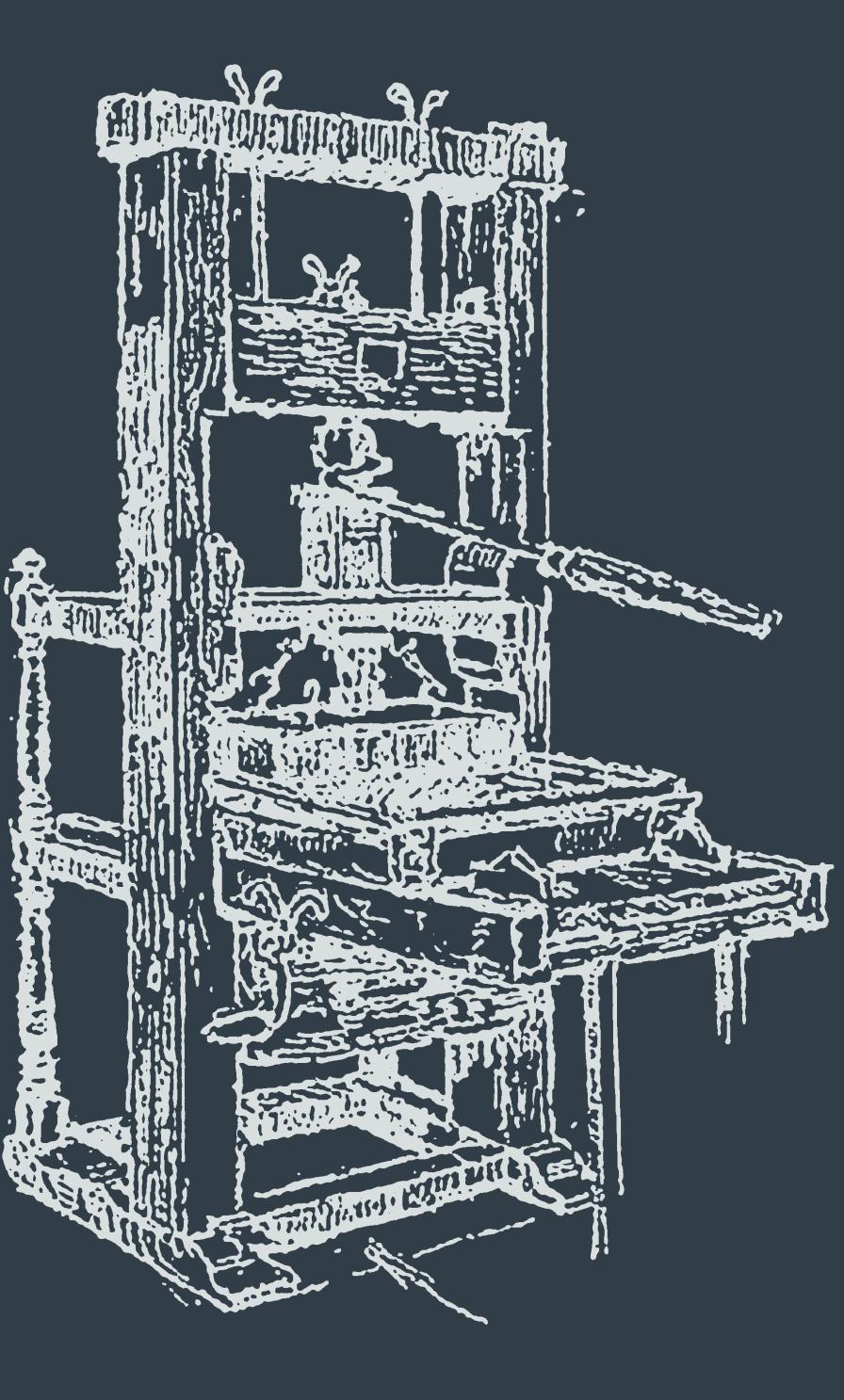
# EARLY NEWSPAPERS AND THE GOLONIAL PRINTER

rinting was one of the first tasks that the colonial settlers



Despite these limitations, newspapers continued to grow with the

carried out in the New World. A British clergyman, Reverend Joseph Glover, set out to establish the first printing press in the colonies. While he died on his voyage, his partner, a British locksmith Stephen Daye (c. 1594-1668), founded the first printing press in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1638. Many printers followed suit setting up presses in urban centers such as New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Charleston, and Williamsburg.

strong initiatives of printers such as Benjamin Franklin (1706–1790). Because of operational difficulties, printers had to be multi-talented and act as editor, publisher, bookseller, businessman, and craftsman. But this also gave them ample opportunities to foster a burgeoning American democracy as they guided the political discourse of the time, which also led many printers to play prominent political roles in their communities.

