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POLITICAL NEWSPAPERS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA UP COUNTRY, 1850-1859: A COMPENDIUM

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South Carolina's Piedmont area newspapers constituted the most important local medium for disseminating news and reflecting the culture of the Up Country in the 1850's. The coverage of state and local news was just beginning to come to the forefront. Upstate papers, like most others, were interested in foreign affairs—the Crimean hostilities, Cuba, Hungary, Russian serfdom, the growth of abolitionism in western European countries—and in national news, which generally evolved around questions of the extension of slavery in the territories of the United States. Piedmont papers treated their readers to a profusion of clipped and locally written fiction, poetry, book reviews, essays, humor, and medicinal aids. Editors encouraged the contribution of literary wares and sometimes even produced literary matter for their own and neighboring newspapers. These offerings, plus the ever popular letter-to-the-editor, were reflections of local culture not duplicated elsewhere. Newspaper advertising also was a valuable reflector of the social scene, offering an almost unlimited amount of material depicting an agrarian society based upon the institution of Negro slavery and revealing useful data on such subject as miscegenation, slave market prices, occupations, literacy, clothing, family life, provisions of masters for slaves, diseases, crime, and the devotion of the Negro to the white man.

Primarily, however, upstate newspapers of the 1850's existed for political reasons. As a result of the one-party position assumed by the state's populace, editors often agreed upon national matters, but factionalism developed when immediate secession and allegiance to the national Democratic party became significant issues. On the state and local scene Up-Country editors were usually leaders in the demand for political, social, educational, and economic reform, often in the face of determined opposition by conservative legislators.

In the 1850's upstate gazettes experienced notable growth and development. During this period every election district boasted one or more newspapers. Mechanical improvements, use of durable rag content newsprint, improved ink, and journalistic competition led to the production of more interesting and readable formats.

VII

Great Miles! he who wields the satirical pen,
And uses up brownly the manners of men!
His satire as cutting, so ere it hath torn you,
Just "longe fuge; ferum habet in cornu"! ⁸

VIII

And seel who comes staving along all alone!
With a figure composed of tough parchment and bone;
With a large mass of hair sticking fast to his face,
While his boots and his breeches are running a race!

IX

'Tis Gibbes, who is willing a life-time to pass,
'Mongst telescopes, crucibles, planets and gas;
His name 'mongst the students, I needs must suppress,
Since it might offend him, which would give me distress.

X

But hark! I hear footsteps! Saints guard us! what's this!
I see a huge bear coming up the stair-case!
A mop whose vast size even Bluebeard might scare—
Is't a goat, or a human, which wears so much hair!

XI

A goat! hal hal hal 'tis no goat I'm afeared,⁹
For I see too large fingers now, twisting the beard!
Since old Jasper ¹⁰ the College ne'er suffered from sway
Of such a hairy-faced Bug ¹¹ as old Freddy Porcher.

XII

Old Fudge is the last who requires a verse;
His voice, it sounds sour, his face, it looks worse.
Both Juniors and Seniors owe him an old grudge,
So a health to the President, Finley or Fudge!

XIII

A single fact only is left me to add,
Strange enough in itself; yet makes me feel glad—
Mysterious truth! unknown to Ancient Rome,
Where Peace prevails, dark Nero ¹² makes his home!

⁸ Hor. Lib. I, Sat. IV, line 33.

⁹ A "poetical license" for afraid.

¹⁰ Jasper Adams, former President of C. C.

¹¹ Professor.

¹² The negro man of all work, who attends to the College.

Piedmont South Carolina newspapers compared favorably with their twentieth century counterparts. The ante-bellum journals kept their readers better informed upon national and foreign affairs than any but the larger South Carolina dailies of a century later, placed more emphasis upon quality of news matter printed, and gave more extensive coverage of debates, treaties, political proceedings, speeches, documents, and verbatim reports of laws than today's weeklies, semi-weeklies, tri-weeklies, and most small dailies. Editorially, present-day publications lack the personal touch and editorial stress noted in newspapers of the 1850's. Personal journalism was still the vogue, and readers knew where their favorite editor stood on nearly every issue. Then, too, editorials were locally written and subscribers were not subjected to the stereotyped products of syndicates which appear on so many editorial pages today. Only in presentation of the local news and in general appearance are the twentieth century Piedmont South Carolina gazettes superior to their predecessors.

