

America's Historical Newspapers Important Titles

20th Century Coverage

The Dallas Morning News (Dallas, Texas; 1885-1984)

Since 1885, *The Dallas Morning News* has been a leading source of news in the Southwest. Renowned for its extensive state and regional coverage, the paper is also recognized for its reports and analysis of national issues and, with its network of foreign bureaus, coverage of late-breaking news from around the world.

The Times-Picayune (New Orleans, Louisiana; 1837-1988)

The Times-Picayune was founded in 1837 as *The Picayune* in New Orleans—the largest city in the South for much of the 19th century. During the 20th century, the paper's reporting has included coverage of Louisiana's agriculture, energy, music and shipping industries.

The Seattle Times (Seattle, Washington; 1896-1984)

The Seattle Times became the largest daily newspaper in Washington State and the largest Sunday newspaper in the Northwest. It has been recognized nationally and internationally for in-depth reporting and award-winning news design.

The Augusta Chronicle (Augusta, Georgia; 1792-1993)

One of the oldest newspapers in the South, *The Augusta Chronicle* has long been the major local newspaper for Augusta, Georgia.

The Oregonian (Portland, Oregon; 1850-1987)

The longest-running newspaper on the West Coast, *The Oregonian* has received numerous Pulitzer Prizes during its history and continues to be the major daily newspaper in Portland.

The Plain Dealer (Cleveland, Ohio; 1845-1991)

The Plain Dealer, established in 1842, has been a part of the greater Cleveland area since its founding. Ohio's largest daily newspaper, *The Plain Dealer* has won awards in local, state, regional and national competitions.

Press-Register (Mobile, Alabama; 1821-1992)

Serving southwest Alabama, the *Press-Register* is the state's oldest daily newspaper. Its pages reflect the cultural and political changes in the South over 170 years.

The Republican (Springfield, Massachusetts; 1850-1987)

In the 19th century, *The Republican* was known for supporting local literary endeavors. The paper grew to include news from every town in the Connecticut River Valley, and throughout the 20th century it provided extensive coverage of Western Massachusetts.

The Times (Trenton, New Jersey; 1883-1993)

The Times has long been a major source of news and community information for the capital region of Trenton, New Jersey.

Colonial America and Revolutionary War Coverage

Boston News-Letter (Massachusetts) (1704-1776)

Established in 1704, the *News-Letter* was the first regularly published newspaper in the British Colonies of North America. Noted for its pro-British sympathies, the *News-Letter* went through a succession of printers, including Margaret Draper, one of the few female printers in the 18th century.

Georgia Gazette (Savannah, Georgia) (1763-1781, 1800-1802)

Georgia's first newspaper, the *Gazette* provides a rich record of colonial life from 1763 to 1781.

American Weekly Mercury (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) (1719-1746)

Founded in 1719 and the first newspaper in the Colonies to be published outside of Boston, the *Mercury* was well-known for its essays on political liberty.

Pennsylvania Gazette (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) (1736-1775)

Published by Benjamin Franklin, this prominent 18th-century newspaper contains not only in-depth articles on every aspect of Colonial America but also the full text of many seminal government documents, including the U.S. Constitution, the Declaration of Independence and the Federalist Papers.

Massachusetts Spy (Boston, Massachusetts) (1770-1775)

At first neutral but soon openly supporting the Patriots, the *Massachusetts Spy* was arguably the most important newspaper in America leading up to the Revolution. The *Spy* was co-founded by Isaiah Thomas, one of the most successful and colorful journalists of the 18th century and founder of the American Antiquarian Society.

Civil War Coverage

Boston Daily Advertiser (Massachusetts) (1813-1877)

Boston's most important newspaper in the late-19th century

New York Herald (New York) (1844-1905)

Launched by legendary publisher James Gordon Bennett, the *Herald* was one of the two most powerful American newspapers in the second half of the 19th century. These issues provide complete Civil War coverage, including front-line reporting by the largest team of war correspondents in the country.

Chattanooga Daily Rebel (Tennessee) (1862-1865)

The impassioned and highly mobile voice of the confederacy, the *Daily Rebel* was published in three states, five towns and on a railroad boxcar traveling with confederate soldiers.

Idaho Statesman (Boise, Idaho) (1864-1922)

From its founding in 1864 to the end of the century, the *Statesman*—known for its lively editorial page—provides an important frontier perspective during the post-Civil War and post-Reconstruction era.

Philadelphia Inquirer (Pennsylvania) (1860-1922)

Rising to national prominence during the Civil War, the *Inquirer* supported the North, of course, but Editor William Harding kept its coverage so neutral that it became a favorite news source in the South as well.

