

This Year Marks the 190th Anniversary of North Carolina Press

(Continued from page four)

Cornwallis, and a fourth with the army of Gen. Nathaniel Greene.

On August 28, 1783, Davis began his third Gazette, his fourth newspaper venture. This was called "The North Carolina Gazette, or Impartial Intelligencer and Weekly General Advertiser." No headlines or column rules were used. Assisting him was Robert Keith, an immigrant from Pennsylvania.

Leaving large holdings of slaves and real estate, Davis died in 1781, after a long and active life. He had served in numerous important positions, in addition to his journalistic duties, including the posts of sheriff, judge, general assemblyman, justice of the peace, postmaster, post runner, member of the council of state, member of the committee of public safety, and member of the provincial congress.

Ranks Next to Davie

Stephen B. Weeks ranked Davis as second only to William R. Davie, "The Father of the University," among the men "who did the greatest work for the state in the 18th century."

Publication of the New Bern paper was taken over in 1793 by Martin, a French refugee, who had served as an apprentice printer and law student. It was published irregularly and peddled around the country.

Another example of how much outside work those early Carolina editors did and how many offices they held is found in the fact that Martin also served as the first postmaster of New Bern, the first post office in the state under the republic having been opened there on June 1, 1790. As early as March, 1793, he inaugurated mail delivery service in the town, for 50 cents a year per customer.

Death's Head Stamp

The second town in North Carolina to have a newspaper was Wilmington. From the early fall of 1764 to 1767 Andrew Steuart published there the North Carolina Gazette and Weekly Post Boy. Cape Fear patriots forced him to issue the paper without British tax stamps, a skull and crossbones appearing in the margin, with the caption, "This is the place to affix the stamp."

Steuart was drowned in 1769 in the Cape Fear river. Afterwards a son of James Davis, captured by the British, was beaten to death near Wilmington for refusing to obey English orders. Tragedy thus came there to the families of the two earliest state newspapermen.

Adam Boyd purchased Steuart's printing outfit, and on October 13, 1769, he issued the first number of the Cape Fear Mercury, which lasted until 1775. Boyd was more of a publisher than a printer. He was a patriotic citizen, and a member of the Wilmington Committee of Safety.

Paper and Salts

On copies of the paper appeared the following notice:

"Boyd's Printing Office in Wilmington, Cape Fear, where this paper may be had every Friday at the rate of 16s a year, one-half to be paid at the time of subscribing or at 8s every six months. Subscriptions for this paper are taken by gentlemen in most of the adjacent counties, and by A. Boyd, who has for sale sundry pamphlets and blanks; also Epsom and Glauber salts by the pound or larger quantity. N. B. Advertisements of a moderate length will be inserted at 4s Entrance and is a week Continuance; Those of an immoderate length to pay in proportion."

A newspaper was begun at Halifax in 1784 by Thomas Davis, another son of James Davis, who had inherited his father's printing outfits. In 1786 a North Carolina Gazette was published at Hillsboro by Robert Ferguson for this Davis.

The North Carolina Chronicle, or Fayetteville Gazette, was published in 1789 at Fayetteville by George Roulstone for John Sibley & Co. Wilmington had three other papers before 1800; the Wilmington Chronicle and North Carolina Weekly Advertiser, Hall's Wilmington Gazette, and one other. At Salisbury there was a North Carolina Mercury and, Salisbury Advertiser begun in 1798 by Francis Cowpee.

First Newspaper Chain

For 15 years Abraham Hodge served as state printer. Previously he had followed Washington's army for press accounts. In 1785 he came to North Carolina from New York. During his career he was a strong Federalist and a personal friend to Washington. He managed the first chain of newspapers in this state.

In 1786 Hodge and a man named Blanchard established a press at Fayetteville and started the State Gazette of North Carolina. Henry Willis succeeded Blanchard in 1788, and the paper

was moved to Edenton. During 1793 Hodge and his nephew, William Boylan, managed the North Carolina Minerva at Fayetteville, the True Republican at New Bern, the Edenton Gazette, the Raleigh Star, and the North Carolina Journal at Halifax.

