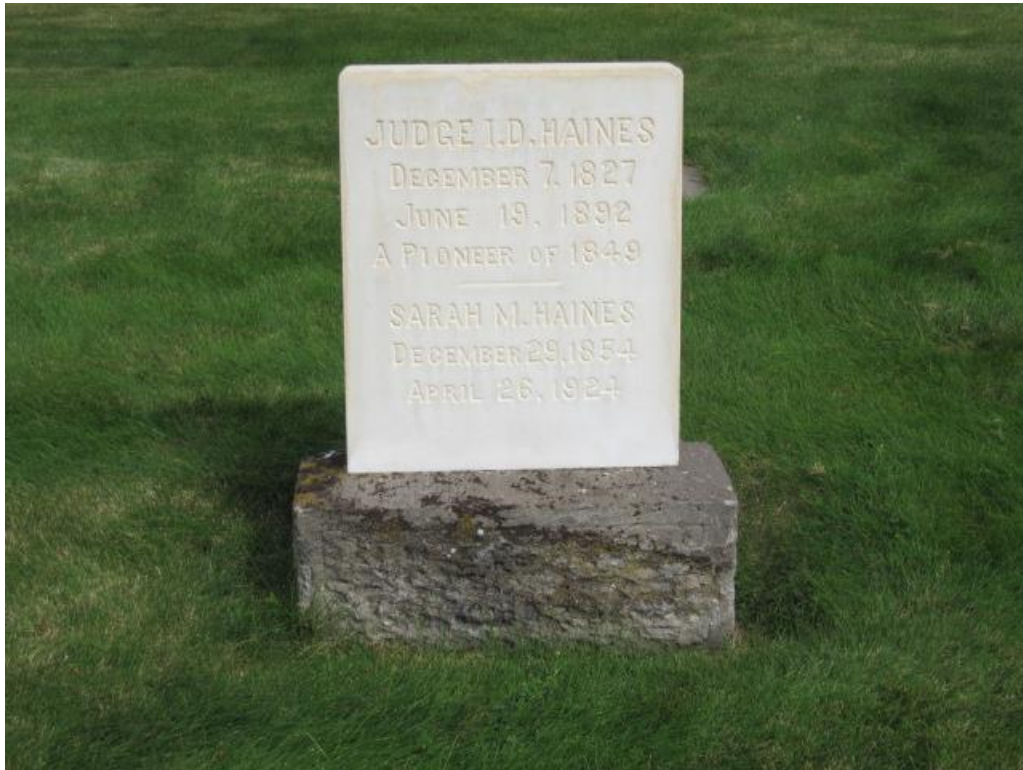


“Judge” Israel David Haines  
1827 – 1892



*Grave marker of I.D. Haines in Mount Hope Cemetery in Baker City.*

Oregon has a fabulous history. If you are interested in where to read about Oregon’s history, there’s no better place to start than in the “Oregon Room” of the Baker County Library District, which is located on the Powder River side of the building at 2000 Resort Street in Baker City. As the name of the room implies, it’s chockfull of information about Oregon’s history.

In searching for information about I.D. Haines, I looked in *“The Centennial History of Oregon, 1811-1912,”* 4 volumes, by Joseph Gaston, located in the Oregon Room. These are thousand-plus-page leather-bound toms published in 1912. Volume 1 contains a very detailed history of Oregon starting with Columbus’s sailing west in 1492 expecting to find the Asian continent. Next Gaston tells about the many European mariners who beginning in the early 1500’s sailed through Magellan Strait at the southern tip of South America and then north along the west coast of South and North American continents, some of them searching for a mythical Northwest Passage as a shortcut to the Atlantic Ocean and Europe.

The most important mariner in Oregon history was Captain Robert Gray (1755-1806) of Boston, Massachusetts, famous for his discovery of the Columbia River in 1792. But first, a few words about Gray’s first voyage to the Pacific Ocean (1787-1789). Gray was the first American to sail along the coast of Oregon. His first glimpse of Oregon was on

August 2, 1788, as his ship sailed passed the 42<sup>nd</sup> parallel, present border between California and Oregon. Twelve days later Gray was the first mariner to anchor a ship in an Oregon harbor, Tillamook Bay. Gray sailed further north as far as Vancouver Island, where he spent the winter engaging in buying otter furs from the Indians. By the end of 1789, Gray was back in Boston.