Mobile Evening Telegraph (Alabama) (1864)

The evening edition of one of Alabama's most influential Confederate newspapers

Major Newspapers

Richmond Enquirer (Richmond, Virginia) (1804-1865)

The Enquirer, founded by Thomas Ritchie, was a leading newspaper of the South and one of the nation's most powerful regional weeklies. Thomas Jefferson said of the *Enquirer*, "It is long since I have ceased to read any newspaper but yours, and I shall continue to read no other." It includes extensive Civil War coverage.

Columbus Ledger-Inquirer (Georgia) (1855-1922)

Founded in 1828, the *Ledger-Inquirer* played a central role in the region's growth and direction. Coverage here reflects Southern attitudes on World War I and the Russian Revolution.

Kansas City Star (Missouri) (1880-1900)

Founded by Republican reformer William Rockhill Nelson, the *Star* remained one of the best and most influential daily newspapers in the Midwest during the early 20th century.

San Jose Mercury News (San Jose, California) (1886-1922)

One of the earliest newspapers in California still published today, the *Mercury News* covered the state's explosive growth in the late-19th century and offers front-line reporting on major events of the early 20th century, including the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, one of the most tragic natural disasters in American history.

Omaha World-Herald (Nebraska) (1878-1907)

William Jennings Bryan used his editorship of the nationally read *World-Herald* to further his own political agenda in preparation for his run for the American presidency in 1896, which he lost to William McKinley.

Deseret News (Salt Lake City, Utah) (1851-1889)

Founded by Brigham Young himself, *Deseret News* held a particularly important place in the development of frontier Utah as the official journalistic publication of the Mormon Church.

The Sun (Baltimore, Maryland) (1837-1901)

The history of the *Sun* is one of the longest and most distinguished in American journalism. Founded in 1837, it has long been considered the region's newspaper of record. Coverage here runs from 1848 to 1901.

Hartford Courant (Connecticut) (1764-1914)

Founded in 1764, the *Courant* is the nation's oldest continuously published newspaper. Coverage here includes insights into New England's burgeoning economy and regional attitudes towards the Civil War.

Miami Herald (Florida) (1911-1922)

One of Florida's oldest and most prominent newspapers, the *Herald* covers the state's economic transformation following the arrival of the railroad in Key West in 1912.

African American and Abolitionist Coverage

Fredrick Douglass' Newspaper (Rochester, New York) (1847-1860)

Fredrick Douglass's powerful anti-slavery newspaper had a circulation of 4,000 readers worldwide. Includes North Star.

New Orleans Daily Creole (Louisiana) (1856)

The first African-American daily newspaper in the United States

Emancipator and Republican (Boston, MA) (1831-1850)

This important abolitionist newspaper was published by David Tappan, president of the American Anti-Slavery Society. Tappan incurred the wrath of slaveholders by his aid to fugitives and rescue of William Lloyd Garrison from imprisonment in Baltimore.

Liberator (Boston, MA) (1831-1865)

This powerful anti-slavery newspaper founded by William Lloyd Garrison became the pre-eminent abolitionist organ of the 19th-century United States.

The National Era (Washington, D.C.) (1847-1859)

Influential anti-slavery newspaper edited by Gamaliel Bailey, noted abolitionist and one of the leading Republicans in the nation

Native American Titles

Cherokee Advocate (Tahlequah, Oklahoma) (1871-1897)

This bilingual title was the official paper of the Cherokee nation and the first newspaper in Indian Territory. These issues provide a Native American perspective during a time of wrenching change.

Tombstone Epitaph Prospector (Arizona) (1880-1899)

Offering a sympathetic view of Arizona's Native Americans, the *Epitaph* was owned and edited by John Clum, who was known as the "white chief of the Apaches." Clum's newspaper also covered the violent world that became the stage for the infamous gunfight at the OK Corral.

Other Notable Titles

Publick Occurrences (Boston, Massachusetts) (1690)

The first newspaper in North America, *Publick Occurrences Both Foreign and Domestick* was published for the first and last time on September 26, 1690 before being shut down for printing "reflections of a very high nature" without royal consent.

Baltimore American (Maryland) (1799-1801)

Baltimore's most influential newspaper in its day

New-England Courant (Boston, Massachusetts) (1721-1726)

Shortly after founding the *Courant* in 1721, James Franklin was imprisoned and his paper suppressed for its radical views against the General Court. In 1723, the paper resumed publication under the name of Franklin's younger brother, Benjamin, who had been serving his apprenticeship at the *Courant*. The earliest writings of Benjamin Franklin, under the name Silence Dogood, appear in this paper.

American Beacon (Norfolk, Virginia) (1815-1820)

Published by a ship captain in the busy 19th-century seaport of Norfolk, the *Beacon* focused on seafaring activities.