By 1775 there were about 50 presses in the colonies.

From early on, printers looked to newspapers as an important way to exercise their beliefs in freedom of speech and political liberty, and to create an enlightened society. However, they faced many challenges, as well as the British government's suppression of information unfavorable to the monarchy. Due to such censorship, Publick Occurences, the first newspaper published

Stephen Daye Press. First printing press in America, brought to Cambridge from England in 1638. Sketch by Jack Frost, from *Harvard and Cambridge*: A Sketch Book.

November 3, 1763.

The PENNSYLVANIA

Containing the Freshest Ad-

ACT to prohibit the Selling of GUNS, GUNPOWDER, or other WARLIKE STORES, to the INDIANS.

EREAS several Tribes of Indians, for some Time past, have perfidiously made Incursions within the Frontiers of this Province, and have perpetrated many cruel and barbarous Morders on the Inhabitants thereof, and it must be, in the present Circumstance of Affairs, of daninfequence to fupply the faid Indians with Guns, Gunr other Warlike Stores; for Prevention whereof, Be it urable JAMES HAMILTON, Efq; Lieuvernor, under the Honourable. THOMAS PENN, HARDPENN, Efquires, true and abfolute Prof the Province of Pennfylvania, and Counties of Newit and Suffex, upon Delaware, by and with the Advice

This complaint, however groundlefs, has notwithflanding engaged the Ministry to order Count Creutz, Envoy Extraordinary from this Court to that of Spain, to haften his fetting out for Madrid. Hamburgh, August 19. There are no mercantile dealings carried on here but for ready money ; this necessarily affects navigation. Several veffels, which have been long in the river, we are afraid must return in ballast.

000

August 23. Since yesterday eleven more houses in this city have flopped payment; notwithflanding which here are many more confiderable houses, which, it is thought, will fland their ground. The Jews, who are accounted the caule of this misfortune, find themfelves exposed more than ever to the public odium ; and though there are patroles in all the fireets, to protect them against the populace, yet they are in continual apprehentions.

Extract of a Letter from Amsterdam, August 23. " We are affured there will foon be a meeting of the principal members of the flate, in order to confult about ways and means to obviate the confequences of the bankruptcies already declared, nt and Suffex, upon Delaware, by and with the Advice to obviate the contequences of the bankrupteres already accures, man Jews refiding there had fubferibed 300,000 florins,

Egremont; but the Earl of Halifax figns all the dispatches t go from the faid office.

vices, Foreign and Domestic.

NUMB. 1019.

By letters from Hamburgh, of the 19th inftant, we are vifed, that the plan which was formed there by the merchant fupport one another had failed, which had occafioned four merchants houses to ftop payment on the 17th, and on the day they were followed by thirteen more. It is added, that of the greateft merchants at Berlin has failed. Some of our merchants received, on Saturday laft, Dutch mail, a lift of 34 bankrupts at Hamburgh, and 4 a na. There are no English among them.

Yefferday Mr. Pitt was again in conference with his above two Hours, at the Queen's palace, in the park.

The greatest merchant at Berlin having failed, his Majesty offered to advance him 200,000 riz-dollars ; wh. he declined accepting of, not being fufficient ; but the Pruffia has granted him his protection for ten years. They write from Anifterdam, of the 22d inflant, that

