

Early History of The William Charles Hine Family

By Ruth Hine DeWitt

This is an early history of the William Charles and Phoebe Luhama (Ingram) Hine Family and the couple's four sons of Salem, North Carolina, Salem now known as Winston-Salem. The boys were William Henry, age 12, John Madison, age 10, Solomon Joseph, age 8, (he was known as "Duke"), and Charles Edmond, age 4.

Having served his time in the Civil War, 1860 to 1865, William Charles brought his family to Whitestown, Indiana, in the year 1866, the journey being made in a covered wagon. Two of William's brothers, Perrmain, wife and children, and Edward, wife and children, had already located at Whitestown. Grandfather was half-owner with his twin brother, Lavine, in Salem, now Winston-Salem, North Carolina, of a harness shop.

A short time after William C. and Phoebe Hine arrived in Boone County in 1866, they bought a small farm west of Whitestown where he died in June, 1903. Phoebe had preceded him in death in October, 1898. This farm was in Worth Township, a short distance north of the crossroads of Perry and Worth Townships, and near the southeast corner of Center Township.

A Mr. Miller, a big land owner, built a little frame schoolhouse for his and other children. Later, a large brick building was erected on the same ground. A rain and windstorm blew the large chimney down and also partly wrecked the building in March, 1903, which was replaced by a large assembly room, a large cloak room and front porch. A slate blackboard, new desks and window shades were put in, ready for the fall opening of the school term of 1903 - 1904, with a much admired teacher teaching his first year. He became a train mail clerk after that. His name was William A. Virtue. His oldest child, Cathy Topp of Balboa, New Mexico, visited me on July 3rd, 1978, and we have kept in touch since then.

The new Perry-Worth school, which had its first year in 1966, was built across the road from the site of the old Miller school, which was District Number 7, in Worth Township. The Perry-Worth school still on the Wm. Miller farm should have been called Perry-Worth-Miller. The first brick building was also used for neighborhood gatherings for young people such as Sunday school in the afternoons after church, and Sunday school at the little country church called Gossett's Chapel where most all attended in the morning. During the week the young folks had a spelling bee and the older folks had

prayer meetings there. In the year of 1920, the Methodist Conference closed the church, so the members moved their memberships elsewhere as all the old ones had died. Only two of the faithful few remain at this time, August 1, 1981. Mabel Eckert Slagle, age 90 years, and Ruth Hine DeWitt, age 90 in January, 1982. They attend the Methodist Church at Whitestown, Indiana.

Back to the Miller school No. 7. The school year always ended with a big basket dinner when the parents all came. The last one was in 1908 with only nine scholars to go in 1909. These nine were hauled to the Whitestown school. The last teacher at No. 7 was Minnie Tomlinson. Back then, one could graduate out of four years of high school and 3 months out of college to teach one year through the eighth grade. Some of the teachers only had eighth grade from 1866 to 1908 - 1909. These included Charles McCarthy and sister, Rosemary, Oliver Marklin, Wm. Miller, Jr., Maggie Stark, Nancy Schoen, Bernard Honan, T.J. Casserly, Purless Smiley, and others during the life of the 1866 frame building and the first brick.

Our father, Henry Hine, bought an 80-acre farm west of the school and moved there in 1887. He helped Wm. Darling, the road supervisor, make the road bed and graveled it into Whitestown from the Indianapolis pike. He was a neighbor and cousin of the Hine family and the Millers, a brother-in-law of Wm. Miller.

Our grandfather had eight brothers living in 1866, viz., Edward, Edwin, Theodore, John, Joseph, Perrmain, Lavine, William, twins; Clementine, the only girl of Salem, N. Carolina. Some of the boys went west during and after the Civil War, 1860 - 1865. John went to California and raised a family near Los Angeles and San Francisco.

The instigator of the Hine reunion was started at the home of Hiatt and Marybell Hine on their first marriage anniversary, and the 66th birthday of our mother, Martha Louisa Leinback Hine, on September 8th, 1921. The group enjoyed a pitch-in dinner in the yard. A great-uncle, Clinton Ingram, returned thanks, and during the meal, Mother mentioned that we have all the rest of the Hine family in the county invited. So on the 2nd Sunday of 1922, there were over one hundred in attendance at the old fair grounds, now Memorial Park in Lebanon. There were two years that no reunions were held, 1st, on account of polio, and the other so many boys were in service in World War II.

Our mother married Wm. Henry Hine on March 13, 1876. She came to Whitestown, Indiana at Eastertime with her cousin, Laura Miller, who was visiting her relatives in Winston-Salem, N. Carolina. She never returned home. Her father, Benjamin F. Leinback, was killed in the Civil War, on April 18, 1864, leaving wife and two children, a girl 10 years old, and a boy six years old. His wife, Belinda, remarried to a man who didn't like girls, so that was the reason Mother came to visit her cousin and stay in 1873. Her cousin's mother was Eve Ronk, sister of Benjamin F. and George Leinback, who came to Whitestown also.

Cousin Laura had two sisters living here, and also cousins Amanda Darling and Sabilla Null, and brother Irvin Ronk who married Lena Hine, Uncle Edward's daughter. Our mother's brother, Armenious Leinback's family is all gone but Emory out of a family of eight, and I, Ruth, only one living out of a large family of ten, August 8th, 1981.

This is as near as I can remember as was told to me by some I grew up with as I was born January 22, 1892, making me 90 years of age - Ruth Hine DeWitt.

August 9th, 1981. This was the date of the 58th Hine Reunion. No one showed up only the heirs of the Henry and Martha Louisa Hine families, the beginners of the Hine Reunion. A bountiful carry-in dinner was served in the shelter house in Memorial Park at Lebanon, Indiana. A short program of opening prayer by Kenneth Hine, and the singing of "My Country Tis of Thee," and "Blest be the Tie That Binds," and a few remarks since the 57th get-together. Deaths, marriages and births were given in the secretary's report, and the reading of this article of the "Early History of the William Charles and Phoebe Hine family, of Salem, North Carolina, 1866, following the Civil War."

After the Civil War, the two towns, Winston and Salem, grew together, and are now Winston-Salem. They are in Forsyth County, N. Carolina. (R.W.S.)



William Charles and Phoebe Ingram Hine were both born and raised in Salem, now Winston-Salem, North Carolina. They left their native state in 1866 after his service in the Confederate Army during the Civil War, and settled in Whitestown, Indiana. They brought their four sons, William Henry, John Madison, Solomon Joseph and Charles Edmond, and their household goods to their new home by covered wagon.

Photo courtesy of Mrs. Ruth Hine DeWitt of Lebanon, granddaughter of the couple pictured.