

Journey of Excellence

Celebrating 140 years of The Philadelphia Tribune as America's oldest continuously published African-American newspaper.



Christopher J. Perry, founder of
The Philadelphia Tribune

SECTION I: PROUD BEGINNINGS

When The Philadelphia Tribune was founded in 1884, Philadelphia was seen as a place of greater opportunity and where important institutions were operating.

 The Philadelphia Tribune

MEDIA GROUP



The Philadelphia Tribune's 140th: Journey of Excellence



Philadelphia's skyline in 1913. —IMAGE/US.GOV

Journey of Excellence started with a dream for The Philadelphia Tribune

Celebrating its 140th anniversary, The Philadelphia Tribune is the oldest continuously published newspaper serving the African-American reader in the United States and considered the most prominent African-American newspaper in Philadelphia.

The Tribune was born in an era where African Americans had limited rights. Economic opportunities for Blacks were minimal, racism was at the forefront, and there were few outlets and even fewer voices in the African-American community.

It was that void that made Christopher James Perry Sr. start his own newspaper business. Born in Baltimore, Perry relocated to Philadelphia. To the dismay of his father, who wanted Perry to become a lawyer, Perry came to Philadelphia to be a newspaper reporter.

Company's history dates back to when Blacks moved to Philadelphia seeking greater opportunity.

In 1881, Perry began writing for the Northern Daily, a Philadelphia newspaper. Eventually he became editor of the "colored" department in another Philadelphia newspaper called The Sunday Mercury. In addition to being an editor, he also wrote a column called "Items on the Wing." In 1884, Perry lost this job due to the newspaper's bankruptcy.

With a few dollars, a desk, a chair, a bottle of ink and a rented room, he undertook the task of starting his own newspaper — one that would address the needs of Philadelphia's Black population.

The first offices of The Tribune were at 725, then 717 Sansom St. The Tribune currently resides at 520 S. 16th St. in Philadelphia.

Perry was 28 when he published the first issue of The Tribune in 1884. Even though he was the publisher of the paper, he wore many hats — working as the reporter, copyboy, proofreader, advertising manager and sales representative.

Under his guidance, the paper became the voice of the African-American community. Through its columns, the enterprising editor struck at the core of economic and political injustice directed at Philadelphia's Black population.

Perry launched vigorous crusades for better jobs, improved working conditions, and Black representation in city government.

One of Perry's widely known crusades was his push for a major cleanup campaign of the poverty-stricken, densely populated white area of South Philadelphia. He used the voice of The Tribune and his influence of City Hall to get the section from Front to 16th Street and from Pine to Fitzwater streets cleaned.

By 1896, The Tribune was a solid financial success. In 1899, W.E.B. Du Bois mentioned The Tribune in "The Philadelphia Negro." He noted that, "The Tribune is the chief news sheet and is filled generally with social notes and news and movements among Negroes over the country."


Even though Du Bois criticized The Tribune's editorials for being inconsistent, he also complimented Perry by saying "The paper represents pluck and perseverance on the part of the publisher."

Black newspapers played a pivotal role in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania, during the pre-Civil War period and after. Through the Spanish-American War, the Great Depression and two World Wars, The Tribune was published once a week.

It wasn't until 1941, that The Tribune went from a weekly publication to biweekly. The earlier editions of The Tribune did not have bylines on any of the articles like the paper does today.

Bylines weren't used during that time period until sometime between 1919 and 1924.

JOURNEY » 3A



The Philadelphia Tribune

Founder and Publisher
Christopher J. Perry, Sr.
(1884 - 1921)

Editor and Publisher
E. Washington Rhodes
(1922 - 1970)

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Managing Editor
Irving Randolph

Chief Financial Officer
Eugene L. Cliett, CPA

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Donna Clark

Director of Advertising
John Mason

Director of Art & Design
Bruce Johnson

Director of Administrative Services
Alonzo Kittrels

Circulation Director
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Philadelphia, PA 19146

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When Christopher J. Perry moved from Baltimore to Philadelphia, he envisioned a great city. He later started The Philadelphia Tribune in 1881. — IMAGE/TRIBUNE ARCHIVE

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Congratulations!

The Board of Directors of City Trusts salutes the Philadelphia Tribune on its 140th anniversary!

Since 1884, the Tribune has provided dedicated service and leadership to the city's African-American community and beyond, including the newspaper's distinguished coverage of the Board's role in administering two vitally important local institutions: Girard College and Wills Eye Hospital.

Congratulations on 140 great years, and we look forward to the Tribune's continued success for many years to come.

The Philadelphia Tribune's 140th: Journey of Excellence

JOURNEY » 2A

However, the first editions of The Tribune were lost in a fire in 1912. The first copy available in the archives of the Philadelphia Free Library is the Jan. 6, 1912 edition.

One of the early stories published in that edition was “Maine Report Does Not Satisfy Spain.” There was no lead story and the article was about the ship-sinking that lead to the Spanish-American War.

A clear example of how The Tribune news ranged from international to local.

Another person who benefited from the coverage of The Tribune was Edward “Ed” Bolden.

Bolden was the owner of the Hilldale Daisies and Philadelphia Stars and the founder of the Eastern Colored League. A postal clerk who belonged to several fraternal and social organizations in Philadelphia, he befriended reporters at the Tribune.

In 1916, when Bolden took over the semipro Hilldale franchise, his relationship with the newspaper blossomed after he asked The Tribune to cover his team’s games. It was an uncommon practice during the era, but Bolden saw it was a way for his teams to receive free advertising and publicity.

Bolden’s success drew the attention of white New York booking agent Nat Strong, who coveted Hilldale for his booking agency. When Bolden rebuffed his advances, Strong threatened to drive him out of business by locating a competing team across the street from Darby Field.

Bolden responded promptly and publicly to this threat by taking out an ad in The Tribune to state his case: “The race people of Philadelphia and vicinity are proud to proclaim



Over the years after Christopher J. Perry’s death, the Tribune became a trusted source in news and editorials reflecting the American American community.

— IMAGE / TRIBUNE

Hilldale the biggest thing in the baseball world owned, fostered, and controlled by race men. ... We are proud to be

in a position to give Darby citizens the most beautiful park in Delaware County, a team that is second to none and playing the best attrac-

tions available. To affiliate ourselves with other than race men would be a mark against our name that could never be eradicated.”

In May, 1921, at the age of 65, Perry died and was succeeded by G. Grant Williams. Succeeding Williams was Eugene Washington Rhodes,

Perry’s son-in-law and staff member, and a graduate of Lincoln University.

JOURNEY » 4A



Honoring the Philadelphia Tribune's Legacy and Our Shared Commitment to Education and Truth

On behalf of Cheyney University, I extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Philadelphia Tribune on the remarkable occasion of your 140th anniversary. This milestone is a testament to your unwavering commitment to journalistic excellence and your invaluable contribution to our community.

For over a century, the Tribune has been a beacon of truth, providing insightful reporting, fostering informed public discourse, and upholding the highest standards of journalism. Your dedication to delivering accurate and timely news has not only informed but also inspired generations of readers.

As an institution dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the dissemination of information, we deeply appreciate the role the Tribune has played in shaping an informed society. Your stories have chronicled our history, celebrated our achievements, and brought to light the challenges we face, all while maintaining the integrity and trust of your readership.

We look forward to many more years of your outstanding journalism and continued partnership in promoting education, awareness, and community engagement. Once again, congratulations on this extraordinary achievement.

Warmest regards,

Aaron A. Walton, President
Cheyney University

The Philadelphia Tribune's 140th: Journey of Excellence



Founder Christopher J. Perry buried at Eden Cemetery in Collingdale, Buck County. — FILE TRIBUNE FILE

JOURNEY « 3A

Under the direction of Rhodes, The Tribune continued to thrive.

In 1924, The Tribune expand-

ed as it went to 16 pages and was divided into two sections. The cost for The Tribune was six cents per copy. While The Tribune expanded, the mission of The Tribune stayed the same, which was

to address key issues affecting the Black community.

In June 1924, a Tribune story recounted the trials and tribulations of Hilda Mae Bolden, who had been elected valedic-

torian of the graduating class of Darby High School. Parents and students protested and 23 of her classmates refused to attend the commencement. Only one class officer came to the gradu-

ation — all because Bolden was Black.

The feature was updated to reflect current news events. It was originally written by Barbara Daniel Cox.



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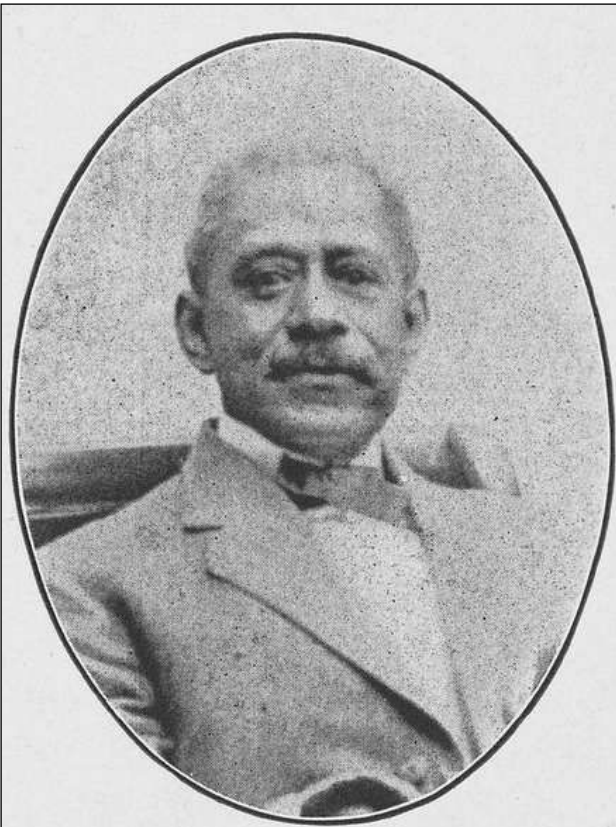
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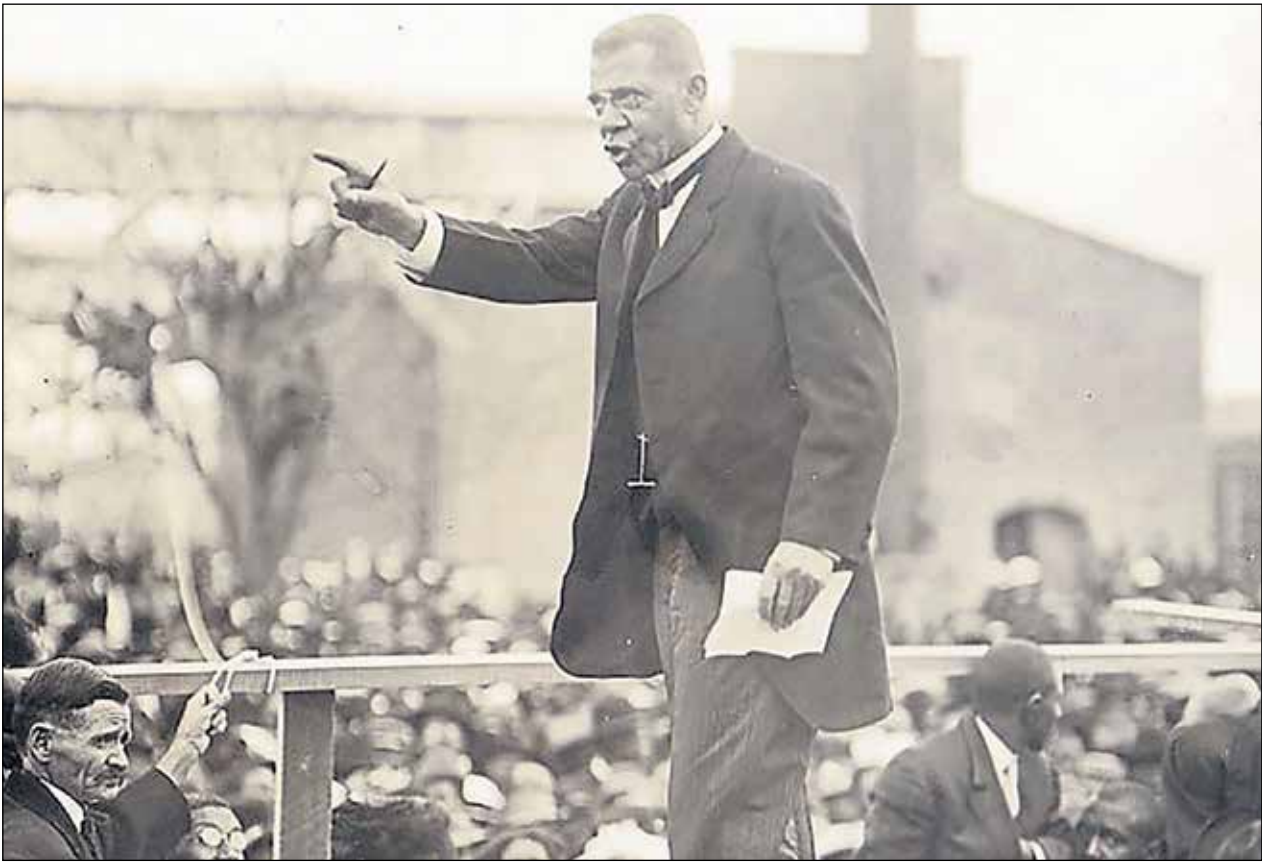
The Philadelphia Tribune's 140th: Journey of Excellence

Company Chronology & Major African-American Events



CHRISTOPHER J. PERRY.