Boston Evening Transcript (Massachusetts) (1842-1856)

Influential Boston newspaper managed by Cornelia W. Walter, one of the very few female editors of the mid-19th century

Morning Olympian (Olympia, Washington) (1891-1922)

The *Olympian* was founded to lead the crusade to make Olympia the capitol after Washington gained statehood. During the early 20th century it remained known as a fierce watch-dog of Washington state government.

Salt Lake Telegram (Utah) (1902-1922)

One of the most influential early Utah newspapers

Savannah Tribune (Georgia) (1875-1922)

Coverage dating from its founding for this influential African-American newspaper

Hobart Republican (1907-1920)

Founded the year Oklahoma achieved statehood, the *Republican* reflects conservative middle-American views on World War I and the Communist Revolution.

Grand Forks Herald (North Dakota) (1879-1922)

The *Herald* offers a look at the politics and culture of the rugged north-central region of the United States during the early 20th century.

Carolina Gazette (Charleston, South Carolina) (1800-1828)

The *Gazette* was printed by John Miller, who also established Charleston's circulating library. To keep up with demand for his popular newspaper, Miller promised enough boys to deliver the paper "before or at breakfast."

Farmer's Cabinet (Amherst, New Hampshire) (1802-1879)

Printed from 1802 to 1851, the *Cabinet* was noteworthy for remaining neutral when many newspapers of its time were openly influenced by political controversy.

Minerva (New York) (1793-1796)

Subtitled "Patroness of Peace, Commerce, and the Liberal Arts," Noah Webster's federalist newspaper was established to support the policies of President Washington. The *Minerva* was first published in 1793, shortly after Webster helped enact legislation for the first copyright laws to protect his American Spelling Book.

American Mercury (Hartford, Connecticut) (1784-1829)

Of the eight Connecticut newspapers started in the 1780s, the *Mercury* was one of only two still active by the start of the 1800s. With a reputation for outspokenness, the *Mercury* was for many years the state's leading reform paper as well as a key proponent in ensuring legal equality for religious sects.

Salem Gazette (Massachusetts) (1781-1849)

The *Salem Gazette* was hailed for its news of the sea and its advertisements of the sale of ships taken as prizes by privateers. To avoid a heavy advertising tax in Salem, the *Gazette* later moved to Boston where it was renamed the *Massachusetts Gazette*.

Eastern Argus (Portland, Maine) (1803-1880)

This long-running Democratic-Republican weekly argued for state independence from Massachusetts.

Daily National Intelligencer (Washington D.C.) (1814-1820)

The official organ for the Jefferson administration, the *Intelligencer* was created by Samuel Harrison Smith, who, at the president's request, followed the government from Philadelphia to Washington D.C. Nearly all other papers in the country got their government news from the *Intelligencer*. Its importance was such that, during the war of 1812, the newspaper's offices were one of the only private enterprises destroyed by the British.

Evening Post (New York) (1801-1821)

First published by Alexander Hamilton in 1801 as a broadside, the *Post* remains today the oldest continuously published daily in the country. It gained national fame under the editorship of poet and abolitionist William Cullen Bryant.

Spirit of '76 (Washington D.C.) (1809-1811)

The semi-weekly *Spirit of '76* helped publicize the policies of the first third-party in America, the Quids, who called for a return to a "pure" state of Republicanism.

Aurora General Advertiser (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) (1794-1828)

Originally subtitled "The Political, Commercial, Agricultural and Literary Journal" by its founder Benjamin Franklin Bache, the *Advertiser* was extensive in scope and contained detailed accounts of European affairs as well as reports on the proceedings of Congress.

Washington City Weekly Gazette (Washington D.C.) (1815-1817)

Although a small paper with no advertisements, the *Gazette* carried an abundance of news, including frontier disputes, constitutional queries, extensive government reports, original dissertations and political gossip.

Vermont Gazette (Bennington, Vermont) (1783-1876)

The first newspaper printed on the first printing press in the state, the *Gazette* ran from 1783 to 1832.

The Polynesian (Honolulu, Hawaii) (1840-1858)

Published by the island's government, *The Polynesian* was Hawaii's principal newspaper in the mid-19th century.

Providence Patriot (Rhode Island) (1814-1905)

These issues of the *Patriot*, an influential and often eloquent paper, provide a local look at two of America's earlier racial riots, the Providence Riots of 1824 and 1831.

Albany Register (New York) (1789-1813)

One of the most successful and influential American newspapers of the late 18th and early 19th century, the *Register* was edited from 1808 to 1822 by the fierce anti-Federalist Solomon Southwick.

The Bee (Hudson, New York) (1802-1820)

Founded by firebrand publisher Charles Holt, *The Bee* was at the center of one of the Colonial Period's most colorful and violent journalistic battles between rival papers.

Lake Superior Miner (Ontonagan, Michigan) (1856-1870)

From its start in 1855, this newspaper focused on mining issues and advertisements, providing a detailed look at the early economics of precious metals, mining technology and mining companies.