"Davis, Martin and Hodge will rank in the hereafter with William R. Davie, Joseph Caldwell and Archibald D. Murphy, that other trio, who in the closing years of the 18th century did so much to broaden and strengthen the intellectual advancement of North Carolina," later wrote Weeks.

With approximately 850,000 inhabitants, North Carolina in 1799 ranked among the four most populous States of the Union. Republicans realized that they must compete with the Federalists for the service of the press. Joseph Gales was persuaded by Nathaniel Macon and others to locate in the new capital at Raleigh.

Gales was an English radical who had been forced to leave England to avoid governmental prosecution for having published in his paper, the Sheffield Register, ideas in opposition to the ministry. Subsequently he had become owner and editor of The Independent Gazette in Philadelphia, then the national capital, and was recognized as one of the most able and liberal editors of the era.

First Newspaper War

On October 22, 1799, he issued the first copy of the Raleigh Register. Its heading was a budding staff topped by a cap of liberty, with a scroll bearing the word, "Libertas," and the motto:

"Ours are the plans of fair, delightful peace, Unwarped by party rage to live like brothers."

Despite this peaceful announcement, there developed a partisan press in North Carolina. Within a short time the Register had become so powerful, working diligently for the Republican party, that William Boylan moved his North Carolina Minerva from Fayetteville to Raleigh, with the backing of strong Federalists. Between the two arose great rivalry, and a clash was inevitable.

After a tilt about the character of Thomas Jefferson, the two editors fought on the street in Raleigh. Gales sued Boylan for damages. In the trial at Hillsboro Gales was awarded 100 pounds. When the fees had been paid from the sum, the remainder was donated to the Raleigh Academy.

The second Joseph Gales, with his brother-in-law, William W. Seaton, for many years managed the "National Intelligencer," the Whig organ in Washington, "which for dignity, propriety and intellectual elevation is yet unmatched in the history of American journalism."

Weston Raleigh Gales, another son of the elder Joseph, continued the work of his father in Raleigh. From 1823 to 1830 the paper was issued as a semi-weekly. Probably the first novel published in the state, "Matilda Berkeley," came from his presses. In 1833, when his party came into power in North Carolina, the older Gales retired from active business life. His associates paid him many tributes. The Register lived until 1885.

There were ten newspapers in North Carolina in 1811. By 1851 the number had increased to 44; in 1858, there were 74; in 1882, there were 194 papers, including 152 weeklies, 24 dailies and weeklies, and 18 monthlies. During the century the press grew remarkably also in circulation, valuation and power.

UNIQUE CASE OF HONESTY CITED

(Continued from page one)

dent, on leaving the institution, was unable to pay her account in full, but gave evidence that she wanted to square the account, even going so far as to offer to deposit with the creditor some personal effect to insure the debt.

The student went her way, married and reared a family. Time passed. The school debt was merely a memory with the creditor, but of the deepest concern to the debtor, who wanted to pay but could never find it convenient to do so.

In 1918 the debtor died, but before she passed away she secured a promise from her son that he would see that the school debt in Statesville was paid. In February, 1939, the head of the local school of half a century ago passed to her reward.

A few days ago the minister in a local church received an inquiry from a man on the Pacific coast, wanting to be put in touch with the lady who conducted the college here 50 years ago or an heir of the lady. Communication with the heir was promptly made.

The writer of the recent inquiry said that his mother died 20-odd years ago but he had promised her that he would see that the obligation was settled.

ELKIN

(Continued from page one)

facts of outstanding, upstanding, and understanding importance that ought to be commented on, but it is all in this edition. Reader, if you will read through this edition, and let it soak in, you

will be amused, amazed and aroused at the unusual, unparalleled, unsurpassed, unexcelled, unequalled, unapproached, and undeniable growth and development of the Town of Elkin. "When Better Towns Are Built, Elkin Will Change Her Model."

Patronize Tribune advertisers.

