

Lineage No.: **RICHMOND 13**

Group Title: **The Enquirer**

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**Variant 01: The Enquirer**

Publication Data: May 9, 1804 to July 26, 1805 2/wk (3/wk during Assy)

Proprietors: Ritchie & Worsley

IVP Associates: Thomas Ritchie (360), William W. Worsley (462)

Notes: Issued from press employed previously to produce the *Examiner* (Richmond 09); Worsley operated same for its proprietors, and acquired its subscriber list with Ritchie when it closed in January 1804; the pair immediately circulated prospectus for this "replacement" paper; yet the press was not actually available to them until late March, so delaying start of production; state of type obtained then required further delay to May 9, 1804.

Paper normally issued twice-weekly, though it increased to thrice-weekly during sessions of the General Assembly; initially published on a Wed/Sat cycle, but switched to a Tues/Fri one after the 1804 Assembly ended in January 1805, and continued on that schedule until February 1814; schedule during those sessions was Tues/Thu/Sat until *Enquirer* became a daily in September 1844.

References: LCCN No. 84-024736; Brigham II: 1138-1139.

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**Variant 02: The Enquirer**

Publication Data: July 30, 1805 to September 17, 1815 2/wk (3/wk during Assy)

Proprietors: Thomas Ritchie

IVP Associates: Thomas Ritchie (360)

Notes: Following issue of Saturday July 26, 1805, Worsley withdrew from partnership with Ritchie and relocated to Kentucky; Ritchie continued as sole proprietor until March 1820.

References: LCCN No. 84-024735; Brigham II: 1138-1139.

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**Variant 03: Richmond Enquirer**

Publication Data: September 20, 1815 to February 29, 1820 2/wk (3/wk during Assy)

Proprietors: Thomas Ritchie

IVP Associates: Thomas Ritchie (360)

Notes: With issue of September 20, 1815, Ritchie modified paper's masthead, adding ornamental "The" between two-word title seen here; format continued until paper became a daily in 1844, though twice-weekly country edition used such until its end during the Civil War.

References: LCCN No. 84-024735; Brigham II: 1912.

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**Variant 04: Richmond Enquirer**

Publication Data: March 3, 1820 to November 7, 1828 2/wk (3/wk during Assy)

Proprietors: Ritchie & Gooch

IVP Associates: Thomas Ritchie (360), Claiborne W. Gooch (182)

Notes: With issue of March 3, 1820, Ritchie took Gooch on as equal partner in the *Enquirer*; date corresponds to first twice-weekly number issued after 1819 Assembly ended; partnership continued until 1828 presidential campaign resulted in election of Andrew Jackson.

References: LCCN No. 84-024735; Cappon 1262.

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**Variant 05: Richmond Enquirer**

Publication Data: November 11, 1828 to August 12, 1836 2/wk (3/wk during Assy)

Proprietors: Ritchie & Cook

IVP Associates: Thomas Ritchie (360), John L. Cook (105)

Notes: After issue of November 7, 1828, Gooch withdrew from his partnership with Ritchie and retired from journalism; Ritchie then formed ensuing firm with Cook, his shop foreman.

References: LCCN No. 84-024735; Cappon 1262.

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**Variant 06: Richmond Enquirer**

Publication Data: August 16, 1836 to March 2, 1843 2/wk (3/wk during Assy)

Proprietors: Thomas Ritchie

IVP Associates: Thomas Ritchie (360)

Notes: John L. Cook died on April 22, 1836; his interest in *Enquirer* was acquired by Ritchie from his estate following issue of Friday, August 12, 1836; Ritchie continued as sole proprietor until he brought his sons into the business in 1843.

References: LCCN No. 84-024735; Cappon 1262.

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**Variant 07: Richmond Enquirer**

Publication Data: March 4, 1843 to September 14, 1844 2/wk (3/wk during Assy)

Proprietors: Thomas Ritchie & Sons

IVP Associates: Thomas Ritchie (360)

Notes: With issue of March 4, 1843, Ritchie made two of his five sons – William Foushee Ritchie (1813-77) & Thomas Ritchie, Jr. (1819-54) – partners in his business; they would succeed him as the paper's proprietors in May 1845, when Ritchie removed to Washington, D.C., to conduct a paper there for the new Polk administration.

References: LCCN No. 84-024735; Cappon 1262.

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**Variant 07: Daily Richmond Enquirer**

Publication Data: September 18, 1844 May 6, 1845 Daily (ex. Sun)

Proprietors: Thomas Ritchie & Sons

IVP Associates: Thomas Ritchie (360)

Notes: With issue of Wednesday, September 18, 1844, the Ritchies converted their twice-weekly paper into a daily; at about this same time, they also began issuing a twice-weekly country edition; that edition evidently continued the numbering of original paper, with the daily assuming a new serial sequence (vol. 1, no. 1 = September 18th); word "Daily" was added to masthead title with issue of September 28, 1844.

References: LCCN nos. 84-024735, 85-026447, & 84-024729; Cappon 1262.

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**Variant 08: Daily Richmond Enquirer**

Publication Data: May 9, 1845 to about August 22, 1853 Daily (ex. Sun)

Proprietors: William F. Ritchie & Thomas Ritchie Jr.

IVP Associates: -----

Notes: With issue of May 9, 1845, Ritchie Sr. turned over ownership and editorial control of his *Enquirer* to the sons he made his partners in 1843; chosen retirement date was symbolic, marking the forty-first anniversary of the paper's initial number. The brothers continued the existing twice-weekly country edition, as well as adding a short-lived weekly campaign variant – *The Campaign Enquirer* – in 1848 (March-November) in support of candidacy of Democrat Lewis Cass.