#### in colonial America in 1690 in

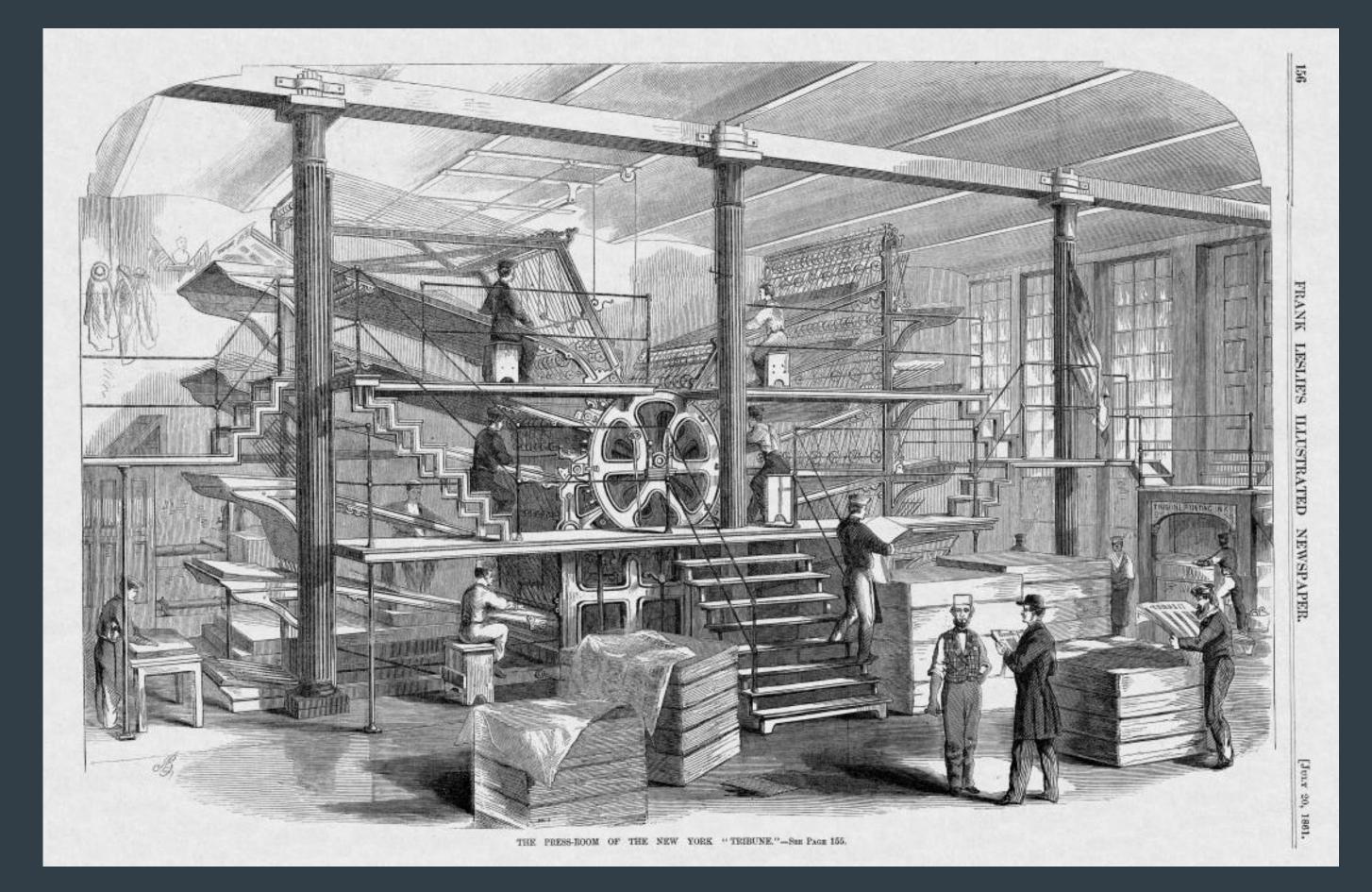
#### Massachusetts, was discontinued after only one issue.

The masthead of The Pennsylvania Gazette. Printers in early America played important roles in the local government and were in charge of printing official documents and disseminating information through newspapers. The masthead on Benjamin Franklin's The Pennsylvania Gazette served as an important colonial emblem. The image of a lion with the banner "Mercy & Justice"—the motto used by the Penn family and in official documents of the province at the time—adorned the frontpage of the newspaper. Franklin later designed one of the early colonial flags with a similar design (but with a different motto) in 1747.

Source: The Pennsylvania Gazette (November 3, 1763), The Printing Museum Collection

# AN AMERICAN IDENTITY: Newspaper layout And design

nitially, the colonists did not possess the infrastructure for printing and the British guarded their trade secrets and supply of materials. This scarcity of materials limited the newspapers' appearance. Typefaces primarily came from abroad, such as those created by British type founder William Caslon (1692–1766), while paper and ink were mostly imported. Early newspapers resembled pages of books with an emphasis on including



"The Press-Room of the New York 'Tribune" shown in Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper. The rotary printing press dramatically improved the efficiency and speed of newspaper printing. The same rotary printing press portrayed here appears in the masthead of the New-York Daily Tribune on display.