Employees of Plant Boast Long Service

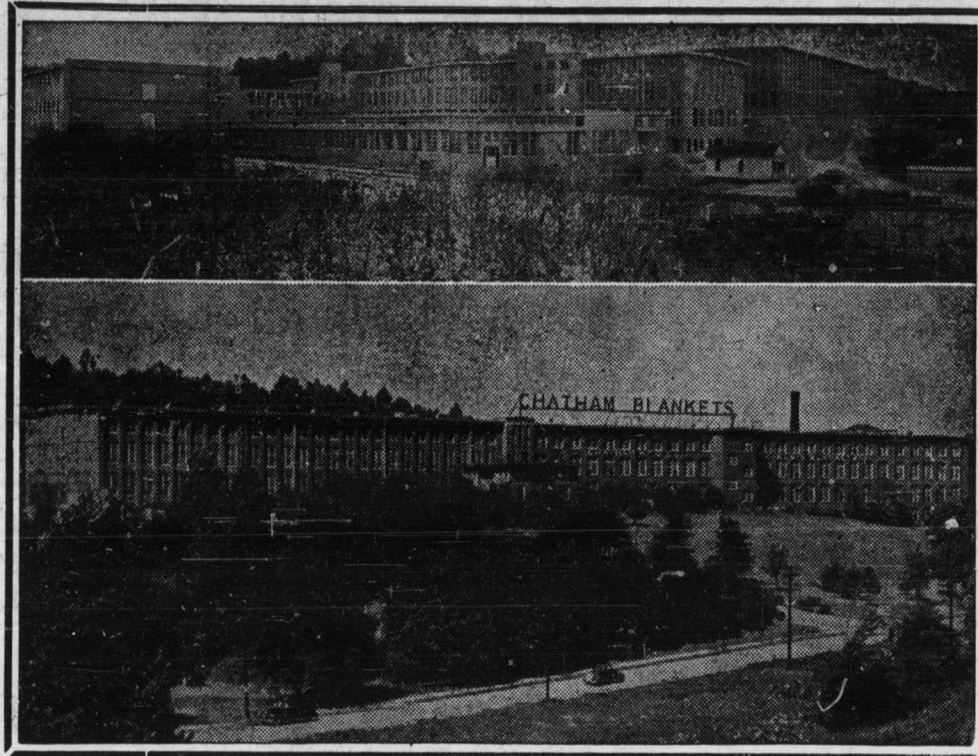
(Continued from page one)

Owens, Oscar Ray, Blanche Rogers, Charlie Sparks, John Swaim, Fannie Talley, Tyra Wood, Dan Woodruff, H. D. Woodruff, Evie

Yarboro, Dave Mastin, Bruce Lewis, Lola Holcomb, Bill Golden, Irl Shamel, Reef Gentry, Arthur Cranfill, Callie Cranfill, Bob Newman, Mallie Upchurch, Della Chambers, Thurmond Eldridge, J. E. Everidge, Jesse Barker.

Patronize Tribune Advertisers. They Offer Real Values.

Talked to Death
Boogy: Do you believe that people can be talked to death?
Woogy: Sure—the census figures prove that they can be and are. The feminine population averages nearly two years older than the masculine. So that proves that the women must outstay the men.



3
Important Services

AND ALL COMBINE TO EXTEND TO YOU EVERY ONE A

FRIENDLY WELCOME!

That We Are Proud of the Chatham Manufacturing Company and Delighted to Welcome Its New Elkin Employees as Friends and Neighbors Goes Without Saying! And We're Proud, Too, to Offer You Our Friendly Services!



CITY TRANSIT COMPANY

You'll Save Time and Money by Riding City Transit Buses to and From Work!

Hourly Schedule
Safe Comfortable Buses

There's no need to operate your car to and from work. Ride our safe, comfortable, well-heated buses to and from work at a minimum of cost. Use them, too, for your trips about the community and save wear and tear on your car. City Transit Company buses run on regular schedule at convenient intervals. You'll find one going your way.

Courteous Drivers
Low, Money-Saving Fares

FOR QUICK SERVICE

CALL A

CITY CAB

You'll find all City Cabs thoroughly modern, comfortable, and well heated. Our courteous drivers will take you anywhere you want to go at any time. Use City Cabs for safety and convenience.

PHONE 292

FOR THAT

Good Gulf Gasoline

AND OILS

Drive In To

CITY SERVICE STATION

Complete Auto Service

GOODRICH TIRES

N. Bridge Street

Next to Hotel Elkin