On September 28, 1790, Gray left Boston harbor for a second voyage to the Pacific, this time in a ship named Columbia. Sailing close to the coast of Oregon Gray discovered a flow of water from a large river. After spending nine days attempting to get over the bar, Gray continued north arriving at Vancouver Island on June 5, 1791. Gray explored along the east side of Vancouver Island, then wintered over at Clayoquot village. On April 2, 1792, Gray pulled up anchor and headed south for the long voyage back to Boston.

On May 19, 1792, Gray was again at the source of the outflow of a very large river. The log book of the Columbia described the successful crossing of the Columbia River bar. "At four o'clock in the morning of the 11th we beheld our desired port, bearing east-southeast, distance six leagues (21 miles). At 8 a.m., being a little to the windward of the entrance of the harbor, bore away, and ran in east-northeast, between the breakers, having from 5 to 7 fathoms (30 to 42 feet) of water. When we were over the bar, we found this to be a large river of fresh water, up which we steered. Many canoes came along side." Gray traded with the Indians for a few days and explored up the river he christened Columbia about a dozen miles before continuing his voyage home to Boston.

After the foregoing introduction to James Gaston's Volume 1 (history of Oregon) in his four-volume *"The Centennial History of Oregon, 1811-1912,"* we look now at the content of volumes II, III, and IV, which contain over five-hundred biographies submitted by Oregonians. My assumption is that the volumes are what one may term "vanity" volumes for which one paid to have one's biography, and sometimes a full-page photo portrait, included in one of the three volumes. I found the biography of I.D. Haines on pages 172-177 of Volume II. Library staff have listed on sheets in an envelope the names of many Baker City and County citizens whose biographies are included in the three biographical volumes.

Like many Oregonians of his generation, Israel David Haines, the object of this short biography, began life a thousand or more miles away in the "states" long before Oregon even became a territory. He was born on September 7, 1827, in Xenia, Ohio, fifteen miles southeast of Dayton. His parents were Reuben Haines (1803-1874) and Nancy (Connelly) Haines (1807-1836), who were natives of Augusta County, Virginia. Census records reveal that Israel was eight-years-old when his mother Nancy died. Israel's father remarried but I've not found who his second wife was. In 1844, when Haines was fifteen years old, the family moved to Macon County, Missouri, about equal distant north of St. Louis and Kansas City.

[Jayson: Israel wrote in his memoir that when his mother died he was three years old, contradicting census records which show that his mother Nancy Connely died 3-17-1836. Doing the math subtracting Israel's birth 12-7-1827 = 8.]

On June 15, 1846, the United States and Great Britain signed the Treaty of Oregon ending twenty-eight years of joint occupancy of the Pacific Northwest. The treaty established the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel as the border between the two countries.

In 1848 Congress created Oregon Territory comprised of the future states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and two small parts of western Montana and Wyoming. (See map.)



*In 1848 Congress created Oregon Territory.*

In the spring of 1849 Israel, age 21, and older brother Robert, 23, happened to be in Hannibal, Missouri, on the Mississippi River, where news had arrived about the rich gold strike in California. They began making plans to join a wagon train of like-minded opportunists headed for the California gold fields. In Israel's memoir, he recounts finding out there was an alternative way to get to the mines in California, whereby the two brothers could be paid to travel the over two-thousand-miles to the west coast. The brothers jumped at the chance. On April 23, 1849, Israel and Robert joined a thousand-man U.S. Army Rifle Regiment headed for Vancouver in the new Oregon Territory. The Regiment's task was to take charge of the territory ceded by Britain south of the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel, which to this day is still the boundary between Canada on the north and the states of Washington, Idaho, Montana, and North Dakota on the south.

Following are several excerpts from Israel Haines' memoir about his experiences after the regiment crossed over the Rocky Mountains. "How well I remember coming to Green River, and then over to Bear River, and across the divide over to Snake River at Fort Hall (near the later city Pocatello), where we turned in seventy-five wagons, and left some troops and mules; and (I) well remember coming on, down around the bend of Snake River through Idaho, and into Oregon, then known as Oregon territory. ..."

"And well do I remember coming into Powder River Valley about the first of September, 1849. The rye grass in this valley was so high that when we turned our mules out we had trouble in finding them, for at that time we had, after leaving those at Fort Laramie and Fort Hall, about three thousand animals, consisting of horses, mules and cattle. We

camped here and all went fishing for trout in Powder River and Chris Hinkler's (Baldock's) Slough. We had with us some Freiberg mineral experts, who prospected for gold on the Chris Hinkler Slough and also on the North Powder River...."