Source: Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper (July 20, 1881, page 155), archived on Illustrated Civil War Newspapers and Magazines, HarpWeek, LLC

The eighteenth century saw the growth of various industries around

By this time, Americans possessed a high degree of literacy, as well as a sensitivity to visual materials due to the spread of photography. This fueled an appetite for detailed, upto-date news on the ongoing war, encouraging the newspaper industry to rapidly respond. Improvements to the printing press, such as the incorporation of cylindrical drums, enabled newspapers to be printed at a faster speed and in even greater quantities. The news was enlivened with eye-catching headlines using different typefaces, colored illustrations, and hierarchically-organized

as much content as possible and only a few decorative images made predominantly from woodcuts.

Λς	PEO	TIM	E NI
	ASLON, Letter-Fo		
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ABCDE	nos etiam furor ifte tuus eludet? quem ad finem fefe effrenata jac-	nos etiam furor iste tuus eludet? quem ad finem sefe effrenata jac- ABCDE FGHJIKLMNO	are be and a to many of them as their from
ABCDEFG ABCDEFGHI ABCDEFGHIJK ABCDEFGHIJKL	tientia noftra ? quamdiu nos etiam fu- ror ifte tuus eludet ? quem ad finem fe- fe effrenata jottabit audacia ? njhiloe te notturuum prefidium palatii, nihil ur- bis vigilis, nihil timor noguli, njhil con-	Great Primer Italich. Quaufque tandem abstiter, Catilina, pa- tientia noftra ? quamdiu nos etiam fu- rer ifte tuus eludet ? quem ad finem fife effrenata jactabit audacia ? nibilme te nochernum profidium palatit, nibil un- hi vigilia, nibil timér populi, nibil con- ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOP2R	να Gooka. Αττλ Πηξάκ ψη της Ιριστηλά ψοιίμη ηλής φοίη αιμάι φιταληλέχης φοίη γλικολί ψιάσα φοίης σύα τη Ιριστη ναικολί ψιάσα φοίης να στάρχα λότ σμαιό τητάς πέμα πα
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butere, Catilina, pa- tientia nostra? quam- diu nos etiam furor	ASCDEFORIJKLMNOFQRSTYOWXYZ.E	long Friner Jacks No 1. Franç qui long di populari fictione di quenda inter de config notas altere es feires un desparte trafficione es con pos con agonto, son podero, son esta discionenza posente, pol long- por falme de ference. Romale polpara esta di ordente politica defini, es anterese in anter config. Influenza politica defini, es anterese in anter config. Influenza anterese in anterese interese anter config. Influenza politica defini, es anterese in anter config. Influenza politica defini, es anterese in alterese in alterese in anterese in anterese in alterese in alterese in anterese in alterese in	τος τους γιατό μεται επό στους για στός αγο απορος μοσι τούς ματός μετός ποι ματός τους τους τους ποτός παιός ματός μοτός ποι ματός τους τους τους ματός τους ματός μους Αρβάς Grack. Πρόδας ό στος το στος δράμμαζη το στος το Πρασ- λιος (στος μ. το στος δράμμαζη το στος το Πρασ- λιος (στος μ. το στος δράμμαζη) ότις στος το αρξός απόςδαθης, δης τους λόλος δου έχου μαγοριασ
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print shops, which freed the newspaper printers to print more visually appealing newspapers in larger quantities. America's first paper mill was established in 1690 by William Rittenhouse in Philadelphia, and over 180 mills were in operation by 1810. Advancements in illustration and printing techniques allowed the printers to include more images. By the 1810s, Binny & Ronaldson, the first American type foundry, could respond to the growing demand for high quality

A type specimen (London, England, 1730) by William Caslon. Typefaces designed by Caslon were hugely successful in England and the United States. The American Declaration of Independence, known as the Dunlap Broadside, was printed using a Caslon typeface, likely Four Lines Pica for the title and English Roman No. 1 or No. 2 for main text.

Source: Cary Graphic Design Archives, Rochester Institute of Technology

type and decorative ornaments.

page layouts that were easier to

read. These advances demonstrated

The Civil War marked a period of a marked improvement in the readgreat change in newspaper design. ing experience from colonial days.

