

Western Carolinian ^[1]

Western Carolinian

by Wiley J. Williams, 2006

The *Western Carolinian* was founded in Salisbury on 13 June 1820, with Jacob Krider and [Lemuel Bingham](#) ^[2] as editors. The western counties of North Carolina, more sparsely populated than those in the east, had long needed a [newspaper](#) ^[3] to voice its desire for equal representation in the [state](#) ^[4] [legislature](#) ^[4] and otherwise serve its interests. Salisbury, as the region's largest city, was an ideal location for such a paper. In most [antebellum](#) ^[5] political newspapers, national politics received the majority of the editorial attention, but the *Western Carolinian* was a leader in



First edition of the *Western Carolinian*, June 13, 1820. Image from the State Archives of North Carolina. ^[6] the movement to increase coverage of state issues. The obvious determination of western North Carolina—so forcefully confirmed on the pages of the *Carolinian*—led other editors to take sides on these issues, which included the establishment of a [public school system](#) ^[7] and a public college in the west, [internal improvements](#) ^[8], the convening of a constitutional convention, the need for a state penitentiary, the care of the handicapped, and free suffrage for all white males. Although it changed hands and political affiliations several times, the *Western Carolinian* remained a strong advocate of the economic growth and political rights of western counties until it ceased publication in 1844.

Reference:

Thad Stem Jr., *The Tar Heel Press* (1973).

Additional Resources:

Search the *Western Carolinian* at the North Carolina Newspaper Digitization Project: <http://exhibits.archives.ncdcr.gov/newspaper/search.html> ^[9] (accessed November 1, 2013).

Chaffin, Kathy. "Early Salisbury newspapers among those online." *SalisburyPost.com*. January 5, 2010. <http://www.salisburypost.com/News/010510-Early-newspaper-archives-online> ^[10] (accessed September 6, 2012).

"State Archives Launches Online Newspaper Collection." *Federation Bulletin* 30. No. 1. March 2010. p. 4. <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/federation-bulletin-2010-march-v.30-no.1/1837976> ^[11] (accessed September 6, 2012).

Rumple, Jethro. *A History of Rowan County North Carolina Containing Sketches of Prominent Families and Distinguished Men with an Appendix*. Salisbury. N. C.: J. J. Bruner. 1881. p.20-22, 323, 330. <https://archive.org/stream/historyofrowanco00rump#page/n3/mode/2up> ^[12] (accessed September 6, 2012).

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"The first issue of the *Western Carolinian* a newspaper from Salisbury North Carolina, published by Krider and Bingham on Tuesday, June 13, 1820." State Archives of North Carolina. <https://newspapers.digitalnc.org/lccn/sn84026486/1820-06-13/ed-1/seq-1/> ^[6]

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