"When the military units reached The Dalles, four men put together a raft determined to reach Vancouver via the Columbia River, rather than taking the Barlow Road over the Cascade Mountains. The boat capsized in going over Celilo Falls..... (Two of the four-man crew declined to brave the falls. The other two men's bodies washed all the way down to Fort Vancouver.)

"Our regiment left Fort Leavenworth (Kansas) on the 10th day of May, 1849, and arrived at Oregon City on the 10th day of October, 1849; completing a distance of two thousand, three hundred and sixty miles. Cholera and desertions had reduced the regiment from one thousand to a little over three hundred men."

Israel was laid low with cholera for a couple of weeks but survived. Brother Robert in a separate company drove an ambulance. He loaded and unloaded many cholera-infected men, but never contracted the disease.

Israel continued, "On the last lap of our journey in Uncle Sam's service to the great Oregon country we crossed the Columbia at Switzlers (Switzer's) ferry, entered Fort Vancouver, Washington, and took charge of the same pursuant to the treaty with Great Britain. Vancouver was the main headquarters of the Hudson's Bay Company, extending to the 49th parallel north latitude. Brother Robert and myself were discharged and paid off with Mexican dollars and doubloons, there being no United States coin in this country at that time."

In the winter of 1849-1850 the Haines brothers went to Milwaukie and helped a Mr. Luallen build the first sawmill in Oregon. When rain came in November, they stayed in Portland, at that time just a village of "about 100 rough-looking men." In April of 1850 they went to California, where they mined on Nelson's Creek, a tributary to the Middle Fork Feather River (Plumas County) located in the northern Sierra Nevada mountains approximately ten miles southeast of Quincy, CA. There they spent the summer mining, which "yielded never less than fifty dollars per day and frequently one thousand dollars a day."

In the fall of 1850, Robert remained in San Francisco studying medicine, while Israel sailed north to Oregon Territory arriving at Astoria after 33 days at sea. In Portland Israel set up a mercantile business. In 1853 he went to Jackson County in southwest Oregon Territory, where he again engaged in a merchandise store in Jacksonville. Israel reports that he soon moved on to Coos Bay, erected the first house there, in which he had a combination hotel and general merchandise store. The following year Israel returned to Jacksonville, where he continued operating a general merchandising business until 1862. That year Israel was elected to the lower house of the Oregon legislature, where he represented Jackson County and acquired a desire to become a lawyer.

Israel was fortunate that also living in Jackson County was preeminent lawyer P.P. Prim (1822-1899), who had represented Jackson County at the Oregon Constitutional Convention of 1857. Prim was a member of the Oregon Supreme Court from 1859 to 1872. Israel “read law” under Prim’s tutelage and was admitted to the Oregon bar in 1864. Israel first practiced law in Silver City, Idaho Territory, a mining camp about 75 miles south of Boise. Today it’s a ghost town.

Israel spent the winter of 1865-1866, in San Francisco. While heading back to Silver City the following spring, Israel passed through Auburn in Baker County, Oregon. By happenstance he encountered a number of friends from the days of “49”. They persuaded Israel to remain in Auburn, whose population was dwindling fast as nearby gold strikes petered out. Perhaps Israel found prospects better in Auburn than in Silver City. Or more likely Haines heard of a nearby town in its infancy just a dozen miles northeast of Auburn.

A second settlement named Baker City had just been platted in 1865. It lay at the southern end of a large valley, where many wagon roads in the past couple of years converged on their way to the gold camp at Auburn. Israel astutely assessed that the new town had great potential. In 1867 Israel moved from Auburn to Baker City and set up a law office. Besides practicing law, Israel purchased land on which he raised cattle and sheep. In 1884 when the railroad was being built through Baker County, Israel donated about 110 acres on which the town Haines was founded. It soon became a shipping point for transportation of sheep and cattle.

In the 1870 Federal Census of Baker City Israel D. Haines was listed as a 41-year-old lawyer born in Ohio. Israel was the only occupant in the residence indicating perhaps he was an eligible bachelor, a station in life that lasted only another year and a half.

On November 23, 1871, Israel David Haines, age 44, and Sarah Minerva Dorsett, age 17, were married in Baker City. The age difference was seventeen years. On the frontier in the 1800’s a considerable age difference between husband and spouse was much more common than marriage between persons much closer in age. After Israel died in 1892, Sarah, who never remarried, outlived Israel by thirty-two years.

