

Reporter-Times, Incorporated

Founded:

Martinsville Republican: 1870–1946

Morgan County Reporter: 1886–89; became *Martinsville Daily Reporter*: 1889–

Morgan County Vindicator: 1872; became *Mooreville Enterprise*: [1873]–74; became *Mooreville Herald*: 1874–80;

Mooreville Monitor: 1880–89; became *Mooreville Guide*: 1889–1905; *Mooreville Times*: 1905–

Location:

Martinsville Republican: Original address unknown, Martinsville; late 1870s moved to east side of square; J. J. Newberry Building, Jefferson and Washington Streets

Martinsville Daily Reporter: Original address unknown; 140 East Washington Street; now 60 South Jefferson Street

Mooreville Times: Original address unknown, Mooreville; 16–18 East Main Street; now 23 East Main Street

When the *Morgan County Gazette*, formerly a Republican paper, declared itself independent in 1870, a group of prominent local Republicans raised a subscription of approximately \$800 for a new Republican paper. W. H. Eagle used this money to purchase office equipment, and he published the first issue of the *Martinsville Republican* on 11 August 1870. James G. Bain was the paper's managing editor, but by

December 1870 he became co-owner with Henry Smock. Bain, the son of Morgan County pioneers and a Civil War veteran, had just established a law practice in Martinsville. Despite stiff competition from the county's other papers, Bain and Smock made the *Republican* a success, and in 1874 Bain purchased Smock's share of the newspaper. Bain began publishing the *Republican* on a \$1,200 steam cylinder press in the early 1880s. In 1889 Bain acquired the *Morgan County Reporter*, an independent newspaper that had been established three years earlier, and began to publish the *Daily Reporter* and the *Republican* weekly.

In July 1892 Bain sold the papers to Frank T. Singleton, who established an office in the J. J. Newberry Building on the corner of Jefferson and Washington Streets. The newspapers had only two owners over the next fifty-four years: Singleton and, after 1912, Harry J. Martin, who had previously published newspapers in Lebanon, Franklin, and Seymour. Martin published the *Reporter* and *Republican* until his retirement in March 1946. In 1946 a group of investors led by Wilber L. Kendall formed the Reporter Publishing Company and purchased the newspapers. Kendall, a native of Greensburg, began in the printing business at the age of thirteen, when he quit school to work as a Linotype operator. After serving in the army during World War I and briefly attending Syracuse University, Kendall returned to Greensburg, established a commercial printing firm in partnership with William Wintin, and became printing manager of the *Greensburg News*. Kendall's firm eventually merged with the *News*, and in partnership with the *News*, Kendall became part owner of the *Rushville Republican*, which he managed for seventeen years.

After acquiring the Martinsville papers, the Reporter Publishing Company discontinued publication of the *Republican*. Kendall gradually assumed editorial control of the *Reporter*; his son Robert became assistant publisher in 1948 and editor in 1949. The newspaper moved to a new building at 60 South Jefferson Street in 1955. In 1970 the Reporter Publishing Company purchased the *Mooreville Times*. The *Times* originated as the *Morgan County Vindicator*, which was founded by J. C. Weil and S. H. Long in 1872. The *Vindicator* lasted only three issues, but E. H. Dorland and Benjamin Dakin took over the press and began publishing the *Enterprise*. Over the next twenty years the newspaper had several owners and editors, including Perry T. Macy, a wealthy farmer and Quaker minister. His son, Albert W. Macy, a budding author and poet who later wrote a column for the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, served as one of the paper's editors and even owned it briefly in 1880. The paper also went through several name changes, becoming in 1874 the *Herald*; in 1880 the *Monitor*; and in 1889 the *Guide*.

In 1892 William H. Sage, a schoolteacher originally from Indianapolis, invested in the paper and in January 1894 purchased it, introducing a long period of stability in ownership. Sage published the newspaper for thirty-five years, making a final change of its name to the *Mooreville Times* in 1905. After Sage's retirement in 1929, the paper went through several changes of ownership. Everett and Margaret S. Moore owned the paper from 1933 through 1937; they were followed by James L. Richardson and his son James Jr., who owned the paper through World War II. For close to a decade after the war, the *Times* went through several owners until purchased by Robert F. and Margaret R. Adams in August 1954. The Adamses owned the paper until it was acquired by the Reporter Publishing Company in 1970.

The *Martinsville Daily Reporter* and the *Mooreville Times* retained separate editorial policies after the merger. The *Reporter* was Republican and the *Times* Democratic. Reporter-Times, Incorporated, was formed to control both papers. In 1973 the *Times* moved to new offices in a renovated theater building at 23 East Main Street in Mooreville. In 1977 Wilber Kendall retired as publisher of the *Reporter* and became chairman of the board of Reporter-Times, Incorporated. Wilber's son Robert was president of the company; Wendell Holt became publisher of the *Reporter* and Robert Kendall's son Mark, an economist, who had been working for an economic policy group in Washington, D. C., became publisher of the *Times*.