

America's First Newspaper

America's first continuously-published newspaper, the [Boston News-Letter](#) published its first issue on April 24, 1704. John Campbell, a bookseller and postmaster of Boston, was its first editor, printing the newspaper on what was then referred to as a half-sheet. It originally appeared on a single page, printed on both sides and issued weekly.

In the early years of its publication the News-Letter was filled mostly with news from London journals detailing the intrigues of English politics, and a variety of events concerning the European wars. The rest of the newspaper was filled with items listing ship arrivals, deaths, sermons, political appointments, fires, accidents and the like.

One of the most sensational stories published when the News-Letter was the only newspaper in the colonies was the account of how **Blackbeard the pirate** was killed in hand-to-hand combat on the deck of a sloop that had engaged his ship in battle.

Campbell relinquished his stewardship of the paper in 1722 to Bartholomew Green, its printer. As editor, Green devoted less space to overseas events and more to domestic news. When Green died after a decade as its editor, the News-Letter was inherited by his son John Draper, also a printer. Draper proved to be a better editor and publisher than his predecessors. He enlarged the paper to four good-sized pages, filling it with news from Boston, other towns throughout the colonies, and from abroad.

On view here is the May 14, 1761 issue of the News-Letter. The front page is displayed in its entirety. Notice the credit line Printed by J. Draper appearing under the masthead. As was the custom then, the front page was devoted to events overseas. This issue contains news from London, a speech by the King to the House of Commons, and various accounts from Westminster and Whitehall.

Also displayed from this issue is an ad from the back page for a **Scheme of a Lottery**. The lottery was created to sell 6000 tickets at \$2 each to raise funds to **pave the highway in Charlestown from the Ferry to the Neck**. Of the \$12,000 to be raised, according to the ad, \$10,800 is earmarked for prizes and \$1200 for paving the highway.

The Boston News-Letter.

Printed by J. Draper.

M. Draper's Paper

By Capt. Mulloy, who is arrived at Philadelphia from Liverpool, and Capt. Lavine, who is arrived at New-York from the same Place, in 7 Weeks, and by Capt. Finglas who is arrived also from London, we have the following Intelligence;

L O N D O N, January 27.

Extract of a Letter received at the Hague from Madrid, January 2.

However desirous the King might be to employ his mediation for reconciling the Powers at war, that matter is now drop. On the contrary, requisitions being made to the Courts of Vienna and Versailles, to finish certain regulations with respect to Italy, and the answers received not being agreeable, his Majesty hath taken his resolution to use the means which God hath put into his hands, to settle those matters himself, either amicably or by compulsion. In consequence of which, it is not doubted that a war will be kindled in Italy which will cost much blood.

The Spaniards see with pain the many favours granted to Italians; and cabals are forming.— It is given out that the King takes no pleasure in Spain; and in order to get back into Italy, wants to place Don Lewis on the Spanish throne; and to make himself despot in the greatest part of Italy, and deprive the Duke of Parma of most of his claims. It is added, that the Courts of London and Turin have been already founded, to know how far they are disposed to a defensive treaty, that the King may be able to oppose those of Vienna and Versailles, if the should still persist in the answer they have given, viz. That they could not think of those matters while the German war continued.

From the LONDON GAZETTE.

WESTMINSTER, March 3, 1761.

His Majesty gave the Royal Assent to several publick and 23 private Acts. After which His Majesty was pleased to make the following most gracious Speech.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

UPON granting new commissions to the judges, the present state of their offices fell naturally under consideration.

In consequence of the Act passed in the reign of my late glorious predecessor King William the third, for settling the succession to the crown in my family, their commissions have been made during their good behaviour; but, notwithstanding that wise provision, their offices have determined upon the demise of the crown, or at the expiration of 6 months afterwards, in every instance of that nature which has happened.

