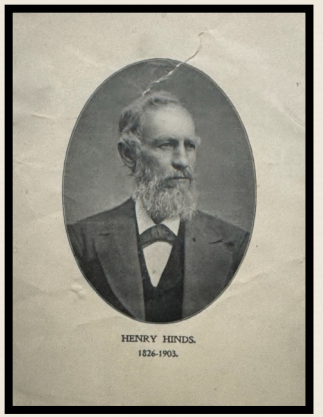


Photogravure portrait of Henry Hinds, later in his life. Printed in black below the image is, “Henry Hinds. 1826-1903.” Hinds was a land speculator throughout Scott County. Picture from the Scott County Historical Society.



Henry Hinds was born in Hebron, New York in 1826, son of Charles Hinds and Jane Qua Hinds. Both sides were of good old colonial stock, having come to this country about the year 1650. Several family members were Revolutionary War, soldiers according to “Progressive men of Minnesota” in *The Minneapolis Journal*.

Henry and Mary Fassett Woodworth Hinds were early settler-colonists in Minnesota Territory, arriving in 1854. Minnesota Territory shrank in size in 1854 when the portion in present-day Nebraska was included in Nebraska Territory. Minnesota was admitted to the Union May 11, 1858, as the 32nd state, with generally the same boundary as the present state. They settled in Sha K’ Pay (the post office in Scott County was established in Minnesota Territory on November 25, 1853, with the name of Sha K’ Pay. Sha K’ Pay, Minnesota Territory was used in posted letters until 1855, according to *Minnesota and Dacotah: In Letters Descriptive of a Tour Through the Northwest*) in the autumn of 1856. Henry practiced law.

The city became Shakapee City, Minnesota Territory in the summer of 1855 and files on December 27, 1855 were inscribed “Plat of Shakapee City.” Posted mail called the area Shakapee, MT, according to William Hinds’s *A 1891 Sketch of Shakopee, Minn: Historical and Industrial*. On April 13, 1857, the town post office was changed to Shakopee, Minnesota, noted Julius Coller in *The Shakopee Story*.

Henry graduated from the Albany Normal College in 1850, took up the study of law in the Cincinnati Law School, and graduated from that institution in 1852.

Henry married Sarah Granell Doolittle in 1850. His second marriage was to Mary Fassett Woodworth (1825-1906) in 1853. Her parents were Ira Woodworth (1793-1861) and Wealthy Ann Gilberth Woodworth (1797-1846). Henry and Mary had seven children: Alice Hinds Sencerbox (1854-1900); Mary Hinds Lord (1856-1923); Henry Hinds, Jr. (1858-1883); George Hinds (1860-1888); William Hinds (1862-1932); Dolly Hinds (1863-1863); and Charles Gilbert Hinds (1866-1920).

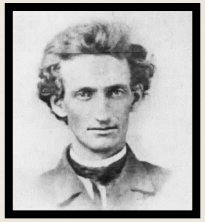
In Minnesota, Henry held many offices of public trust. He was a leading lawyer of the Eighth Judicial District until retiring from active practice in 1884. In the early days he acted as Scott County attorney and judge of probate.

In 1867, Henry bought the *Shakopee Argus*, which he published for 15 years. He was a lower house of the legislature member from Scott County in 1878 and became a member of the board of managers in the impeachment of Judge Page, making the board’s closing argument before the senate. In 1879 and 1881 he served in the state senate, according to the *Albert Lea Enterprise*.

At age 77, Henry Hinds died in Shakopee on October 11, 1903. He was buried at Valley Cemetery.

Mary Fassett Woodworth Hinds, born December 28, 1825, died April 15, 1906, and was buried next to her husband.

James M. Hinds



James M. Hinds (1833-1868), brother of Henry Hinds, was the first U.S. Congressman assassinated in office. He served as member of the United States House of Representatives for Arkansas from June 24, 1868, until his assassination by the Ku Klux Klan. Hinds, who was white, advocated for civil rights for African Americans who were enslaved during the Reconstruction era following the American Civil War.

Born and raised in a small town in upstate New York, James went west at age 19 and graduated in 1856 from the Cincinnati Law School. After obtaining a law degree in 1856 (at age 23), he moved to Minnesota Territory and settled in St. Peter, forty miles southwest of Henry in Shakopee. James opened a law practice and was elected county district attorney.

Hinds built a career and started a family in St. Peter during a turbulent time due to conflict between settler-colonists and the Dakota, culminating in the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862. James enlisted as a private in the First Minnesota Cavalry's Mounted Rangers Company. He hoped that St. Peter would become capital of the new state of Minnesota.

By early 1865, however, he realized that the town was destined to remain a small farming village. Seeking a fresh start and more opportunity, in mid-1865 he relocated with his wife and two young daughters to Little Rock, Arkansas, in the throes of Reconstruction. In 1867, he was elected to represent Pulaski County as a Republican at the Arkansas Constitutional Convention. The convention was tasked with rewriting the constitution to allow Arkansas's readmission to the Union following its secession and the American Civil War. At that convention, Hinds successfully advocated for constitutional provisions establishing the right to vote for adult freedmen, and for public education for both black and white children.

Campaigning for Republican candidate Ulysses S. Grant in the 1868 presidential election, James was threatened and targeted by the Ku Klux Klan. In October 1868, while traveling to a political meeting with Joseph Brooks in Monroe County, Hinds was shot to death by a Klansman.

He was murdered on the eve of the 1868 presidential election, a contest over civil rights and suffrage for freed slaves. Republicans, led by former Union Army General Ulysses S. Grant, favored those measures, while the Democratic Party opposed them. On October 22, 1868, en route to a campaign event for Grant near the village of Indian Bay, a man shot Hinds and fellow Republican politician Joseph Brooks in the back with a shotgun. Brooks managed to stay on his horse and ride to the event to bring back assistance. Hinds was knocked off his horse by the shotgun blast to his back and lay on the road until help arrived. Before





he died, Hinds wrote a short message to his wife and identified his killer. He died about two hours after the attack. A coroner's inquest identified the shooter as George Clark, a local Klansman. Clark was never arrested or prosecuted.

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Henry Hinds
1826-1903

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