# READING AMERICA: THE RISE OF LITERACY AND JOURNALISM

Fathers considered the ability to read to be a paramount quality for achieving true democracy and fostering an environment for learning. By the early nineteenth-century, almost all white New England men and women could read and write. Literacy also became crucial to the identity and advancement of emancipated African Americans. Altogether, Americans achieved a much higher literacy and a more

eighteenth -century urban centers boosted the number and volume of newspapers. Following the Stamp Act (1765) and throughout the American Revolution (1775–1783), newspapers gave focus to political news and essays. They abandoned the earlier practice of maintaining neutrality and included more partisan voices, continuing to provide anonymity to those who wished to write under the protection of the free press.

Newspapers' relationships with pol-

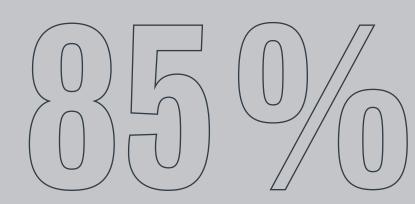
who subsidized their operations and provided materials to print.

### Among white New England men

(based on evidence from legal records)



literate in 1650–1670



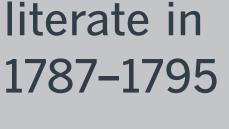
literate in 1758–1762



robust readership than their European counterparts, making reading and publishing essential to the American identity.

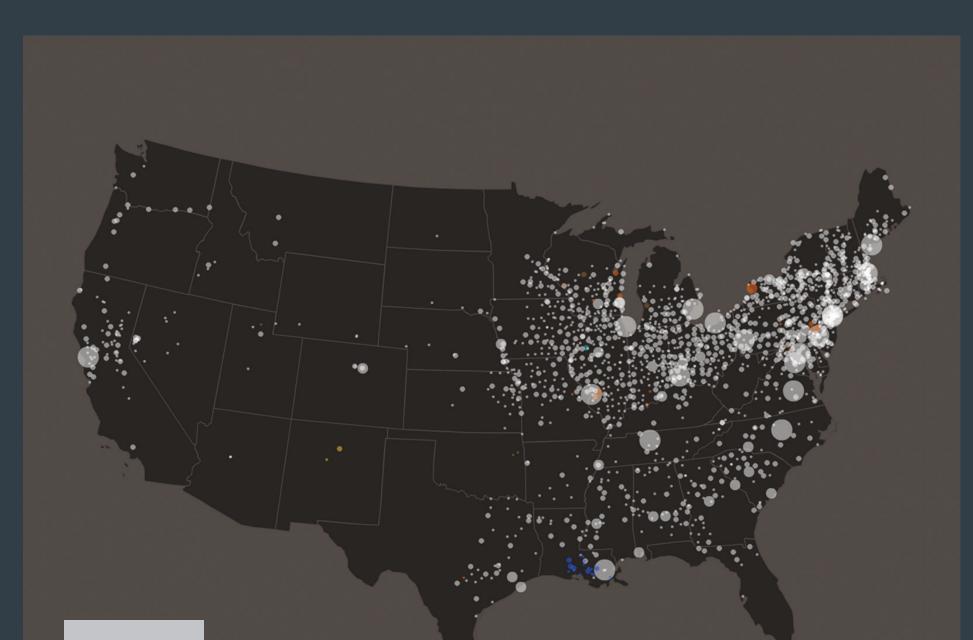
and publishing essential to the American identity. The American newspaper industry evolved with its readers. Using a system of "exchange" where articles from one newspaper were copied and reprinted freely by another, early newspapers overcame limited reporting resources and provided news and a sense of unity to the





Literacy among white New England men based on signatures found on legal records.

Source: Kenneth Lockridge, Literacy in Colonial New England: An Enquiry into the Social Context of Literacy in the Early Modern West (New York: W.W. Norton and Co.), 1974



#### colonies. As the publisher-printers

took more politically active roles, the growth of literate readerships in





Locations of newspapers in 1765 at the time of the Stamp Act
(left, 47 publications) and in 1865 at the end of the Civil War
104
(right, 4,372 publications). Newspapers started in urban
2-9
centers along the East Coast and rapidly spread westward
1 p
with the territorial expansion in the nineteenth century.

20+ publications in city
10-19 publications in city
2-9 publications in city
1 publication in city

Source: "The Growth of Newspapers Across the U.S.: 1600-2011" with data visualization by the Rural West Initiative, Bill Lane Center for the American West, Stanford University with data from Chronicling Amaerica collection, Library of Congress, Urban population estimates from NASA