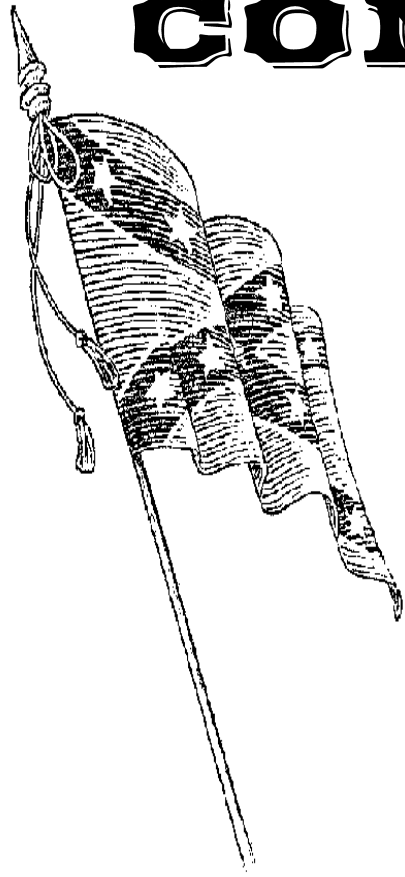


CONFEDERATE OPERATIVES IN MATTOON

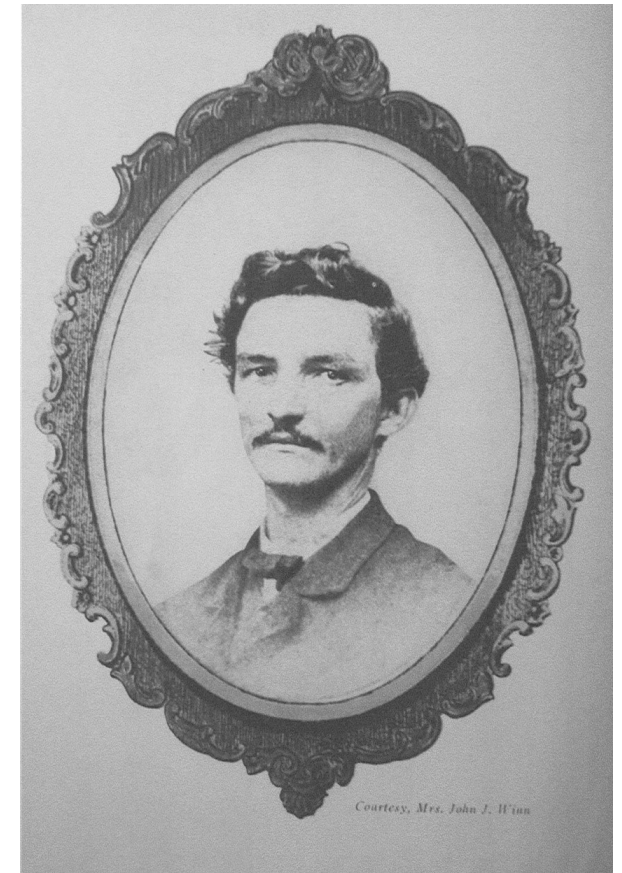


In the last year of the war, 1864, the Confederate government embarked on a plan to promote insurrection, sabotage and harassment of Union facilities through a group of operatives in Canada. The primary focus of this group were the states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky. They intended to recruit local operatives from southern sympathizers, known as Copperheads.

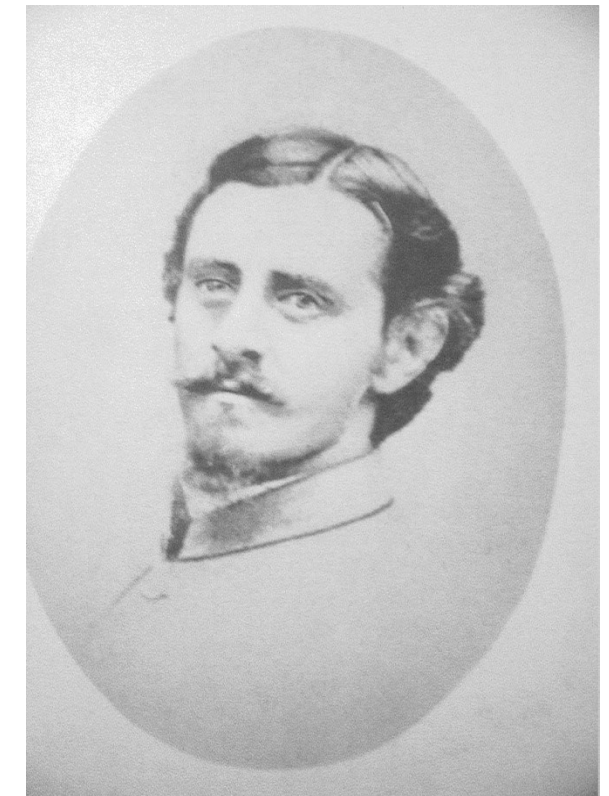
Captain Thomas H Hines, of the 9th Kentucky Cavalry, CSA was put in charge of the mission. Assisting Hines in his covert efforts was Captain John B Castleman. This mission would become known as the Northwest Conspiracy.

After a failed attempt to disrupt the Democratic Convention in Chicago, Hines and Castleman with contingents of 10 men each, set up operations in Mattoon and Marshall, respectively, with a goal of sabotaging rail traffic and government warehouses in this area. They were successful in several minor operations.

Hines and Castleman escaped this area when their location was discovered. Castleman was captured in Sullivan, Indiana and Hines continued with a guerilla band in Kentucky well into 1865, becoming one of the most hunted Confederate fugitives.



Thomas H Hines



John B Castleman