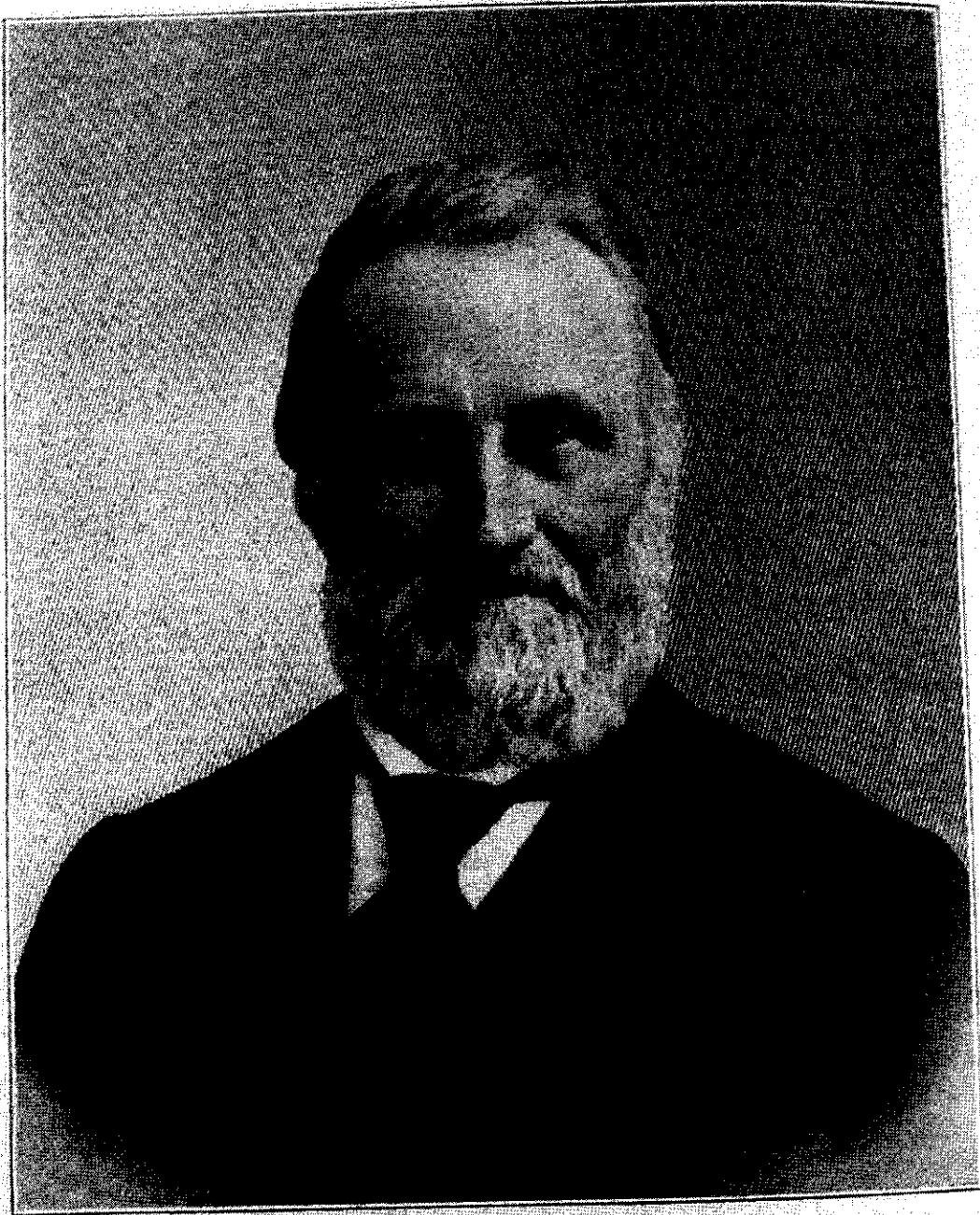


# Who was J. W. Hines?



*J. W. Hines*

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## Contents

|                                                          |    |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----|
| <b>Preface</b>                                           | i  |
| <b>Hines was a Minister</b>                              | 1  |
| <b>New York: 1824-1853</b>                               | 4  |
| <b>New York to Oregon: 1853</b>                          | 8  |
| <b>California: Hines was an Educator and Fund-Raiser</b> | 12 |
| <b>Civil War Activities: Hines was a Patriot</b>         | 22 |
| <b>Hines was a Political Activist</b>                    | 25 |
| <b>Hines was a Farmer</b>                                | 30 |
| <b>Hines was a Journalist</b>                            | 32 |
| <b>Legacy</b>                                            | 35 |
| <b>Conclusion</b>                                        | 39 |
| <b>Addendum: Hines was NOT “J. W. Hinds”</b>             | 41 |
| <b>Bibliography</b>                                      | 42 |
| <b>Illustrations and credits</b>                         |    |

## Preface



*J. W. Hines*

Joseph Wilkinson Hines  
(date unknown)

An entry in the 1892 Great Register for Santa Clara County reads,

Joseph Wilkinson Hines, age 64[sic], 5-6 1/2, Light complexion, blue eyes, gray hair, no scars etc, farmer, born in New York, Place of Residence [area]: University, Address: College Park, registered on 3/11/1892

Although it gets his age slightly wrong (Hines was born January 7,

1824 and would have been 68 in 1892), this fragmentary biography gives us more personal data (height, eye and hair color) than we have seen from any other source. It also confirms one of his occupations and hints at a possible relationship with the University of the Pacific. There is much more to tell about this man who first stepped onto California soil in 1853, who was a minister, educator, university trustee, farmer, journalist, and political activist, and who was active in northern California and the Santa Clara Valley specifically right up until his death at 89 in 1913.

He was an early member of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County and served as President 1904-5.

J. W. Hines (1824-1913) was a resident of northern California from 1859 until his death in San Jose in 1913. The great majority in of his California residency was in Santa Clara County. Born in New York in 1824, he entered the Methodist Episcopal ministry in 1846, was transferred to Oregon Territory in 1853, and from there to California in 1859.

A biographical sketch of Hines in 1904 by Guinn abounds in high praise, including a long list of purported accomplishments. This sketch is included verbatim as the first chapter in a memoir authored by Hines himself in 1913. I first encountered the Hines story when I began a study of my family genealogy eight years ago, in 1998. Gustavus, Joseph and Harvey Hines were three prominently mentioned brothers of one of my third great grandmothers in my maternal line. My first reading of Joseph's memoir made me glow with familial pride. But some of the book's claims—especially in the biographical sketch by Guinn—seemed a little “over the top.” As I investigated through primary sources, some aspects of the story were confirmed, but others have been contradicted, or left in serious doubt. The story of J. W. Hines is sufficiently rich and complex that I envision many months of research yet to be done. For now, this paper represents an interim answer to the question, “Who was J. W. Hines?”

Certainly he was a man of many accomplishments and was a long-time resident of the Santa Clara Valley. He deserves an even-handed biography.

I am indebted to many people and organizations for their help in my preparation of this paper. My mother, Mildred Dowling Peters Clark, who was our family genealogist for years, first introduced me to the Hines branch of our family tree and enthusiastically encouraged me in my research until her death in 2004. Cousin Cecil Mary Sisk, another long-time family genealogist, provided me with a wealth of data for the Hines family, and for Joseph W. Hines in particular. Other Hines relatives, including Alma Ames, Joe Erwin and Tom Gray, all veteran genealogists as well, have provided me with important pieces of the puzzle. My sister Ellen Pochay has assumed our late mother's informal title of genealogist for our immediate family, graciously leaving me with primary responsibility for the Hines branch. Other siblings, John Peters, Anne Ross, Lorraine Stahlbusch and Charles Clark, have chipped in with contributions and encouragement. Anne was the first to point out the duplication of material in books by Joseph and Harvey Hines. Most recently, Charlie helped secure a copy of Joseph Hines's "strawberry letter," and provided a transcription.

Stephen Yale, Archivist for the California-Nevada Conference of The United Methodist Church, provided a detailed chronology of Hines's church-related activities up to his retirement in 1875, and gave many suggestions for further research. He also helped solve the last-minute puzzle concerning J. W. Hinds.. Donald Walker, former archivist for the University of the Pacific, was an

early source for information re Hines's activities with the University, and his successor, Michael Wurtz, along with his assistant, Patricia Richards, were most gracious and helpful hosts when my wife, Ellie, and I visited the University archives recently for a busy day of research. At this writing Trish is busily extracting still more relevant Hines data from the archives. Ina Sims and the late John Hook of the Oregon-Idaho Conference Archives of the United Methodist Church provided significant data concerning Hines's years in Oregon.