I look upon the independency, and uprightnes of the judges of the land, as essential to the impartial administration of justice, as one of the best securities to the rights and liberties of my loving Subjects, and as most conducive to the honour of the crown; and I come now to recommend this interesting object to the consideration of parliament, in order that such further provision may be made, for securing the judges in the enjoyment of their offices, during their good behaviour, notwithstanding any such demise, as shall be most expedient.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

I must desire of you in particular, that I may be enabled to grant and establish upon the judges such salaries as I shall think proper, so as to be absolutely secured to them during the continuance of their commissions.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I have nothing to add, but my thanks for the great unanimity and application, with which you have carried on the publick business, and to desire you to proceed with the same good disposition, and with such dispatch that this session may be soon brought to a happy conclusion.

Paris, January 26. Marshal Duke of Belleisle died yesterday at Versailles, aged seventy-eight.— He was Knight of the order of the Holy Ghost, and that of the Golden Fleece; a Prince of the Empire, and Governor of the three bishopricks of Metz, Toul, and Verdun. His body is to be interred at the abbey church of St. Denis, the burial place of the royal Family.

Councils are frequently held on the dispatches received from abroad, and are thought to be relative to a peace; and as several neutral powers seem to set about that work in earnest, we begin to hope it may be accomplished; if not, this war will rage with greater fury; as some arrangements, especially concerning Italy, will greatly contribute thereto.— We already see preparations which leave no doubt

Hamburgh, January 27. The Duke of Mecklenburgh who had lately retired to Lubock, is returned to Schwerin, the usual place of his residence, after having agreed with the Prussians with regard to the contributions they had required, which have been reduced to 1,500,000 crowns, one third of which, it is said, he has agreed to pay himself; the rest by the noblesse and inhabitants of the country.

WESTMINSTER, February 25.

THIS Day an Express arrived at the Earl of Holderness's office, with letters of the 21st inst. from the Hon. Maj. Gen. Yorke, his Majesty's minister at the Hague, with a particular account of the operations of his Majesty's army in Hesse, dated the 16th inst. from Neustadt, the head quarters of Prince Ferdinand of Brunfwick.—

—The army assembled on the 9th, inst. at their different points of rendezvous on the Dymel, the Rhine and in Saurland; Pr. Ferdinand went the same day to Giesmar, where Lieut. Gen. Gilsac had marched with the corps under his orders, the next day the troops halted & the dispositions for the motions of the whole were communicated to the Generals.

11th, The army marched in 4 columns, each column preceded by a vanguard of picquets, formed into battalions and squadrons, and commanded by a General. The Generals were Lieut. Gen. Gilsac, the hereditary Prince, Gen. Breidenbach, and Sporcken. At Casselberg, Gen. Breidenbach took 100 prisoners.

On the 12th Gen. Gilsac marched to Dreutenberg, where the vanguards of all the columns rejoined, and were augmented with some cavalry, and the Marquis of Granby was appointed to command that corps. The hereditary Prince cantoned his corps about Zuffen from whence he went with a few battalions to Fitzlar, and attack'd it with great spirit but without effect, for they made a resolute defence. On the 13th Gen. Breidenbach took possession of a magazine of 40,000 stons at Rothenthal, and advanced to Marpurg, which he attempted without success, and was killed in the attack. The loss of this excellent General is greatly lamented. Gen. d'Oheim has been appointed to succeed him.

14th, Lord Granby enter'd the village of Gudafberg, where he found some provision and forage. The garrison of 300 men retired into the old castle.

Yesterday morning some bombs having been thrown into the town of Fitzlar, Col. de Narbonne offer'd to capitulate, if the most honourable terms were allow'd him; which were granted him in consideration of his brave defence, upon condition however, that the garrison should not serve during the present campaign; the commander having refused to subscribe to that condition a brisk cannonade was begun again, and continued for half an hour, after which the terms were accepted. Yesterday the enemy attacked the post of Geitzangen near Felberg, but were repulsed with the loss of two officers and twenty soldiers.

