

## “Extracts from some Rebel Papers”: Patriots, Loyalists, and the Perils of Wartime Printing

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### Abstract

This paper will form the base for a new chapter in my book manuscript, tentatively entitled *Revolutionary Networks: The Business of Printing and the Production of American Politics, 1763-1789*. It focuses on the influence of printers and their networks during the Revolutionary War (1775-1783). The violence and dislocation of the war deeply affected the printing trade and, with it, the communications pathways through which Patriots and Loyalists debated the news and attempted to define the meaning of events and ideas. Many printers left their towns and moved their offices to avoid the march of an opposing army, creating geographical and logistical barriers to the free flow of information through their commercial networks. In addition, printers themselves became a focus as partisans finally recognized their crucial role as political actors—though the attention often came with violent intent. The paper thus provides an overview of printers’ activities during the war, examines their strategies to cope and adapt to their changed circumstances, and details some of the ways in which printers shaped debates about the war and its progress.

A map that accompanies the paper is available at:

<http://josephadelman.wordpress.com/research/relocated-printers/>.