

Did You Know That...?

Excursions into Walpole People, Places & History with Ray Boas

...**The Walpole Clarion** is the sixth newspaper published in Walpole? Well, it depends upon how you count. *The New Hampshire Journal*; or, *The Farmers Weekly Museum* was published from 1793 until 1810 (seventeen years), but it had different editors and owners, and six name changes. If you count each iteration of the *Farmers Weekly* separately, in a tad over two years your **Clarion** will become the longest running newspaper published in Walpole.

When I moved to Walpole, I was told George Washington subscribed to the *Farmers Weekly*, but never could find the substantiation I needed. Until now. I just discovered, in a recent post on *Founders Online at the National Archives*, that Isaiah and Alexander Thomas wrote the following letter to George Washington:

Walpole, N.H. Oct. 24 1798

Sir,

As a specimen of literary and miscellaneous "folio of four pages," printed weekly in this place, we send you the paper which accompanies these. Do us the honour to accept of the numbers as they are published. We have a laudable ambition of numbering so worthy a Man among our readers. With profound respect, We are Sir, Your obedt & humble servts

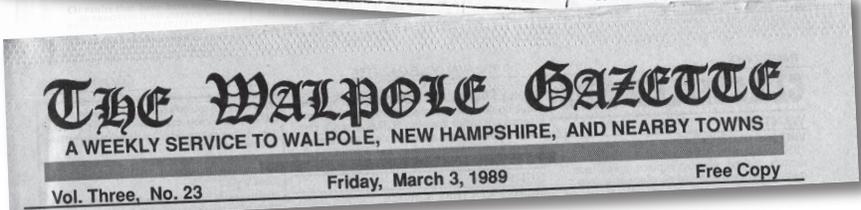
Ish & Alexr Thomas

Washington replied on November 20:

Gentln I have recd your polite letter of the 24th Ulto requesting my acceptance, as they may be published, of the number of your literary & miscellaneous paper.

I cannot, consistently with a rule I have prescribed to myself, accept your paper as a present, but, as I wish to promote, as much as is in my power, these publications which may be useful & beneficial to our Count[r]y, I beg you to consider me as a subscriber to your (paper), which you will be pleased to send me accordingly, directed to Mt Vernon, and be pleased to let me know the terms of subscription, and to whom I shall make paymt. I am Gentl. Yr mo. obdt st G. Washington

Noted Colonial Printer, Isaiah Thomas published Volume 1, No. 1 of *The New Hampshire Journal*; or, *The Farmer's Weekly Museum*, April 11, 1793, at the northeast corner of Main and High Streets. That building still exists. David Carlisle joined as editor, and on April 11, 1794, the paper became *The New Hampshire and Vermont Journal*; or, *The Farmer's Weekly Museum*. Three more name changes followed until 1804, when



the paper became known simply as *The Farmer's Museum*. Publication ceased October 15, 1810.

The *Political Observatory* was published by David Newhall from 1803 to 1809, and supported Thomas Jefferson's Presidency (The *Farmer's Museum* advocated the principles of the Federal party). The *Democratic Republican*, a weekly, was published for one year from July 4, 1812, to July 5, 1813. George Aldrich wrote in 1880 that *The Cheshire Gazette*, a weekly, was published here for one year (1825-1826); and Hale and Stone published their *The Farmer's Museum* between 1823 and 1824. I have found no statements supporting Aldrich.

It is debatable as to whether or not to count *The Walpole Gazette*, published from 1891 to 1903, as one of the papers published in Walpole (I did not count it), since this publication was owned by *The Claremont Advocate*, (1881-1941), which later became the *Claremont Daily Eagle*, and *The Eagle Times* in the 1970s.

The *Walpole Gazette*, published by the late Jeremy Paulus and his wife, Aine, definitely counts as a Walpole newspaper. Their weekly was published a full seven years, from September 20, 1986, until September 24, 1993.

And now, as we enter our sixth year, we are proud to bring you the 61st issue of the **Clarion**.

FLORENTINE FILMS

Making films in Walpole
for 35 Years.