We have further accounts that Guderberg had surrender'd to the Marquis of Granby, and advice just received from Gen. Sporcken, at Thumabruck upon the Unstrut, we likewise learn, that he in conjunction with the Prussians, had attacked the Saxons in those parts, and besides cutting a great number of them to pieces, he had taken five Saxon battalions prisoners of war.

Whitehall, March 3. This day another express arrived from Maj. Gen. Yorke, as follows.

Prince Ferdinand's head quarters at Hanfen, Feb. 12.

The commandant of Fitzlar having accepted the conditions offer'd him, march'd out of the town with his corps consisting of 965 men, besides 105 wounded.— On the 17th, the army advanced to Ober Vohschatz the ran took possession of the pass of Felsberg, and Gen. Zaltow of the pass of Neider Mellerick.— The hereditary Prince got before hand of the enemy, and took possession of the post of Moberg. The Prince of Schaumbourg Lippe, took the command of a great body of the army which remained near Cassel. The same day our troops enter'd Mellunger, which M. Broglio left the evening before, in order to repair to Hirschfeld. The enemy had only time to destroy a part of the magaz. de there, a considerable quantity of meal and forage fell into our hands, also another considerable magazine at Ober Morschen.

M. d'Oheim having learnt the 17th that M. de Maupeou was with his corps at Sachsenberg, put himself in motion the 18th, to march towards the enemy, whose advanced guard he met with between Sachsenberg and Neuenkirchen, he was immediately attack'd and routed, M. de Maupeou lieutenant-general, who was there in person, was taken with a lieutenant colonel five officers and 60 soldiers, amongst which

On the 19th the enemy abandoned Hirschfeld, and set fire to the magazine, our troops enter'd the next day, and saved great part of the magazine, which had consisted of 80,000 sacks of meal, 50,000 of oats, and a million rations of hay.— The French troops which left that place in the night, and march'd towards Fulda, were 15 battalions.

All the artillery and baggage of the five Saxon battalions made prisoners by General Sporcken, likewise fell into his hands.

On the 19th, News came from M. de Sporcken (by Captain de Borch, his Aid-de-Camp.)— That M. de Luckner attacked the 12th, the French and Swiss Grenadiers, who had passed the Night under Arms, in the Wood of Dorne, over against his advanced Posts at Anrode and Buckewide. He pushed them as far as the Heights of Egerieden, where they gained a thick Wood, which Count de Solms had fortified by felled Trees. They cannonaded each other. The Enemy received Reinforcements from the Quarters on the Weirra; and those of the Saxons.

The Night coming on, M. de Sporcken could not assemble his Men, so as to undertake any thing against the Enemy; he contented himself with making some Changes in the Disposition of his Quarters, and so push the Posts farther on. The skirmishes of this Day cost him forty Men kill'd and wounded. The Loss of the Enemy was more considerable, and four Officers and 50 of their Men were taken.

M. de Sporcken put his Troops in Order of Battle the 19th, at 7 o'Clock in the Morning, upon the Height called Elberg; but having found the Enemy considerably reinforced; that they had occupied all the Woods where the Horse could not act; and that the Troops of his Prussian Majesty were at the Distance of three Marcas, he refused to pass the Unstrut at Silberhausen and Horstmar, to draw near them by forced March.

The Corps of Prussians advanced the 19th to the Height of Langensalzze, which was occupied by 3000 Saxons. M. de Spoken occupied the Village on the left Side of the River Unstrut, with the Troops of his first Line, and drew those of his second Line as near it as possible.

He agreed with M. de Sibourg, that the Prussian Troops should pass the Unstrut at Merxleben, whilst he pass'd it at Thumabruck, and M. de Luckner at Bollstedt. In the Night the Bridges, which the Enemy had broken, were repaired.

