

# Mind Your P's and Q's!

*Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.*

Thomas Jefferson, 1787

By the eve of the Revolutionary War, some two dozen papers were issued in the colonies, although for many years, Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania remained the centers of American printing. Articles in colonial papers, brilliantly conceived by revolutionary propagandists, were a major force that influenced public opinion in America from reconciliation with England to full political independence.

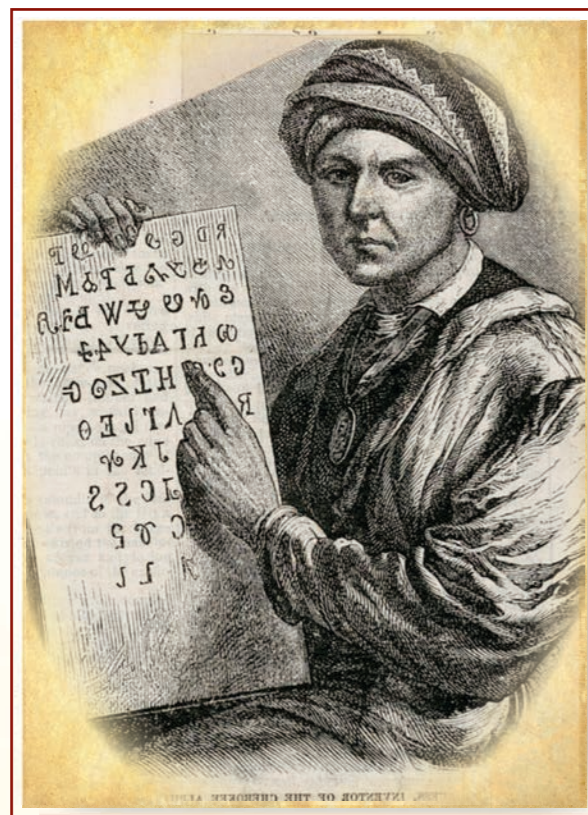
## The First Cherokee Newspaper

Between 1809 and 1821, Sequoyah (Cherokee: ᎠᎢᎠᎵᎠ, S-si-qua-ya)

*accomplished a feat, which no other person in history has done single-handedly. Through the development of the Cherokee Syllabary, he brought our people literacy and the gift of communicating through long distances and the ages. This one person brought to his people this great gift without hired educators, no books and no cost.*

"The Cherokee Advocate," June 26, 1845

Sequoyah ᎠᎢᎠᎵᎠ (Ssiquaya) was born in Tennessee, about 8 miles from Echota, the capital of the old Cherokee Nation, ca. 1760. About 1809, Sequoyah spoke with friends about the non-Indian method of communicating through writing. He tried to think of a way for the Cherokee to do the same.



After his marriage in 1815, he continued to study this idea, and began listening intently to individual sounds that made up words. After long study, he realized 85 individual syllables were used to make up the many words of the Cherokee language.

After convincing his tribe that the symbols on paper really represented talking, literacy spread quickly throughout the Cherokee Nation. This benefited teachers and missionaries and helped preserve history, culture and spiritual practices.

"The Cherokee Phoenix" newspaper was published in English and Cherokee on February 21, 1828, in the Cherokee Nation capital, New Echota—the first



published by Native Americans in the U.S. and the first published in a Native American language. The paper continued until 1834. The "Cherokee Phoenix" was revived in the 20th Century, and today the paper is published in both print and internet versions in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

The Industrial Revolution dramatically affected newspapers. The numbers of papers and their paid circulations rose; the 1850 census catalogued 2,526 titles. In the 1850s powerful, giant presses appeared, able to print ten thousand complete papers per hour. The first "pictorial" weeklies emerged featuring illustrations of events in the news printed from woodcut engravings made from correspondents' sketches or taken from that new invention, the photograph.

During the Civil War the demand for timely, accurate news reporting transformed American journalism. Many accounts of battles turned in stand today as the definitive histories of their subjects.

## Delaware County

The first newspaper to be published in Grove was the *Cemeter*, published every Friday by W.N. Moore. The first issue was dated November 25, 1898.

Henry M. Butler and his wife and family moved to Grove Springs, I.T., and Henry started the *Grove Sun*. Henry's oldest son, Orlando E., was soon running the paper by himself.

O.E. Butler was extremely outspoken about his views on almost every subject. He pushed for statehood and promoted new businesses and growth for Grove. He urged people to patronize local businesses and support their community. His son Owen L. worked with his father and succeeded him as editor of the *Grove Sun*.



O. E. Butler in 1947 with the printing press he used when he bought the *Grove Sun* in 1905 courtesy Gibson Studio

One of Holland Christian's daughters worked for the *Grove Sun* during her high school years. She recalls, *Mr. Butler didn't write out his editorials in advance as most editors would, but instead composed them as he set them in type.*

By 1906 in the town of Kansas, Oklahoma, a printing shop published *The Cherokee Hummer*, a sizeable local paper. The weekly newspaper in the town of Jay, Oklahoma, the *Delaware County Chieftain*, was the forerunner of today's newspaper, the *Delaware County Journal*. Guy Tweedy was owner and editor of the *Chieftain*.

## Did You Know?

Just a year after Oklahoma became a state, in the town of Winslow, Arkansas, a woman named Maud Dunlap married Gilbert Duncan, a newspaper man. At first Maud assisted her husband, but after his early death, continued producing the *Winslow American* on her own. She hand set-the type, sold ads and delivered her paper. Maud kept the newspaper running from 1908 until the early 1950s.

Weighing less than 100 pounds, she had to hop up on the foot pedal and let her weight get the press moving. She had to "mind her p's and q's" so as not to mix the letters up when setting her type because the letters were so similar. Today this expression is used to mean something entirely different! This unique woman also taught school, was the second female to become a pharmacist in Arkansas, was Mayor of Winslow (with an all woman town council) and advocated for women's suffrage.

Maud's printing press and type cabinet are housed in the Print Shop at Har-Ber Village, and several pictures of Maud are hung on the shop's walls.