It is regrettable that complete or strong files of many of the papers of the ante-bellum decade are no longer available. Yet in spite of the ravages of war, the various hazards of the past hundred years, and the general apathy toward newspaper preservation, files of a number of valuable gazettes still remain, largely because of the efforts of certain repositories and individuals and the durability of the rag content used for newsprint.

The following compendium does not pretend to be exhaustive in scope but it does include the major holdings of repositories of Up-Country South Carolina newspapers for the 1850's. Only those papers other than strictly religious, literary, and temperance publications are incorporated into this study. These latter are few in number, generally of short duration, and almost non-existent in files for the 1850's. All other weeklies, semi-weeklies, tri-weeklies, and dailies published along or west of the fall line of the rivers are included.

The first column presents, under each election district, the title of the paper, its place of publication (unless indicated in the title), frequency of issue, date of establishment, and U. S. Census circulation figures for 1850 and 1860 wherever obtainable, followed by a brief outline of the paper's editors, owners, publishers, and mergers. The second column records the repositories of each paper and indicates by date the approximate strength of the file.

KEY TO LOCATION SYMBOLS

A-Ar	Dept. of Archives and History of the State of Alabama, Montgomery	ScEr	McCain Library, Erskine College
CtY	Sterling Memorial Library, Yale University	ScGW	Private collection of E. E. Wells, Greenville
NcD	Duke University	ScR	Rock Hill Public Library
NcU	University of North Carolina	ScS	Spartanburg Public Library
ScCL	Charleston Library Society	ScUA	Private collection of H. M. Arthur, Union
ScCLC	Clemson College Library	ScU	Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina
ScE	Tompkins Memorial Library, Edgefield	LC	Library of Congress

ABBEVILLE

The Abbeville Banner, weekly, established 1844. 1,000 . . . 900.

Charles H. Allen, founder. 1851, Henry S. Kerr, editor and proprietor. 1852, C. H. Allen and R. A. Fair, editors and publishers. April 21, 1853, F. W. Selleck purchased paper with "large indebtedness." 1854, J. H. Logan and W. C. Davis, editors. 1855, James Hollingsworth became part owner till March 26, 1857, when he sold interest to T. B. Crews.

The Independent Press (Abbeville), weekly, est. May 1853. — . . . 850.

B. L. Posey, founder. 1854, C. C. Puckett and George W. Fant, editors. July 29, 1854, Fant retired and M. Puckett became co-editor. Oct. 10, 1856, W. A. Lee and William Henry Wilson bought the paper with Lee, editor. 1859, Lee, sole owner.

ScEr:

1850-1855, scattered issues; Jan. 3, 1856-Nov. 2, 1860, complete except for June 6-Dec. 1858.

ScEr:

June 3, 1854-Nov. 2, 1860, almost complete.

ANDERSON

The Anderson Gazette, weekly, est. Nov. 11, 1843. 700 . . . 1,700.

1850, T. H. Russell and Archibald Todd, publishers; Major Harrison, editor. 1854, S. G. Earle, editor. Dec. 1854, merged with *Southern Rights Advocate* as *Gazette and Advocate*. Suspended publication early in 1855. Appeared early in 1856 as *The Anderson Gazette*. Jan. 1857, Earle transferred ownership to A. O. Norris & Co. 1859, Hoyt, editor.

ScU and NcD:

Scattered issues for all Anderson papers.

Southern Rights Advocate (Anderson), weekly, est. Sept. 1851.

I. J. Rice, editor and publisher. Jan. 1854, Rice, editor; J. T. Hershman, publisher. Dec. 1854, their interests sold to S. G. Earle, and paper merged with *The Anderson Gazette*.

The True Carolinian (Anderson), weekly, est. Feb. 1, 1856.