The Prussian Cavalry got through the Passage of Merckleledt, while their Cannon was battering the Town of Langensalzze. Eight Squadrons of M. de Sporcken's first Line pass'd at Thumabruck with a Bridge of Chasseurs, and a Squadron of Luckner's, whose whole Corps could not pass, the Waters continuing out all the Day. In the mean Time the Prussian Cavalry fell upon the Enemy, who were going out of Langensalzze; and M. de Sporcken's Corps did so likewise upon the Troops which were coming down the Hill to their Assistance.

M. de Sporcken computes the Enemy's Loss that Day at 5000 men, at the same Time that his own scarcely exceeds 1000. Lieut. Gen. Hodeberg was wounded and taken Prisoner.

The Prussians took 3 Battalions, and 7 Pieces of Cannon; and M. de Sporcken's Troops took two Battalions and six Pieces of Cannon.

L O N D O N, January 31.

His Prussian Majesty's affairs are at present in excellent order; his army is very numerous; his magazines properly disposed, and well replenish'd. He has fought peace while he was preparing for war; and the public will receive the most authentic proofs of the veracity of these assertions from his early operations, which may possibly decide the fate of the campaign almost as soon as it is begun.

A letter from the head-quarters of the allied army at Niedenstein in Hessa, dated Feb. 16, has these Words. "We have now got into the country we so long craved the French, who enjoyed much better Winter-quarters than we; and that magazines of forage are already fallen into our hands, the largest of which is at Fitzlar; though that taken at Rothenthal, by the much lamented Gen. Breidenbach, (who was afterwards kill'd in an unsuccessful attempt upon Marpurg) was no inconsiderable one."

Letters from Hamburgh advise, that five battalions, and five squadrons of Mecklenburgh troops, are entered into the service of Great-Britain.

Advices from Paris and Vienna agree, that the Court of Madrid insists upon a Settlement in Italy, for

Charlestown, May 2, 1761.

SCHEME of a LOTTERY,

FOR raising a Sum of Money for Paving the Publick High-Way in Charlestown, from the Ferry to the Neck (so called) agreeable to an Act of the General Court passed in April 1760. Wherein James Russell, Esq; Messrs Caleb Gill, Isaac Foster, Nathaniel Rand, David Newell, Samuel Kent and Jabez Whittemore, or any three of them are appointed Managers, who are sworn to the faithful Performance of their Trust.

Charlestown-LOTTERY, No. THREE,

Consists of 6000 Tickets, at Two Dollars each, 1521 of which are Benefit Tickets of the following Value, viz.

1	Prize of 750 Dollars,	is	750 Dollars
1	of 500	is	500
1	of 250	is	250
1	of 200	is	200
10	of 100	are	1000
10	of 50	are	500
12	of 40	are	480
15	of 20	are	300
90	of 10	are	900
100	of 8	are	800
1280	of 4	are	5120

1521 Prizes, 10,800 Dollars,
4479 Blanks.

6000 Tickets, at 2 Dollars each, is 12000 Dollars,
To be paid in Prizes, 10,800 Dollars.

Remains 1200 Dollars
to be applied to the Purpose aforesaid.

[Between two and three Blanks to a Prize.]
By this Scheme and State of the Account, it appears that there will be no Deduction out of the Prizes—And as this Lottery is formed for a Public Benefit, and calculated so much in Favour of Adventurers, the Managers doubt not of a speedy Sale of the Tickets, and that they shall be able to draw in a short Time; as a great Number of Tickets are already engag'd.

Public and seasonable Notice will be given for the Time and Place of Drawing; and as soon as it is finished, a List of the Prizes will be Published in *Edes and Gill's Boston Gazette and Country Journal*, and the Money paid to the Possessors of the Benefit Tickets in Twenty Days; and as Gold as well as Silver will be received for Tickets, the Prizes will be paid off in like Manner.

Prizes not demanded in Twelve Months after Drawing, will be deemed as generously given to the common Stock for Paving said Way, and will be applied accordingly.

TICKETS to be Sold by the Managers at their respective Dwelling-Houses in Charlestown; and by *Green & Russell* and *Edes & Gill*, at their Printing Offices in Queen-Street, Boston.