

Kentucky's Civil War: Thomas Henry Hines



Historical Marker #770 in Butler County notes the birthplace of Confederate soldier Thomas Henry Hines.

Called the “most dangerous man of [the] Confederacy,” Hines was born near Woodbury on October 9, 1838. A professor at the Masonic University in LaGrange, Hines joined the Confederacy and served in John Hunt Morgan’s 9th Kentucky Cavalry. When Morgan, Hines, and other Confederate raiders were captured in Ohio and imprisoned at the Ohio Penitentiary, Hines was the key planner who organized Morgan’s escape from prison.

On March 16, 1864, Confederate authorities sent Hines to Canada, where he and other exiled Southerners lobbied on behalf of the Confederacy and planned prison breaks to free Confederate POWs in Illinois. Although Hines and his compatriots worked for overt action, the prison breaks never occurred.

After the war, Hines was an attorney in Bowling Green and became judge executive of Warren County. In 1878, he joined the court of appeals and ultimately became chief justice. He died on January 23, 1889, and was buried in Bowling Green’s Fairview Cemetery.

Photo: Possibly an image of James Barlow, who would have ridden with Hines in the 9th Kentucky Confederate Cavalry. From the collections of the Kentucky Historical Society.