A portrait of Christopher J. Perry, founder of The Philadelphia Tribune. —IMAGE/HE SCHOMBURG CENTER FOR RESEARCH IN BLACK CULTURE IN HARLEM



On September 18, 1895, “The Wizard of Tuskegee” Booker T. Washington spoke before a predominantly white audience at the Cotton States and International Exposition in Atlanta. His “Atlanta Compromise” address, as it came to be called, is one of the most influential & controversial speeches in American history pertaining to the peaceful resolve of race relations and collective movement of descendants of enslaved Africans 2 decades “Up From Slavery” in America. —IMAGE/J.K. SMITH SR. FOUNDATION

1884

Tribune: Founded by Christopher J. Perry The Philadelphia Tribune began as a single-handed-printed page dedicated to improving the everyday life of Blacks. It is the oldest continuously published Black newspaper in the nation.

1895

News: Booker T. Washington delivered the “Atlanta Compromise” speech at the Cotton States International Exposition in Atlanta, Georgia, Sept. 18.

1896

News: In Plessy v. Ferguson the Supreme Court gives legal backing to the concept of separate but equal public facilities for Blacks, May 18.



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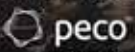
Honoree,
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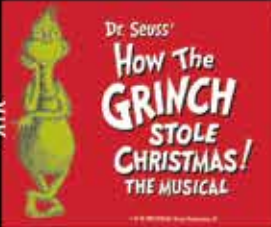
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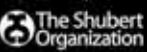




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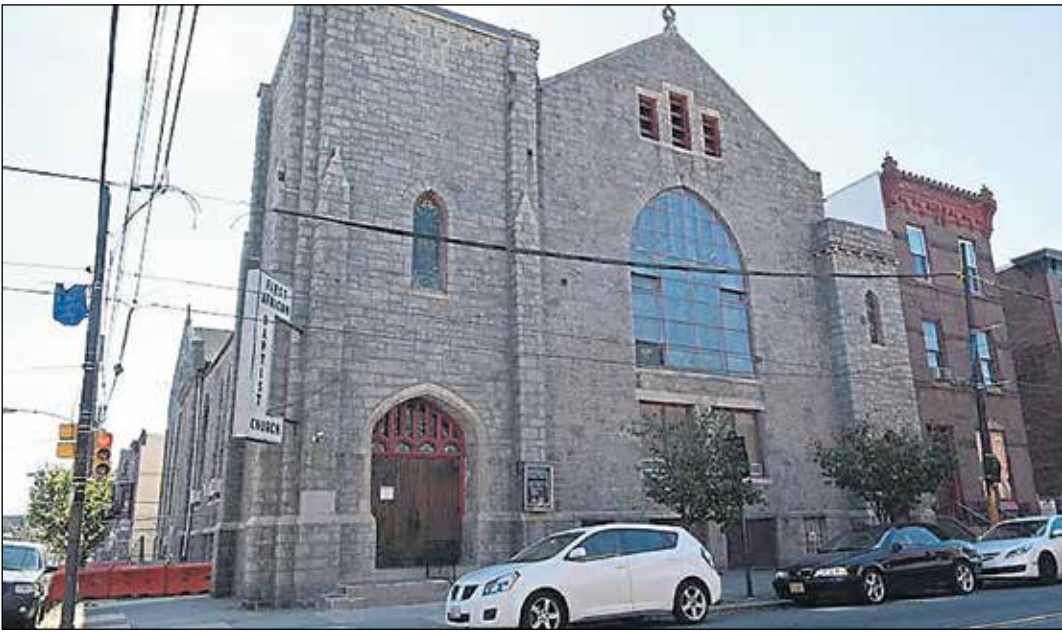
Company Chronology & Major African-American Events

1897

Tribune: A copy of the Oct. 23, 1897 edition of The Philadelphia Tribune was buried in the cornerstone of the First African Baptist Church of Philadelphia.

1905

News: W. E. B. DuBois and William Monroe Trotter were among the leaders of the meeting from which sprung the Niagara Movement, the forerunner of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, July 11 to 13.



A copy of the Oct. 23, 1897 edition of The Philadelphia Tribune was buried in the cornerstone of the First African Baptist in South Philadelphia. The congregation has moved to a different location now.
— TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO



In the image is a bus station in Durham, North Carolina, May 1940. Plessy v. Ferguson was a landmark 1896 U.S. Supreme Court decision that upheld the constitutionality of racial segregation under the “separate but equal” doctrine.
— IMAGE / LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



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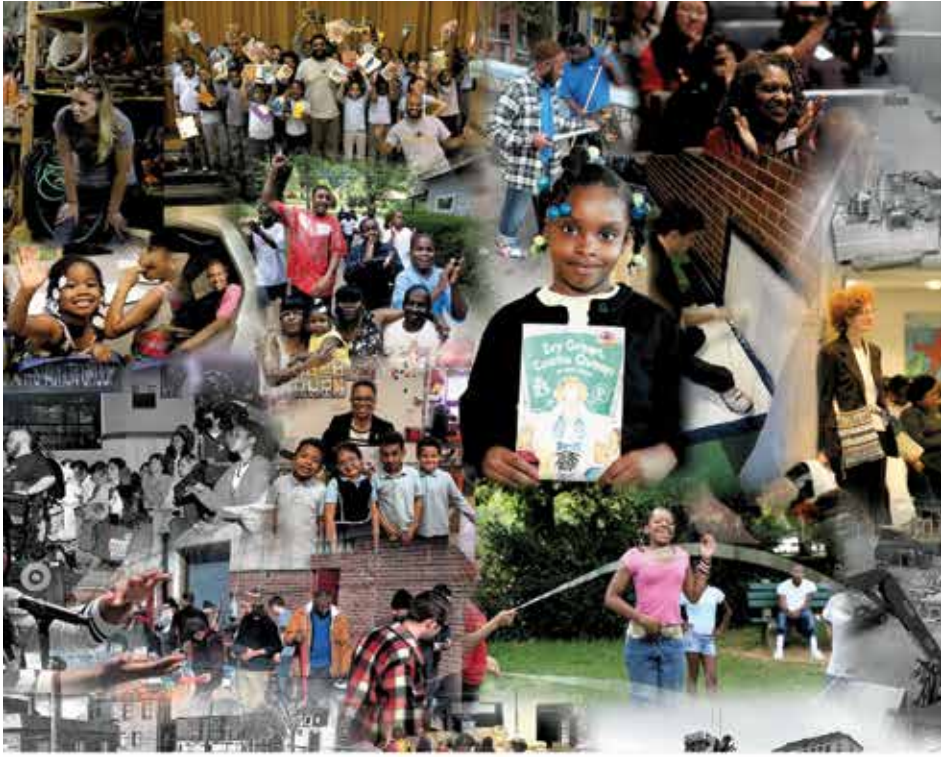
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The Philadelphia Tribune's 140th: Journey of Excellence

Company Chronology & Major African-American Events



An aerial view of what's called Jewelers Row in Philadelphia, which was the first site of The Philadelphia Tribune. The work is called "Busy Sansom Street" by Frank H. Taylor, 1914. —IMAGE / COURTESY THE LIBRARY COMPANY OF PHILADELPHIA



W.E.B. Du Bois — JAMES E. PURDY, 1907.



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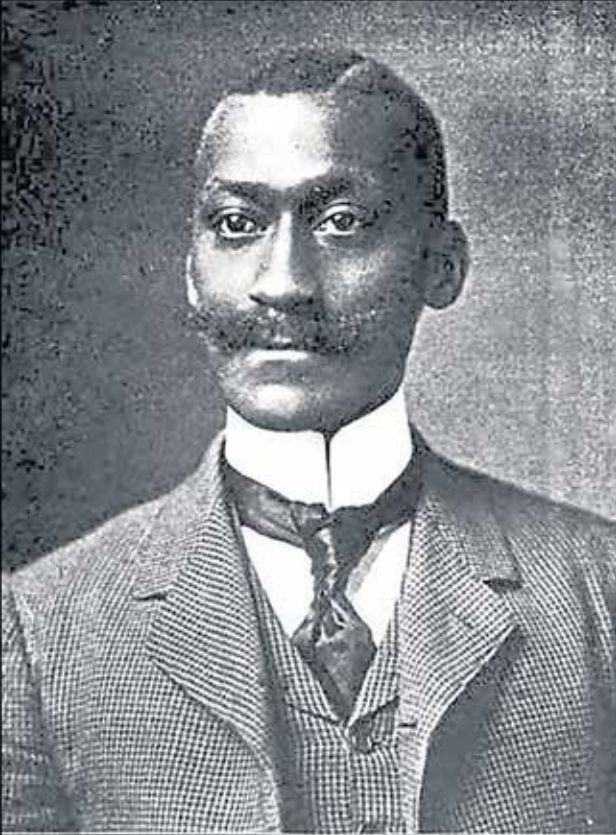
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G. Grant Williams became editor of The Philadelphia Tribune after founder and first editor Christopher J. Perry died in 1921. Williams introduced Philadelphia native and opera singer Marian Anderson before an audience at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C. in 1938. —IMAGE / THE PHILADELPHIA TRIBUNE



CONGRATULATIONS

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The Philadelphia Tribune's 140th: Journey of Excellence

Company Chronology & Major African-American Events



The National Urban League was established on September 29, 1910 in New York City. Ruth Standish Baldwin and George Edmund Haynes founded the organization. —IMAGE/NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE

1910

News: The National Urban League was established, April.

1912

Tribune: The Tribune moved to its present location at 526 S. 16th St. The first linotype machine was installed.
News: September 27: W. C. Handy published "Memphis Blues."

1915

News: Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, Sept. 9.

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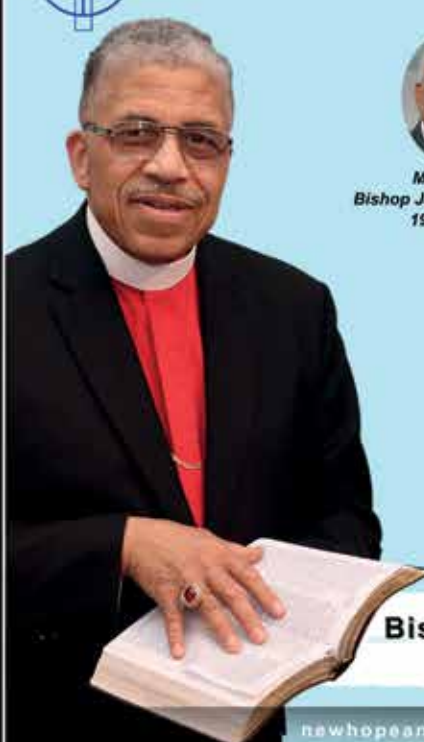


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The Philadelphia Tribune's 140th: Journey of Excellence

Company Chronology & Major African-American Events

1918

News: The First Pan-African Congress met in Paris, France, under the guidance of W. E. B. Du Bois, February 19 to 21.

1920

News: The national convention of Marcus Garvey's Universal Negro Improvement Society met in New York City, on Aug. 1-2. Garvey would be charged with mail fraud in 1923. He was convicted in 1925 and deported in 1927 after serving time in prison.

