

THE NEWSPAPER INDUSTRY

THE STAR SHONE FIRST

Before the Town of Cobourg was incorporated in 1837, the community already had a voice. On January 11, 1831 the first issue of the **Cobourg Star and Newcastle Commercial and General Advertiser** appeared, Cobourg being part of the District of Newcastle.

While records are poor from this time period, the *Cobourg Star* is thought to be the first paper for this community. Nearby Port Hope's first newspaper, the *Evening Guide*, also appeared in 1831.

Founding *Cobourg Star* publisher **Richard Dover Chatterton** was one of the earliest settlers in Cobourg, and one of our local inventors. He had apprenticed in the publishing industry in England and set a lofty goal for his newspaper from the beginning.

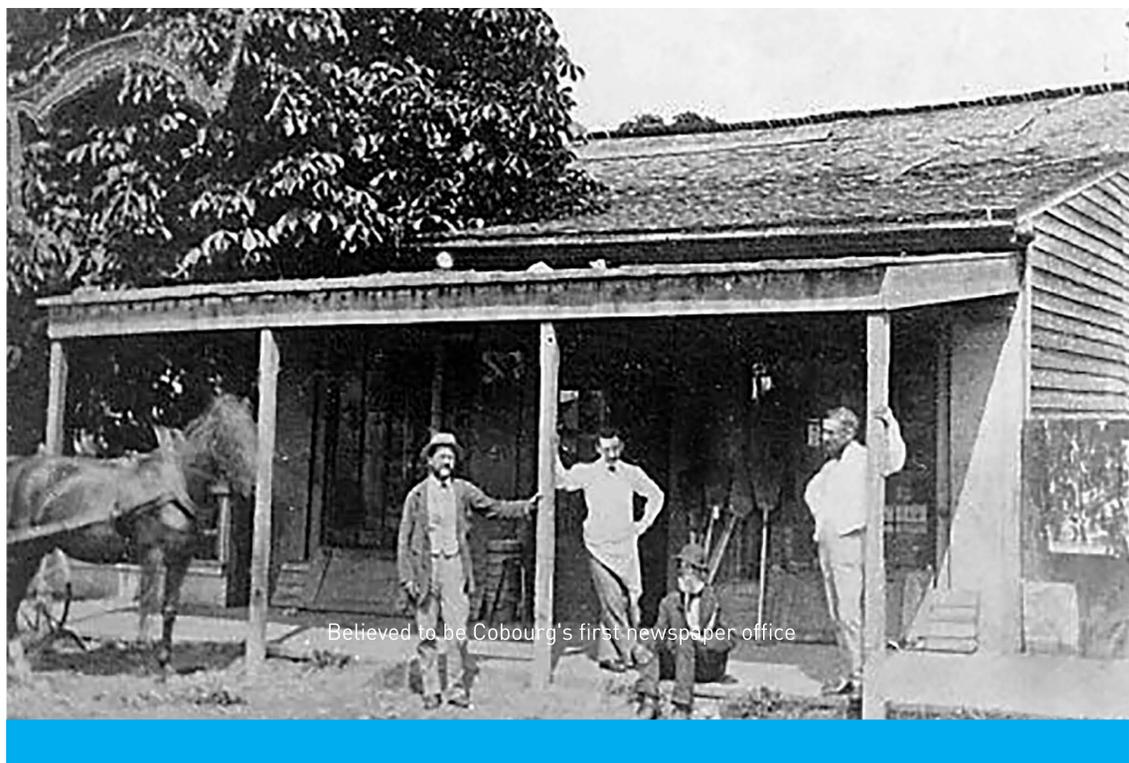
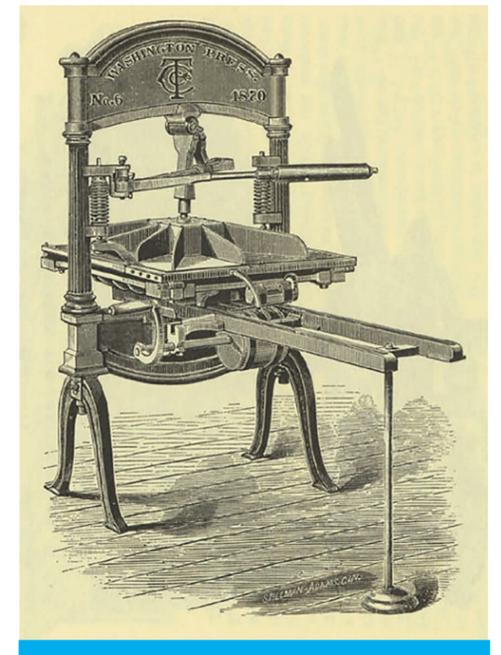
In the conduct of this paper neither expense nor exertion will be spared to make it a source of usefulness and prosperity to the district and entitle it to be an esteemed friend and welcome guest at every fireside.