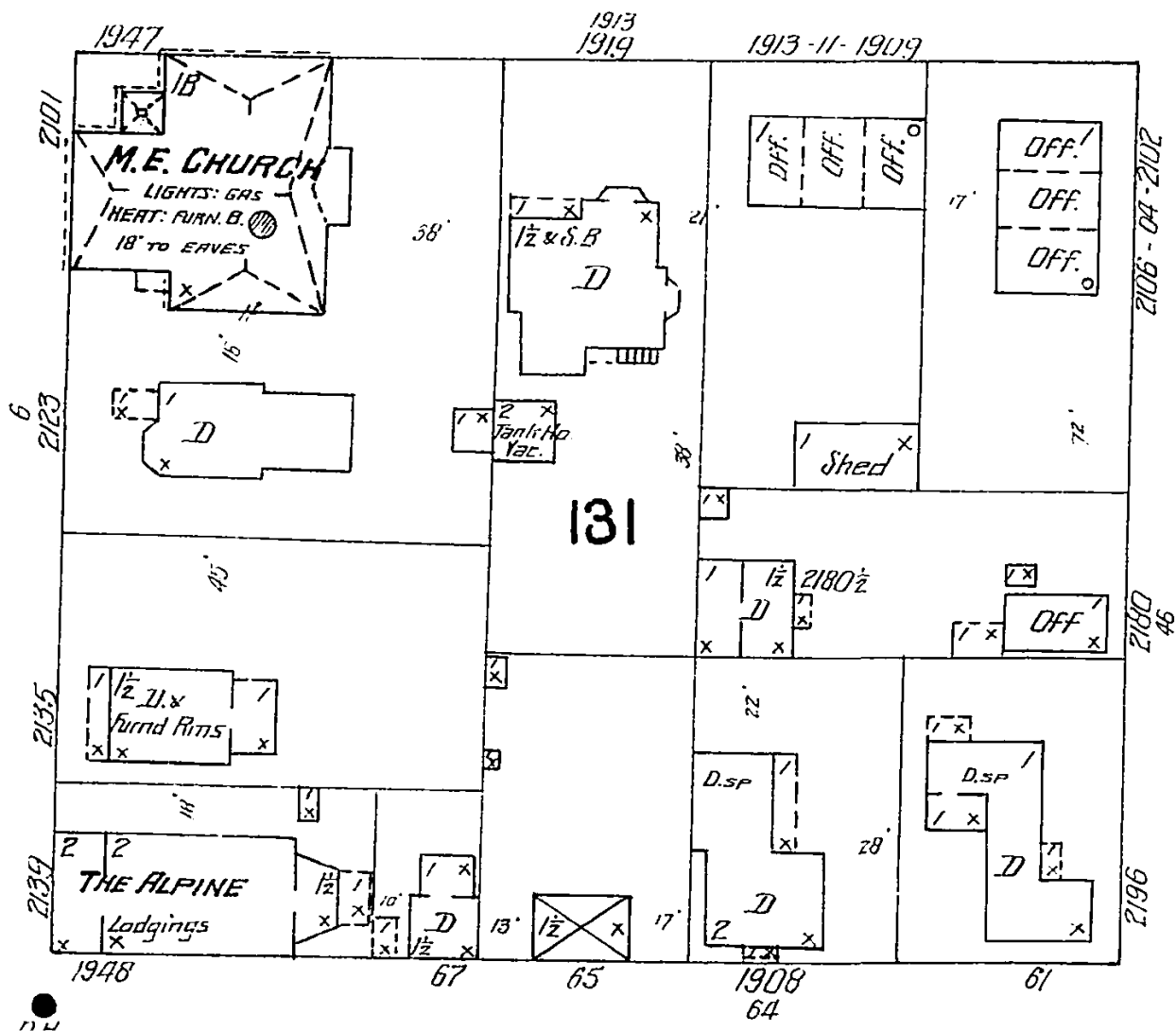
In 1864 Sarah Minerva Dorsett (1854-1924) immigrated with her parents from Quincy, Illinois, to Auburn, Oregon. The Dorsett family remained in Auburn, according to the 1880 federal census. At that time James Dorsett was 66 years old, was farming, and had come from North Carolina. His wife, Sarah Ann Dorsett, was “keeping house” and came from Kentucky. Two children are still listed as living at home with the parents: Walter Wilson Dorsett, age 14, and Ulysses Grant Dorsett, age 11.

