

= Charles T. Hinde =

Charles T. Hinde (July 12 , 1832 ? March 10 , 1915) was an American industrialist , tycoon , riverboat captain , businessman , and entrepreneur . He managed many businesses and invested in numerous business ventures over the course of his life . Hinde served in executive leadership positions in the river navigation , shipping , railroad , and hotel businesses . By his late forties , Hinde had already amassed a great fortune from his work in the steamboat and railroad industries .

In the late 1880s Hinde was invited to San Diego by his close friend E. S. Babcock to invest in and run several businesses , including the Hotel del Coronado and the Spreckels Brothers Commercial Company with John D. Spreckels . Hinde vastly increased his personal fortune during his time in southern California , and he helped spur the economy of the region . Towards the end of his life he donated much of his wealth to further various projects in the Californian city of Coronado and its surrounding area , some dedicated to the memory of his daughter Camilla , who died in Evansville , Indiana , at the age of 13 .

= = Early years = =

Hinde was born in Urbana , Ohio , on July 12 , 1832 . He was one of six children born to Thomas S. Hinde (1785 ? 1846) and Sara Cavileer Hinde (1791 ? 1847) . His grandfather was Dr. Thomas Hinde (1737 ? 1828) who had distinguished himself during the American Revolutionary War and during his service to General James Wolfe . During the early years of Hinde 's life the family was constantly on the move , because his father was a circuit preacher of the Methodist faith and was speculating in military real estate in the territories purchased from the Native Americans by William Henry Harrison . Eventually , Hinde 's father purchased a large tract of land in southern Illinois where he founded a town and settled with his family .

Hinde attended elementary and middle school in Mount Carmel , Illinois , a town his father founded in 1815 . The Hinde family were large landowners in Mount Carmel and Wabash County , Illinois . A portion of the family land was located on the Wabash River and included Hanging Rock and the Grand Rapids Dam . Hinde attended Indiana Asbury University (now DePauw University) in Greencastle for a year and a half before dropping out following the deaths of his father and mother . Hinde , his brother Edmund C. Hinde , and his sister Belinda Hinde were forced to live with other relatives or fend for themselves . For a short time in the 1850s , Hinde and his younger sister Belinda lived with their older sister , Martha , and her husband , Judge Charles H. Constable , in Mount Carmel and in Marshall , Illinois . As a college dropout , Hinde was initially only able to find work as a grocery clerk in Vincennes and later as a clerk in Mount Carmel . Even though these were low @-@ paying jobs , Hinde was able to support himself because he had inherited large land holdings from his father .

= = Employment in river navigation = =

Hinde 's first employment in river transportation was as a clerk on a boat that operated between St. Louis , Missouri , and St. Paul , Minnesota . After about a year , he joined the Galena , Dubuque and St. Paul Packet Company , which became one of the largest transportation companies in that part of the country . At one point during his employment there , he contracted cholera and almost died . Hinde made rapid advancement and was promoted to the position of captain in his mid @-@ twenties , an unusually young age . In 1862 , he went to Louisville , Kentucky , to take command of a steamer running from there to Memphis , Tennessee He returned to St. Louis in 1864 to serve as captain of the steamer Davenport , which ran from St. Louis to St. Paul , before resigning that position to organize a branch of the Halliday Brothers Corporation in Cairo , Illinois , which was engaged in the river transportation and shipping businesses . He subsequently established his own business and became the shipping agent at the Cairo wharf for all the steamboat lines passing through Cairo , on both the Ohio River and Mississippi River and their tributaries . Hinde sold his interests in the business shortly after its creation and moved his family to Evansville , Indiana ,

where he became acquainted with E. S. Babcock and the Reid Brothers .

= = Railroad business = =

Steamboats began to see strong competition from the railroads after the post @-@ Civil War replacement of the rail lines , and after a brief episode of poor health in 1870 , Hinde sold his interests in the river navigation business and turned his attention to railroads . He went to Louisville , Kentucky , to rest , and by chance became a shipping agent for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company through his close relationship with several company executives . Hinde secured various contracts for hauling grain , a business he may have gained some insight into from his brother Edmund C. Hinde (1830 ? 1909) , who was then active in the grain business in their hometown of Mount Carmel . But the endeavor was unsuccessful , and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad went into receivership ; Hinde arranged to have all his shipments transferred to the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad Company . Shortly before he received an invitation from E. S. Babcock to move to Coronado , California , Hinde 's only child , Camilla , died in Evansville at the age of 13 . Babcock had founded the Hotel del Coronado and several large companies , and invited Hinde to invest and help manage his business interests . Hinde had been engaged in the railroad business for a little under a decade when he left for southern California to invest with John Diedrich Spreckels and E.S. Babcock in the real estate and hotel businesses . In the following years , Hinde and Spreckels launched numerous successful business ventures together and became good friends .