J. V. Moore, founder. Moore still editor and proprietor in May 1857; F. E. Martin, publisher. May 1858, Moore sold plant to E. Symmes, who moved paper to Pendleton, S. C.¹

CHESTER

The Chester Palmetto Standard, weekly, est. Dec. 1849. 700 . . . —.

1850, C. Davis Melton, editor; R. W. Murray, publisher. 1851, title changed to *The Palmetto Standard*, Melton, editor and proprietor. Jan. 5, 1853, Samuel Melton (brother of C. Davis), associate editor. Jan. 1854, title changed to *Chester Standard*; Samuel Melton resigned as editor.

The Chester Standard, weekly, est. Jan. 1854. — . . . 1,200.

Successor to *The Palmetto Standard*; S. M. Melton, editor and publisher. Jan. 11, 1855, J. B. Mickle, editor. 1856, Mickle, editor and proprietor. 1857, Mickle, editor; Mickle and Pither, proprietors. 1858, Charles S. Brice, editor and proprietor, succeeded in 1859 by E. J. McDaniel.

CHESTERFIELD

The Cheraw Gazette, weekly, est. 1838. 500 . . . 800.

James Powell, editor and proprietor in the 1850's.

CtY: ²

1850-1853, representative strength.

CtY:

1854-1859, representative strength.

NcD:

1853 and 1859, scattered issues.

¹ According to plans, Martin was to revive the *True Carolinian*, but no files have been located on the revived paper.

² Most of the South Carolina newspaper files in the Sterling Memorial Library at Yale belonged to U. B. Phillips, renowned Southern historian, who taught at that university.

Pee Dee Herald (Cheraw), weekly and semi-weekly, est. 1856. No files located.

W. L. S. Prince and J. R. Malloy, founders. Oct. 1, 1857, Malloy, sole editor and owner. By Feb. 5, 1859, S. J. Gillespie, editor and proprietor. 1859, changed to semi-weekly. June 1859, ceased publication for lack of funds.

EDGEFIELD

The Edgefield Advertiser, weekly, est. 1835. 815 . . . 2,200.

William F. Durisoe, founder. 1850, W. C. Moragne, editor; Durisoe, proprietor. Jan. 23, 1851, Arthur Simkins, editor; Durisoe, proprietor. March 4, 1852, John Bacon, associate editor. Jan. 10, 1855, D. R. Durisoe became half-owner with his father. Nov. 26, 1856, William Durisoe sold his interest to Arthur Simkins, Elijah Keese, and D. R. Durisoe, who incorporated the printing establishment. Simkins continued as editor.

ScE:

1850-1859, complete.

ScU:

1851-1859, almost complete.

The Republican (Hamburg), weekly, est. June 1850. 800 . . . —.

June 1850, B. Baird, editor and proprietor, sold the paper to J. M. Robinson and J. N. Carlisle. Jan. 1853, paper re-sold to Baird. Ceased publication shortly thereafter.

No files located.

The Valley Pioneer (Hamburg), weekly, est. Sept., 1854

1854, C. W. Styles, editor, and J. M. Robinson, publisher. Jan. 3, 1855, Robinson both publisher and owner. Ceased publication, Sept. 15, 1855.

NcD:

1854, 1855, very scattered issues.

Hamburg Courier, weekly, est. Oct. 1855.

1855, Robert A. Thompson, editor, and S. S. Browne, publisher. Ceased publication shortly thereafter.

NcD:

1855, very scattered issues.

The Edgefield Informer, weekly, est. Feb. 1856.

C. W. Styles, editor and publisher. Ceased publication about Nov. 1, 1856, and the plant listed for sale.

No files located.

FAIRFIELD

The Fairfield Herald (Winnsboro), weekly, est. Feb. 1849. 800 . . . 1,200.

Edward H. Britton, founder. Spring of 1852, J. B. Mickle, editor and part owner. Late 1853 or early 1854, Frank Gaillard, editor and proprietor. April 1859, A. Desportes, publisher and owner; D. M. Clarke, editor.

The Register (Winnsboro), daily and tri-weekly, est. Sept. 22, 1850. — . . . 500.

