

Delaware Newspapers during Ratification

Only one newspaper, *The Delaware Gazette, or, the Faithful Centinel*, appears to have been published in Delaware after 17 September 1787. The *Gazette* was published weekly by Frederick Craig and Company [Frederick Craig, Peter Brynberg, and Samuel Andrews] of Wilmington, the state's largest town. Only four issues are extant for the period 17 September 1787–June 1788: 10, 17, and 31 October, and 19 December 1787. They contain Federalist and Antifederalist articles reprinted from newspapers in other states, but no essays by Delawareans. However, Philadelphia and Baltimore newspapers reprinted material from no longer extant issues of the *Gazette* under the dateline "Wilmington."

A second weekly, *The Delaware Courant, and Wilmington Advertiser*, was published in Wilmington, but the last known issue of that paper appeared on 8 September 1787. The *Courant's* publishers were Samuel and John Adams, brothers of James Adams, Jr., who was the *Courant's* founder and a printer to the State of Delaware.

So far as is known, no Delaware printer published a pamphlet on the Constitution. However, an unidentified Philadelphia printer published, in August or September 1788, a pamphlet written by Dr. James Tilton, a Dover physician and a leader of the Whigs. Written under the pseudonym "Timoleon," the pamphlet is entitled *The Biographical History of Dionysius, Tyrant of Delaware, Addressed to the People of the United States of America*. The pamphlet is an attack upon the political activities of George Read, the leader of Delaware's Tories.

The pamphlet is essential for an understanding of Delaware politics from 1776 to 1788. Although Tilton's interpretations and the motives that he attributes to George Read are open to debate, his account of the events between October 1787 and January 1788 can be substantially corroborated from other sources.

The pamphlet has been republished with an historical and biographical introduction by John A. Munroe as *Timoleon's Biographical History of Dionysius, Tyrant of Delaware* (Newark, Del., 1958).

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