= = Southern California = =

In Evansville , Hinde had become acquainted with the Reid Brothers , who designed many notable structures there , including the Willard Library . When Hinde and Babcock left Evansville and relocated to Coronado , they took the Reid Brothers with them , and hired them to design many structures including the Hotel del Coronado . Hinde also used the Reid brothers for personal projects , such as his home in Coronado and the church and rectory he built in the town . All three structures still stand today . Hinde may have used his friendship with the Reid Brothers to get them to design the Grand Rapids Hotel , which was owned by his nephew , Frederick Hinde Zimmerman . The building burned down in 1929 .

In California , Hinde again became involved in various businesses and investments . Initially , he was the commercial agent and manager for the Santa Fe Wharf , working with Spreckels and Babcock . Later , he was one of the founders of the Spreckels Brothers Commercial Company , owning a one @-@ third interest . The company imported coal , cement , and general merchandise . Hinde 's most important and lasting investment was the Hotel del Coronado on Rancho San Diego Island , which was owned by the Coronado Beach Company , originally capitalized with US \$ 3 million . At the time of capitalization the company directors were Babcock , Spreckels , Hinde , H.W. Mallett , and Giles Kellogg . They formed the company on April 7 , 1886 , and started construction on the hotel . The company also undertook numerous other investments in the Coronado area , but their plans were interrupted by the Panic of 1893 , a severe recession and bank run caused by a bubble in the railroad business . The economy did not begin to recover until 1897 , and after a multiple year slump the property market in southern California began to recover . As with his original switch from the navigation to railroad business , Hinde 's move from railroads to hotels dramatically increased his personal fortune . From its founding until his death in 1915 , Hinde remained vice president and treasurer of the Coronado Beach Company and the Spreckels Brothers Commercial Company .

= = Later life and legacy = =

At the age of 72 , Hinde began to invest in property and mines in New Mexico as a hobby . Primarily , Hinde used his nephews , Harry Hinde and Frederick Hinde Zimmerman , to alert him to new business opportunities . The local newspapers reported on his investments , but he only

experienced modest profits .

Hinde bought the most expensive car on offer at the 1910 California Auto Show , a mammoth 72 @-@ horse power Thomas Flyer manufactured by the Thomas Motor Company . He tendered a check for \$ 6 @, @ 200 and drove the car back to one of his residences in San Diego , California .

Hinde was well connected among the elite businessmen and politicians of the time , owing to his extensive business interests . One of his closest friends was James J. Hill of the Pacific Railroad , with whom he became acquainted while working in the railroad business . Hinde was politically neutral , but towards the end of his life he began to support Republican political candidates , at the urging of his nephew , Harry Hinde , a Republican politician . During the 1912 Presidential Election , Hinde entertained President William Howard Taft , a Republican , at his home in Coronado ; Taft was at the time campaigning for re @-@ election for the Presidency of the United States against Teddy Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson . Taft and his host went hunting and horse riding , and Hinde introduced Taft to many of his friends and business acquaintances . President Taft lost the election .

Towards the end of his life , Hinde gave to many charities in southern California , and he was particularly generous to Coronado and San Diego .. He funded the construction of Christ Episcopal Church in Coronado , together with its parish center and rectory , all dedicated to his deceased daughter , Camilla . Even though Hinde was generous in his gifts , he remained modest and low @-@ key throughout his life . He did not like receiving credit for his philanthropy , perhaps the reason his contributions were overlooked in the years following his death . Hinde bequeathed a large part of his estate to his sister Belinda 's son , Frederick Hinde Zimmerman , who used the money to build the Grand Rapids Hotel on the Hinde family farm in Mount Carmel . Hinde left an even larger portion of his estate and his house in Coronado to his nephew , Harry Hinde .

Hinde died in Coronado on March 10 , 1915 , aged 82 . In accordance with his wishes , the funeral service held in the Episcopal Church that he built for the residents of Coronado was modest . Hinde is buried in Mount Hope Cemetery , San Diego , California . His estate papers show that in addition to his other businesses , Hinde was a part @-@ owner of the Los Angeles @-@ based Global Grain & Milling Company , founded in 1898 and run by Will E. Keller .