Cape-Fear Recorder (Wilmington, North Carolina) (1816)

Featuring a particularly interesting "Shipping News" section, this early mid-Atlantic newspaper provided detailed coverage of the southeast coastline, a treacherous area known as the "graveyard of the Atlantic."

Galveston News (Texas) (1842-1876)

The oldest surviving Texas newspaper, the *Galveston News* was founded in 1842 by Samuel Bangs, "Texas's first printer" and later founder of the *Dallas Morning News* and other important Texas newspapers.

Morning Olympian (Olympia, Washington) (1891-1922)

Launched to lead the crusade to make Olympia the state capitol, the *Olympian* earned a reputation as a fierce watch-dog of Washington state government.

Lucifer the Light-Bearer (Chicago, Illinois) (1886-1903)

This individualist-anarchist newspaper was published by Moses Harman in the late 19th century. *Lucifer*—the ancient name for the "Morning Star", or Venus—strove to "help woman break the chains that for ages have bound her to the rack of man-made law..." Harman's controversial approach sent him to prison for more than six years during his tenure as publisher.

New Hampshire Gazette (Portsmouth) (1756-1851)

Founded in 1756, the *Gazette*—one of New England's oldest and most respected newspapers—here features coverage of the mid-19th century, when the *Gazette* continued to exert its influence across the region during a time of dramatic economic growth.

San Francisco Bulletin (California) (1885-1891)

James King founded the highly opinionated *Bulletin* in 1855 and quickly built it into the highest-circulation paper in San Francisco. In 1856 his criticism of a city official, James Casey, led Casey to shoot and kill him; Casey was then lynched by vigilantes. The *Bulletin* persevered, and paints a vivid picture of the "Wild West."

Bellingham Herald (Washington) (1903-1922)

In 1900 the *Herald* purchased the first Linotype machine on the West Coast, accelerating its influential coverage of the Pacific Northwest's explosive growth in the timber and fishing industries during the early 20th century.

Owyhee Avalanche (Silver City, Idaho) (1865-1900)

The first daily newspaper in the territory, the *Avalanche* covered in detail the transformation of Idaho's economy by the coming of the railroad in 1873 and the gold and silver booms of the late 19th century.

Nevada State Journal (Reno, Nevada) (1893-1922)

Founded in 1870, before political and economic power shifted to southern Nevada, the *State Journal*—the leading newspaper in the region—was said to be “pronounced in its national political character.”

Argus and Patriot (Montpelier, Vermont; 1863-1870)

One of the largest and most influential newspapers in New England outside of the major cities, edited by the hard-hitting Hiram Atkins, so-called “War-Horse of the Democratic Party”

Charleston Courier (1803-1822)

Earliest predecessor to the *Charleston Post and Courier*; the oldest daily newspaper in the South and the eighth-oldest newspaper still in publication in the United States

Florida Herald (St. Augustine, Florida) (1823-1828)

An important newspaper from territorial Florida

The Times (Georgetown, DC) (1789-1791)

The first newspaper published within the boundaries of the District of Columbia

Vermont Phoenix (Brattleboro, Vermont) (1834-1882)

One of the most influential Republican newspapers in New England; provides political counterpoint to the Argus and Patriot.

Western World (Frankfort, Kentucky) (1806-1810)

Supported the controversial and ill-fated “Aaron Burr conspiracy” to create a separatist empire in the western territories

Albany Evening Journal (New York) (1834-1849)

The central organ of Thurlow Weed, chief organizer of the Whig and Republican parties in the North

Argus of Western America (Frankfort, Kentucky) (1818-1830)

One of the first newspapers west of the Appalachians

Arkansas Intelligencer (Arkansas) (1845-1858)

At its founding, this pioneering title was the western-most newspaper in the United States.

Blackfoot Register (Idaho) (1880-1886)

Covers the Idaho mining boom and the run up to statehood

Kentucky Reporter (Kentucky) (1808-1815)

Prominent central Kentucky newspaper founded by William Worseley, one of the earliest and most successful newspaper pioneers in the region

Missouri Courier (Missouri) (1849-1854)

Mark Twain apprenticed at this prominent Missouri weekly during this period.



New-Bedford Courier (Massachusetts) (1827-1833)

Important weekly newspaper from the U.S. whaling capital at the height of the industry

New York Tribune (New York) (1856-1922)

For much of the 19th and early 20th centuries Horace Greeley's newspaper was one of the most powerful and successful in America.

The Normanden (North Dakota) (1899-1902)

The most important Norwegian newspaper in early Dakota history

Prescott Courier (Arizona) (1891-1908)

This early daily covered Arizona in the years before statehood

St. Louis Republic (Missouri) (1888-1900)

This respected mid-western daily provided on-site coverage of the Great Tornado of 1896.