

Connecticut Newspapers during Ratification

The best sources for the Federalist response to the Constitution are the state's nine weekly newspapers. They were so overwhelmingly Federalist that they printed only a handful of Antifederalist items.

Two newspapers were published in New Haven, one of the state's two capitals. They were Josiah Meigs's *The New-Haven Gazette*, and the *Connecticut Magazine* and Thomas and Samuel Green's *The Connecticut Journal*. The *New Haven Gazette* published Roger Sherman's five essays signed "A Countryman." A third southwestern newspaper was Francis Forgue and Peter Bulkeley's *The Fairfield Gazette; or, the Independent Intelligencer*, but only a few issues are extant.

Two newspapers were published in Hartford, the state's other capital. They were Barzillai Hudson and George Goodwin's *The Connecticut Courant*, and *Weekly Intelligencer* and Elisha Babcock's *The American Mercury*. Their principal original material consisted of the "Landholder" essays by Oliver Ellsworth.

The *Courant* probably had the largest circulation of any Connecticut newspaper, and items from it were often reprinted in other states. A third Connecticut River newspaper was published in Middletown by Moses H. Woodward and Thomas Green. It was called *The Middlesex Gazette* until 5 November 1787, when it became *The Middlesex Gazette, or, Foederal Adviser*.

Two newspapers were printed in eastern Connecticut: Timothy Green's *The Connecticut Gazette* in New London and John Trumbull's *The Norwich Packet, And the Country Journal* in Norwich. Both papers reprinted a great deal from other Connecticut newspapers.

The ninth Connecticut newspaper was published by Thomas Collier in the northwestern town of Litchfield. It was called *The Weekly Monitor* until 31 December 1787, after which it became *Collier's (Litchfield) Weekly Monitor*.

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