



Whitelaw Reid

Topic Guide for Chronicling America (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>)

Introduction

Whitelaw Reid (1837-1912) was an American journalist, politician and diplomat active in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. During the Civil War, he served as a correspondent for the Cincinnati Gazette, using the pen name "Agate." His stories provided information about and analyses of military affairs, politics and politicians, and gained him a national reputation. After the war, he joined the staff of the influential New-York Tribune, where he would eventually become the paper's editor and publisher. Reid was a Republican and provided support for the Party's leaders and policies through both his newspaper content and financial contributions. Eventually, his career shifted to the political sphere where he served as the United States ambassador to France and the United Kingdom and ran (but was defeated) for public office. He died on December 15, 1912 while in England.

Important Dates

- October 27, 1837: Whitelaw Reid is born on a farm in Cedarville, Ohio, to Robert and Marion Reid.
- 1856: Reid graduates from Miami University with honors.
- 1858: Reid's family purchases the Xenia News, beginning Reid's career in journalism.
- 1861: Reid is hired by the Cincinnati Gazette as a legislative reporter in Columbus then city editor in Cincinnati. After the Civil War begins, he becomes the Gazette's Civil War correspondent.
- 1868: Horace Greely, editor of the New-York Tribune, hires Reid as an editorial writer.
- 1872: Reid becomes editor-in-chief and publisher of the New-York Tribune after Greely's death.
- 1889-1892: Reid serves as U.S. Ambassador to France under President Benjamin Harrison.
- 1892: Reid is the vice presidential nominee in President Harrison's campaign for re-election.
- 1898: President William McKinley appoints Reid to the U.S. Peace Commission held after the Spanish-American War. Under his urging, the U.S. acquires the territory of the Philippines in the Treaty of Paris.
- 1905-1912: Reid serves as U.S. Ambassador to the Court of St. James (United Kingdom).

Suggested Search Strategies

- Try searching the following terms in combination (as an "all" word search), in proximity or as phrases: Whitelaw Reid, Reid, ambassador, vice president, death, died, New York Tribune, Agate, Philippines, peace.
- Limit your search by date to find information about specific events.
- Browse or search the New-York Tribune to see his work as an editorial writer and editor/owner.

Sample Articles from Chronicling America

- ["Newspaper Men..."](#) *Daily Ohio Statesman* (Columbus, OH), December 20, 1863, Image 2, col. 2.
- ["Harrison and Reid!"](#) *Washington Bee* (Washington, DC), June 11, 1892, Image 5.
- ["Arch Enemies"](#) *St. Paul Daily Globe* (St. Paul, MN), November 6, 1892, Image 9.
- ["An Hour with Whitelaw Reid"](#) *Herald* (Los Angeles, CA), March 9, 1896, Image 10, col. 1-3.
- ["Whitelaw Reid Crosses the Bar"](#) *Democratic Banner* (Mt. Vernon, OH), December 17, 1912, Image 1, col. 1-2.