References: LCCN nos. 84-024735, 85-026447, 84-024729, & 95-079572; Cappon 1262.

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**Variant 09: Daily Richmond Enquirer**

Publication Data: By September 27, 1853 to before October 10, 1854 Daily (ex. Sun)

Proprietors: Ritchies & Pryor

IVP Associates: -----

Notes: In February 1846, Thomas Ritchie Jr. killed John Hampden Pleasants, the founder of the *Richmond Whig*, in a duel over their attitudes on slavery; after he was acquitted of murder charges, he became ever less an active contributor to the *Enquirer*, a withdrawal that was hastened by his declining health after the 1852 election. In September 1853, the Ritchie brothers added Roger A. Pryor (1828-1919), a lawyer and journalist from Petersburg, as an editorial partner to address the infirmity of Ritchie Jr., who then died in May 1854.

References: LCCN nos. 84-024735, 85-026447, & 84-024729; Cappon 1262.

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**Variant 01: Daily Richmond Enquirer**

Publication Data: By October 10, 1854 to about February 14, 1857 Daily (ex. Sun)

Proprietors: Ritchie, Pryor & Dunnivant

IVP Associates: -----

Notes: Thomas Ritchie Jr. died on May 22, 1854; about October 1st, his interest in the *Enquirer* was sold to printer William W. Dunnivant (d. 1865), younger brother of the Petersburg publisher Marvel W. Dunnivant (154). Under this new regime, the paper was continued in

both its daily and twice-weekly editions, with a new weekly edition added to the mix in March 1855; the firm also offered a new version of *The Campaign Enquirer* in 1856 (June-November) in support of the presidential candidacy of Democrat James Buchanan.

References: LCCN nos. 84-024735, 85-026447, 84-024729, 84-024728, & 94-060086; Cappon 1262.

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**Variante 10: Daily Richmond Enquirer**

Publication Data: February 17, 1857 to about April 2, 1858 Daily (ex. Sun)

Proprietors: Ritchie & Dunnivant

IVP Associates: -----

Notes: With the issue of February 17, 1857, Pryor withdrew from partnership with W. F. Ritchie and W. W. Dunnivant in order to start a new highly-partisan Richmond daily (called *The South*, issued from March 1857 to November 1858). Ritchie & Dunnivant continued the paper in its three editions: daily, twice-weekly, and weekly.

References: LCCN nos. 84-024735, 85-026447, 84-024729, & 84-024728; Cappon 1262.

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**Variante 11: Daily Richmond Enquirer**

Publication Data: By May 18, 1858 to August 10, 1860 Daily (ex. Sun)

Proprietors: Ritchie, Dunnivant, Tyler & Wise

IVP Associates: -----

Notes: In April 1858, Ritchie & Dunnivant added new editorial voices to the *Enquirer*, ones who were inclined to favor secession: Nathaniel Tyler (1828-1917), a Democratic editor from Warrenton, and Obadiah Jennings Wise (1831-1862), son of then Gov. Henry A. Wise.

References: LCCN No. nos. 84-024735, 85-026447, 84-024729, & 84-024728; Cappon 1262.

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**Variante 12: Daily Richmond Enquirer**

Publication Data: August 14, 1860 to January 30, 1863 Daily (ex. Sun)

Proprietors: Tyler, Wise, & Allegre

IVP Associates: -----

Notes: In August 1860, W. F. Ritchie and W. W. Dunnivant withdrew from daily participation in the *Enquirer*; editors Tyler and Wise immediately replaced printer Dunnivant with William B. Allegre (1813-77). The new firm discontinued the long-running twice-weekly edition, while adding a monthly advertising sheet to the usual daily and weekly editions. Paper was published partially in German in 1861 (January 28-February 25) at the height of the secession crisis, after having absorbed the dying *Virginische Zeitung* of Hermann Schuricht (1831-99), who then edited that portion.

Following passage of the secession ordinance on April 17, 1861, Tyler, Wise, and Schuricht all enlisted in Virginia regiments, so leaving the *Enquirer* office in the hands of Allegre; in their absence, the paper was edited by Bennett M. Dewitt (1815-63), Richard M. Smith (1819-72), and John Mitchel (1815-75) until Tyler's return in late 1862, following the dissolution of his regiment.

References: LCCN No. nos. 84-024735, 85-026447, & 84-024729; Cappon 1262.

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**Variant 13: Daily Richmond Enquirer**

Publication Data: February 6, 1863 to April 1, 1865 Daily (ex. Sun)

Proprietors: Tyler & Allegre

IVP Associates: -----

Notes: O. J. Wise died February 8, 1862 in the Battle of Roanoke Island; a year later, his interest in the *Enquirer* was acquired from his estate by his surviving partners. Tyler and Allegre then continued the paper until war's end, with assistance of John Mitchel until November 1863; while paper supplies proved problematic, forcing the two to issue the *Enquirer* on a half-sheet from May 7, 1862 onward, they were able to continue publishing both the daily and weekly editions. However, office and press were destroyed in fire unleashed during the evacuation of the Confederate capital during night of April 2-3, 1865; the pair then fled the city before Federal troops arrived.

Smith would resume publication of an "*Enquirer*" on October 30, 1865, but contrary to the reports that this was a continuation of the original paper, Smith's thrice-weekly sheet is better described as a replacement, just as the *Enquirer* replaced the *Examiner* in 1804. Smith increased the paper's pace to daily on December 9th, and added a weekly edition in 1866; this new offering continued under various corporate hands until late 1877.

References: LCCN No. nos. 84-024735, 85-026447, & 84-024729; Cappon 1262.

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