

Biology

Newsmen Are Named To Hall Of Fame



A. S. WILLINGTON

Two Charleston newspaper pioneers were named to the South Carolina Journalism Hall of Fame Friday.

Peter Timothy, publisher of the South Carolina Gazette from 1742-80, and Aaron Smith Willington, co-founder of The Charleston Courier in 1803 and editor until 1862, were among four named by the South Carolina Press Association (SCPA).

Also named were N.G. Gonzales, a founder of The State in Columbia in 1891 and editor-in-chief until 1903, and Bony Hampton Peace, publisher of the Greenville News from 1919 until the early 1930s.

The four 1974 selections will join last year's first nominees to the Hall of Fame—Charlestonians Elizabeth Timothy,

the first woman editor of The South Carolina Gazette, and Francis W. Dawson, first editor of The News and Courier.

Peter Timothy was raised in a newspaper family. His father Louis Timothy was a partner of Benjamin Franklin and was sent to Charleston in 1734 to take over the Gazette.

After Louis' death Peter's mother Elizabeth continued publishing the Gazette until 1742. During these years, she put Peter's name on the masthead as printer, although Peter was printer "in name only."

In 1742, he became publisher and continued in that position until 1780.

The Gazette was South Carolina's only newspaper until

1758, when the first Royalist newspaper was started.

During these years, Timothy was active in the American Revolution, serving with the Committees of Correspondence, Sons of Liberty and Circular Letters. Under his direction, the Gazette became a Revolutionary newspaper and his writings were respected highly throughout the colonies.

After his death in 1782, his widow and later their son continued publishing the paper until 1800 when the Gazette was replaced by The Charleston Courier

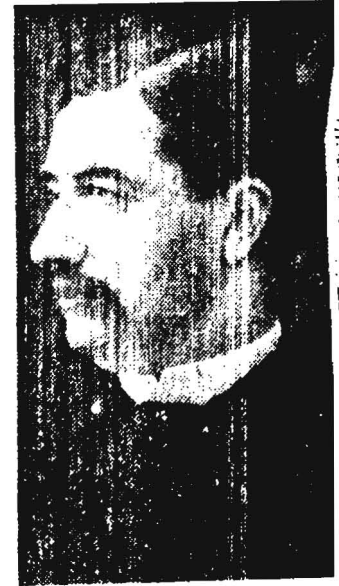
Aaron Smith Willington, with two partners, founded The Charleston Courier, which first was published Jan. 10, 1803.

After a few years, Willing-

ton's partners left and until his death in 1862, Willington was proprietor and apparently editor of the South's oldest daily newspaper.

In 1815, The Courier broke the story in the United States of the signing of a peace treaty ending the War of 1812. Willington got the story by boarding a ship that brought the news of the treaty two months earlier in Ghent, Belgium.

Nominees for the Hall of Fame must have died at least four years before their nominations. They must be persons who have achieved prominence on South Carolina newspapers, regardless of place of birth, or they may be South Carolinians whose careers were with out-of-state newspapers.



F. W. DAWSON

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