1921

Tribune: Christopher James Perry Sr. died in May 1921 at the age of 65. His daughter Beatrice Perry succeeded him. G. Grant Williams became editor and held several other key positions within the company. The Perry children stayed together to continue the tradition of publishing a newspaper for colored Philadelphians. Beatrice Perry was named to the board of directors; Bertha Perry took over the women's pages and other managerial duties; Ethel and Olivia Perry worked in the office, and Christopher Perry Jr. was foreman in the composing room.



The Philadelphia Tribune moved to its present location at 520 S. 16th St. in 1912.—IMAGE / TRIBUNE ARCHIVES



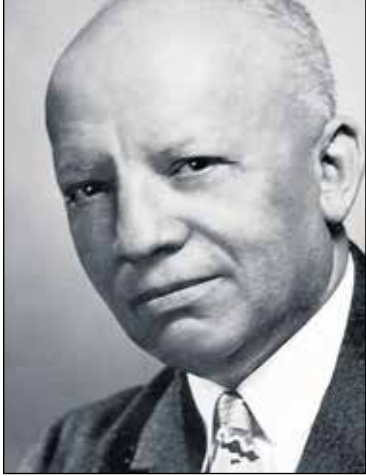
Christopher James Perry Sr. died in May 1921 at the age of 65.

—IMAGE / THE PHILADELPHIA TRIBUNE



Marcus Garvey here in a 1922 file photo in New York City.

—IMAGE / BETTMANN ARCHIVE



Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, Sept. 9.

—IMAGE / LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



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Journey of Excellence

Celebrating 140 years of The Philadelphia Tribune as America's oldest continuously published African-American newspaper.



A photo of The Tribune building after its relocation to 520 S. 16th St. in 1912.

SECTION II: NEWSWORTHY EVENTS

News, happenings and accomplishments of African Americans covered by The Philadelphia Tribune from 1884 to 1954.

 The Philadelphia Tribune

MEDIA GROUP



The Philadelphia Tribune’s 140th: Journey of Excellence

Tribune founder Christopher J. Perry’s lasting legacy

Marco Cerino
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Philadelphia is known for attracting some of America’s best and brightest to foster their talents and leave lasting impacts. While one transplant from a rival city is better known for starting a newspaper here, The Philadelphia Tribune owes its existence to a man who also came to the city from another town, Christopher J. Perry.

At 17, Perry left Baltimore and traveled to Philadelphia. He had made a name for himself as an orator and civic-minded pursuits. Born in 1854 and raised during the Civil War and Reconstruction, his father Christopher Sr. wanted him to pursue law. Christopher Jr. had other ideas. He wanted to write for newspapers, which he started at the age of 14 in Baltimore.

Perry started working in Philadelphia and attending night school. Eventually he “conceived the idea of seeking publicity for the activities of his people,” as his obituary would later describe it. After struggling for bylines, he landed some of his pieces with the *Northern Daily* in 1881.

Perry later found consistent work with the *Sunday Mercury*, rising to the position of editor of the “colored department.” He would stay there a few years before the paper declared bankruptcy in 1884, eliminating his position. He came back to Philadelphia and began working at the *Sunday Mirror*. He reported on the city’s Black community in a column titled “Flashes and Sparks,” earning acclaim for his work. When the *Mirror* closed that year, Perry was ready to go out on his own. The same month he turned 30, he launched the *Tribune* as a weekly edition focused on Black Philadelphians and their lives.

Perry continued to run his “Flashes and Sparks” features. Readers were treated to letters titled “Bessie to Emma” which was one of the paper’s most popular segments in the first decade.



A view of Tribune founder Christopher J. Perry’s native home Baltimore in the 1900s.— IMAGE / LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

“Mr. Perry’s honesty of purpose and unfaltering integrity were the greatest assets he possessed and the leven that made it possible for him to overcome the great barriers he encountered and successfully overcame in his career as a journalist,” the obituary said.

From founding the paper in 1884 to his death in 1921, Perry remained the sole owner of the *Tribune*. Many vested interests, Black and white, approached him with offers to purchase shares of ownership. All were rebuffed, as Perry insisted on leaving it for his children. The paper moved from the 700 block of Sansom Street to its current location on 520 S. 16th Street in 1912.

During his leadership, Philadelphia experienced a substantial increase of Black residents. The city’s Black population grew by nearly 1 million from 1880 to 1920. Millions moved north as part of the Great Migration, seeking factory jobs and escape from the segregated, sharecropping South. Perry used his paper to advocate for better jobs and housing conditions. He did the same for the white immigrant communities in South Philadelphia.

Perry rose to political prominence during his career as well, serving for a decade in City Council (when it was a two-chamber body with membership over 100) and the first Black Deputy Sher-

iff and Assistant Appearance Clerk. In 1907, he became the first Black appointed to Inspector at the Highway Bureau. This was all during the Republican-dominated half of the 20th century in Philadelphia politics.

As noteworthy Perry was in the public sphere, he was a devoted family man. Like so many, he wanted a better life for his children than he knew. Instead of working odd jobs and for white families like he did growing up, he made sure his family would take over the paper he founded. No matter how old they got, they were still his children.

“Every comfort and convenience were placed at the dis-



Christopher J. Perry

posal of those he loved best,” the obituary mentioned. “The home he provided for their enjoyment and now provides to be theirs, in which to live in ease and comfort for the balance of their lives, is considered to be one of the most exclusive and best-equipped of our people here in Philadelphia.”

Perry was also a devoted member to the Central Presbyterian Church, when it was based on Lombard Street off Ninth Street. The “Cedar Ward”, running from Fourth to 12th Streets between Spruce and South (then Cedar) Streets housed much of the city’s Black population. The church, founded in 1844 by Stephen Gloucester, grew to become home to some of Philadelphia’s most prominent Black residents before and after the Civil War. Rev. John B. Reeve led the congregation during Perry’s attendance.

The congregation folded after moving to West Philadelphia in 1939. Reeve Memorial Presbyterian unveiled a memorial window for Perry in 1925.

Perry died of cancer on May 15, 1921. The May 21st edition of the Tribune was filled with reverence and praise for the founder. In addition to a summary of Perry’s life,

FOUNDER • 3B

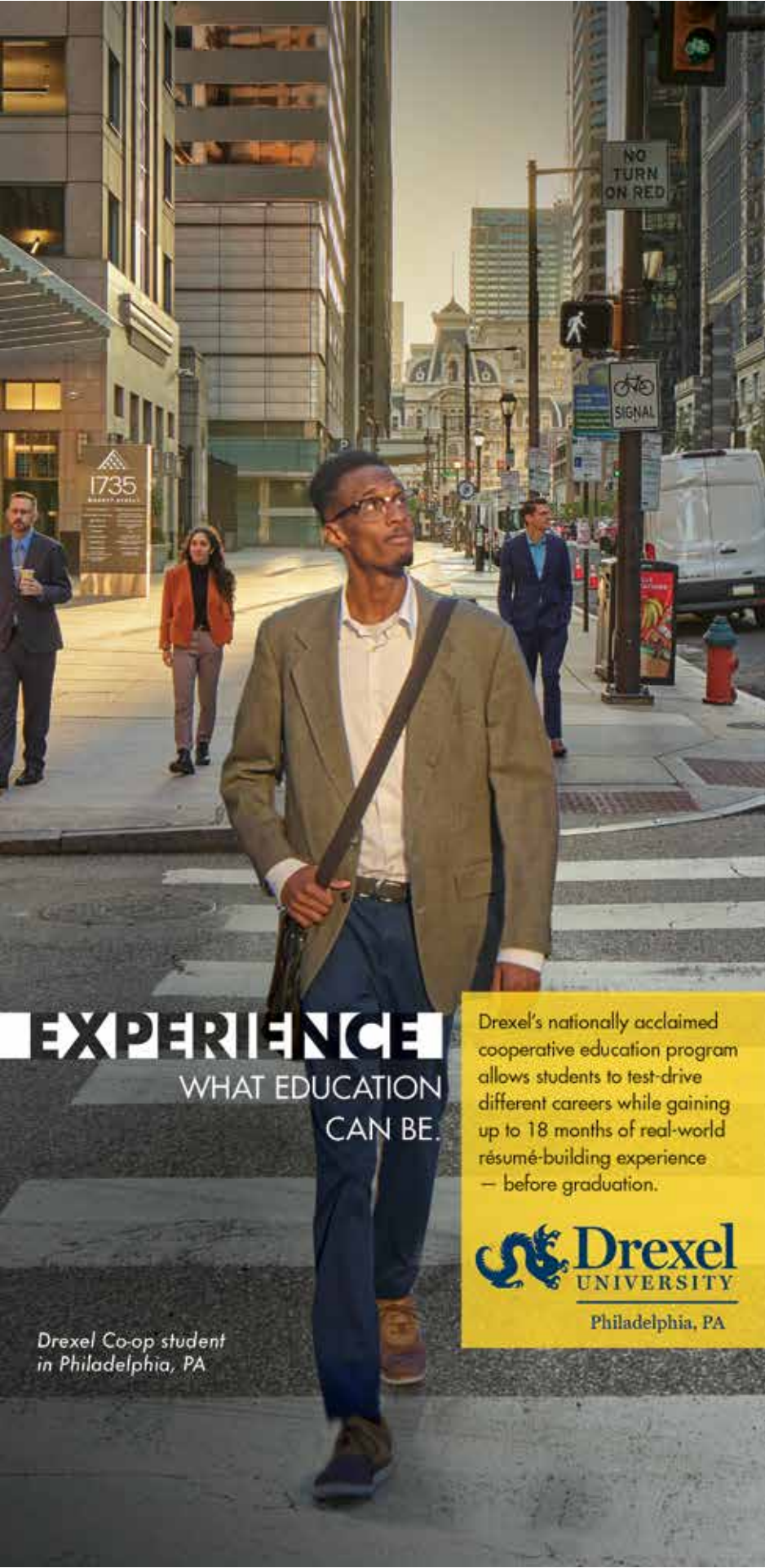


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The Philadelphia Tribune’s 140th: Journey of Excellence



The 700 block of Sansom, which is known as Jeweler’s Row, was the first home of The Philadelphia Tribune before it moved to 520 S. 16th Street. —IMAGE/PHILA.GOV

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an unattributed column titled “Our Fallen Chief” spoke of the grief at the office on S. 16th St. “Here in the workshop of the Tribune, where men loved to hear the voice of the great-

est master, next to their God, it has been the privilege to serve, now fully realized that their end of their association with their employer for all time hero on earth,” the article reads in part. “The truth seemed to be driven home with stupefying intensity

that rocked the body and soul of these strong men and was only overcome by their determination and resolve to take up anew the battle and life struggle of their departed chief, and to carry to a ripe fruition his conception of the higher ideals necessary to

bring about a better condition for his race.”

Over 100 years since Perry’s passing, the paper he stated remains a testament to his vision and the continued pursuit of his goal “to bring about a better condition for his race.” While media

brands rise and fall over the decades, his has stood the test of time, carrying the standard for Black culture, progress, and achievement.

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The Philadelphia Tribune’s 140th: Journey of Excellence

From 1884 to 1919, Tribune covered racial tension and riots

Kiara Santos
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

For 140 years, The Philadelphia Tribune has provided African Americans with news and a hopeful voice. Since its inception in 1884, The Tribune has amplified the voice of the silenced during a period when its readers adapted to the little economic empowerment for Black Philadelphians and racism.

After the sunset of the Reconstruction era, Tribune founder Christopher James Perry, defied mainstream coverage by centering the voices and news of Black Philadelphians.

Born in Baltimore, Perry migrated to Philadelphia to become a newspaper reporter. He cemented his name and skill through various local outlets. After being laid off from his previous Editor role at the Sunday Mercury, he took a couple of dollars, rented a room, and began to form a newspaper that would address the concerns and viewpoints of Black Philadelphia residents.

Thus, Perry founded The Philadelphia Tribune. He was 28. The paper was published on November 27, 1884, as a weekly, single-sheet paper.

The first offices of the Tribune were located at 725, then 717 Sansom St., on what is known today as Jeweler’s Row.

Unbeknownst to himself or anyone at the time, the Philadelphia Tribune became “America’s Oldest Continuously Published Newspaper in America Serving the African-American Community.”

Although heralding himself as the publisher, Perry also worked as a reporter, copy editor, proofreader, advertising manager, and sales representative. Through his due diligence, the paper experienced financial success by 1896.

His earliest reports not only covered the news but heavily criticized school segregation coupled with the ongoing trend of historically Black colleges and universities such as Cheyney University, which became the nation’s first HBCU. The Tribune worked arduously, advocating for equal job conditions and pay, and Black representation in city government.