Charlene Duval and the late Glory Ann Laffey at the Sourisseau Academy at San Jose State University provided a number of items related to Hines's Santa Clara County property and his affiliation with the Pioneer Society.

The library staff at Humboldt State University, Joan Berman in particular, have been a great help in providing Humboldt area information, in cooperation with the efficient and helpful interlibrary services staff at King Library in San Jose. Other staff at King Library, especially those in the California Room, have time and again pointed me in the right direction for relevant resource materials. Staff at Santa Clara City Library, Orradre Library at Santa Clara University, the University of Iowa Library, the Iowa City Public Library, Mark O. Hatfield Library at Willamette University, and the University of Oregon Library have likewise provided invaluable assistance during my several years of Hines research. The Solano County Genealogical Society in Fairfield, CA provided numerous

newspaper clippings and other helpful materials related to Hines's tenure in Solano County.

Daniel Cornford, emeritus Professor of California History at San Jose State University, who was introduced to me through the gracious help of Department Chair, Jonathon P. Roth, supplied me with a long list of very specific and enormously helpful pointers to resource materials relevant to Hines's political activism and journalistic endeavors.

As always, my wife Ellie has provided my greatest support, not only in general ways, but also as a tireless co-researcher, one who always seems to be first at identifying the most pertinent items buried in the mountains of material that we sift through. Our four children have provided encouragement, and Alicia in particular has made the facilities at her Anchor Electronics firm available to us as a focal point for receiving faxes and postal and parcel service shipments, as well as storage space for our overflow of research materials.

## Hines was a Minister

Writing in 1914, after he himself had enjoyed a long career as a fellow Methodist Episcopal minister, George W. Kennedy recalled meeting Joseph Wilkinson Hines when Kennedy was a six-year-old boy in 1853, getting settled in rural Oregon, along with his family.

Scarcely were our first log cabins built, when the "circuit rider," the Methodist preacher, came around.

The body of our cabin was up, and Father was in the woods riving clap boards to cover it with. Over the hill, down the trail, came riding a gentleman on horseback. He had a large and beautiful horse; good saddle; something swinging across the saddle behind and buckled underneath to the cinche--sort of a leather carry-all, or a pair of them. The man was well dressed. I noticed he wore a "starched collar and a white necktie." Having seen all this, I ran into the tent and said to mother: "A man just rode up on the finest horse I ever saw, and he is surely some great man; maybe he's the Governor..."

By this time the stranger had dismounted, tied his horse to a tree, and was approaching the door. Tipped his hat and saluted Mother, and said: "Hope you are getting well settled. Heard you had come in--thought I'd come around and get acquainted, for I hear you are of our people. My name is Hines; the church has appointed me to the Upper Willamette Valley for a circuit, and bidden me look up the 'lost sheep of the house of Israel'--they call me the flock tender, hereabouts. I preach in some school houses, but mostly in the log cabins of the people. Can I leave an appointment, and come and preach in your house?" My mother welcomed him, most heartily, promised him the use of our cabin upon a certain Sunday in the coming month. Gave him Father's and her own name; and told father in the evening that "we had a church organized." Rev. Joseph Hines was our first pastor, and this the first visit of a preacher to our home in Oregon.

The first Sunday in June came and the preacher came. The people also, from far and near.

Not a family in five miles but that was at that meeting. Our cabin could not hold the half of the people. Some seats on logs were provided close about the door, and many sat on the ground. Our seats within the house were of the rudest kind, made of split logs, laid on blocks of wood. Joseph Hines was a good preacher, at times great. That day he announced that old communion hymn:

And are we yet alive  
And see each other's face?  
Thanks and praise to Him belong,  
For His redeeming grace.  
Preserved by power divine,  
To full salvation here,  
Again in Jesus' praise we join,  
And in his sight appear."

The preacher had a splendid voice for song. The people, how they did sing--memories of the days, and of the worship far away. The hallowed hush of God's presence at this first meeting here in the wilderness--the glory that shone all around, all was inspiring. Tears overflowed, and rolled down many a cheek... This day was soul reviving, vital every way. Church life was begun with us, in the wild west.<sup>1</sup>

Thus Kennedy tells us J.W. Hines was a "good, sometimes great" circuit-riding preacher, with a striking physical appearance and "a splendid voice for song."<sup>2</sup> Both nature and nurture played their part here. Joseph was following in the footsteps of an older brother, Gustavus, who had a reputation for outstanding preaching and singing, and their mother's singing is mentioned repeatedly in the

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<sup>1</sup> Kennedy, G.W., *The Pioneer Campfire*, Clarke-Kundret Printing Co., Portland, OR, 1914, pp. 151-155.

<sup>2</sup> Years later, in the 1860's in California, a new acquaintance who had just read a letter of introduction presented to him by Hines, now acknowledged as a formidable fund-raiser, exclaimed, "...one of the best beggars in California, and the best preacher in the United States..." J. W. Hines, *Touching Incidents in the Life and labors of a Pioneer on the Pacific Coast since 1853*. San Jose: Eaton & Co., Printers, 1911.p. 145.

writings of the preacher sons.<sup>3</sup>

Joseph's ministerial career spanned nearly three decades in three different states, beginning in Covington, NY in 1846, continuing through six years in Oregon, 1853-1859, and then for about 16 years in California, 1859-1875. But beginning during his years as a minister, he was also a farmer, a county school superintendent, a volunteer in support of Union troops in the Civil War, a university trustee and fund-raising field agent, a labor leader, and a journalist, writing numerous articles, and launching not one, but two newspapers. All these latter activities, from farming to newspaper work, he carried out in California, and for the last forty-odd years of his life, he was based in Santa Clara County.

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<sup>3</sup> Joseph himself pays tribute in a poem, "... the sweet thrilling song that fell from the lips of a mother so dear..." Hines, *Touching Incidents*, p.138. Younger brother Harvey Kimball Hines, the third M.E. minister among the Hines brothers, recalls, "...our old mother whose cheery songs rang among the rough rafters of our cabin-home..." *Pacific Christian Advocate*, January 13, 1881.

## New York: 1824-1853

Joseph Wilkinson Hines was born January 7, 1824 in central New York State, probably in Herkimer County.<sup>4</sup> He was either the tenth or eleventh child of James and Betsey (Round) Hines.<sup>5</sup> We have no record and few hints as to the nature of early home life. One glimpse is offered by Joseph in Chapter III of his memoir.

...The same year [1839] saw depart from the harbor of New York the greatest missionary expedition that has ever sailed from any American port. For this purpose the Methodist missionary society chartered a vessel called the *Laussonni* [Lausanne], loaded her with adequate supplies and with thirty-five missionaries to reinforce the half dozen already in the field. Early in October, 1839, she swept out of the harbor of New York and turned her prow towards the story headlands of the dreaded Cape Horn.

At that time and under those circumstances it is difficult to conceive of a more utter abandonment of all those social ties and happy influences that cluster around an American home. The writer of this article was then a mere child. An elder brother and his family were among that devoted band. He well remembers how, in that soft October day, after it was known that they had sailed away to the dark and distant field of religious toil, he leaned against his mother's side, in the rural home in central New York, and listening to her as she softly told of the holy mission on which they were going, and then, with tears in her eyes but triumph in her heart, sung with tremulous voice Heber's grand missionary hymn,

“Shall we where saints are lighted by wisdom from on high,

Shall we to men benighted the lamp of life deny?”

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<sup>4</sup> His older brother Gustavus's birthplace (in 1809) is clearly documented as Herkimer Co., and census records indicate that the family moved from there after 1830 to Oswego County.

<sup>5</sup> Guinn's biography specifies tenth, but of the twelve known children of James and Betsey, census records imply that ten were born before Joseph, making him the eleventh.

Out of that hour, by the voice of that mother in that song, the young heart of the little boy felt the first inspiration that fourteen years after carried him to the same work in the same distant field.<sup>6</sup>

While this romantic scene attests to warm family relationships and an inspiration for the younger brother, it leaves doubt that the younger brother is indeed Joseph. The author refers to himself as a “mere child,” yet Joseph in October 1839 was approaching 16 years old – hardly a child in that day. In fact, a version of this same vignette -- with the majority of the wording identical -- appeared in the 1899 book of Joseph’s younger brother Harvey,<sup>7</sup> who at eleven years old, came much closer to fitting the “mere child” description. Joseph may well have been present as well, and it is likely that he was inspired by older brother Gustavus, as was Harvey. The chapter of Joseph’s book from which the above is excerpted was evidently a newspaper’s reproduction of a talk Joseph presented to the San Jose Grange. The vignette fit naturally into the theme of the talk, and Joseph probably felt no need to attribute it to Harvey at the time.