Earlier in this series we learned that in 1862 Israel represented Jackson County in the lower house of the Oregon legislature. In 1876, forty-eight-year-old Israel decided to get back into politics. Baker County voters elected him to the Senate of the Oregon legislature. And voters kept electing him until he had served in the senate for ten years

(1876 to 1885). The name on his grave stone is "Judge I.D. Haines." I've found no evidence that he ever served as a judge.

On April 30, 1895, a couple of years after Israel Haines died, his oldest child, Stella, married John Bruce Messick. Messick's law office was located at 2180 Court, next door to the residence at 2196 Court. Before their marriage bachelor Messick had been boarding at Hotel Warshauer (today's Geiser Grand Hotel).

Baker City Directories beginning in 1901, a decade after Israel Haines died, show his widow and children living at 1908 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.



This 1903 Sanborn Insurance Map shows two addresses at the lower right. 1908 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and 2196 Court Street, both addresses being across 3<sup>rd</sup> Street from the Baker County Courthouse. Messick's law office was 2180 Court Street.

Israel and Sarah had five children. I'll close this biographical series with snapshots of Israel's and Sarah's children gleaned from the library's volumes of Baker City Directories. They follow chronologically from the eldest through the youngest.

-- Stella M. Haines Messick (1872-1945). Eldest of the Haines children. On April 3, 1895, Stella married lawyer John Bruce Messick (1862-1937). In 1893 Messick was still a bachelor living in Hotel Warshauer (later Geiser Grand Hotel). Before becoming a lawyer, Messick taught school for several years. Messick held several elective positions, including Justice of the Peace, Judge (chairman) of Baker County Commission, and Mayor of Baker City. His law office was at 2180 Court Street. He resided with Stella in the house next door at 2196 Court. The Messicks had three daughters: Bell, Frances, and Helen. Messick died when jay-walking on Broadway back to his office. Al Soloman, age 17, driving east on Broadway waved at a friend. Thus distracted, Solomon did not see Messick, struck and killed him. Messick was at that time Mayor of Baker City. Stella and Bruce had one child, Claudine.

-- Robert Williamson Haines (12-25-1874 to 9-27-1954) (probably named Robert in remembrance of Israel's brother, Dr. Robert Haines, who died in 1874 just six months after getting married in San Francisco). Robert was listed in the 1901 BCD as a "capitalist" boarding at the Haines residence on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. In the 1905 BCD Robert was listed as a 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. in the Oregon National Guard and as a bookkeeper. In 1912 Robert was working as an accountant, then in 1917 as a taxidermist still living at 1908 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.

-- Amy Connelly Haines Book (1-31-1877 to 3-29-1971). Amy's middle name Connelly was the maiden name of Israel's mother. In 1900 Amy was a school teacher. Later Amy worked at Haines Millinery making and selling hats at 1912 Main Street, a business owned by her widowed mother Sarah M. Haines. Amy remained single until age 41, when on 1-1-1918 she married John William Book (1863-1949). The couple divorced about ten years later. Amy worked as Deputy Baker County Clerk in the courthouse across the street from her residence. Amy died at age 97. She is buried with Haines family relatives in Mount Hope Cemetery, 100F #25, in Baker City. John Book is in another area of 100F #25.

-- John David Haines (1-30-1880 to 2-27-1925). In 1916 John married Hilda Clare Magness (1895-1961). In the 1901 BCD John David Haines was listed as a printer residing at 1908 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. In 1905 J. David Haines is listed as a conductor of a music school located at 1906 ½ Main Street, i.e., on second floor. In 1912 J.D. is listed as a violin teacher. In 1914 he's listed as a music teacher. In 1920 J.D. is listed as a musician working at Baker Amusement Enterprises managed by K.L. Burk, which included Baker, Orpheum, and Empire theatres featuring moving pictures, road shows, and vaudeville. The office was in Baker Theater, office located at 2204 Main Street across the street from St. Francis Academy. J.D. was hired as a violinist, more common

were piano players. The musicians provided mood music that matched the silent action on the screen. Sound was not added to a full-length movie film until the 1927 film titled *The Jazz Singer* starring Al Jolson in blackface. Baker Theatre was built in 1900 named Baker City Opera House. It burned down in 1937. Barley Brown's Brew Pub occupies the site now.

-- The last child of Israel and Sarah was infant Elsie, born 1- 25-1882, died a year later, January 1, 1883.

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