In 1899, Civil Rights Activist and sociologist Dr. W.E.B. DuBois referenced The Tribune in “The Philadelphia Negro,” writing that “The Tribune is the chief news sheets and is filled generally with social notes and news and movements among Negroes over the country.”

However, DuBois critiqued The Tribune’s editorials, claiming the coverage was inconsistent, yet complemented Perry’s direction, writing that “The paper represents pluck and perseverance on the part of the publisher.”

Despite the many ongoing social climbs The Philadelphia Tribune achieved, its first editions were permanently lost in a fire in 1912. The earliest available copy of the Tribune is within the Philadelphia Free Library archives, dating back to January 6, 1912.

In 1884, there were roughly 300 Black-owned businesses, including The Philadelphia Tribune, which began publishing. By 1900, there were about 63,000 Black residents in the city.

Although the heavy limitations posed on Black Philadelphians from employment discrimination, disfranchisement, and frequent race riots in the 19th century. The city dually garnered droves of new residents — tens of thousands of people came to Philadelphia and sought a new home at the start of the Great Migration. With the promise of job opportunities during the two world

wars, Philadelphia’s African Americans created one of the largest Black communities in the urban North in the twentieth century.

With a larger, scalable Black population, more Black Philadelphians began to advocate on behalf of all Black residents in the city. Notably, Activist Octavius V. Catto, who lived from 1839 to 1871, pushed the fold for Black Americans. Catto advocated Black Americans’ right to vote, to eliminate segregation of the city’s schools, and Philadelphia’s racist trolley car system.

Due to Catto’s larger advocacy work, the Pennsylvania state legislature passed a law requiring street railways to carry passengers regardless of color in 1867 and ended legal segregation of the education system in 1881. Despite his many triumphs for the state, Catto was assassinated on Election Day in 1871, fighting for the equal right to vote for White and Black Americans.

After nearly three decades of publishing, The Philadelphia Tribune fortified itself as a reliable news source for Black Philadelphians. It opened its new and current headquarters in 1912 on 520 S. 16th Street.

Two years later, a racist mob attacked and destroyed the new home of a Black woman. The Philadelphia Department of Public Safety neglected to prompt an investigation into the crime and no white news outlets reported the incident. The managing editor of The Tribune at the time, G. Grant Williams, reported the case, writing about his hopes for African Americans to join the police force and become part of shaping the city.

Williams notably supported the legendary contralto and Philadelphia native, Marian Anderson. Anderson first sang at the Academy of Music in 1918 at the age of 21. She was presented by Willaims at the New York Clef Club Syncopated Orchestra. From there, her story was born and she embarked on her successful career, performing across the globe regardless of racist backlash.

As The Philadelphia Tribune continues to push the

fold forward for Philadelphia and beyond, its roots as a meager single-sheet newspaper under Perry

and a staunch advocate for racial equity are still prominent causes and a cultural beacon for marginalized

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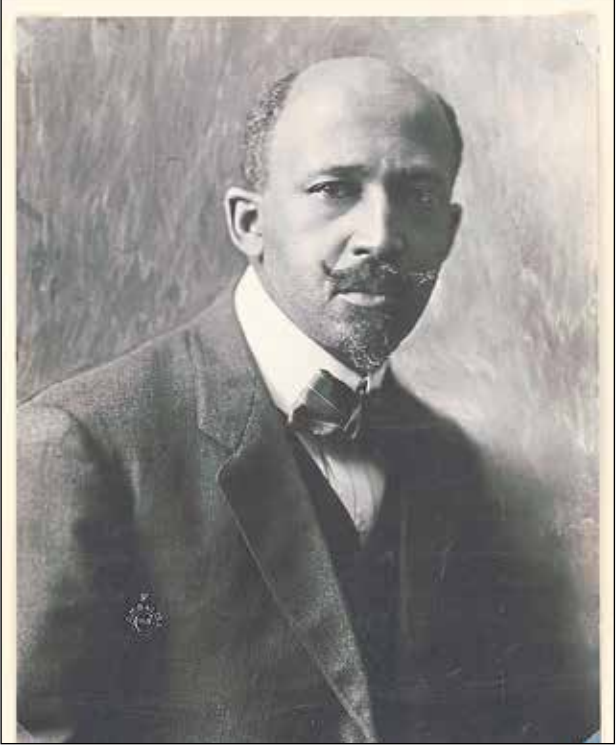
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Activist Octavius V. Catto, who lived from 1839 to 1871, pushed the fold for Black Americans. Catto advocated Black Americans’ right to vote, to eliminate segregation of the city’s schools, and Philadelphia’s racist trolley car system.

— LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



In 1899, Civil Rights Activist and sociologist Dr. W.E.B. DuBois referenced The Tribune in “The Philadelphia Negro,” writing that “The Tribune is the chief news sheets and is filled generally with social notes and news and movements among Negroes over the country.” — IMAGE/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

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The Philadelphia Tribune's 140th: Journey of Excellence

From 1919 to 1950, Tribune covered social justice contributions

James Jackson
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

From 1919 until 1950, The Philadelphia Tribune led efforts to try to change the political, social, economic, and educational circumstances for African Americans living in the city.

Christopher J. Perry, the founding editor, died in May 1921 at the age of 65. He was replaced by G. Grant Williams. The publication was entrusted to Perry's son-in-law, Eugene Washington Rhodes, a young reporter who had graduated from Lincoln University shortly after Williams' death in June 1922.

A number of revisions were made to The Tribune's composition by Rhodes and the Board of Directors. The columns were wider, and the entire page and print size were increased. The paper's ranking among the top three black newspapers in the nation in the early 1920s was most likely influenced by these modifications.

In 1920, 7.4 percent of the city's population was Black, according to U.S. Census Reports. Black people entering the city had to dwell in the already packed "colored sections" due to racial prejudice and discrimination, according to Sadie T. Mossell's 1920 research.

The Tribune became involved on several levels to help the newcomers settle into the city and to support the efforts of the Philadelphia Association for the Protection of Colored Women.

Despite a rise in subscription fees, Yale University reports that The Tribune's yearly weekly circulation stayed at or around 20,000 copies throughout the 1920s. More national Black news was carried by The Tribune than before, thanks to its membership in the 1919-founded Associated Negro Press. Several black leaders, such as Carter G. Woodson, William Pickens, and Kelly Miller, had syndicated news articles in the publication as well.

A Tribune article from June 1924 described Hilda Mae Bolden's struggles after she was chosen as the valedictorian of the Darby High School graduating class. Twenty-three of her classmates declined to attend the ceremony, while parents and students demonstrated. Bolden was Black, which is why only one class officer attended the graduation.

The Philadelphia chapter of the NAACP met with school authorities to discuss the issue of segregated schools and issued letters of protest to the school board between 1922 and 1925. However, the requests were met with negative responses from school authorities, and outraged Black parents who were instructed to send their children to the closest Black school filed a discrimination lawsuit against the Board of Education. The newspaper declared the creation of the Tribune Defense Fund Committee on April 17, 1926.

The committee's objective was to



Eugene Washington Rhodes, a young reporter who had graduated from Lincoln University became editor of The Tribune, shortly after G. Grant Williams' death in June 1922.

— IMAGE/TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

fund \$1,000, which would then be given to any organization pursuing legal action to remove segregation in the public school system in Philadelphia.

When the Depression began in 1929, The Tribune informed the Black community about efforts being made and what it could do to help ease the difficult circumstances facing Black people. The publication covered the many self-help initiatives and activities of Black churches, schools, and social groups.

In an editorial published in February 1930, the publication discussed the "Crusade for Jobs" that was being started in the city and

noted that organizations like the Chamber of Commerce "must not leave Negroes out of their considerations of the problem of finding jobs for large numbers of unemployed workers."

A letter to the editor was published in July of 1933 and it was entitled "Prayer is the cure for the Depression." It was written by the Rev. W.J. Johnson.

"The world today is looking for Mr. Roosevelt to bring the conditions back to normal," the letter reads. "The world can name it what they want but the reason is that the people in this world have stayed entirely from God."

Following the New Deal's financial reforms and regulations, which President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law in 1933, The Tribune aided the Black community by uncovering the new government relief organizations' discriminatory practices against Black people. The Tribune had historically regarded itself as a Republican newspaper; therefore, it appears the paper took this activity seriously.

The NAACP's sponsorship of Negro History Week in Wilmington, Delaware, was the subject of a 1940 Tribune article. Elmer Conoway, Harvey Dawson, and Helen Clifton, three high school students, earned cash prizes which were provided by citizens after they aced a quiz during Negro Week.

The Tribune didn't go from a weekly to a biweekly publication

until 1941. Unlike its current version, The Tribune did not include bylines on any of its pieces in its early editions.

During the early 1940's, Philadelphia, one of the major industrial centers on the East Coast, received a large number of government defense contracts.

Editorials and stories that appeared in The Tribune during the 1940s detailed the prejudice against Black employees working in the city's post offices, manufacturers, and naval yards. When other companies were questioned why they had so few Black employees, they reportedly said that they couldn't locate any "qualified" Blacks for the jobs, according to the investigations that followed. During the defensive build-up, this became the second area of Tribune activity.

Many Black people in Philadelphia were upset about the shortage of other skilled Black workers seeking positions in the defense industry.

Through the mid-1940s, groups and individuals brought attention to the need for more skilled Black workers, and The Tribune consistently encouraged young Black people to take advantage of the trade and defense courses available in the city in order to be eligible for the new skilled and semi-skilled positions that were becoming available in the defense industries.

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Pullman porters at Pennsylvania Station, which is now 30th Street Station in the 1940s.

— JOHN W. MOSLEY PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION, CHARLES L. BLOCKSON AFRO-AMERICAN COLLECTION, TEMPLE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES



Philadelphia Transportation Company protest on November 8, 1943.

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The Philadelphia Tribune's 140th: Journey of Excellence

Company Chronology & Major African-American Events

1922

Tribune: E. Washington Rhodes succeeded G. Grant Williams as the editor of The Philadelphia Tribune. Rhodes was born in Camden, S.C. in 1895. He matriculated at Lincoln University in Oxford, and earned a bachelor's degree.



A. Philip Randolph

1922

Rhodes married Bertha Perry.

1925

News: A. Philip Randolph organized the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, May 8.



Jesse Owens won four gold medals at the Summer Olympics in Berlin, Aug. 9, 1936 — AP PHOTO

1922-1929

News: These are the years usually assigned to the Harlem Renaissance, which marks an epoch in Black literature and art.

1926

Tribune: Rhodes graduated from Temple Law School in January and was admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar in February. Before the end of his first year of practice, Rhodes became the first African American to be appointed as assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. President Calvin Coolidge appointed him.

1929

Tribune: Under Rhodes' leadership, the Tribune launched a campaign for the appointment of a Black member of the City's Board of Education, the election of a Black City Council member and the election of a Black judge.

1931

Tribune: Nine young Blacks were accused of raping two white women in a boxcar. They were tried for their lives in Scottsboro, Ala., and hastily convicted. The case attracted national attention, April 6.

1932

Tribune: Noting that 14 of the 146 agencies which received financial support from the United Way Fund were "operated primarily for Negroes and were in Negro communities," The Tribune launched an initiative to generate support for the United Way Fund by African- American leaders.

1933-1935

Tribune: In addition to his responsibilities at The Tribune, Rhodes served as president of the National Bar Association, the professional association of African-American attorneys.

1934

Tribune: The Tribune fought, through its news and editorial pages, to end race riots in Chester, where movie theaters were segregated and where Black children attended "for colored only" schools until they reached the 11th grade.

1936

News: Jesse Owens won four gold medals at the Summer Olympics in Berlin, Aug. 9.

1937

Tribune: The Tribune joined with North Philadelphia Civic Betterment League and Black veterans' organizations to sponsor America's first Clean Block Campaign.

News: Joe Louis defeated James J. Braddock to become heavyweight boxing champion of the world, June 22.



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The Philadelphia Tribune's 140th: Journey of Excellence

Company Chronology & Major African-American Events

1938

Tribune: Rhodes was elected as a state representative in the Sixth Legislative District.

1940

News: Benjamin O. Davis Sr., became the first Black general in the United States Army, Oct. 16.

1941

News: President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued an executive order forbidding discrimination in defense industries after pressure from Blacks led by A. Philip Randolph, June 25.