Like his brothers, Joseph was writing for publication at a relatively early age. And his early articles presage interests that he continued to pursue throughout his career. Three articles in 1846-1849 touch on newspapers, education, and the

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<sup>6</sup> Hines, *Touching Incidents*, p. 34.

<sup>7</sup> H. K. Hines, *Missionary History of the Pacific Northwest*, Portland, Oregon: H. K. Hines, 1899. There are other duplications of material in the two brothers’ books, but a full discussion is beyond the scope of the present work.

relationship between politics and religion. Writing for the *Northern Christian Advocate* in 1846, he touted the importance of every Christian household having their own copy of that newspaper – for its religious content, of course, but inferentially he was promoting newspapers as important purveyors of ideas.<sup>8</sup> In a second article for the same paper, in 1847, he dealt with the importance of education for children, saying,

The reason, doubtless, why the Greeks and Romans furnished such prodigies of excellence in every kind of writing, and in every department of civil and military life, was because they were scrupulously attentive to the education of their children. They furnished them with examples worthy of imitation, and providing all necessary facilities for improvement, soon saw their names enrolled high on the scroll of fame.<sup>9</sup>

This was part of his basis for advocating family religious activities as support for moral education, but the general theme of educational primacy came to the forefront again and again during his long career.

In a third article for the *Advocate* he addressed for the first time in print another theme that he was to be associated with for many years, namely, his belief in the interdependence of religion and politics. He states clearly,

... this great truth, that the moral and political interests of the age, are intimately and inseparably connected...<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> "Father's Paper," *Northern Christian Advocate*, Oct 28, 1846.

<sup>9</sup> "Family Religion," *Northern Christian Advocate*, May 5, 1847.

<sup>10</sup> "Our Duty and Our Destiny," *Northern Christian Advocate*, May 9, 1849.

and goes on to elaborate at length.

On August 30, 1847, Hines married Elizabeth B. Meredith of Steuben, Oneida Co., NY.<sup>11</sup> In 1851, on June 7, their first child, Melissa Elizabeth, was born, and in 1852 on June 27, their son, George Emory, was born in Warsaw, Wyoming Co., NY. Just one year later they were on their way to the West Coast.

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<sup>11</sup> *Northern Christian Advocate*, Sep 22, 1847.

## New York to Oregon: 1853

In June 1853 Joseph was transferred by his Conference to Oregon. Unlike his brothers, Gustavus and Harvey, whose transfer the previous December had permitted their early spring leave-taking and an adequate period for travel across the plains and mountains before the snowy season, Joseph was booked for steamer to Panama, to be followed by a traversal of the Isthmus, and then steamer again up the west coast.

On June 28, 1853, the steamer stopped for a layover at Kingston, Jamaica, a British protectorate where slavery had been abolished and former slaves were living in abject poverty and overall misery. Joseph took the time to write a letter back to the editor of the *Northern Christian Advocate* describing his impressions and contrasting his views with those of some of his fellow passengers who happened to be from southern states. The following excerpt from his letter is lengthy but important for its portrayal of Joseph's attitude toward slavery.

You are aware, I presume, that this island is frequently referred to by the slave-holder, as an awful and affecting instance of the foolishness and *crime* of emancipation. Having a few of these gentlemen on board, and not having failed to let them know "what spirit I was of," the question was frequently put to me, "do you not think that the inhabitants of Jamaica are worse off than when slavery was practiced there?" Of course, I invariably answered no. And once I had the insolence to remark to a swaggering oppressor, that I did not believe that a condition of greater peril and horror than slavery could be found, until man found himself

where there is “weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth.” This, with other remarks, greatly raised the ire of this graduate of the “peculiar institution,” and he stoutly swore that if he should see me at the South advocating these sentiments I now entertain, he would be the first man to swing me on a tree. But what of all this? Suppose we admit that they are worse off at present than when in bondage; does that prove that emancipation was the cause of their increased degradation? By no means. I took occasion carefully to question an intelligent English merchant here, as to the cause of the slow movement of those who had formerly been in bondage on this island, and he candidly informed me that it was not altogether their own fault. “England,” said he, “after having set us free, has abandoned us.” The import of this remark is this. It is utterly impossible for Jamaica, or any other place, to compete with slave labor; and the mother country, patronizing as she does the slave labor of the United States, leaves her emancipated colonies to struggle on without encouragement or support. It must be understood that when the slaves of Jamaica were set free, they were poor and ignorant, and nearly all of humanity had been crushed out of them. No one could reasonably expect, therefore, that they would immediately rise to the refinement and practical industry of those who had long been free. Years of instruction and encouragement are needed, in order to [achieve] their full redemption. And this, I fear, they will never enjoy. The world is too selfish, and too much under the control of popular prejudice, to be found freely and readily extending the hand of support to those who have been maltreated and ruined. But will not the same effects follow in the states, should emancipation take place there? We think not; and for the following reasons: In Jamaica, the vast majority of the inhabitants were slaves, and upon being set free, those passions which had been cultivated in bondage, would, to a greater or less extent, exhibit themselves in retaliatory feelings and actions. And more: there was comparatively a small amount of intelligence and moral power developed in a state of freedom, into which the slaves could at once be brought in contact. Consequently the light retired before the darkness, and left it in possession of the field. The inhabitants were also of necessity confined to one or two departments of industry, and consequently, if these should fail, bankruptcy would immediately follow. But far different is the condition of things in the United States. There the white population is in the majority; the light vastly predominates over the darkness; and her widely extended domain furnishes almost every variety of industry

and encouragement. No apology, therefore, can be found here, for our black and heaven-daring crimes to the colored race in our midst. There is nothing in the way of their freedom but the willful malice and black-hearted villainy of those who oppress them. "How long, O Lord, how long."<sup>12</sup>

Traveling the west coast northward toward Oregon from Panama, the ship stopped briefly at San Diego on July 16, 1853, and two days later Joseph and family stepped onto California soil for the first time at San Francisco, where they stayed several days.

Arriving in Portland in early August, Joseph was weeks ahead of his brothers traveling overland. Learning from early overlanders the likely schedule for his relatives' arrival at The Dalles, he set out for that trail stopover point to meet them. When they had parted in New York in March, all had doubts as to when or whether they would ever see one another again. In his book, Joseph recounts the scene,

As soon as I was over [the Des Chutes River], I at once rode up to a little elevation, and there, right before my eyes, was the train I had come nearly 200 miles to meet. I knew them at a glance, but I was entirely unrecognized by them, although six months before they had left my house in the State of New York. So I turned back, and, riding down near the river, awaited their arrival. In a few moments, my elder brother [Gustavus], leading by the hand his little adopted daughter, the only child of Rev. Jason Lee, the founder of the Oregon Missions. They were walking leisurely along, searching for a suitable place to stop their wagons. I was sitting upon my horse not 100 feet away when they went by, barely giving me a casual glance. After selecting a suitable place,

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<sup>12</sup> "Correspondence," *Northern Christian Advocate*, Aug 17, 1853.

they started to inform the incoming team. This led them a little nearer to me. All at once, the little girl paused, looked up towards my face, her great blue eyes dilating with wonder and awe; she lifted up her little hand and cried out, "Papa! papa! come here! Come here!" all the time staring wildly at my face. Brother, no less excited than the little girl, cried out, "Merciful Heavens, Joseph, is that you, or is it your ghost?" I guess the Des Chutes River never saw a more surprised and excited crowd than stood on its banks at that hour.<sup>13</sup>

For six years the three Hines brothers, Gustavus, Joseph W. and Harvey K., served as ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church at their respective stations in Oregon. By all accounts they were devout and served with distinction, but Marie Smith Marsh, an orphan taken in and raised by Gustavus Hines and his wife Lydia, offers a humorous note that suggests a lighter side to their personalities,

... [Gustavus] had two brothers, Harvey and Joseph. When these men got together it was as good as a circus. They were all fond of laughing, joking, and telling stories, and you couldn't help liking them.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Hines, *Touching Incidents*, p. 167-8.

<sup>14</sup> Fred Lockley, *Oregon Journal*, August 3-7, 1925.

