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## Hines, James Richard, 1903-1995 (MSS 765)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives  
 Department of Library Special Collections  
 Western Kentucky University  
 Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 765 HINES, James Richard, 1903-1995**

2 boxes. 32 folders. 352 items. 1853-1988. Originals, photocopies, photographs.

SC2024.35.1

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE**

James R. Hines, the son of Jett Walton Hines and Ida Mae Williams, was born in Evansville, Indiana on 6 May 1903. As a child, he was given the nickname “Jimmie D.” after James Davis Hines (1838-1911), a distant relative whom his father admired. From an early age, Hines became familiar with steamboat operations on the Green, Barren, and Ohio rivers. Both his father Jett and his maternal grandfather Richard T. Williams were steamboat captains, and Hines took his first job at age thirteen on a sidewheeler steamboat on the Ohio River.

Hines attended school at Ogden College in Bowling Green, Kentucky, and in 1925 earned a law degree from Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee. He became licensed to practice law in Florida, Indiana and Kentucky. In 1928 Hines opened a law office in Morgantown, Kentucky, then moved his office to Bowling Green, where he became engaged in the bargeline business. In 1940, Hines and an associate formed the partnership of James R. Hines and Company to transport asphalt and petroleum products. Other bargeline and towboat operations, both partnerships and corporations, followed, including James R. Hines Corporation (1946) and Penlatex Barge Line, Incorporated (1962).

In 1955, Hines’s two sons, James G. Hines and Warren W. Hines, formed Hines, Incorporated, which became the largest of the “Hines Group” of businesses. In 1977, after Hines, Incorporated purchased James R. Hines Corporation, Hines ceased to be personally involved in the bargeline business and confined his role to serving the company as counsel.

Hines’s family background and livelihood gave him a deep interest in the history, resources, and economic fortunes of the Green River Valley. He was the first president of the Green River Valley Citizens League, organized in 1951 to advocate for flood-control dams, navigational improvements, and development of resources to enhance economic growth and employment in the region. He was a founder of the Barren River Development Association and a member of the Propeller Club of the Port of Louisville, the American Petroleum Institute, the American Waterways Operators, the Ohio Valley Improvement Association, and the Mississippi Valley Association, and served on the board of First Federal Savings and Loan Association in Bowling Green.

Hines married twice: to Clarice (Griffith) Crow (1907-1997) and Flora Gertrude Whitaker (1915-1985). He died on 23 September 1995 and is interred in Bowling Green’s Fairview Cemetery.

## COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists primarily of materials created and collected by James R. Hines relating to his bargeline businesses, his interest in the Green River Valley, and his advocacy for improved river navigation facilities. Much of Hines's writing consists of statements and submissions addressing the need for various improvements on the Green River such as locks and flood-control dams. Among the more comprehensive addresses is a statement (Box 1, Folder 7) for consideration by the U.S. Corps of Engineers in a 1970s study to determine the feasibility of completing the Green River Valley Program to extend navigation on the Barren and Green Rivers. Hines provides context and a general overview of the development of the river, its importance to the local economy, and the federal government's failure, in his view, to live up to its commitments regarding navigation and flood control. These undated writings are in both handwritten and typescript form, and many are drafts or fragments and are duplicative in content, but they display the breadth of Hines's historical and technical knowledge and the strength of his advocacy. At times, he weaves his own family history on the Green River into the narrative; at other times, his frustration lends itself to wider critiques of government regulation and economic policy, monopolies, and competition from the railroad industry.

Other writing (Box 1, Folders 3, 5, 6) specifically takes the form of a planned memoir in which Hines (known as a talented storyteller) relates incidents of his family and youth on the river. He also writes of his early years as a lawyer, describing cases in which he was a reluctant criminal defense attorney and a player in the windup of an insolvent Butler County bank.

Correspondence (Box 2, Folders 1-5) relates mainly to Hines's business affairs and advocacy for the Green River Valley. He writes congressmen, senators, presidents, and even President Jimmy Carter's daughter Amy, about policy, proposed legislation such as the Surface Transportation Act of 1971, and water pollution.

The collection also includes a small amount of material relating to Hines's brother J. Omar Hines (a 1965 mortgage and 1975 funeral service program); another brother, William E. "Bill" Hines (an insurance policy with some personal data); and Bill Hines's son William E. Hines, Jr., and his attempts to find government employment (Box 2, Folder 15).

Other items of interest include family steamboat operator licenses (Box 1, Folder 4); and an issue of *S&D Reflector* (March 1970), published by the Sons and Daughters of Pioneer Rivermen and containing well-illustrated articles about steamboating.

