

Philadelphia Inquirer

1829

John Norvell and John R. Walker create The Pennsylvania Inquirer, Philadelphia's seventh newspaper

(November 1829) Norvell and Walker, after losses, sell paper to Jesper Harding, a young printer

1830

Inquirer buys Morning Journal; Inquirer printed as a morning edition

1834

The Inquirer takes over the faltering Daily Courier

1840

Harding obtains the first American serial rights for exclusive publication of several of Charles Dickens' novels

1842

Inquirer acquires rival, The National Gazette & Literary Register; paper mill built for Inquirer

1861

Beginning of Civil War and the nationally renowned war coverage of the paper

Inquirer journalist Uriah Hunt Painter, from the First Battle of Bull Run in 1861, reports news of a Confederate victory; crowd threatens to burn Inquirer building in response to the "pro-South" news

1861

Jesper Harding's son William makes changes to the paper during the Civil War, including a price cut, establishing delivery routes, and the beginning of newsboys hawking the paper on the streets

1863

Inquirer moves to 304 Chestnut Street

1889

Ailing publisher William Harding sells paper to James Elverson; Elverson promptly cuts price of paper, increased the size of the paper by accepting classified advertising, and launched major promotions to increase the circulation of the paper

1890

Elverson launches Golden Days and Saturday Night during the decade of the 1890s; moves Inquirer to 929 Chestnut Street

1894

Inquirer moves to 1109 Market Street

1911

Elverson dies; his son, James Elverson, Jr., takes over paper

1920

During the decade of the 1920s, paper becomes known as the "Republican Bible"

1925

The Elverson Building, the paper's current home, constructed

1929

Death of James Elverson, Jr.; paper passes to Elverson's sister

1930

Paper sold to Curtis-Martin Newspapers, Inc.

Inquirer and Daily Record begin a "newspaper war"

1936

Paper sold to M.L. Annenberg

1938

Inquirer's Sunday circulation rises to over one million copies

1942

M.L. Annenberg's son, Walter Annenberg, assumes control of paper

1947

Inquirer declares itself independent in terms of political leaning

1967

Inquirer reporter Henry Karafin exposed for blackmail and corruption

1979

Inquirer's Pulitzer-Prize award winning coverage of Three Mile Island nuclear accident; kicks off a period of financial and circulation success of the paper, as well as repeated awards for reporting

2006

Knight-Ridder was purchased by the McClatchy Company, which announced twelve papers, including The Philadelphia Inquirer, would be sold

Local businessman Brian Tierney leads a group of investors to buy the paper

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