

Lineage No.: **RICHMOND 07**

Group Title: **Virginia Argus**

Variant 01: The Virginia Gazette, and Richmond and Manchester Advertiser

Publication Data: April 15, 1793 to October 13, 1794 2/week (varies)

Proprietors: Samuel Pleasants & Company

IVP Associates: Samuel Pleasants (331), Augustine Davis (119)

Notes: Paper published by Pleasants in partnership with Augustine Davis, formerly his employer; pair continued together until mid-October 1794. The paper carried the masthead motto of "A Free Press Maintains the Sovereignty of the People" until June 1811.

References: LCCN No. 85-026726; Brigham II: 1148.

Variant 02: The Virginia Gazette, and Richmond and Manchester Advertiser

Publication Data: October 16, 1794 to April 25, 1795 2/week (varies)

Proprietors: Samuel Pleasants Jr.

IVP Associates: Samuel Pleasants (331)

Notes: Pleasants became sole proprietor of this paper with the issue of October 16, 1794, and continued as such until his death in October 1814.

References: LCCN No. 85-026726; Brigham II: 1148.

Variant 03: The Richmond and Manchester Advertiser

Publication Data: April 30, 1795 to November 19, 1796 2/week (varies)

Proprietors: Samuel Pleasants Jr.

IVP Associates: Samuel Pleasants (331)

Notes: Pleasants simplified paper's title with issue of April 30, 1795, removing the now confusing phrase "Virginia Gazette"; the conjunctive "and" in title was built into masthead ornament bearing the face of Argus, all-seeing guardian of the Olympian goddess Hera, presaging the paper's subsequent retitling in November 1796.

References: LCCN No. 84-024709; Brigham II: 1136.

Variant 04: The Virginia Argus

Publication Data: November 22, 1796 to October 20, 1804 2/week (varies)

Proprietors: Samuel Pleasants Jr.

IVP Associates: Samuel Pleasants (331)

Notes: Pleasants renamed paper to fit identity of title ornament – bearing the face of Argus, the all-seeing guardian of the Olympian goddess Hera – he had used since April 1795; that

well-worn ornament was discontinued with a refitting of his paper in summer of 1797.

References: LCCN No. 84-024710; Brigham II: 1142-1143.

Variant 05: Virginia Argus

Publication Data: October 24, 1804 to before April 1, 1811 2/week (varies)

Proprietors: Samuel Pleasants Jr.

IVP Associates: Samuel Pleasants (331)

Notes: Pleasants simplified title with issue of October 24, 1804, dropping leading article "The."

References: LCCN No. 84-024710; Brigham II: 1142-1143.

Variant 06: Virginia Argus

Publication Data: By April 1, 1811 to October 4 1814 2/week (varies)

Proprietors: Samuel Pleasants

IVP Associates: Samuel Pleasants (331)

Notes: Sometime between issues for February 26 and April 1, 1811, Pleasants ceased using suffix "Jr." in paper's colophon, as the older like-named Pleasants (whose presence in Richmond prompted him to use the term from 1793 onward) had recently died; sometime in June 1811, Pleasants removed the motto used in the paper's masthead from its start, so slightly increasing the space available on its front page.

References: LCCN No. 84-024710; Brigham II: 1142-1143.

Variant 07: Virginia Argus

Publication Data: October 8, 1814 to January 28, 1815 2/week (Tues, Sat)

Proprietors: Samuel M. Pleasants [for benefit of himself and Representatives of father's estate]

IVP Associates: Samuel M. Pleasants (332), Deborah Pleasants (328)

Notes: With issue of Saturday, October 8, 1814, the *Argus* passed into hands of Pleasants's wife eldest son following publisher's unexpected death on October 4th; paper continued in this manner until his wife & administratrix sold the paper on January 31, 1815.

References: LCCN No. 84-024710; Brigham II: 1142-1143.

Variant 08: Virginia Argus

Publication Data: February 4, 1815 to March 25, 1815 2/week (Tues, Sat)

Proprietors: Philip DuVal & Company

IVP Associates: Philip DuVal (155), John M. Burke (065), Deborah Pleasants (328)

Notes: Deborah Pleasants – Samuel Pleasants's widow & administratrix – sold the three elements of his business (newspaper, press office, and bookstore) in three transactions at the end of January 1815. The *Virginia Argus* was sold to a new company headed by financier Philip DuVal and printer John Burke, who had conducted the *Argus* press previously; they took

control of the paper with the issue of February 4, 1815.

References: LCCN No. 84-024710; Brigham II: 1142-1143.

Variant 09: Virginia Argus

Publication Data: March 29, 1815 to January 30, 1816 2/week (Tues, Sat)

Proprietors: John Burke & Company

IVP Associates: John M. Burke (065), David Burke (064), Louis Hue Girardin (180), Deborah Pleasants (328)

Notes: Following issue of March 25, 1815, Philip DuVal withdrew from *Argus* firm; Burke brought in brother David as a partner; Deborah Pleasants still held an interest in the business, one she was still trying to collect on in 1822; Burke also engaged Girardin, then the editor of the competing *Richmond Daily Compiler*, to edit the *Argus* as well.

References: LCCN No. 84-024710; Brigham II: 1142-1143.

Variant 10: Virginia Argus

Publication Data: February 3, 1816 to October 19, 1816 2/week (Tues, Sat)

Proprietors: L. H. Girardin & Company

IVP Associates: Louis Hue Girardin (180), William C. Shields (381), John M. Burke (065), David Burke (064)

Notes: With the issue of February 3, 1816, Girardin became majority partner in firm conducting *Argus* as consequence of John Burke's growing financial difficulties; Shields was Girardin's partner in the *Richmond Compiler* then and seems to have been a part of this transition as well; he sold out of the *Compiler* in May 1816, removing to Norfolk shortly thereafter, so likely further burdening the *Argus* with debt; situation became untenable that summer and fall, leading to the expiration of the *Argus* with the issue of October 19, 1816, almost exactly two years after its founder's death.

References: LCCN No. 84-024710; Brigham II: 1142-1143.