## SHELF LIST

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>James R. Hines</b>	<b>1902-1987</b>	<b>178 items</b>
Folder 1	Inventory		1 item
Folder 2	Biographical and family data	n.d.	10 items
Folder 3	Writings about Captain Richard T. Williams and family	n.d.	10 items

Folder 4	Richard T. Williams – Licenses as Master and Engineer of Steam Vessels; William N. Williams license; regulations for licensed officers of steamboats	1902-1908	3 items
Folder 5	James R. Hines – Writings about youth, education, employment, and his family’s history in river transportation	n.d.	13 items
Folder 6	James R. Hines – Writings about his law practice	n.d.	8 items
Folder 7	Statements regarding Green River navigation	1979?, n.d.	29 items
Folder 8	Statements regarding Green River navigation	n.d.	6 items
Folder 9	Compendium on status of neglected navigation facilities at Rochester and Woodbury, Kentucky	1979?	1 item
Folder 10	Writings, statements on river transportation and navigation, etc.	n.d.	35 items
Folder 11	Writings, statements on river transportation and navigation, etc.	n.d.	41 items
Folder 12	Writings, statements on river transportation and navigation, pollution, etc.	n.d.	9 items
Folder 13	Writings about Green River and Butler County, Kentucky	1967-1987, n.d.	7 items
Folder 14	Writings, statements regarding transportation, economy, etc.	1982	3 items
<b>BOX 2</b>	<b>James R. Hines</b>	<b>1853-1988</b>	<b>174 items</b>
Folder 1	Correspondence	1952-1962	9 items
Folder 2	Correspondence	1971-1979	36 items
Folder 3	Correspondence	1980-1988	17 items
Folder 4	Correspondence – undated and fragments	n.d.	3 items

Folder 5	Correspondence, writings relating to U.S. Coast Guard enforcement of water pollution laws	1977-1980, n.d.	10 items
Folder 6	Clippings	1931-1988	21 items
Folder 7	Florida law license; Kentucky Department of Conservation Admiral commission	1925, 1963	2 items
Folder 8	Membership certificates – Kentucky Society; Cumberland College Alumni	1967, 1970	2 items
Folder 9	Ohio Valley Improvement Association – meeting and related materials	1977-1980	12 items
Folder 10	Bowling Green Beautification Commission – Hines’s resignation; resolution regarding continuation of Commission and enhancement of Riverview at Hobson Grove	[1977], n.d.	2 items
Folder 11	Lease of boat landing property on Barren River to City of Bowling Green	1970-1972	2 items
Folder 12	Miscellaneous steamboat documents (Robert E. Lee inspection certificate; John Potter account for passage of negro boy on Steamer <i>Logan</i> ; article on Rights of Seamen)	1853-1964	3 items
Folder 13	Hines Group – Corporate data and histories	1962, n.d.	7 items
Folder 14	Oil Progress Week – Radio interview scripts	1949	3 items
Folder 15	J. Omar Hines; William E. Hines, Jr. and Sr.	1961-1985	13 items
Folder 16	Green River – Miscellaneous history	1952-1971	13 items
Folder 17	Poems, lyrics	n.d.	15 items
Folder 18	Miscellaneous printed matter ( <i>S&amp;D Reflector</i> , March 1970; Christening program for Motor Vessel <i>James G. Hines</i> ; Law Day 1984 invitation from Southern Kentucky Bar Auxiliary; Invitation to christening of Motor Vessel <i>Jayne Hougland</i> )	1970-1984	4 items

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

MSS HINES, James Richard, 1853-1988  
 765 1903-1995  
 C1,D9,  
 #7 Primarily letters and statements of James R. Hines, an Evansville, Indiana, native who was owner and legal counsel to several bargeline businesses, advocating for improved navigation and flood control on the Green River in Kentucky. Also includes historical data and narratives on Hines's steamboating family, especially his grandfather Richard T. Williams.  
 2 boxes. 32 folders. 352 items. Originals, photocopies, photographs.  
 SC2024.35.1

