

*Times Sentinel*

Founded: 1860

Location: Original location unknown; 14 South East Street, Zionsville (1870); 15 South East Street (1870–73); Main and Poplar Streets (1873–97); East Depot Street (now Cedar) (1897–1973); 76 1/2 South Main Street (1973–July 1990); 1500 West Oak Street (July 1990–June 1995); South Elm Street (June 1995– )

A. G. Abbott began publishing the *Zionsville News*, a four-page tabloid newspaper, in January 1860, eight years after the community of Zionsville in Boone County was laid out. In 1870 John S. Grieves, a young printer, purchased the weekly newspaper and established an office at 14 South East Street in Zionsville. Shortly thereafter, Grieves sold it to W. F. Morgan, only to repurchase it in November 1873 with a partner by the name of Longley. Grieves owned the paper a second time just long enough to change its name to the *Zionsville Times*, probably because of the growing regional prominence of the *Indianapolis News*. Grieves and Longley sold the *Times* to C. W. Conrad and O. Montgomery Howard ten days after purchasing it.

Conrad and Howard introduced more humor and a livelier editorial content to the paper. Apparently out of political convictions and perhaps reflecting their strong belief in temperance, they renamed the paper the *New Idea* in 1874. Local news displaced national news, serialized novels, and poems from the front page, and editorial cartoons and wood-block illustrations began to appear. The *New Idea* backed the Independent slate of candidates in the 1874 elections, all of whom lost (except interestingly, W. F. Morgan, a former editor of the paper, who became county recorder). After this debacle Conrad left, and Howard, after changing the name of the paper back to the *Zionsville Times*, sold the paper.

For the next five years the fledgling paper changed hands eleven times. Finally Cal Gault, a newspaperman originally from Ohio and Illinois, purchased the paper. Gault previously had published two other small-town papers and, although he sold or leased the paper for two brief periods over the years, he provided it a needed stability. In 1924 Bernard Clayton, originally from Rochester, Indiana, and another experienced newspaperman who had published papers at Akron, Indiana, and later at Tipton, purchased the paper and operated it from a building on East Depot (now Cedar) Street. Upon Clayton's retirement in 1955 the paper was purchased by George and Marjorie Leamnson. In 1968 the Leamnsons sold it to the O'Neal Suburban Journal Corporation, which published several weekly papers in the region.

In 1973 John Parsons and Catherine Hughes-Parsons, who operated a newsheet called *Main Street*, purchased the *Times* and published both newspapers from their offices at 76 1/2 Main Street. Elsewhere in Boone County, the *Thorntown Sentinel* and *Whitestown Dispatch* merged in 1978 to become the *Zionsville-Whitestown Sentinel Dispatch*. In 1984 Stephen and Sandra Brock Cline purchased all three papers and merged them under the name *Times Sentinel*. With Sandra as editor, the paper grew to twenty-eight pages and 3,500 subscribers. In 1995 Jay and Paula Endress purchased the paper and moved its office to 250 South Elm Street.