## **California: Hines was an Educator and Fund-Raiser**

The fall of 1859 found J.W. Hines and family in Solano Co., California, where he served churches at Suisun, Benicia, Fairfield and Vallejo until the fall of 1862 when he was appointed Presiding Elder for the Humboldt District. While still in Solano, in September 1861, he was elected to the first of two terms as County Superintendent of Schools.<sup>15</sup>

During his Humboldt stay, Hines issued a challenge to his fellow ministers.

### **A Challenge**

In his report to the quarterly conference at this time [c. 1865], Dr. Hines sounded a note which needs to be heard today. He said, "The religious condition of this charge is very much as it has been for the past two years. It presents occasionally, to the eye of faith a faint ray of hope, but to tangible and immediate realization, there seems as usual, little but disappointment. Sure, the scene shifts occasionally, affording us something of a variety, but the quality of things remain about the same.

"What we need here is the need of the whole land, a powerful revival of religious life, a more positive and unreserved consecration of ourselves to God and His cause. If the opening of the new and second century of Methodism could witness this here, we might leave, as we should, a rich legacy to our children.

"Brethren of the Quarterly Conference, on our efforts much depends. Shall we be faithful and true? May heaven help us."<sup>16</sup>

Perhaps it was in response to his own challenge of leaving "a rich legacy to our children," that led Hines to direct the establishment of the Humboldt Academy

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<sup>15</sup> *History of Solano County*. (1879)

<sup>16</sup> First Methodist Church (Eureka, Calif.) Eighty-one years of Methodism in Eureka, California, 1850-1931. Eureka, California, 1931, p. 16.

in 1865.<sup>17</sup> He named fourteen men that year to serve as trustees, a building was erected, and the school began its first session in May, 1866.<sup>18</sup> The opening was awaited with anticipation in Eureka, according to the *Humboldt Times*.

**Humboldt Academy.**--This institution of which frequent mention has been made is now completed and will be opened with appropriate exercises on Wednesday, May 16th. We call the attention of our readers to the prospectus published in our columns to-day, giving the course of study, rates of tuition adopted by the Trustees, also the programme of the inaugural exercises. We wish the Humboldt Academy all the success the great importance of the enterprise merits, and hope the fullest anticipations of its projectors may be realized.<sup>19</sup>

A month later the *Times* continued its optimistic tone in reviewing the opening event.

**Humboldt Academy.**--This institution was formally opened on Wednesday evening last. There were quite a number of citizens present from all parts of the county. The exercises consisted of a prayer by Rev. A. Gould, a short address by Rev J.W. Hines, well known in this county [from a contemporary advertisement it appears he was President of the Board of Trustees], and the Inaugural Address of the Principal, Mr. J.H. Goodale. We dare not attempt a synopsis of Mr. Goodale's remarks, believing that the force and beauty of the address would be marred by adding to or taking from it. The music consisted of a choice selection of pieces by Miss Jenny L. Tracy, who presided at the piano.

The Academy was built entirely by subscription, and is an ornament to our town,

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<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 14. According to this document, Hines bought the land for the Academy for a price of \$350.00.

<sup>18</sup> Owen C. Coy, *The Humboldt Bay Region 1850-1875*, (1929) p. 298

<sup>19</sup> *Humboldt Times*, Apr 28, 1866.

and reflects credit upon the Trustees, through whose exertions it has been put in operation. We bespeak for it a career of prosperity.<sup>20</sup>

Unfortunately, the projected “career of prosperity” was short-lived. As Coy reports, “the attendance did not justify the expense of operation, and so after running for a period of two years the academy was closed for lack of support.”<sup>21</sup>

The fate of another Methodist-affiliated educational institution, located farther south in Santa Clara County, was much more favorable. This was the University of the Pacific, and J.W. Hines played an important part in helping it succeed. About the time that the Humboldt Academy was fading, the University was becoming crowded for space at its location in Santa Clara, and the Board of Trustees took corrective action, as described in the *San Jose Mercury*.

A Big Enterprise.--The Directors of the University of the Pacific have purchased four hundred acres of land of the Stockton Ranch, half way between San Jose and Santa Clara, for \$150 per acre. This land they propose to lay out in town lots and sell at a low price, reserving some eighty acres for the University grounds whereon they intend to erect first-class collegiate buildings. The old college building at Santa Clara will be converted into a preparatory institution. This enterprise, if successful, will eventually knit San Jose and Santa Clara into one city--the loveliest in all the world.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, May 26, 1866.

<sup>21</sup> Owen C. Coy, *The Humboldt Bay Region 1850-1875*, (1929) p. 298

<sup>22</sup> *San Jose Mercury*, Mar 29, 1866.

After several months of working through the details of the land purchase, and at the time Hines was getting a new assignment in Eureka, the Board in January 1867 elected Hines to be an Agent—in effect fund-raiser—for the University.<sup>23</sup> In describing this latter work, Hines tells a harrowing tale of fund-raising under the greatest of pressures.

My work was of a somewhat special character, being devoted to the selling of a tract of land consisting of 400 acres, extending from the Guadalupe River on the northeast to the far-famed Alameda Road on the southwest. This tract of land was situated about midway between the City of San Jose and the town of Santa Clara, and had been purchased by the Trustees with the intention of removing the site of the University to a more central and convenient location. It was a part of an old Spanish grant, and the first, I believe, that was confirmed in Alta California, after the treaty of "Guadalupe Hidalgo."

I was soon speeding away towards Colfax, where I intended to take the trail to North San Juan, Michigan Bluffs, and other small mining towns in that region. We had a very fine congregation at San Juan and quite a large number of members engaged in mining at the different camps in the foothills. I remained three weeks in that region, preached two and sometimes three times on the Sabbath, and during the week days visited from house to house and explained to the people the plans and purposes of our University.

On coming down from the mountains, where I had realized marked success in collecting money to defray incidental expenses, such as the payment of the salaries of teachers and local agent, I gave to the Board of Trustees a frank statement as to the policy

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<sup>23</sup> Minutes of the Board of Trustees, The University of the Pacific, Jan. 23, 1867. Hines's salary was "fixed at one hundred dollars per month and traveling expenses."

I thought ought to be pursued in order to attain the object for which I had been elected field agent. I gave it as my solemn conviction that if we can make the original purpose for which we had purchased the 400 acres of land, called the "University Grounds," we must enlist the ministers in the work of taking up collections, while the Agents should devote their first attention to the selling of the lands, that the work of prospecting and developing mines was in the hands of speculators and men without families who had put off to a more convenient season the work of rearing and educating a family.

Fortunately, the Board of Trustees at the time had at its head several men of practical business experience and enterprise, who worked cheerfully and earnestly to carry out this policy. Hon. Annis Merrill of San Francisco was the President and Dr. Hayden<sup>24</sup> of Santa Clara was the Secretary of the Board, the former a lawyer and a man of considerable wealth and influence in business circles, the other a practical farmer and horticulturist, one of the Pioneers in fruit growing in the Santa Clara Valley. Among the ministers we could name Edward Banister, M.C. Briggs, S.D. Symonds, D.A. Dryden, T.H. Linx<sup>25</sup> and others. In fact, we may say that without exception the entire California Conference at the time stood undivided and firm in support of the policy then adopted.

So the first stage of the work was over, the inspiration of the Master resting upon all; and with clear vision and undoubting trust all seemed willing and anxious to move forward. The local Agent<sup>26</sup>, aided by the county Surveyor, proceeded to the work of laying out the University Grounds into lots and blocks of suitable dimensions. While the field Agent [i.e., Hines himself], armed with the same free pass presented to him at Sacramento [by Leland Stanford and Charles Crocker, officers of the Central Pacific Railroad], went forth into our beautiful valleys to induce the people to purchase the same upon the favorable terms offered them by the Board of Trustees, which was one-quarter down, and the balance in three equal annual payments.

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<sup>24</sup> "Dr. Hayden" would have been Dr. B.F. Headen, according to the University of the Pacific catalog, 1866-68.

<sup>25</sup> He probably means Rev. T.H. Sinex, D.D., longtime member of the Board of Trustees, as well as President of the University.

<sup>26</sup> The local Agent was Rev. G.R. Baker, according to the University of the Pacific catalog, 1866-68.

My trip into the country to carry into effect the newly adopted plan of operation was to the upper portion of San Joaquin county. The late Warner Oliver, who at that time was living near Lodi, threw himself with his accustomed zeal into the work, and went with me from house to house, until we had, in five days, sold between five and six thousand dollars worth of land, and collected one hundred dollars in money. Rev. J. H. Maddoc was our preacher at Stockton City, where, on Sunday we held a grand rally for the University, which added to our cash credits another one hundred dollars.

