franklin published America's first newspaper cartoon, a picture showing a snake cut into sections, each part representing a colony, with the caption: "Join or Die."

Franklin became a wealthy publisher and editor. He linked print shops and post offices in a coastal chain, and spread newspapering up and down the seaboard. Newspapers founded under his aegis prospered and, as troubles with Great Britain mounted, became precisely the "great inconvenience" England feared.

Stephens said the purpose of newspapers "changed to the political and polemical after 1765—around the time of the Stamp Act-as tensions snowballed." Sloan said, "During the Revolution, the main goal was to support the American cause."

"Prior to the Revolution, newspapers existed primarily to inform people of what was going on in the rest of the world," Humphrey said. "The Revolution changed the focus to events in the other colonies."

When John Adams wrote "A Constitution or Form of Government for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts" in 1779, he included a guarantee of liberty of the press. But as president, Adams endorsed the Alien and Sedition Acts, aimed at muzzling the opposition by jailing editors who dared criticize the chief executive.

Sloan said Bache was "a really ardent, zealous partisan. He epitomizes the intensely partisan editor." Bache was indicted under the Alien and Sedition Acts but died before his case came to trial. Adams's successor, Jefferson, released imprisoned journalists and allowed the law to lapse.

Stephens said that the free—and free-wheeling—press of the federal period helped to create the United States: "It is hard to imagine the United States arriving when it did without a free press. It was a wild, unruly press, but democracy was a great experiment and an aggressive press was part of it."

Much has changed in the centuries since Benjamin Harris set up his type. Among other things, the web press, the linotype, and, eventually, offset printing came to the business. The telegraph and news services supplanted the exchanges. The First Amendment, written originally to protect the press only from the federal Congress, was interpreted to apply to the governments of the states. Illustrations and photographs became as important as words. Journalism emerged as a diplomaed, white-collar profession. And the role of the press as a "great inconvenience" to government is a hallmark of democratic government.

*"How," asks Stephens, "can you run a country without a free press?"*

THE Boston-Gazette, AND COUNTRY JOURNAL.

*Containing the freshest Advices, Foreign and Domestic.*

MONDAY, March 12, 1770.

On the evening of Monday, being the fifth current, several soldiers of the 29th Regiment were seen parading the streets with their drawn cutlasses and bayonets, abusing and wounding numbers of the inhabitants.

A few minutes after nine o'clock four youths, named *Edward Archbald*, *William Merchant*, *Francis Archbald*, and *John Leach*, jun., came down *Cornhill* together, and separating at *Dolbar Leving's* corner, the two former were passing the narrow alley leading *Mr. Murray's* barrack in which was a soldier brandishing a broad sword of an uncommon size against the walls, out of which he struck fire plentifully.

A person of mean countenance, armed with a large cudgel bore him company. *Edward Archbald* admonished *Mr. Merchant* to take care of the sword, on which the soldier turned round and struck *Archbald* on the arm, then pushed at *Merchant* and pierced through his clothes inside the arm close to the armpit and grazed the skin. *Merchant* then struck the soldier with a short stick he had; and the other person ran to the barrack and brought with him two soldiers, one armed with a pair of tongs, the other with a shovel. He with the tongs purfued *Archbald* back through the alley, collared and laid him over the head with the tongs. The noise brought people together; and *John Hicks*, a young lad, coming up, knocked the soldier down but let him get up again; and more lads gathering, drove them back to the barrack where the boys stood some time as it were to keep them in. In less than a minute ten or twelve of them came out with drawn cutlaffes, clubs, and bayonets and fet upon the unarmed boys and young folk who stood there a little while but, finding the inequality of their equipment, dispersed.