Edward H. Britton, founder. Feb. 10, 1854, Frank Gaillard and D. W. Aiken, editors and proprietors. Jan. 1855, became tri-weekly; Gaillard listed as owner.

CtY:

1850-1852, representative strength.

1854-1860, scattered issues.

CtY:

1850-1853, scattered issues.

1854-1860, representative strength.

GREENVILLE

The Greenville Mountaineer, weekly, est. Jan. 10, 1829. 1,400 . . . —.

O. H. Wells and W. H. Campbell, publishers, and William H. Campbell, editor. July 12, 1850, after twenty-five years as publisher and sometimes editor, Wells sold his interest to Campbell. April 1854, W. M. Thomas, owner and junior editor; G. F. Townes, senior editor; O. H. Wells, publisher. 1855, J. R. Gossett, editor. December 14, 1855, merged with *Southern Patriot* [see below].

A-Ar:³

Jan.-Oct. 1850, complete; 1852, scattered issues.

ScGW:

1850, complete.

The Southern Patriot (Greenville), tri-weekly and weekly, est. Feb. 28, 1851. — . . . 1,440.

B. F. Perry and C. J. Elford, founders, editors, and publishers. Founded as weekly edition, tri-weekly appearing April 22, 1851. Feb. 26, 1852, G. E. Elford listed as publisher with Perry and C. J. Elford, editors. June 23, 1853, C. J. Elford withdrew. Dec. 14, 1855, paper merged with *Greenville Mountaineer* as *Patriot and Mountaineer*, B. F. Perry, editor; C. J. Elford, sole owner. Nov. 13, 1856, G. E. Elford became sole proprietor and publisher; C. J. Elford and T. Q. Donaldson, junior edi-

A-Ar:

Feb. 28, 1851-Feb. 12, 1857, weekly, complete.

Apr. 22, 1851-Feb. 12, 1852, tri-weekly, complete.

ScCL:

Feb. 28, 1851-Feb. 1853, weekly, complete.

ScGW:

1851-1853, weekly, complete.

³ The Greenville files and a few other miscellaneous South Carolina newspapers owned by the Alabama Department of Archives and History were once the property of Benjamin F. Perry.

tors, left the paper. Perry remained editor until he retired, Feb. 18, 1858, succeeded by G. E. Elford. By June 2, 1858, Donaldson and S. D. Goodlet were listed as editors; G. E. Elford, owner.

The Southern Enterprise (Greenville), weekly, est. May 19, 1854. — . . . 1,200.

W. P. Price, editor and owner; T. J. Price and W. P. Price, publishers. Jan. 3, 1856, W. P. Price, sole editor, publisher, and proprietor. Jan. 8, 1857, W. P. Price listed as editor and proprietor with C. M. McJunkin, publisher. Dec. 31, 1857, McJunkin, half owner and co-publisher. Jan. 1, 1860, John C. Bailey and C. M. McJunkin, publishers and owners; W. P. Price, editor.

KERSHAW

The Camden Journal, semi-weekly and weekly, est. 1839. 600 . . . 650.

Jan 2, 1850, Thomas J. Warren and C. A. Price, owners. May 1851, Warren bought out Price and controlled the *Journal* throughout the 1850's. Jan. 1853, paper changed to weekly.

The Southern Republic (Camden), weekly, est. June 14, 1851.

C. A. Price, founder, editor, and publisher. Oct. 1851, ceased publication.

LANCASTER

The Lancaster Ledger, weekly, est. Jan. 1852. — . . . 700.

1853, R. S. Bailey, editor and proprietor. May 21, 1856, sold to William M. Connors, who continued as editor and publisher through the 1850's.

ScCL:

May 19, 1854-Dec. 20, 1860, complete except for May 13, 1858-May 4, 1859, and July 28, 1859-Nov. 1859.

ScU:

1850-1855, complete.

ScU, NcD, NcU:

1855-1860, scattered issues.

NcD:

June 21-Oct. 24, 1851, nearly complete.

ScU:

1853-1860, nearly complete.

(To be continued)