I need not give in detail the various places I visited, but at the next meeting of the Trustees all concurred in the opinion that the success of our land venture was practically assured.

I had spent about three weeks in Butte and Colusa counties and had met with gratifying success, especially in and about Chico, the home of General Bidwell, one of the most wealthy and influential men in the State of California, and then standing high in the estimation of National politicians. The cause of education, on this coast especially, took a very firm hold upon his mind, and enlisted his cordial and earnest co-operation. He had learned of our efforts to establish the University of the Pacific, and when I called upon him invited me to remain overnight and explain the matter more fully. This I gladly consented to do, and his practical mind during our conversation made many valuable suggestions in relation to the matter.

In the morning, when I departed for San Francisco, he requested me to call again and to be sure to keep him posted in reference to the success of our land scheme, and tell the Trustees to be of good heart, and they might even depend on his co-operation. On arriving in the city, I went at once to the home of the President of the Board, told him of my visit to Chico, and the pleasant words of cheer from Mr. Bidwell, and the general feeling of good will among the people at large. He listened calmly and attentively to my statement, and then replied, "Brother Hines, I am sorry to be compelled to state that I feel almost certain that we have serious trouble before us." I sat down completely stupefied. After a moment, I replied, "Well, now what has happened?" He replied that a statement just received from Messrs. Newhall & Polhemus, the parties from who we had purchased

the land, revealed the fact that we had defaulted in our payments and they wished the matter attended to at once.

After talking the matter over with the President of the Board, he and Bro. Briggs, who was present, thought that I, as Agent of the Board, had better call on Mr. Newhall and ascertain, if possible, just how the matter stood. So, armed with a letter of introduction, I called on H.M. Newhall & Co., auctioneers and commission merchants, Sansome street. I deliberately walked into the office and handed Mr. Newhall my letter of introduction. He eyed it for a moment, looked at me with a searching glance, then blurted out: "Well, well, that looks a little suspicious. One of the best beggars in California, and the best preacher in the United States, that surely ought to be sufficient. And now, what do you want?" I told him that it would be at least two weeks before the Board of Trustees could be got together, and I wanted his promise that we should have that length of time in which to arrange the matter. Mr. Newhall gave me his promise and the next train took me to Santa Clara. I went to see our Secretary, Dr. Hayden, who informed me that the Local Agent had just sent in his resignation. I then informed him of the condition of matters in the City, and throwing up his hands he exclaimed "What next?" I told him never mind the next, that will come soon enough. Go forward! As soon as our Secretary had taken a hasty glance at the situation I hastened to my home and found the family all well. We occupied what was known as the Maltby house, which was the first frame house built upon the University grounds. Mr. Maltby had been appointed Indian Agent at Tulare and consequently rented his house already furnished.

After looking the matter over the first evening after returning home, I became satisfied that there was no time to be lost in ascertaining the exact status of affairs, and what, if anything, could be done to improve the situation. Two weeks would soon be gone, and at any moment complications might arise that would be certain to confuse and distract the minds of our people, and especially those who had already purchased our lands.

It was no easy matter at that time, when all the business pertaining to the University was in such an unsettled condition to adopt and maintain a settled policy, especially when surrounded by so many perplexities of a local and personal character.

During the night, therefore, my mind became strongly impressed with a desire to visit San Jose, and several times I found myself startled by the force and vividness of that impression. So quite early in the morning I walked down The Alameda, which, by the way, presented quite a different appearance from what it does now, and when coming to the corner of First street, just opposite where the Bank of San Jose now stands, I met face to face with Mr. John Spence, who was keeping a small grocery store about the place where the Victory Theatre now stands. After a hearty, old-fashioned shake of hands, he requested me to call at the store before I returned home, for said he, "I have some good news to tell you." I told him I would go right back with him now, as such a thing as "good news" would be quite welcome to me at the present time. After we were seated, he remarked: "Brother Hines, I have sold my ranch (as he called it), over on the Coyote Creek." He owned 40 or 50 acres on the East Side as it was called, where the town of East San Jose now stands. Well, I replied, I hope you have done well by selling, but I always thought it was a delightful place. What did you get? "I sold it for \$16,000 dollars in cash." You will now be able to enlarge your business here I presume. He replied: "I intend to put about one-half, or \$8000 into the store and the balance I will keep for some other purpose."

I could scarcely describe my emotions while he was making this statement, but at its close I looked into his bright and pleasant face, and quietly remarked, I see it all now, you are the very man I saw in my dreams last night. He turned aside the joke by saying that the old patriarchs used to think a great deal of dreams, but at the present people preferred something rather more substantial. "But," said he, "tell me how you are getting along in selling the University lands?" I explained the complicated condition of affairs, the promise Mr. Newhall had made to me, and the urgency of the matter in view of the limited time in which we had to act. I requested him to hold the matter in hand until I could consult some of the Trustees, and we then would see our way more clearly.

About noon I went back to my home with my faith in my dreams much firmer than when I visited San Jose in the morning. I went in the afternoon to see Dr. Hayden, our Secretary, who lived about one mile outside of the town of Santa Clara and told him of my visit to Mr. Spence, and the probability of our getting the money of him. He

advised great caution, and said he would come to my house in the morning and we would go together to see Mr. Spence. He was on hand in time with his horse and buggy and we rode over to San Jose, highly elated with the prospects before us. We found Mr. Spence at his store, looked the whole question over together, arranged the matter in a satisfactory manner, secured the \$8,000, the amount of the deficiency, drove out to the home of Mr. John Polhemus, who was attorney-in-fact of Mr. Charles B. Polhemus, the partner of Mr. Newhall in the purchase of the University grounds, took his receipt for the same, and the victory was won and the land was saved.

When the amount of our indebtedness was endorsed on the contract by Mr. Polhemus, and certified by C. B. Polhemus, I went to bed and took a good long nap, and I don't think I dreamt for at least twelve hours; but still I believe in dreams.

I kept a "diary" at the time, and thus find myself able to tell this story.<sup>27</sup>

Hines served as Agent for the University from his election in January of 1867 until September, 1868, when he was appointed as minister to the Redwood City charge. About midway through his Agency, his work was warmly praised by the Board.

"Dr. Briggs offered the following.

Resolved that the Board of Trustees of the University of the Pacific feels itself specially and largely indebted for the present healthy and promising condition of the said University Land Enterprise to the untiring and very efficient labors of Rev. J.W. Hines who has served the Board as one of its agents since January last and we cordially commend him to the confidence of the Methodist and general public in his future efforts to carry this Enterprise which is now an assumed success to its triumphant conclusion."<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> Hines, *Touching Incidents*, portions of Chapters XVII, XIV, and XIX, pp. 137, 119, 140-148.

<sup>28</sup> From minutes of the University of the Pacific Board of Trustees meeting on Sep 19, 1867.

His two-year stint as Field Agent was not the end of Hines's service to the University of the Pacific. In 1901 he returned as a member of the Board of Trustees, where he served continuously through 1910. During eight of those years he was on the Executive Committee and later was a member of the Advisory Committee.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> Personal Communication from Patricia Richards, Special Collections Assistant at the University Library, University of the Pacific.

## Civil War Activities: Hines was a Patriot

During the Civil War the activities of J.W. Hines apparently mirrored those of the more famous Thomas Starr King, the Unitarian minister who has been credited with “saving California for the Union.”<sup>30</sup> Like King, Hines made impassioned speeches extolling Lincoln and the Union Cause. A Thanksgiving Day oration at Vallejo on August 6, 1863 was printed up and distributed widely. From one of these copies, author Beatrice White has provided some of the highlights of the speech. Early on, Hines recounted Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation.

If Mr. Lincoln, by this one act, had not immortalized his name, then has immortality ceased to attach itself to noble deeds.<sup>31</sup>

He continued with reenactments of the military successes,

Seldom had a nation been permitted to witness in so short a time, a series of such wonderful events as have marked the history of the past month... For forty days Banks and Grant had been struggling for the possession of Port Hudson and Vicksburg. Twice from each fortress had the assailing forces been driven back, with frightful slaughter, in their attempts to capture them by storm... The whole horizon seemed dark with portentous clouds, with only here and there a bright spot to tell us that the sun was still in the heavens... years will not suffice to dim... the recollection of that memorable third of July. Horses and men, by the hundreds and thousands, went down upon that plain swept by this tornado of death. The very air is thick and dark with these infernal missiles, while rolling clouds of sulphurous smoke wreath their fantastic forms over the field of blood... The patient valor of Grant is at length rewarded, and on the morning of our

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<sup>30</sup> Walton Bean and James J. Rawls, *California: An Interpretive History*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. (1988), p. 105. See also: [http://www.sksm.edu/about/thomas\\_starr\\_king.php](http://www.sksm.edu/about/thomas_starr_king.php)

<sup>31</sup> Beatrice L. Bliss White, *Not on a Silver Platter*, 1989, p. 29.

country's birthday, Vicksburg, with its vast armament, and 31,000 prisoners of war, fell into the victor's hands.