Chatterton produced just **500 copies of the paper on his small, hand-fed Washington press** (similar to the Gutenberg) , often made from modified wine-presses. The type was set by hand, one letter at a time or with larger engraved blocks with images. To set a column by hand took a full day!

Unlike community newspapers today, it wasn't uncommon for papers in those days to be delivered across a wide region. In its early days the *Cobourg Star* reached the communities of Belleville, Port Hope, Whitby, Colborne, Haldimand, Peterborough, Otonabee, and as far away as Ancaster and Guelph.

During the 1800s **the name of the newspaper changed several times** including being called the *Cobourg Star and Newcastle District Gazette*.

In 1850 Henry Ruttan, also an inventor, and his partner, E.C. Clench (son of the well-known local furniture maker) bought the *Star*.



SOME STORIES FROM THE COBOURG STAR & NEWCASTLE DISTRICT GAZETTE

Board of Police publicize new bylaw regulating the sale of bread

Reward offered for a lost overcoat..

Elizabeth Johnston, a 14-year-old girl missing after she boarded a train from Montreal on her way to see her brother in Newcastle, never showed up...

ALL THE REST

COBOURG MEAT MARKET

ROUND STEAK OR ROASTS	79^c lb
SIRLOIN Steak	89^c lb
T-BONE Steak	99^c lb
Rump Roast	59^c lb
Hamburg Steak	39^c lb

WIENERS 2 lb. pkg. **89^c**
 Pkg. of Buns FREE To The First 40 Wiener Sales On THURS., JULY 30, 1964

BREAD 6 loaves **\$1.15**

In the 1860s Cobourg had **three main newspapers** and many others came and went in the region.

Andrew D. McAllister, a man known for his love of politics, founded the *Cobourg Sentinel* in 1861. The *Sentinel* readers **voiced their opinions in this paper** through letters to the editor. Previously, the letters to the editor had been on educational topics or came in the form of storytelling but the *Sentinel* became an avenue for advocacy.

The *Sentinel* merged with the *Star* in 1878 becoming the *Sentinel-Star*. In 1946 the editor, Foster M. Russell changed the name to the *Cobourg Sentinel-Star* and in 1973 it became, very simply, the *Cobourg Star*.

The *Cobourg World* began publishing in 1864 a time when Cobourg was still suffering from the failure of the Cobourg and Peterborough Railway. Published by Dr. Henry Hough, the *World* **was known as a Reform newspaper with Methodist values**. The paper took on various names such as the *Cobourg World* and *Newcastle Reformers Family Journal* and *Cobourg*

Advertising World & Northumberland & Durham Local Gazette. In 1948 this paper was merged with the *Cobourg Sentinel-Star*.

In 1971 the *Cobourg Star* purchased the *Colborne Chronicle* as well as the *Port Hope Evening Guide*, though all three continued to publish separately.

In 1977 the *Cobourg Star* became the *Cobourg Daily Star*. In 2009 Sun Media purchased the *Cobourg Daily Star*, *Colborne Chronicle* and *Port Hope Evening Guide*. **All were amalgamated** to become the *Northumberland Today*, continuing as a daily paper.

The *Colborne Chronicle* had served the community since 1866 and Bob Owen, its former editor, decided there wasn't enough local coverage after the amalgamation, so he started an **online news site called Cramahe Now**.

Today there are two newspapers serving the west Northumberland area – *Northumberland Today*, recently purchased by Post Media, and *Northumberland News*, owned by Metroland Media. The first issue of the *Northumberland News* was published on October 23, 1991.

With the advent of the Internet, times have changed for the media. There are now local online news websites including *Northumberland View* and *Cobourg Internet* offering a different way to stay informed.