1942

News: Some Blacks and whites organized the Congress of Racial Equality in Chicago. They led a sit-in at a Chicago restaurant, June.

1944

News: The United Negro College Fund was founded, April 24.

News: The first working, production-ready model of a mechanical cotton picker was demonstrated on a farm near Clarksdale, Miss. Oct. 2.

1947

Tribune: The Tribune moved from a weekly publishing schedule, to a twice-a-week schedule – Tuesdays and Fridays. Tribune Charities was founded to assist the community's needy, foster community pride and civic betterment, and to encourage worthy students through scholarship aid.



Little Rock Nine and Daisy Bates pose in living room, 1957-1960.

— CECIL LAYNE, PHOTOGRAPHER. / LIBRARY OF CONGRESS / COURTESY OF THE NAACP

1952

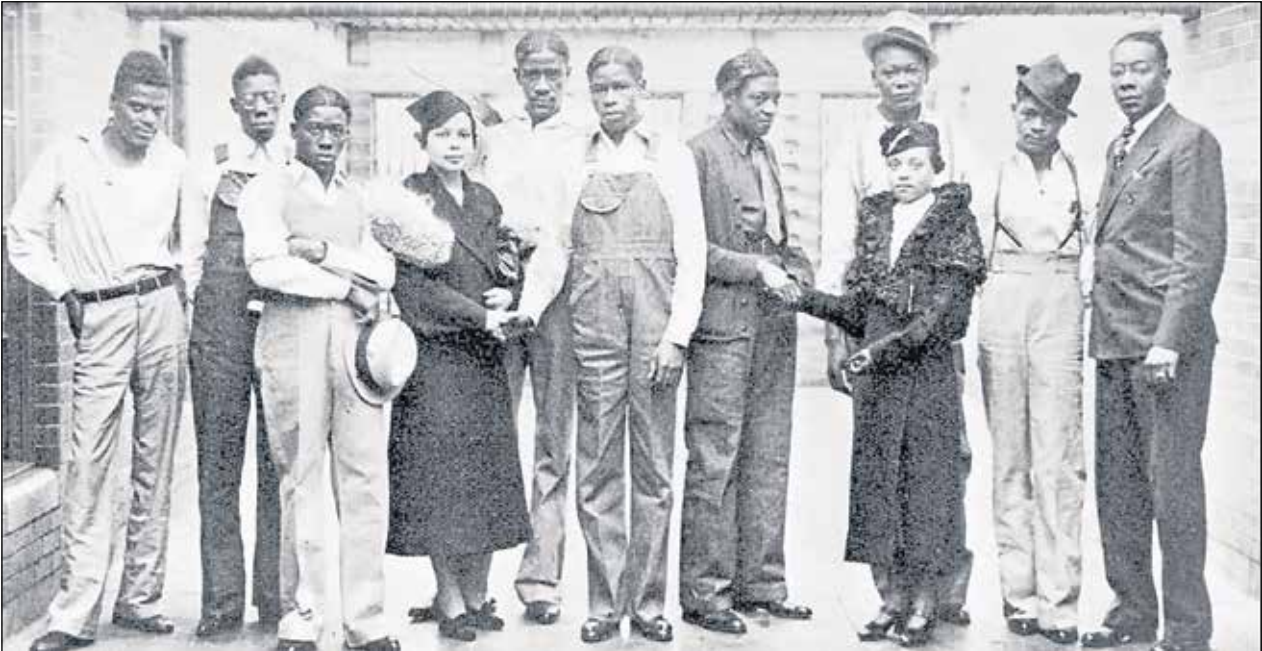
News: After keeping statistics for 71 years, Tuskegee reported that this was first year with no lynchings.

1954


News: In Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas, the Supreme Court completed overturning legal school segregation at all levels, May 17.

1950

News: Ralph J. Bunche won the Nobel Peace Prize for his work as a mediator in Palestine, Sept. 22.



Juanita E. Jackson of the NAACP, fourth from left, visiting Scottsboro boys, January 1937. — IMAGE / LIBRARY OF CONGRESS




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Celebrating 140 years of The Philadelphia Tribune as America's oldest continuously published African-American newspaper.



President Barack Obama, above, sworn into office in 2009. Vice President Kamala Harris, below, accepts nomination to be president at the DNC in 2024. — AP

SECTION III: NEWS WORTHY EVENTS

News, happenings and accomplishments of African Americans covered by The Philadelphia Tribune from 1954 to 2024.

 The Philadelphia Tribune

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The Philadelphia Tribune’s 140th: Journey of Excellence



The late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. addresses attendees of the March on Washington in 1963 in Washington D.C. — AP PHOTO

From 1954 to 1989, Tribune covered great African-American strides

Sherry Stone
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

The 1950s took America through the beginning of the end of segregation in the schools with the landmark case Brown vs. the Board of Education argued by then NAACP attorney and future

Supreme Court Judge Thurgood Marshall. The case ended the “separate but equal” doctrine and opened the door for the courage of the “Little Rock Nine,” the first Black students to walk into the formerly all-white Central High schools in Little

Rock, Arkansas, in 1957. And in December of 1955, the NAACP’s Rosa Parks was arrested when she refused to give up her seat for white-riders on a bus, leading to a boycott and the end of segregation on buses. The 1960s kicked off the rise of the Civil Rights Move-

ment with sit-ins at stores like Woolworths leading to Blacks finally sitting at the lunch-counters with whites in Greensboro, N.C, after boycotts cost the store more than \$200,000 in losses. In 1960, six-year-old kindergartner Ruby Bridge passed a test just for Black

children who wanted to attend an all-white school in New Orleans, and went to class accompanied by FBI agents following angry protests and threats to poison her school lunch. During this era, the late Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. led his famous March on

Washington, and on July 2, 1964 President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 into law. The signing of the Voting Rights Act followed in 1965 after a quarter of a million people marched from

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The Philadelphia Tribune’s 140th: Journey of Excellence

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Selma, Alabama to the governor’s mansion. By the end of the decade, African Americans benefited from the Fair Housing Act of 1968, which banned the sale, rental and financing of property. Before African Americans mourned the assassination of King on April 4, 1968,

Thurgood Marshall, a local Lincoln University and Howard Law School graduate, became the first African-American judge to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court in 1967, serving until 1991.

Thanks to the efforts of people like King, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, and the late Congressman John Lewis during the 50s and 60s, African Americans began to take great strides in the 70s as doors began to open in America.

In January of 1970, Clifton Wharton, Jr. became the first African-American to head a predominantly white university when he became president of Michigan State University. Wharton, who earned his bachelor’s degree from Harvard University, became the first African-American to be admitted to the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University, and he became the first Black person to earn a Ph.D from the University of Chicago.

The 1970s marked the birth of a number of African-American publications and businesses and several cities saw the election of the nation’s first African-American mayors of major U.S. cities. Essence Magazine was established in May of 1970 and rose to a circulation of 1 million with a readership base of 8.5 million. And in August of 1970, Black Enterprise Magazine was introduced, offering essential business information for Black professionals, corporate executives, business-owners and leaders. Black Enterprise gained a circulation of about a half million readers. During this era, Johnson and Johnson products, founded by African-American George Ellis Johnson, started with just a \$500 loan, became the first Black-owned business on a major U.S. Stock Exchange.

In terms of politics, the 1970s

was full of firsts for Blacks. Congressman Andrew Young and the late Congresswoman Barbara Jordan became the first Blacks to represent the South since 1898. Jordan later became the first Black woman to deliver the keynote address before the National Convention in Chicago. During this decade, in March of 1970, the Congressional Black Caucus was established by 13 African-American statesmen including Democrats Rep. Robert N.C. Nix of Pennsylvania, Rep. Shirley Chisholm of New York and Rep. John Conyers of Michigan. To top off a list of political achievements, Mayor Maynard Jackson, Jr., was elected the first Black mayor of Atlanta, Georgia with 60% of the popular vote, and in Michigan Mayor Coleman Young was elected the first Black mayor of Detroit and served for twenty years.

Andrew Young became the first African-American to serve as a U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations under former President Jimmy Carter on January 30, 1970, and during the 1980’s he would serve two terms as mayor of Atlanta. President Carter also appointed Patricia Roberts-Harris as the first Black woman to head the Department of Housing and Urban Development; She was also the first Black woman to serve as Dean of Howard Law School or any U.S. law school.

This decade was a winner for Black sports heroes. Leroy “Satchel” Paige was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in February of 1970, and was hired by the Cleveland Indians after having for the Negro Leagues for two decades. Black basketball legend “Wilt the Stilt” Chamberlain was celebrated as the first NBA player to score more than 30,000 points during his career and more than 100 personal points in one game. And in July of 1970, Black tennis star Arthur Ashe became the first Black tennis star to win the men’s single title at Wimbledon. And, not to forget boxing great, Muhammad Ali became the first heavyweight champ to win the title three times by defeating challenger Leon Spinks in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The 1980’s saw African Amer-



Philadelphia hometown hero Astronaut Guion Bluford, Jr. of West Philadelphia, made national history in August of 1983. Bluford became the first African-American astronaut to make a space flight and was the first Black astronaut to fly into orbit. —IMAGE / NASA

icans explode in media, entertainment, politics, and the arts. In 1980, businessman Robert L. Johnson launched Black Entertainment Television, which promoted Black rhythm and blues and hip-hop artists. BET was later sold to Viacom for \$2.3 billion.

Ground-breaking journalist Bryant Gumbel became the first African-American hired as an anchor for a major network when he was hired by “The Today Show,” on September 27, 1982, covering major events like the Seoul Summer Olympics in 1988 and the 1992 presidential elections. Black billionaire Oprah Winfrey debuted the “Oprah Winfrey Show,” a syndicated talk show, on September 8, 1984, and gained an audience of 20 million viewers.

Singer Michael Jackson, sold over 104 million copies his famous Thriller album as of 2021 following the albums original release on

November 30, 1982. And in September of 1983, the beautiful and talented Vanessa Williams made history as the first African-American winner of the Miss American pageant, going on to a successful career in music, film and theater.

Philadelphia hometown hero Astronaut Guion Bluford, Jr. of West Philadelphia, made national history in August of 1983. Bluford became the first African-American astronaut to make a space flight and was the first Black astronaut to fly into orbit. The next year on January 2, 1984, Mayor W. Wilson Goode, the city’s former Managing Director, became the first African-American mayor of Philadelphia and served two terms. Goode later went on to serve as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Education under former President Bill Clinton. In law-enforcement history, Commissioner Willie Williams became the first

African-American to lead the Philadelphia Police Department in June of 1988. Commissioner Williams was later called upon to lead the Los Angeles Police Department in 1992.

In 1984, Black Astronaut Ronald McNair was one of the six NASA astronauts who died when the Challenger Space Shuttle exploded after it launched from the Kennedy Space Center. That year in history, Rev. Jesse Jackson sought the Democratic nomination for U.S. President, and tried again in 1988, gaining 1, 218 delegate votes for the bid, but not enough to beat nominee Michael Dukakis. And in science, neurosurgeon Dr. Ben Carson led a team of surgeons at Johns Hopkins University Hospital for the first successful separation of conjoined twins in 1984.

Much later, Carson would be tapped to serve for four years as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development during President Donald Trump’s first term in office.

This was also the decade known for passage of a bill to make King’s birthday a national holiday. Former President Ronald Reagan signed recognition of King’s birthday as a national holiday into law on November 3, 1983. And in sports and business, Robert C. Maynard became the first Black person in the United States to own a major daily newspaper, the “Oakland Tribune,” and worked to turn it into a Pulitzer Prize-winning publication by the 1990s.

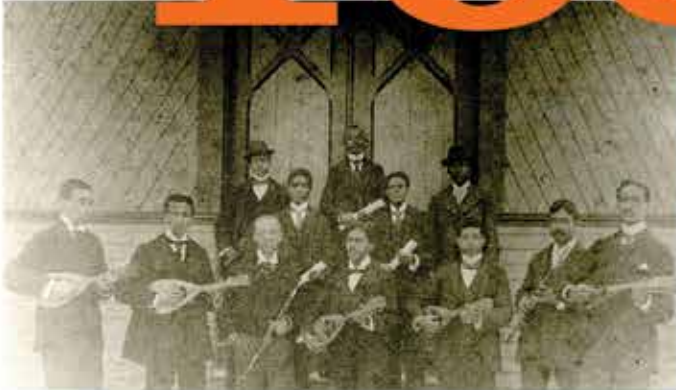
During the 80s Black legendary track star Carl Lewis won four gold medals in the 1984 Olympics and actually matched Black U.S. Olympian Jesse Owens’ record. And in March of 1984, boxer Mike Tyson became the youngest heavyweight champion in the world, boasting 37 undefeated wins by the end of the decade.