Thus we have briefly sketched the events which have induced the Chief Magistrate of the nation to call us together today for thanksgiving and prayer.<sup>32</sup> and concluded with,

But the day of our triumph shall come. This hell-inspired rebellion must die. And when the hour of its departure is at hand, let its epitaph be the response of one of its own warriors, on the bloody field of Gettysburg: "Where is your regiment?" inquired one of our officers of an Alabama Colonel, whom he had captured in the midst of the fight. "*Gone to Hell, Sir!*" was the immediate, though profane reply. When, in years to come, our children shall pause in their joyous activities, and with dimmed and fast fading recollection, inquire for the faint records of their country's greatest evil, may they only find, "*Gone to Hell, sir!*" uttering a fearful warning from its crumbling tombstone. There, then let it stay, chained to the burning walls of its everlasting prison house. Let the sulphurous wave of a fiery damnation roll over it forever. Let the jeering and hissing devils laugh at it, and, tossing it over the region of flame, taunt it as the eternal representation of their greatest folly.<sup>33</sup>

In addition to his oratory, Hines was actively involved in raising funds for the United States Sanitary Commission, a centralized organization created for the relief of northern soldiers, and for the United States Christian Commission,<sup>34</sup> another important relief organization during the Civil War. One of the events under the auspices of these commissions jointly, held in Eureka in April, 1865,

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<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 30.

<sup>33</sup> *San Jose Mercury*, Nov. 5, 1863.

<sup>34</sup> *Solano Press*, Apr. 19, 1865, reports "Heard From: Rev. J. W. Hines, formerly of Solano, is now stationed at Eureka, Humboldt County, and appears to be very active in behalf of the Christian Commission.

was the unveiling of a “Banner Quilt” sewn by a group of Humboldt ladies, among whom was Hines’s wife, Elizabeth. The quilt was subsequently sent to Civil War hero General U.S. Grant, who had served in Humboldt County as a young officer, along with the \$2,400 raised in the event.<sup>35</sup> In response, “... the general returned the short but beautiful autograph letter now in the possession of Mr. Hines.”<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> Kaaren Beaver Buffington, “A Quilt for General Grant,” unpublished paper held by the Archives in Special Collections, Library at Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA.

<sup>36</sup> James M. Guinn, *History of the State of California and biographical record of Coast Counties, California*. Chicago: The Chapman Publishing Company, 1904, p. 570. Also see Hines, *Touching Incidents*, p. 16.

## Hines was a Political Activist

Guinn's biographical sketch paints J.W. Hines as a loyal Republican who supported the Lincoln presidency, the Union cause in the Civil War, Leland Stanford's gubernatorial candidacy, and even who "... took a prominent part in organizing the Republican party,... was a delegate to the first general convention of that party in the state, served on the committee on platform, of which he was the chief author..."<sup>37</sup> Perhaps so, but in the literature on the Republican Party in California we find no record of his involvement in the first convention. Indeed, according to Davis, the first state convention of Republicans met in Sacramento in 1856, three years before Hines arrived in the state. Another Republican convention was held in 1857 to select a gubernatorial candidate, and still again in 1859, the year that Hines moved to California from Oregon. Might he have somehow managed to attend that convention? Davis lists all members of the committee on resolutions, and Hines is not among them. For the resolutions committee at the 1860 Republican convention that supported the nomination of Lincoln, Davis lists "J.S. Love, G.A. Grant, W.H. Weeks, and others." Perhaps Hines was one of the "others." In all of Davis's comprehensive, 711-page volume, Hines is mentioned in connection with exactly one convention, that of the People's Party, meeting in Los Angeles, October 22, 1891. At this decidedly un-Republican gathering he is

listed as the first member of the committee on “platform and resolutions,” and may well have been the chief author.

There can be little doubt of Hines’s support of the Union cause in the War, or of his support of Lincoln, but whatever his early affiliation with the Republican Party may have been, his political loyalties lurched far leftward in the late 1860’s and beyond. In Humboldt County as early as 1865, Coy reports that

“After the *Humboldt Times* had become Republican several attempts were made to establish Democratic papers. The first of these was made by Rev. J.W. Hines, who started the *Humboldt Bay Journal* in September, 1865.”<sup>38</sup>

Along the stretch from Democrats in 1865 to People’s Party in 1891, Hines joined the Knights of Labor, the Prohibitionists, the Greenback Party, the Nationalists and the Farmer’s Alliance, as one organization faded and another emerged in its place. Like many others he was captivated by Edward Bellamy’s *Looking Backward*, a utopian vision of life in the year 2000, and the inspiration for the Nationalists. It is interesting that in Hines’s book – aside from the Guinn biographical sketch – there is but one specific mention of a political party or movement, and that is in Chapter II wherein he extols Nationalism in his call for all Reform movements to merge into one. For Hines, as for so many others, the attraction of Nationalism stemmed predominantly from the similarity of its

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<sup>37</sup> *Ibid.*

principles to those of Christianity. One historian has expressed it this way,

The evangelical tone of Nationalist rhetoric resembled a patient Christian socialism. Nationalist J.W. Hines referred to Jesus of Nazareth as the "greatest Nationalist and Socialist."<sup>39</sup>

It seems as if Hines found promoting Nationalism a natural sequel to the Methodist-Episcopal pulpit he had left years earlier.

In the 1890-91 time period leading up to the 1891 state elections, Hines was active in several ways, as noted by Delmatier, et al.

J.W. Hines of San Jose, "a man of influence among farmers," a former Greenbacker who published the San Francisco *Pacific Union*, was elected state chairman of the Cator-led Nationalists and his paper was made their official organ. This fitted well with the intention of the Nationalist leaders announced at the convention to assist in the founding of a California Farmers' Alliance. The strategy of building some kind of farmer-labor political party on the basis of a unity between the prospective farmer organization and the city Nationalists was quite visible.<sup>40</sup>

In the Fountain papers at Humboldt State University is a cryptic, undated note stating,

Three branches of the Farmers' Alliance, one at the James District, one at Bayside, and one at Arcata have been organized this week. J. W. Hines, State Organizer.<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> Owen C. Coy, *The Humboldt Bay Region 1850-1875*, (1929) p. 305.

<sup>39</sup> John T. McGreevey, "Farmers, Nationalists, and the Origins of California Populism," *Pacific Historical review*, 1989 58(4): 474.

<sup>40</sup> Royce D. Delmatier, et al., *The Rumble of California Politics 1848-1970*, (1970), p. 102.

<sup>41</sup> Fountain, Susie Baker. Susie Baker Fountain Papers, vol. 11, p. 140. Humboldt State University Library, 1967

Hines's feelings about farmers and politics are colorfully portrayed in a poem he evidently addressed to H.H. Markham, the ultimately successful 1991 Republican candidate for Governor.

Now, Brother Markham, let us pause and calmly state the case,  
Not every one that's swift of foot will surely win the race,  
Not all the battles here we fight is given to the strong,  
Not every man that has a hoe, will to that hoe belong.  
Our Washington, when he was young, possessed a little hatchet,  
And when he grew to be a man, he had a hoe to match it.  
And Putnam, Stark and other men who fought our battle,<sup>42</sup>  
Knew how to plow and use the hoe, and feed their sheep and cattle.  
Go tell your "lords and masters" then, who tread on nature's law,  
They'll have a mighty funny job in pulling down our jaw,  
And if they undertake the task of pushing "back *our* brow,"  
They'll see how quickly hoe men here can raise a fearful row.  
"The emptiness of ages" then is in the hoe man's "face,"  
I think on second thought you'll find 'tis in another place,  
For when your "lords and masters" come, we shut the door and lock it,

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<sup>42</sup> "Putnam and Stark" were Revolutionary War heroes, Gen. Israel Putnam and Gen. John Stark. Putnam is legendary for reportedly dropping everything in the midst of plowing a field in order to immediately take up arms against the British. See for example, <http://www.ct.gov/mil/cwp/view.asp?a=1351&q=258410>

For all the “emptiness” in fear is “emptiness” of pocket.  
“The whirlwinds of rebellion” was a figure neat and grand,  
And we hope to see it sweeping on the sea and on the land,  
Not the one that bringeth weeping, sighing, blood and tear,  
But the “whirlwind” of the ballot is the one the rulers fear,  
And now, my Brother Markham, let us give each other aid,  
While we all march on together now in freedom's bold crusade,  
And then your kings and rulers here will surely see and know  
That freedom's best defenders are the men that use the hoe.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>43</sup> Hines, *Touching Incidents*, p.187.

