### THE HOOSIER PACKET - SEPTEMBER 2016

## **CANAWLERS** AT REST

# **JAMES SIDNEY HINTON**

b. December 25, 1834

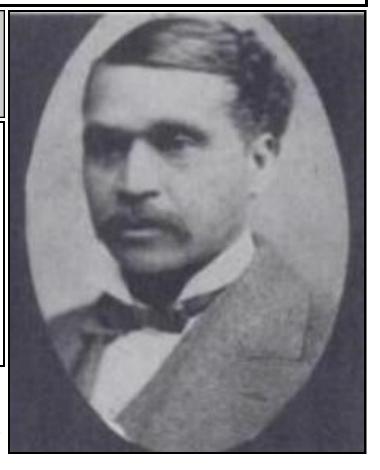
d. November 6, 1892

By Robert F. Schmidt

On Christmas day, December 25, 1834, James Sidney Hinton was born in Raleigh, North Carolina. He was the son of free blacks, John Cook Hinton, a local businessman, and Hannah (Mitchell) Hinton, who was a piano teacher. Mrs. Hinton was also an active member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. young James was 13 years old.

James attended a private black subscription sissippi during Reconstruction in 1870-71.

(Pimento) in southern Vigo county. He later went to ored Troops at Fort Fremont in Indianapolis. the Greenville Institute in Greenville, Ohio.



As James matured he was befriended by a Moving from the South just prior to the Civil War to Terre Haute physician who urged him to study medithe free state of Indiana seemed to make sense and the cine and become a missionary. James decided that family arrived in Terre Haute, Indiana in 1848, when school teaching and becoming a barber were more suitable for him at that time

In 1859 James was elected Grand Master of the school that was founded by Hiram Rhodes Revels. Black Masons. With the firing on Fort Sumter, James Revels was also born in 1827 in North Carolina, had wanted to enlist in the Union Army at Indianapolis, but moved to the Midwest, attended school in Union coun- he was denied due to his color. In 1862 he moved to ty, Indiana and became a minister in 1845. He was also Indianapolis where he opened a real estate office. Also a religious teacher and established subscription schools in that year he married a widow, Eliza J. Mitchell. Still to promote black education. Revels went on to later determined to enlist for the war effort, he went east in become the 1st US Black Senator from the state of Mis- 1862 to act as a recruiting officer for the 54th & 55th Massachusetts Colored Regiments. The 54<sup>th</sup> became famous after the attack on Fort Wagner near Charles-It was at the subscription school in Vigo county ton in 1863 and was featured in the movie "Glory." that James Hinton began his formal education. Then, Upon returning to Indianapolis as a second lieutenant, at age 16, he attended a Quaker School at Hartford he assisted in the recruitment for the 28th Indiana Col-

Following the Civil War, James served as a

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promoter for the Republican Party for African Ameri- ied in section CG, lot 13-14, at Crown Hill Cemetery in can voters in Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Mississip- Indianapolis, Indiana. pi, and Indiana. In his travels he also promoted education for black children and equal funding for their schools. In the Republican Party he served as a presi- ized a permanent Black History display in the Indiana dential elector in the election of 1872 which nominated State House. In accordance with this act, the Indiana Ulysses S. Grant for a second term.

he was nominated as a Trustee of the Wabash & Erie bring more diversity to the Indiana State House sculp-Canal in 1873 and served until 1876. This turned out to ture collection. Sculptor Jon Hair was selected to crebe the final chapter in the history of the old canal as it ate two traditional bonze busts to celebrate the public was auctioned off to private owners. However, this service of James Sidney Hinton and Julia May Carson. was no reflection on James' efforts to save it.

black to hold this office in the State. After only one the Indiana State House. term he was defeated by Samuel A. Ebert. Even in his later years he continued to work for the Republican Sources: Party.

James was also involved with the African Methodist Episcopal Church and became a trustee of Wilberforce University. a negro college in Wilberforce, Ohio. Wilberforce is a small black community of 1600 just north of Xenia, Ohio.

James Sidney Hinton was a skilled orator and was described as a man with an "erect and stately carriage, and is possessed of easy, though dignified man- Gregg, John. ners; is graceful, and is also a fluent and entertaining conversationalist and public speaker." He died at age 57 on November 6, 1892 after attending and giving a political speech at a rally in Brazil, Indiana. He is bur-S.

GRAND MASTER JAMES SIDNEY HINTON 1835

In 2007 the Indiana General Assembly author-Department of Administration, Indiana Historical Bureau and Indiana Black Legislative Caucus decided For supporting the Republican Party in Indiana that a public art legacy project should be installed to Carson (1938-2007) served in the Indiana House and later represented Indiana's 7<sup>th</sup> District in Congress for In 1880 James was elected to the Indiana Gen- 10 yrs. These busts were installed on January 16, 2014 eral Assembly from Marion County. He was the first as part of a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration at

Bodenhamer. David J. and Barrows, Robert G. Encyclopedia of Indianapolis.

Find-A-Grave: James Sidney Hinton

"Standing With a Black Trail blazer: James

> Hinton" Indian apolis Recorder. February 23, 2012.



"Hinton Was State's First African American Law Maker," Ft. Wayne News Sentinel August 12, 2015.

"James Hinton." Indiana Department of Administra tion. www.in.gov/idoa

McCormick, Michael. Terre Haute Through The Canal Era. Canal Society of Indiana spring tour April 8, 1994.