

The Delevan Times

Est. 1874

Not long after the Civil War, *The Delevan Advertiser*, published in 1867, was the first newspaper to serve the small town of Delevan. Competition ensued, and a second paper, *The Delevan Times*, was established by Joseph F. Reed in 1874. The newspaper was published on a weekly basis except during the excitement of the Tazewell County Fair, located in Delevan, when it became a daily. Several years later, Reed established a second paper called the *Tazewell County Press*, presumably to serve a growing metropolis. These two papers merged, became *The Delevan Times-Press*, and later expanded its operation to serve the tri-county area of Tazewell, Logan and Mason Counties as *The Delevan Tri-County Times*. Manager Starr Beatty oversaw publication and, as its history notes, it became the “outstanding Republican organ of the county.”

During WWI, the paper merged with the first Delevan newspaper, *The Delevan Advertiser*, and became the current paper, *The Delevan Advertiser-Times*. Just before the stock market crash of 1929, J. Ross Arnold, purchased the paper, shortened its name to *The Delevan Times*, and declared that the paper would be nonpartisan. The Arnold family sold the paper in 1958 but it was reacquired several years later by Arnold’s daughter, Ruth Arnold Larimore, who continued to operate the business for 35 years.

Carrying on the family tradition, third generation owner and editor, Sandra Larimore Denman, current editor of *The Delevan Times*, purchased the business in 1998, and oversees the weekly publication and circulation to 37 states and one foreign country.

Congratulations to The Delevan Times on becoming a Peoria Historical Society Centenarian organization.