## Hines was a Farmer

As noted above, writers of California labor and political history allude to Hines's relationship with farmers. Another such indication of this relationship appears in Cornford's history of labor unrest in Humboldt County.

...Goaded by the *Watchman* and encouraged by a visit from a state Alliance organizer.

J.W. Hines (a former Humboldt County resident), the farmers of Humboldt responded...<sup>44</sup>

That Hines would have such a relationship with farmers should not be surprising.

In addition to his many other hats, Hines wore the farmer's straw hat comfortably.

As early as 1880, several censuses list his occupation as "farmer" or

"orchardist."<sup>45</sup> We have no record of how successful he may have been at farming,

but a letter he wrote to a northern California nursery in 1878 indicates that he

shared with other farmers their vulnerability to the vagaries of weather.

San Jose Aug. 25, 1878

C. M. Silva & Son-

Sirs- I sent you to day by W.F. & Co. \$60- which you will please place

to my account. None of the Plants - with the exception of the "Monarch"

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<sup>44</sup> Daniel A. Cornford, *Workers and Dissent in the Redwood Empire*, Philadelphia: Temple University Press (1987), p. 118.

have realized any thing to me as yet. The balance were washed away, mostly, by the flood<sup>46</sup> we had here last winter. The labels were all lost, and I am unable to designate them at present...

Now, in relation to the balance of the money, of course you were not to blame for their loss, but it was my misfortune, and all I ask is a little time to make the money from those I saved. I have a fine lot of "Monarch" plants and quite a lot of them have been already engaged and the first money I get out of them I will send to you.

Fruit of all kinds,- especially strawberries & black berries- has been so very low, and the expense of fixing up my place after this flood was so great, that my income has greatly fallen below my expectations, and I find myself unable to recover as promptly as I could with the demands upon me. Yet I am doing the best I can, and hope to be able to get through all right...

Yours very truly,

J.W. Hines<sup>47</sup>

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<sup>45</sup> See, for example, the 1880 U.S. Federal Census for Santa Clara Co., CA, and the 1899 San Jose City Directory.

<sup>46</sup> According to a map in the Thompson & West Atlas (1876), Hines farmed 54 acres along [notoriously flood-prone] Guadalupe Creek, on the site of what now in 2006 is part of the San Jose International Airport.

<sup>47</sup> Item 1:44 Hines, J.W. 1878 August 25, C. M. Silva & Son Correspondence Collection, Special Collections, University of California Library, Davis.

## Hines was a Journalist

Hines's ventures as newspaper editor have been alluded to earlier. His first effort was with the *Humboldt (Bay) Journal* and might best be described as a disaster. This paper first appeared in September 1865, and from the beginning Hines appears to have provoked sarcastic jabs from his rival across the street, J. R. Wyman, editor of the *Humboldt Times*. Exactly what Hines said can only be surmised as we have at this writing (April 2006) not yet located any copies of the *Journal* while Hines was editor. So we must draw our inferences from Wyman's "Local Items" column in the *Times*.

**Our News Article.**--We have not ventured to say much in the way of news this week, preferring to leave that for the "reliable" man of the new paper to do up for the "eager" people he has promised to "gratify."

**"A Big Thing."**--The astute editor-man of the *Journal*, says "There are about one thousand voters more or less in Humboldt County. One million dollars would be ten thousand dollars each." Pretty good for a starter. His claims for "reliability" are now established beyond question. He comes within just nine millions of being "reliable." "Gigantic" thing to be sure.

**Wants Light.**--The editor of the paper across the way says "Let us ask those persons what can be gained by arraying ourselves against the Administration of Andrew Johnson?" This is addressed to Union men. Let us ask this ingenious cherubim that has strayed so far

from the heavenly fold: "Who the devil has arrayed themselves against the Administration of Andrew Johnson, except the Cops [Copperheads] and that "five hundred " names?"<sup>48</sup>

As the weeks wore on, Wyman's barbs became more caustic. In fairness to Hines, whose side of the exchange we are not at this time privileged to see, we will quote here only the mildest of Wyman's items.

**Change of Name.**--In view of the editorial style of our neighbor, and his disposition to blubber when engaged in soothing traitors, we suggest that he get Bro. Heustis to introduce a bill into the Legislature, changing his name to *Whines*.<sup>49</sup>

However justified Wyman's characterization of Hines as editor may have been, its impact, along with perhaps a low receptivity for a Democratic-leaning paper in a heavily Republican area led to Hines's abrupt departure from the *Journal* in early December, 1865.

It was more than twenty years before Hines would again try his hand at newspaper editing. On January 5, 1889, the first issue of the *Pacific Union*, J.W. Hines, Editor, appeared. With the opening statement,

The *Pacific Union* presents its first friendly salutations with the present issue, and solicits from the public a careful and candid perusal.<sup>50</sup>

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<sup>48</sup> *Humboldt Times*, Sep 2, 1865.

Hines implies that he expects the reader to infer the paper's philosophy from the nature of the content. And that content was clearly pro-labor, and in favor of voting reform and monetary reform, as well as Prohibition and women's suffrage. McGreevy calls it, simply, a "Nationalist paper,"<sup>51</sup> and indeed there was much Nationalist content. Walters calls the *Pacific Union* the "official organ" of the California Nationalists, but states that after Nationalism faded, Hines joined the Farmers' Alliance and changed the name of his paper to the *Pacific Union-Alliance*, making it the "organ of the farm organization."<sup>52</sup> The total lifetime of this paper was only a few years, matching the ephemeral nature of the reform movements it chronicled.

It is difficult to tell which newspaper Guinn referred to when he credited Hines with being the "editor of the first labor paper published on the Pacific Coast."<sup>53</sup> It could hardly have been the *Pacific Union* because many papers devoted to labor issues were published in the decades preceding 1889. And if he were referring to the unfortunate *Humboldt Journal*, at least one paper, the *Journal of Trades and Workingmen*, was launched earlier, in April, 1865.

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<sup>49</sup> *Ibid.*, Nov 18, 1865.

<sup>50</sup> *Pacific Union*, Jan 5, 1889, p. 2.

<sup>51</sup> John T. McGreevy, "Farmers, Nationalists, and the Origins of California Populism," *Pacific Historical Review*, 1989 58(4), p. 476.

<sup>52</sup> Donald F. Walters, "The Feud between California Populist T.V. Cator and Democrats James Maguire and James Barry," *Pacific Historical Review*, 1958 37, p. 284.

## Legacy

Surely the most prominent legacy of J.W. Hines is embodied in the University of the Pacific, for which he and his wife devoted so much time, effort and financial support. That school, which may well have foundered without efforts like theirs, is at this writing recognized nationally<sup>54</sup> and serves over 6,000 students enrolled at its campuses in Stockton, Sacramento and San Francisco.

Politically, if J.W. Hines has a legacy it is through his support of the Union cause during the Civil War on the one hand, and his involvement in the late nineteenth century reform movements on the other. He was one of the leaders in the formation of the People's or Populist Party, and of that movement Bean and Rawls have this to say,

At the heart of populism was a distrust of political parties and a firm belief that no important reform could be accomplished until control of the machinery of government was taken out of the hands of party bosses and party conventions and given to the people. Thus the most enduring contribution of the Populists in California was the spread of public interest in their demands for the direct primary, the initiative, the referendum, and the recall.<sup>55</sup>

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<sup>53</sup> Guinn, p. 571. Also see Hines, *Touching Incidents*, p. 19.

<sup>54</sup> In the prestigious U.S. News and World Report ranking of the nation's top universities in August 2005, Pacific ranked 104th on the list of 248 doctoral degree-granting universities, sharing this position with University of Alabama, University of Dayton (Ohio), University of Massachusetts – Amherst and University of San Diego.

<sup>55</sup> Walton Bean and James J. Rawls, *California: An Interpretive History*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. (1988), p. 225.