Meanwhile, in the arts, writer Gwendolyn Brooks became the first Black woman to win a Pulitzer prize and became the first Black woman to be named U.S. Poet Laureate. Singer Aretha Franklin became the first Black woman to be inducted into the American Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

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The Philadelphia Tribune’s 140th: Journey of Excellence



Nelson Mandela, with his wife, Winnie, walks to freedom after 27 years in prison on Feb. 11, 1990, in Cape Town. —AP

From 1989 to 2024, Tribune covered a world of change

Chanel Hill
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Whether it was Nelson Mandela being released from prison, the Million Man March, or the presidency of the nation’s first African American president, The Philadelphia Tribune has been at the forefront of some of the biggest stories here and around the globe.

In the 90s, The Tribune covered Mandela extensively. Among the coverage for the paper included the release of Mandela from a cape town prison in South Africa.

Incarcerated for 27 years, the African National Congress leader and anti-apartheid activist would become the first president of South Africa. He was the country’s first Black head of state. The Tribune would later cover his presidency, future trips to the United States and his passing in 2013.

In an article written by Tribune Staff Writer Sherry Stone in 1994, Stone talked to numerous people about Mandela’s first 100 days as the president of South Africa.

“This is a transitional period so it is hard to access gains,” said South African Zola Pinda in the

article. “We are still transforming ourselves.

“When you talk about housing, education, and other issues it’s a process,” Pina said. “There are still debates over the route to ultimately take, but at a broad level. I think we are moving in the right direction.”

In 1995, The Tribune had several reporters covering the Million Man March. The gathering, which was held in Washington, D.C. at the National Mall, promoted African American unity and family values. The event was organized by Minister Louis Farrakhan.

The success of the event would later lead to the Million Women March in 1997. The event was held in Philadelphia and was organized by local store owner Phile Chionese and public housing activist Asia Coney.

In an article written by former Tribune Staff Writer Kendall Wilson, the march consisted of three initiatives including repentance, restoration and resurrection.

“We’re repenting among ourselves so that we are not disrespecting or continuing negativity among ourselves based on our hair texture or class,” said co-coor-

dinator of the march’s communication committee Barbara Smith in the Tribune article.

“Our restoration means we heal, apologize and reach out to each other,” she said. “Resurrection means we reach out to our family members and move into the millennium as a family.”

In addition to covering numerous marches, The Tribune covered its share of trials and protests including the OJ Simpson trial and the Rodney King verdict. The verdict would later spark six days of

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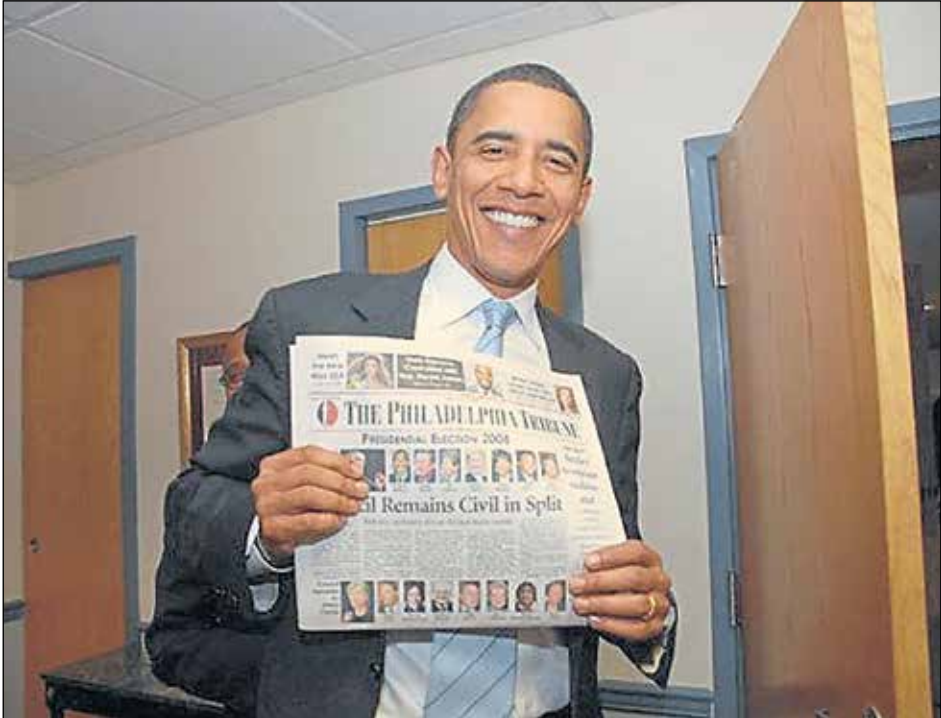
Here's to many more years
of shaping history.



The Philadelphia Tribune's 140th: Journey of Excellence



Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris delivers a concession speech after the 2024 presidential election on the campus of Howard University in Washington. — AP PHOTO/JACQUELYN MARTIN



Former President Barack Obama holds a copy of The Philadelphia Tribune after his editorial board meeting with the paper in 2008. — TRIBUNE PHOTO/ABDUL SULAYMAN

CHANGE « 4C

deadly riots in South Central Los Angeles.

The cases of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown and George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery were also covered extensively in the Tribune. Arbery, 25, was chased and fatally shot in 2021 after three men saw him running in their neighborhood in Brunswick, Georgia.

During the trial, hundreds of Black pastors from around the nation traveled to Georgia for a prayer vigil at the Glynn County Courthouse in support of Arbery's family.

The vigil came after the defense attorney Kevin Gough objected to the presence of civil rights leader Rev. Al Sharpton in the courtroom.

"The defense attorney's comments about Black pastors were a direct attack on the Black church, rooted in a historical reality," said former senior pastor of Mother Bethel Afri-

can Methodist Episcopal Church the Rev. Mark Tyler in the article.

"It's the same history that made those men chase Ahmaud Arbery down, assuming he was suspicious because of the color of his skin," he said. "It's the same history that caused every Black juror except for one to be stricken from the jury.

"Now it rears its head again in this attempt to keep Black faith leaders silent and on the sidelines, prevented from fighting for social justice," Tyler added. "We won't let it happen."

Over the last 35 years, The Tribune covered some major events including mass shootings, wars and the September 11 attacks. In education, the paper wrote stories on budgets, school cuts, programs and the school board returning to local control.

"We believe a local school board that is appointed by the mayor and publicly vetted and confirmed by City Council is the appropriate vehicle for that accountability," said a joint state-

ment by Mayor Jim Kenney and City Council President Darrell Clarke in a Tribune article in 2017.

In sports, fans watched the Philadelphia Phillies win its second world series title in franchise history in 2008. The Philadelphia Eagles would win its first Super Bowl in 2018.

The paper also witnessed history being made. Colin Powell was named the secretary of state from 2001 to 2005, making him the first African-American to hold the office.

Clarence Thomas is the second African American to serve on the Supreme Court. Civil rights lawyer and jurist Thurgood Marshall was the first. Thomas is currently the longest-serving member on the court.

President Barack Obama served as the 44th president of the United States from 2009 to 2017. He is the first African-American president in U.S. history. Obama actually visited the Tribune on April 16, 2008 during his campaign for president.

In January, Cherelle Parker became the 100th mayor of Philadelphia. Parker served in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 2005 to 2015. She is the city's first woman mayor.

"I am excited to be standing here with family, friends and my village," said Parker in a Philadelphia Tribune article in January.

"Thank you for choosing me to be your mayor," she said. "It's something that I will never forget. I was a child who most people thought would never succeed."

Though she lost her race, Kamala Harris became the first Black woman to head a major party's ticket, accepting the Democratic nomination to be president of the United States at the party's convention in Chicago in August.

Harris' historic campaign made several Tribune front pages.

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The Philadelphia Tribune's 140th: Journey of Excellence

Company Chronology & Major African-American Events



Rosa Parks is fingerprinted after refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white person in 1955. —AP



1955

News: Rosa Parks refused to change seats in a Montgomery, Ala., bus, on Dec. 1. On December 5 Blacks began a boycott of the bus system which continued until shortly after Dec. 13, 1956, when the United States Supreme Court outlawed bus segregation in the city.

1957

News: The Southern Christian Leadership Conference was formed with Martin Luther King Jr., as president, Feb. 14. News: Congress passed the Voting Rights Bill of 1957, the first major civil rights legislation in more than 75 years, Aug. 29.

1960

News: Sit-ins in Greensboro, N.C., initiated a wave of similar protests throughout the South, February.

News: The Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee was founded in Raleigh, N. C., April 15-17.

1962

Tribune: The Tribune purchased the final building on May 22, where it stands today at 520 S. 16th Street. Rhodes was elected president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) a trade organization comprised of African-American-owned newspapers across the country.

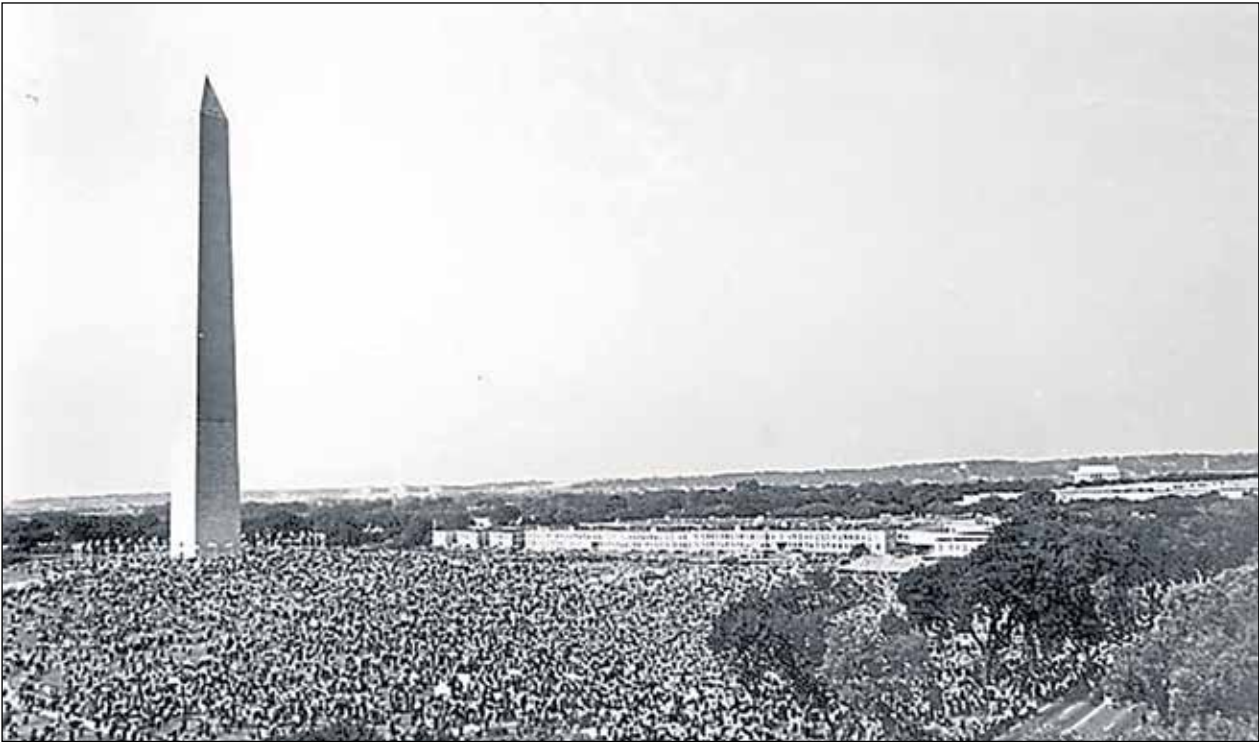
1964

News: The 24th Amendment for-bade the use of the poll tax to prevent voting, Jan. 23.

News: Malcolm X announced his split from Elijah Muhammad's Nation of Islam, March 12. He would be assassinated on Feb. 21,

1965

News: Beginning in Harlem, serious racial disturbances occurred in more than six major cities, July 18-Aug. 30.



