

# Augusta Chronicle (1792-1993)

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## Quick Facts

The *Augusta Chronicle* is the American South's oldest newspaper  
Explore over 200 years of local, regional, national and international history  
Ideal for a broad range of users, including researchers, students and genealogists

## Overview

Established in the first decade of American independence, the *Augusta Chronicle* is one of the nation's oldest newspapers. Known for its original reporting on local and regional issues, the *Chronicle* provides over 200 years of compelling insight into people, places and events from the 18th to the late 20th century.

### Explore the 19th-century American South

The *Augusta Chronicle* is a rich source for information on nearly every aspect of Southern life in the 19th century. Major eras covered in detail include the Antebellum Period, the American Civil War and Reconstruction. Important local events described include both the building of the historic Georgia Railroad, which by the mid-1840s connected Augusta to Atlanta; and the creation of the celebrated Augusta canal, built in 1845 to harness the Savannah River.

Under the direction of publisher John Erdman Smith, the paper became a vital public forum. Its masthead proclaimed: "Freedom of the Press, and Trial by Jury, to remain inviolate forever." Although the saying disappeared, later publishers remained true to its spirit, including Patrick Walsh, who campaigned against lynching and fought for black civil rights during the late 19th century.

### The American experience over the past 100 years

The 20th century brought extensive reporting on all issues and events of regional, national and worldwide significance—including the World Wars, the Great Depression and the Cold War. Local events covered include both the 1916 fire that destroyed over 700 Augusta buildings and the Masters Tournament, developed by golfer Bobby Jones in 1934.

### An American Newspaper Archive

One of the major titles in *American Newspaper Archives*, this digital edition enables users to easily search and browse the *Augusta Chronicle*. Digital editions of dozens of other vital American newspapers, from every region of the United States, are also available individually. Each is cross-searchable via an integrated interface that allows users to easily view, magnify, print and save digital page images.



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