The genetic legacy of Joseph and Elizabeth Meredith Hines continues into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, but two descendants whose careers spanned the 1900's stand out most prominently. George Emory Hines (1852-1905), who was the eldest son of Joseph and Elizabeth, had three sons, the youngest of whom was William Meredith Hines (1888-1967), a newspaperman who served as a reporter, editor, business manager and publisher for newspapers on both coasts. Beginning his career as a printer's helper in San Jose, he moved on to become city editor of the San Jose Morning Times and managing editor of the San Francisco Examiner before becoming managing editor and the publisher of the San Francisco Bulletin.<sup>56</sup> At the time he assumed leadership at the Bulletin, a fellow newspaperman at another daily extolled his virtues.

"Billy" Hines knows the business and he understands men. Furthermore, he has a keen insight as to what people want and expect to find in their home newspaper.

Readers of the San Francisco Bulletin in this territory--and they are increasing in number every month--will like that newspaper better every day with Hines in control.<sup>57</sup>

A 1937 feature article in Newsweek described him as the "newspaper doctor," who restored ailing dailies to renewed publishing success, including at that time the Bulletin, the Philadelphia Record, the Brooklyn Daily Eagle and

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<sup>56</sup> See obituary in Oakland Tribune, Friday, April 1, 1967.

<sup>57</sup> Woodland Daily Democrat, March 14, 1927.

Times-Union, the New York Evening Post and the Boston Evening Transcript.<sup>58</sup>

In a retrospective column many years later, just two years before Hines' death, a San Jose newspaper columnist wrote,

One of the best newspapermen San Jose ever had was Billy Hines...<sup>59</sup>

Whatever recognition William Meredith Hines had as a newspaperman, his son, William Meredith Hines, Jr., received much more as one of the principal journalists covering the U.S. space program from its infancy in the Eisenhower administration on through the mid-1980s. After President Eisenhower had announced plans to launch an unmanned earth satellite during the 1957-58 International Geophysical Year (and a little before Sputnik), Hines was convinced that space exploration would dominate the news of the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and persuaded a reluctant boss at the Washington Star ("Why do you want the job of Science Editor? You're in line to become Managing Editor of this newspaper!") that he wanted to cover it.<sup>60</sup> Cover it he did—with several columns a week for nearly thirty years, first for the Star, and later for the Chicago Daily News and Sun-Times. One of the highlights, of course, was the first landing on the

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<sup>58</sup> Newsweek, May 8, 1937.

<sup>59</sup> Dick Barrett's column in *The San Jose Mercury-News*, December 5, 1965.

<sup>60</sup> Personal communication, 2002.

moon. Under the headline, “Mission: Possible! 2 go for a walk on the moon,” dateline Houston, he wrote,

For the first time, men walked Sunday night on the surface of another world.

Astronaut Neil A. Armstrong, 38-year-old civilian commander of Apollo 11, stepped from the footpad of a spindly-legged spacecraft onto the lunar Sea of Tranquility at 9:56 p.m. (Chicago time) and said:

“One small step for man – one giant leap for mankind.”<sup>61</sup>

In 1966 Hines was awarded the Robert S. Ball Memorial Award for outstanding excellence in the coverage of space activities, presented by the Aviation/Space Writers Association, just one of numerous such awards received during his long career.<sup>62</sup> At the time of the Ball award it was noted by his newspaper that Hines averaged 50,000 miles of travel a year in covering science and space.

Professor Emeritus James Van Allen of the University of Iowa tells an amusing story involving Hines,

“At the 1958 press conference when I was attempting to describe the geometry of how the radiation we had discovered surrounded the earth, one journalist blurted out, ‘You mean like a belt?’ And that’s how the ‘Van Allen Radiation Belt’ got its name. The journalist was Bill Hines, the best on the beat.”<sup>63</sup>

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<sup>61</sup> *Chicago Sun-Times*, Mon., July 21, 1969.

<sup>62</sup> *Washington Star* press release, May 3, 1966.

<sup>63</sup> Personal communication.

## Conclusion

The editor of the *California Christian Advocate* in 1913 summarized the career of Joseph W. Hines succinctly and appreciatively.

The death of Mr. Joseph W. Hines takes from our midst one of our most esteemed Methodist pioneers. He was a brother of Dr. H.K. Hines, the Methodist pioneer of the Northwest and historian of our Methodism in that part of the Pacific Coast. He came as an itinerant in early days to Oregon and in 1859 to California. He continued in the active ranks until 1871. Since that time he has been practically in the ranks of the laymen. For more than a dozen years he has been a member of the Board of Trustees of the College of the Pacific. He was much esteemed for his whole-hearted and joyous service. He took an active part in sustaining the Union cause in California during the Civil War. He possessed a clear strong mind and has been a frequent contributor to the columns of the *California Christian Advocate*. He gave of his time and means cheerfully, heartily to the College of the Pacific. He has lived a long and useful life, having reached the great age of 89 years.

Personally Mr. Hines was of an extremely happy and joyous temperament. He always had a greeting for his friends. His face was habitually lighted with a smile. He had some strong ideas, perhaps some eccentric and unusual ideas, advanced ideas, but with all this he kept good natured and friendly with those who radically differed from him. He was an enthusiast over the Santa Clara Valley. Few men in the Santa Clara Valley were more universally esteemed than Mr. Hines. He took great interest in the campaign to pay off the debt on the University of the Pacific. On the occasion of raising of the final \$3,000 of the more than \$50,000 debt, Bishop Hamilton was in charge of the service. The subscriptions were coming in slowly, the enthusiasm seemed to be waning when Hines arose and began to subscribe for his children and his grandchildren. The enthusiasm was contagious and the whole debt was wiped out in a few minutes. He was one of the few men who never seemed to grow old. His good nature, his cheerful and joyous spirit made him delightful to the end of his eventful life. "Well done" belongs to him.<sup>64</sup>

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<sup>64</sup> "Death of Joseph W. Hines," *California Christian Advocate*, Mar 6, 1913, p.3. This obituary was published without specific attribution to an author, so it is assumed it was written by the

The remains of J. W. Hines and his immediate family now rest in Oak Hill Cemetery in San Jose, and he leaves us with a poem expressing his feelings for this city and its valley.

**Returning Home from the East**

Thou fair smiling valley, I hasten to thee,  
As the long absent sailor speeds over the sea,  
That his vision may feast on the beauties once more  
That deck the sweet fields of his own native shore.

Tell us not of the glories of city or field,  
Or seek to allure by the pleasure they yield,  
For naught have we found as we wandered away  
Such beauties as crown thee, thou fair San Jose.

For thee will we banish all doubtings and fears,  
For thee will we cease all our sorrows and tears,  
No starlight of evening or sunlight of day  
Can equal the brightness of sweet San Jose.

We will pray that thy temples may evermore stand,  
The hope, and the joy, and the pride of our land,  
That thy sons and fair daughters may never betray  
The name and the fame of our loved San Jose.<sup>65</sup>

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editor of the *Advocate* at that time, Freeman D. Bovard, who himself served the Methodist Church in many capacities even before his long tenure as editor of the *Advocate*. In addition to his Methodist-affiliated activities, from 1880-85 he was Vice President and Professor of Mathematics at the University of Southern California.

<sup>65</sup> Hines, *Touching Incidents*, p. 155.

## **Addendum: Hines was NOT “J. W. Hinds”**

When we first saw Rev. J. W. Hinds of San Jose listed on the Board of Trustees for the University of the Pacific in the 1874-75 university catalog, we assumed that this just one more instance of Joseph W. Hines having his name spelled differently. “Hinds” was a common alternate spelling for the surname in earlier times. But further investigation has shown conclusively that Rev. J. W. Hinds and Rev. J. W. Hines, while both were Methodist ministers, both were San Jose residents for many years and both had close ties with the University of the Pacific, were nevertheless two different men.

Patricia Richards has pointed out that Rev. J. W. Hinds had a pastoral appointment in northern California for the 1914-15 year (J. W. Hines died in 1913).<sup>66</sup> Steve Yale referred us to Anthony’s comprehensive work which lists both men with separate profiles, including the fact that J. W. Hinds was a banker, an occupation never claimed for J. W. Hines.<sup>67</sup> And our own search of the 1880 U. S. Federal Census for San Jose revealed both men, listed separately, each with their respective families. The 1870 census, incidentally, lists John W. Hinds, with a family matching that of J. W. Hinds in the 1880 census--which leads us to ask, “Why didn’t these two fellows just go by “Joe” and “John,” instead of “J. W.” and “J. W.?”

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<sup>66</sup> Patricia Richards, personal communication.

<sup>67</sup> C. V. Anthony. *Fifty years of Methodism; a history of the Methodist Episcopal Church within the bounds of the California annual conference from 1847 to 1897*. San Francisco: Methodist Book Concern, 1901.

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