

Hughes served as judge, legislator

President James Buchanan tried to conciliate both pro- and anti-slavery politicians in Washington, and Bloomington attorney James Hughes certainly gave lip service, at least, to the president's policies.

Hughes' biography in the *Officers of Indiana University* (by Burton D. Myers) indicates that Hughes "was aligned with the pro-slavery faction of his party, but when the South seceded and the Confederacy was



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formed, Judge Hughes, being an ardent Union man, could no longer follow his party, but joined the

Republican party."

After his retirement from the federal judgeship, he continued to call Bloomington "home," but remained in Washington to practice law and serve as cotton agent for the U.S. Treasury Department. There is evidence, however, that he spent some time in Bloomington in 1861. The *History of Morgan, Mon-*

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