

## *Hines family goes back eight generations in Grand Junction*



From left to right, Ione Hines, Harry's grandmother, sitting, Nicey Hines, Harry's great-grandmother who is holding Harry's brother David, and Harry's mother, Eileen Hines.  
Harry Butler family photo

### Part 3

By Kathy Jordan

When Harry Butler stands before his congregation to hold worship services on Saturday mornings at Handy Chapel, he is carrying on a family tradition that began when the little white church at Second Street and White Avenue was completed in 1891.

Harry said that as a young black man he attended church with his grandmother, Ione Taylor, but as he grew to young adulthood he wasn't all that interested in going to church. So he only attended church at Handy Chapel with his grandmother on Easter and Christmas.

When Harry's says that he came to know the Lord in 1971, you feel that he has a strong, unwavering faith in God. He said that his life was turned around when he was working at the Collbran Job Corps. Harry said that his life became a joy, and he didn't realize how miserable he had been until he started attending church again at Handy Chapel.

That year he became a Handy Chapel trustee, following in the footsteps of his great-grandfather, Elijah, and his grandmother, Ione.

However, in 1973 Harry left Handy Chapel and joined the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

In 1981 Harry started his own ministry for the Black community and what better place than Handy Chapel ? After all this was the church that his great-grandfather, his great uncles and grandmother had been a part of and in which he was reared

In 1984 Harry once again became a member of the board of trustees after Judge James Carter handed down a ruling giving Handy Chapel back to the Black community. The 1984 ruling came after Helen Dickey Wirth and Josephine Dickey contested the sale of the church to Far West Investors. The decision saved the church from the wrecking ball.

Meanwhile, Harry said he had so many requests from couples wanting him to perform their weddings that he decided he must become an ordained minister. In 1992 he was ordained by John Cappetto, at the World of Harvest Church. Cappetto is now the pastor of Faith Heights Church in Grand Junction.

Harry holds worship services each Saturday at Handy Chapel. His fellowship, “Certain Place Seventh Day Handy Chapel”, is appropriately named, given his deep roots at the church.

In 1977 Harry started visiting the Mesa County Jail and has held Sunday worship services for the women at the jail for 17 years.

In addition to his leadership at Handy Chapel, Harry has a long history as a community leader.

Harry retired from the Bureau of Reclamation after working for the bureau more than 29 years allowing him more time to be active in the community.

In 2001 he became the first African-American to serve on the Grand Junction City Council. While on City Council he served on the Downtown Development Authority, the Grand Junction Housing Authority, Grand Junction Parks and Recreation Board, Human Rights Committee and the Kids’ Voting board.

He has served on the board for the Coloramo Credit Union, Mesa Development Services and the Tree House.

When Harry was elected to the Mesa County School District 51 Board of Education for the first time in 2005 he became the first African-American to serve on that board. He was elected to his second term in 2009. He has also been the president of the board.

Harry is presently serving on the Legends committee, the Grand Junction Parks Improvement Advisory Board, the Cultural Advisory Committee at Colorado Mesa University, and the Colorado Association of School Boards, representing that group on the Colorado High School Athletic Association board.

Today Harry, his children, his three grandchildren, and his sister, her daughter, her granddaughter, her great-granddaughter, and her great-great-granddaughter, adding up to eight generations of the Hines family live in Grand Junction.