Hundreds of thousands gather on the Mall in Washington D.C. to hear the late Rev. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech in 1965. —AP



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Company Chronology & Major African-American Events

1963

News: Under the leadership of Martin Luther King Jr., Blacks began a campaign against discrimination in Birmingham, April 3.

News: Civil rights protests took place in most major urban areas, June-August.

News: The March on Washington was the largest civil rights demonstration ever. Martin Luther King Jr., delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech, Aug. 28.



In 1983, Wilson Goode, whose family migrated to Philadelphia from the South, became the city’s first Black mayor.
—SPECIAL COLLECTIONS RESEARCH CENTER, TEMPLE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

1965

News: The SCLC launched a voter drive in Selma, Ala. which escalated into a nationwide pro- test movement, Jan 2.

News: The Watts riots left 34 dead, more than 3,500 arrested, and property damage of about \$225 million, Aug. 11-21.

1966

News: CORE endorsed the concept “Black Power.” SNCC also adopted it. SCLC did not and the NAACP emphatically did not, July 1-9.

News: The Black Panther Party was founded by Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale in Oakland, Calif., October.



E. Washington Rhodes

1967

News: This was the worst summer for racial disturbances in United States history. More than 40 riots and 100 other disturbances occurred, May1-Oct. 1.

1968

News: Martin Luther King was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn. In the following week riots occurred in at least 125 places throughout the country, April 4.



Robert W. Bogle

1969

Tribune: Eustace A. Gay served as Tribune president.

News: The Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation in schools had to end at once and that unitary school systems were required, Oct. 29.

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The Philadelphia Tribune's 140th: Journey of Excellence

Company Chronology & Major African-American Events

19701973

Tribune: E. Washington Rhodes, publisher of The Tribune, dies.

Tribune: John A. Saunders began his tenure as Tribune president.

1971

News: The Southern Regional Council reported that desegregation in Southern schools was the rule, not the exception. The report also pointed out that the dual school system was far from dismantled, March 24.

News: Thomas Bradley was elected the first Black mayor of Los Angeles, May 29.

News: Maynard H. Jackson was elected the first Black mayor of Atlanta, Oct. 16.

1974


News: Henry Aaron hit his 715th home run to become the all-time leading hitter of home runs, April 8.

News: The largest single gift to date from a Black organization was the \$132,000 given by the Links, Inc., to the United Negro College Fund, July 1.



A block in the Cobbs Creek section of West Philadelphia is on fire after city police drop a bomb in the MOVE confrontation in 1985. —AP

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Shante Gruld carries Janeka Garner, 5, to safety after they were rescued from their flooded home by boat in New Orleans on Aug. 29, 2005. The area was flooded after Hurricane Katrina hit the area. —AP

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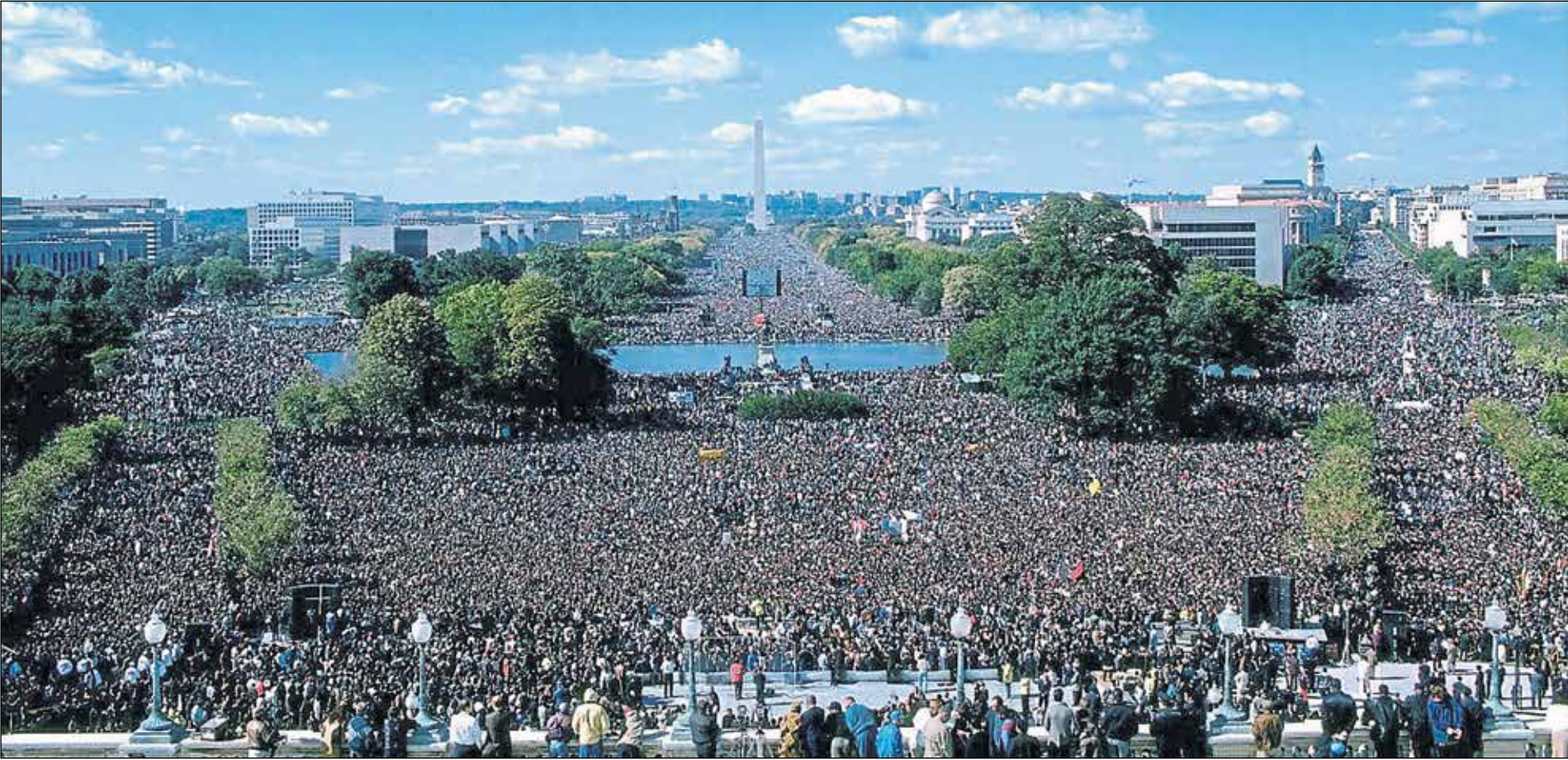
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The Philadelphia Tribune’s 140th: Journey of Excellence

Company Chronology & Major African-American Events




Up to a million Black men from across the U.S. traveled to Washington D.C. to attend the historic Million Man March in 1995 led by Minister Louis Farrakhan. — CNN

1976	1980	1983
Tribune: Alfred L. Morris became president of The Tribune.	News: Racial disturbances beginning on May 17 resulted in 15 deaths in Miami. This was the worst riot since those in Watts and Detroit in the 1960s.	News: W. Wilson Goode won the Democratic party nomination and elected the first Black mayor of Philadelphia.
1977	1981	
News: This was the eighth and final night for the miniseries based on “Alex Haley’s Roots.” This final episode achieved the highest ratings ever for a single program, Feb. 3.	Tribune: After serving as treasurer and executive vice president, Waverly L. Easley was appointed interim president and then served as president from 1981 through 1988. The Tribune became the first newspaper in Philadelphia to use 4-color format.	News: Harold Washington won the Democratic party nomination for mayor of Chicago. On April 12 he would win the election for mayor.
1978	1982	1985
Tribune: The Tribune began publishing its educational edition, The Learning Key, which can be found in all public schools in the Philadelphia School District. Metro editions were introduced.	News: Lee P. Brown was named the first Black police commissioner of Houston, May 23.	News: City of Philadelphia rocked by what’s known as the MOVE bombing, a fatal encounter between the

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Company Chronology & Major African-American Events

Philadelphia Police Department and members of the MOVE organization. The aftermath: 11 people, including five children, died after a bomb was dropped on a West Philadelphia row home May 13.

1988

News: Jesse L. Jackson received 1,218.5 delegate votes at the Democratic National Convention, July 20. The number needed for the nomination, which went to Michael Dukakis, was 2,082.

1989

Tribune: After serving The Tribune as executive vice president, treasurer and director of marketing and advertising, Robert W. Bogle became Tribune president.

News: Barbara Harris was elected the first woman bishop of the Episcopal Church, Jan. 29. Aug. 10: General Colin L. Powell was named chair of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff.

News: David Dinkins was elected mayor of New York, and L. Douglas Wilder, governor of Virginia, Nov. 7.

1990

News: Nelson Mandela, South African Black Nationalist, was freed after 27 years in prison.

News: George Augustus Stallings became the first bishop of the African-American Catholic Church, a breakaway group from the Roman Catholic Church, May 13.

1991

Tribune: Robert W. Bogle began his first term as president of the NNPA.

News: Wellington Webb was elected mayor of Denver, June 18.

1992

Tribune: Tribune TV, a weekly television viewing guide was introduced. Tribune Magazine, a monthly publication addressing contemporary issues, made its debut.

News: “The Cosby Show” broadcast the final original episode of its highly successful eight-season run.

News: Jackie Joyner-Kersey was the first woman to repeat as Olympic heptathlon champion, Aug.3.

News: Mae C. Jemison was first Black American woman in space on board the space shuttle Endeavor, Sept. 12.

News: Carol Moseley Braun of Illinois was the first Black woman ever elected to the United States Senate, Nov. 3.

1993

Tribune: Robert W. Bogle began second term as NNPA president.

News: M. Joycelyn Elders became the first Black and the first woman United States Surgeon General, Sept. 7.

News: Toni Morrison was the first Black American to win the Nobel Prize in Literature, Oct. 7.

1994

Tribune: The Philadelphia Tribune celebrated its 110th anniversary in November. Robert W. Bogle received the Samuel E. Cornish Publisher of the Year award from the NNPA. The Tribune won the A. Philip Randolph Messenger Award for Outstanding Journalism in the area of civil rights. The Tribune became the sponsor for Philadelphia County of the Scripps Howard Regional Spelling Bee.

1994

Tribune: The Philadelphia Tribune celebrated its 110th anniversary in November. Robert W. Bogle received the Samuel E. Cornish Publisher of the Year award from the NNPA. The Tribune won the A. Philip Randolph Messenger Award for Outstanding Journalism in the area of civil rights. The Tribune became the sponsor for Philadelphia County of the Scripps Howard Regional Spelling Bee.

1995

Tribune: Seven nationally recognized awards were bestowed upon the Tribune by the NNPA. The Tribune introduced Sojourner, an African-American visitors guide to Philadelphia.

News: The Million Man March, the idea of Nation

of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, called the event, held in Washington, D.C., “A Day of Atonement and Reconciliation.” The march was described as a call to Black men to take charge in rebuilding their communities and show more respect for themselves and devotion to their families, Oct. 16.

1996

Tribune: Robert W. Bogle was elected to the Board of Directors of USAir Group, Inc.

1997

Tribune: The Tribune received six nationally recognized awards from the NNPA, including the Russwurm Award for Best Newspaper in America. The Tribune increased its days of publication from three to four days a week. The Tribune introduced their Business Directory, a publication listing African-American-owned businesses in the five-county region.

News: Betty Shabazz, widow of Malcolm X and a champion of civil rights, died in New York of burns suffered in a June 1 fire in her apartment, allegedly set by her 12-year-old grandson, Malcolm, June 23. News: Black American women participated in the Million Woman March in Philadelphia, focusing on health care, education, and self help, Oct. 25.

1998

Tribune: NNPA honored The Tribune with nine Merit Awards. The Tribune also received the prestigious A. Philip Randolph Messenger Award for its coverage of civil rights. Tribune reporter Kendall Wilson received this distinguished award for his series on the future of Black-owned funeral homes.

News: Civil rights veteran James Farmer was one of 15 men and women awarded the Medal of Freedom from President Clinton. Born in Marshall, Texas, he was the national director of the Congress of Racial Equality during the 1960s and was one of the most influential leaders of the civil rights movement throughout its most turbulent decade, Jan. 15, 1998.

News: Track star Florence Griffith Joyner died at the age of 38, Sept. 21. In the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games, Griffith became the first American woman to win four track and field medals — three gold and one silver — in one Olympic competition.

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A look at how The Philadelphia Tribune played its biggest news on its front pages from 1884 to 2024.