On hearing the noise, one *Samuel Atwood* came up to fee what was the matter; and entering the alley from dock square, heard the latter part of the combat; and when the boys had dispersed he met the ten or twelve foldiers aforefaid rushing down the alley towards the square and asked them if they intended to murder people? They answered Yes, by G—d, root and branch! With that one of them ftruck *Mr. Atwood* with a club which was repeated by another; and being unarmed, he turned to go off and received a wound on the left fhoulder which reached the bone and gave him much pain. Retreating a few ftep, *Mr. Atwood* met two officers and said, gentlemen, what is the matter They anfwered, you'll see by and by. Immediately after, those heroes appeared in the square, asking where were the boogers! where were the cowards! But notwithstanding their fierceness to naked men, one of them advanced towards a youth who had a split of a raw ftave in his hand and said, damn them, here is one of them. But the young man fcning a person near him with a drawn fword and good cane ready to fupport him, held up his ftave in defiance; and they exactly paffed by him up the little alley by *Mr. Silfby's* to *King Street* where they attacked fingle and unarmed perfons till they raifed much clamour, and then turned down *Cornhill Street*, infulting all they met in like manner and purfuing some to their very doors. Thirty or forty perfons, moftly lads, being by this means gathered in *King Street*, *Capt. Preston* with a party of men with charged bayonets, came from the main guard to the commiffioner's house, the soldiers pushing their bayonets, crying, make way! They took place by the cuftom house and, continuing to paffs to draw the people off pricked some in feveral places, on which they were clamorous and, it is faid, threw ftone balls. On this, the Captain commanded them to fire; and more ftone balls coming, he again said, damn you, fire, be the consequence what it will! One foldier then fired, and a townsman with a cudgel ftruck him over the hands with such force that he dropped his firelock; and, rufhing forward, aimed a blow at the Captain's head which grazed his hat and fell pretty heavy upon his arm. However, the foldiers continued the fire succeffively till feven or eight or, as some say, eleven guns were difcharged.

By this fatal manoeuvre three men were laid dead on the fpot and two more ftruggling for life; but what fhowed a degree of cruelty unknown to Britifh troops, at leaft since the house of *Hanover* has directed their operation, was an attempt to fire upon or puth with their bayonets the perfons who undertook to remove the flain and wounded!

*Mr. Benjamin Leigh*, now undertaker in the Delph manufactory, came up and after fome converfation with *Capt. Preston* relative to his conduct in this affair, advifed him to draw off his men, with which he complied.

The dead are *Mr. Samuel Gray*, killed on the fpot, the ball entering his head and beating off a large portion of his ftull.

A mulatto man named *Crispus Attucks*, who was born in *Framingham*, but lately belonged to *New-Providence* and was here in order to go for *North Carolina*, alfo killed inftantly, two balls entering his breaft, one of them in fpecial going the right lobe of the lungs and a great part of the liver moft horribly.

*Mr. James Caldwell*, mate of *Capt. Morton's* vessel, in like manner killed by two balls entering his back.

*Mr. Samuel Maverick*, a promising youth of seventeen years of age, son of the widow *Maverick*, and an apprentice to *Mr. Greenleaf*, ivory-turner, mortally wounded; a ball went through his belly and was cut out at his back. He died the next morning.

A lad named *Christopher Monk*, about seventeen years of age, an apprentice to *Mr. Walker*, fhipwright, wounded; a ball entered his back about four inches above the left hidney near the spine and was cut out of the breaft on the same side. Apprehended he will die.

A lad named *John Clark*, about seventeen years of age, whose parents live at *Medford*, and an apprentice to *Capt. Samuel Howard* of this town, wounded; a ball entered juft above his groin and came out at his hip on the opposite side. Apprehended he will die.

*Mr. Edward Payne* of this town, merchant, ftanding at his entry door received a ball in his arm which fhattered some of the bones.

*Mr. John Green*, tailor, coming up Leverett's Lane, received a ball juft under his hip and lodged in the under part of his thigh, which was extracted.

*Mr. Robert Patterson*, a seafaring man, who was the person that had his trousers fhot through in *Richardson's* affair, wounded; a ball went through his right arm, and he suffered a great loss of blood.

*Mr. Patrick Carr*, about thirty years of age, who worked with *Mr. Field*, leather breeches-maker in *Queen Street*, wounded; a ball entered near his hip and went out at his side.

A lad named *David Parker*, an apprentice to *Mr. Eldy*, the wheelwright, wounded; a ball entered his thigh.

*". . . the Blood of Our Citizens running like Water thro' King-Street"—the* Boston Gazette *reported the 1770 Boston Massacre.*

Enlarge

** Portions of this are taken from an article by Jim Breig, an Albany, New York, writer and weekly newspaper editor, which appeared in the* CW JOURNAL : SPRING 03. *Other portions are from Mitchell Stephens "Beginning of Newspapers."*