**SUBJECT ANALYTICS**

Baker, Howard Henry, Jr., 1925-2014 – Correspondence B2,F2,3  
 Banks and banking – Butler County B1,F5,6  
 Banks and banking – Owensboro B1,F5,6  
 Barren River Development Association  
 Bowling Green Fire Department – Comments about B1,F10  
 Bowling Green Presbyterian Church – Letters to B2,F2  
 Brown, John Young, Jr., 1933-2022 – Letter to B2,F3  
 Carter, Amy Lynn, b. 1967 – Letter to B2,F2  
 Coal industry  
 Cook, Marlow Webster, 1926-2016 – Letters to B2,F2  
 Cooper, John Sherman, 1901-1991 – Letters to B2,F1,2  
 Cooper, John Sherman, 1901-1991 – Relating to B1,F10  
*Crescent* (Steamboat) – Relating to B1,F5,10; B2,F16  
 Crime – Butler County B1,F6  
 Dole, Robert Joseph “Bob,” 1923-2021 – Letter to B2,F3  
 Evansville & Bowling Green Packet Company – Relating to B1,F3  
 First Federal Savings and Loan Association – Bowling Green – Relating to B2,F3  
 Floods – Green River  
 Floods – Ohio River, 1913 B2,F18  
 Ford, Wendell Hampton, 1924-2015 – Correspondence B2,F2,3  
 Green River – Butler County – Relating to B1,F13  
 Green River – Flood control  
 Green River – Locks and dams  
 Green River – Locks and dams – Mining City dam (proposed)  
 Green River – Locks and dams – Rochester  
 Green River – Locks and dams – Woodbury  
 Green River – Navigation

Green River – Steamboats  
 Green River Valley Citizens League  
 Hager, Lawrence White, 1890-1982 – Letter to B2,F1  
 Harlin, Maxey Barlow, 1915-2003 – Correspondence B2,F2  
 Hines family – Relating to B1,F2,5; B2,F6,13  
 Hines, Flora Gertrude (Whitaker) Graham, 1915-1985 – Relating to B1,F2  
 Hines, Ida Mae (Williams), 1879-1934 – Relating to B1,F3,5  
 Hines, Incorporated – Relating to B2,F13  
 Hines, James Griffith, 1925-2013 – Relating to B2,F13  
 Hines, Jefferson Omar, 1900-1975 – Relating to B2,F15  
 Hines, Jett Walton, 1874-1949 – Relating to B1,F5  
 Hines, Warren Williams, 1928-2014 – Relating to B2,F13  
 Hines, William Edgar, Jr., b. 1954 B2,F15  
 Hines, William Edgar, Jr., b. 1954 – Relating to B2,F15  
 Hines, William Edgar, Sr., 1910-1993 – Relating to B2,F15  
 Howell, Lee, 1840-1918 – Relating to B1,F3  
 Huddleston, Walter Darlington “Dee,” 1926-2018 B2,F2  
*James G. Hines* (Motor vessel) – Relating to B2,F18  
 James R. Hines and Company – Relating to B2,F13  
 James R. Hines Corporation – Letterhead B2,F13  
 Laird, Melvin Robert, 1922-2016 – Letter to B2,F2  
 Law licenses – Florida B2,F7  
 Law practice – Butler County B1,F6  
 Law – Seamen B2,F12  
 Lawyers – Butler County B1,F6  
*Logan* (Steamboat) – Relating to B2,F12  
 Louisville & Evansville Transportation Company – Letterhead B2,F17  
 Luken, Thomas Andrew, 1925-2018 B2,F3  
 Moenkhaus, Emma Ellen “Ella” (Williams) Watlington, 1865-1943 – Relating to B1,F3  
 Morton, Rogers Clark Ballard, 1914-1979 – Letter to B2,F2  
 Morton, Thruston Ballard, 1907-1982 – Letter to B2,F1  
 Myers, Rodes Kirby, 1900-1960 – Relating to B1,F6  
 Natcher, William Huston, 1909-1994 – Correspondence B1,F11; B2,F1,2,3,15  
 Nixon, Richard Milhous, 1913-1994 – Letter to B2,F2  
 Ohio Valley Improvement Association B1,F10; B2,F2,3,9  
 Petroleum industry and trade – Relating to B2,F14  
 Poems B2,F17  
 Prohibition – Butler County – Relating to B1,F6  
 Public works programs  
 Railroads – Relating to  
 Reagan, Ronald Wilson, 1911-2004 – Letters to B2,F3  
*Robert E. Lee* (Steamboat) – Relating to B2,F12  
*60 Minutes* (Television show) – Letter to B2,F2  
 Steamboat captains  
 Steamboat engineers – Licenses B1,F4  
 Steamboat whistles B1,F10

Steamboats and steamboat affairs

Tornadoes – Green River, 1917 B1,F5

Water pollution

Whitten, Jamie Lloyd, 1910-1995 – Letter to B2,F2

Williams, Florence Etta, 1867-1956 – Relating to B1,F3

Williams, J. Edgar, 1872-1949 – Relating to B1,F3

Williams, Joseph E., 1859-1898 – Relating to B1,F3

Williams, Patience Isabelle (Suddarth), 1836-1907 – Relating to B1,F3

Williams, Richard Thomas, 1833-1912 – Relating to B1,F3,4,5; B2,F6

Williams, William Nelson, 1866-1930 – Relating to B1,F4,10

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