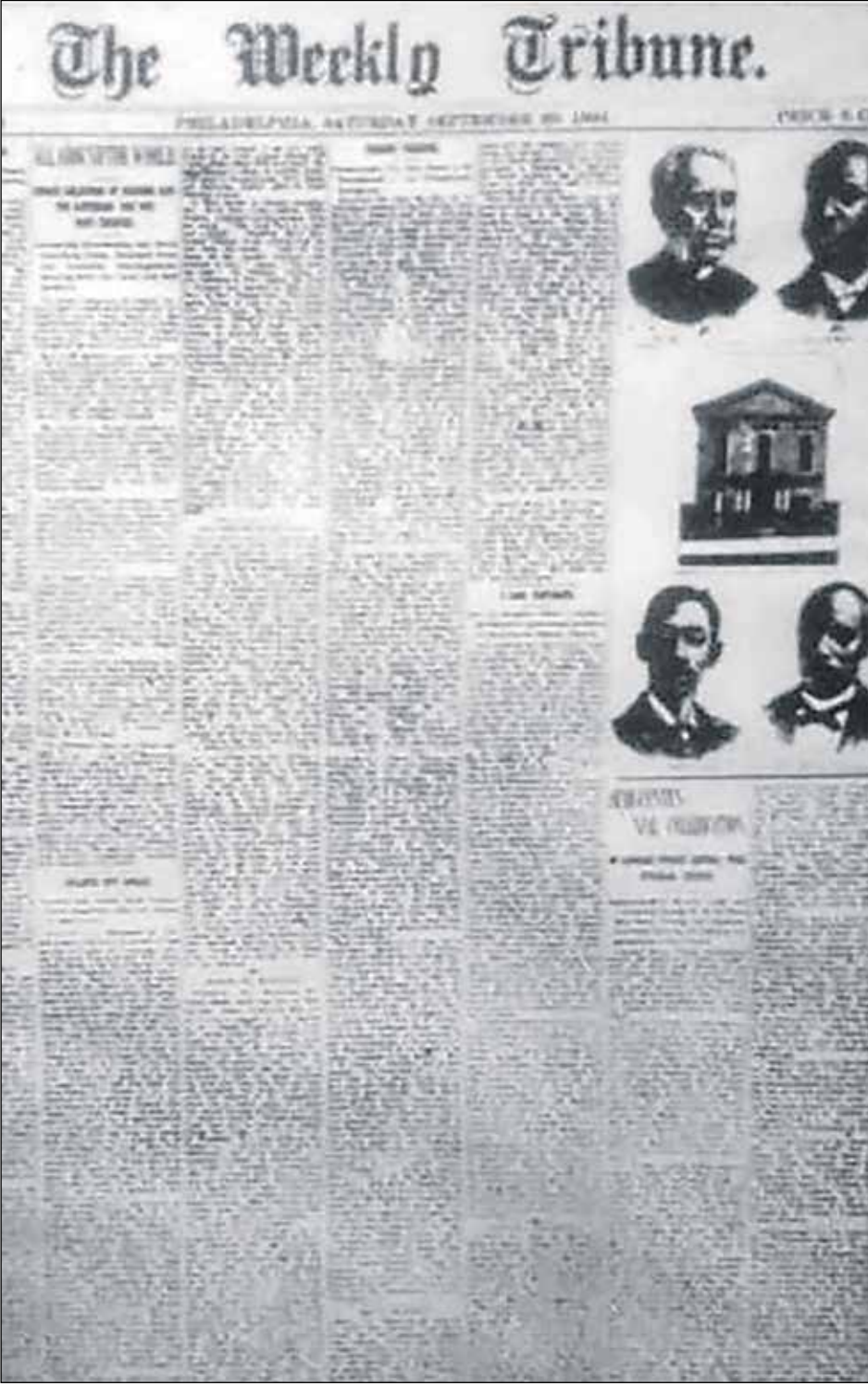
 The Philadelphia Tribune

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The Philadelphia Tribune's 140th: Journey of Excellence

Special Covers: A look at how The Philadelphia Tribune covered the biggest news from 1884 to 2024



One of The Tribune's first front pages in 1884. — TRIBUNE



Fanny Jackson Coppin proposed new name for new community house in South Philadelphia in 1921. — TRIBUNE



A party terrorized by uninvited guests in 1936. — TRIBUNE



A crippled woman and four children suffer from starvation and ask for help in 1956. — TRIBUNE



Jesse Owens' three victories snuff Adolf Hitler's German team at Olympics in 1947. — AP

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Special Covers: A look at how The Philadelphia Tribune covered the biggest news from 1884 to 2024



The late Rev. Martin Luther King urges GI Bill for Black Americans in 1963. — TRIBUNE

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated in 1968. — TRIBUNE

MOVE protesters demonstrate at City Hall in 1985. — TRIBUNE

Suspect sought in murder of Bill Cosby's son in 1997. — TRIBUNE



One year anniversary of the Sept. 11th attacks in 2002. — TRIBUNE

Barack Obama elected first Black president of the United States in 2008. — TRIBUNE

President Barack Obama is sworn in as America's first Black president in 2009. — TRIBUNE

South Carolina police shooting of Black man caught by bystander's video in 2015. — TRIBUNE



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Minneapolis and the country explode after George Floyd's death at the hands of police in 2020. — TRIBUNE



Black Panther actor Chadwick Boseman dies in 2020. — TRIBUNE



President-elect Donald Trump's Black jobs weren't in his prior Cabinet in 2024. — TRIBUNE



Singer and Philadelphia native Frankie Beverly dies in 2024. — TRIBUNE

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Vice President Kamala Harris first Black woman to accept a major party's nomination at the Democratic National Convention in 2024. — TRIBUNE



The Tribune's special report on conservative agenda for President-elect Donald Trump called "Project 2025" in 2024. — TRIBUNE

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Company Chronology & Major African-American Events



Colin Powell becomes the first African-American U.S. Secretary of State in 2001. —AP



Barack Obama elected first Black president of the United States in 2008. —AP

2000

Tribune: The Tribune changed its look with the debut of a new masthead and section heads. The Philadelphia Tribune won 16 merit awards and the John B. Russwurm Award for Best Newspaper in America.

Tribune: The Philadelphia Tribune presented Business Strategies for the 21st Century: An Economic Development Conference for African-Americans.

2001

Tribune: In May, the Tribune presented its First Annual Homebuying Seminar in an effort to educate and inform potential first-time homebuyers in the Greater Philadelphia area. The seminar was free of charge to approximately 200 area residents, who were given step-by-step instructions on how to navigate the home buying process. In June, the NNPA honored the Tribune with 6 Merit Awards in addition to the prestigious A. Phillip Randolph Messenger Award for Outstanding Editorial or Commentary Writing in the area of civil rights.

Tribune: The Philadelphia Tribune held its second annual Economic Development Conference, “Minding Our Own Business: An Economic Development Conference for African-Americans.” Keynote speakers were Tony Brown, producer of Tony Brown’s Journal and Dr. Claud Anderson, president of PowerNomics. In September, the Tribune introduced Tribune Entertainment, a comprehensive entertainment guide for its Friday edition.

Tribune: The Tribune launched the Sunday Tribune, Nov. 18. With that, the Tribune became a daily with publica-

tion dates on Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

News: Colin Powell becomes the first African-American U.S. Secretary of State.

2005

Tribune: In June, the Tribune was honored at the 65th annual NNPA Convention with 10 Merit Awards and the prestigious A. Phillip Randolph Messenger Award for publishing and journalism excellence in Civil Rights-Commentary/Editorial.

Tribune: In November, The Tribune published its national health series which was inserted into over 20 newspapers across the country.

News: Condoleezza Rice becomes the first Black female U.S. Secretary of State. September: Hurricane Katrina overcomes the breaches of New Orleans. Floods the city; thousands are forced to evacuate.

2006

Tribune: Philadelphia Tribune/Scripps Regional Spelling Bee champion, Andrew Wallace, from Andrew Hamilton School received a citation on his achievement from the School District of Philadelphia on Wednesday, May 17. He is the first African-American male to advance to the Scripps National Spelling Bee competition in over a decade. In June, The Tribune was honored at the 66th annual NNPA Convention with nine Merit Awards.

2007

Tribune: In June, The Tribune was honored at the 67th

annual National Newspaper Publishers Association’s Convention (celebrating its 180th Anniversary) with six Merit Awards and the prestigious A. Phillip Randolph Messenger Award for publishing and journalism excellence in AIDS/HIV for “Women Fighting Death.”

2008

Tribune: The Sunday late edition was introduced on May 18. On June 27, The Philadelphia Tribune swept the National Newspaper Publishers Association’s (NNPA) 2008 Merit Awards in Louisville, Ky., winning a total of nine including the John B. Russwurm trophy for best newspaper.

Tribune: The Philadelphia Tribune published a special edition on the 2008 presidential election, Nov. 5. Due to the historic nature of this election, the Tribune made its own history by printing a citywide edition on a Wednesday, which was unprecedented in its 125 years. The edition was also available to home delivery subscribers. By 10 a.m. on Wednesday, newsstands had sold out of the special edition. We reprinted twice to meet the demand. The Sunday Tribune contained a color glossy photograph of President-Elect Obama.

News: Sen. Barack Obama, becomes the first African American to be elected president of the United States, defeating Republican candidate, Sen. John McCain, November 4.


2009

Tribune: The Philadelphia Tribune published an Inauguration Edition profiling the 44th president, his inaugural address, a review of the First Family and a photo essay.

Tribune: The Philadelphia Tribune published “Women on the Move,” the focus of the March edition of Tribune Mag-

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The Philadelphia Tribune’s 140th: Journey of Excellence

Company Chronology & Major African-American Events



Singer Whitney Houston dies in 2012. —AP



Vice President Kamala Harris becomes the first Black woman to top a major party ticket in her run for president in 2024. She ultimately loses to Republican opponent Donald Trump. —AP

azine on Sunday, March 15, which chronicled some of the area’s best and brightest women from several of the area’s most successful companies. The magazine also included a timeline of some of this nation’s pioneering women.

Tribune: The Tribune held a Marker Dedication Ceremony for Christopher James Perry, Sr., Founder of The Philadelphia Tribune at Historic Eden Cemetery, 1434 Springfield Road, Collingdale, Pennsylvania on May 31. In attendance were some of the Tribune staff and invited guests. Immediately following, a Celebration Service recognizing The Philadelphia Tribune as the nation’s oldest continuously published newspaper serving the African-American community was held at the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, 6361 Lancaster Ave., and the first Black Episcopal Church in the United States.

Tribune: President Robert W. Bogle and an array of dignitaries including Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter and U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter launched a year-long celebration of the Tribune’s 125th anniversary.

Tribune: The Philadelphia Tribune won 10 awards at the 2009 National Newspaper Publishers Association’s Merit Awards in Minneapolis.

News: Barack Obama Democrat from Chicago, becomes the first African-American president and the country’s 44th president. February 2: the U.S. Senate confirms, with a vote of 75 to 21, Eric H. Holder, Jr., as Attorney General of the United States. Holder is the first African-American to serve as Attorney General.

2012

News: Barack Obama re-elected as President of the United States.

News: Singer Whitney Houston dies.

2014

Tribune: Vice President of The Philadelphia Tribune, Bertha N. Godfrey, dies.

News: A number of fatalities from police encounters causes numerous protests across the country. Most notable case was Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo. Events birth #BlackLivesMatter movement.

2015

News: The 114th Congress includes 46 Black members in the House of Representatives and two in the Senate.

News: Loretta Lynch is first African-American woman to serve as Attorney General of the United States.

News: Same-sex marriage becomes legal in the U.S.

2016

News: Boxer Muhammad Ali dies at the age of 74.

News: San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick takes a bold step to kneel and begins his silent protest during the U.S. National Anthem to bring awareness to police brutality.

News: The National Museum of African American History and Culture opens in Washington D.C and becomes the hottest ticket in town.

2018

News: The Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin, dies.

2019

News: The New York Times Magazine launches “1619,” a project on the legacy of slavery in America.

2020

News: Pandemic takes hold killing thousands across the U.S. Black communities were severely impacted.

News: Kamala Harris becomes first Black women vice president of the U.S.

2021

News: Pandemic formerly comes to an end but social distancing, vaccines and masking becomes an increased way of life.

2024

News: Vice President Kamala Harris becomes the first Black woman to top a major party ticket in her run for president. She ultimately loses to Republican opponent Donald Trump.

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ByAvolta

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