

# HUGHES, SAMUEL

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HUGHES, SAMUEL. Born August 28, 1829, in Pembrokeshire, Wales, the second child of Samuel and Elizabeth (Edwards) Hughes, farmers. This family of old Britons had ten children, and thinking they would do better in the new world they left their home in Wales in 1837. Sailors coming home from the United States had shown the elder Hughes ears of corn grown in the new country across the sea. They were good ears of corn farmer Hughes knew. The family sailed on the "North Star" and after sixty days landed in Philadelphia. They settled on the Schuylkill River near Manayunk, Pennsylvania, and started a dairy farm. Two years later they moved to a farm about a mile and a half from Allegheny City of the same state. In 1841 the boy Samuel Hughes went to a small country school. Unable to speak English, Samuel was bullied by some of the boys. After his third day in school he quit and never was inside a schoolhouse to the end of his life.

When in 1843 his mother died and his father, shortly afterward, was crippled for life, the family moved to Allegheny City and the children were taken under the guardianship of Gen. William Robinson.

When a boy of eleven, Samuel drove a canal boat from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia, for six dollars a month to help support the family. He started at seventy-five cents per week and thought he was making good money at that. The family consisted of John, Samuel, Margaret, David (who was prominent in New Orleans, La.), Sally (who became Mrs. Taylor) and Lizzie (both residents of De Soto, Kansas), William (who was in the Kansas regiment in the Civil War), Lewis C. (who became a governor of Arizona and editor of the Arizona Daily Star), Thomas (who entered the Kansas regiment as a drummer boy and was a colonel when mustered out), and Annie (who made her home in Tucson). As no satisfactory

arrangement could be made for the support of the family, Samuel had to continue to provide for the rest of the children and went through life with only the education he could pick up from time to time. He worked in the Blackstock cotton factory at Allegheny City, Pennsylvania, at \$1.25 and spent a dollar "for grub".

During his spare time at the factory, young Samuel built a model of a wagon. The machinist seeing the boy's handicraft took him to the tool-making department of the factory. His job was to hammer iron when there were no tools to sharpen. He was fortunate in having lazy bosses, here recalled, for this left him the burden of making the tools. After a while he learned to make "pretty fair tools himself". During a strike, the shop shut down. Samuel found a job in a bakery. The boss here was lazy too, and Samuel, doing much of the work, turned out to be a good pastry and confectionery cook.

His experience as a cook secured for him a berth as cabin boy on a river steamboat plying between Pittsburgh and New Orleans, and he made his first trip to New Orleans in 1849. On the return trip of his second voyage, cholera struck the passengers and killed forty of them. During these boat trips Samuel met many journeymen cooks and picked up news about the fabulous opportunities in the California mine fields. He was asked to join a party bound for California and to be their cook. He accepted the job, and the party of immigrants left Wellsville, Ohio, in 1850, on the steamer "California" for St. Joseph, Mo. They left St. Joseph on April 10, 1850, with a train of 120 wagons, the first large train to cross the plains. Samuel had to walk most of the way, there being not enough horses. They followed the Kit Carson route through

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Fort Kearney to Humboldt. On June 10, 1850, they arrived in Hangtown (now Placerville), California. Samuel Hughes' reputation as a cook had gone ahead of him. The owner of the town hotel came out to seek him and offered him a job. The hotel man told the boy he would give him half an ounce of gold a day. When informed that half an ounce of gold was worth eight dollars, the boy who up to that time was getting \$15 a month could not speak for fear of spoiling such a dazzling dream. He took the job and stayed in Hangtown up to the following October.

Besides his wages Samuel Hughes made extra money baking and selling pies for a dollar each and a square foot of ginger bread for four dollars. Fruits were plentiful, and he also made jellies and jams. The following winter he went to Sacramento, still as a cook. He heard from the packers of new diggings up north, and with them he pooled his money. They loaded thirty-five mules with merchandise and set out for the new diggings, where they sold it. In the spring of 1851 he went to Yreka and opened a restaurant. He was also then investing in mines and cattle. In 1852 he crossed the Siskiyou mountains to the Rogue River Valley in Oregon and was among the first discoverers of Rich Gulch at Jacksonville, and among the first to reach Scott's River and the Klamath gold fields. On his return to Yreka he opened a hotel. In the spring of 1853, he joined a party on a raid against the Indians on Evans Creek. This was called the Rogue River war. In the fight he was wounded and his lungs injured. The following fall he purchased the Mountain House at the foot of Siskiyou mountains on the California side and also kept the stage station there for the California & Oregon stage line.

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In 1856 he returned to the Shasta valley, for his health was not good, and here he went seriously into the stock-raising business. In 1857, while hunting in the woods, he had a hemorrhage of the lungs. He had strained his chest on lifting the carcass of the deer on his horse. The doctors told him to go to a mild climate if he wished to live.

He settled his business interests in California and left Yreka on January 1, 1858, with a train of teams, for Arizona. With him were Hugh and Charley Slicer, Sammy Tibbles and Roy Greathouse. They had planned to raise cattle in Texas. He entrusted his money to Greathouse who went on to Texas and bought cattle. Samuel Hughes intended to follow as soon as he recovered, but the climate suited him. They crossed the Colorado River at Yuma in February and reached Tucson March 12, 1858.

He traded a good harness for some grain and sold the grain. He went into butchering, and was making money hand over fist when the Civil War broke out in Arizona. He was buying and selling grain, hay and meat to the-overland stage, supplying the stations between Maricopa Wells and Apache Pass. When the Texas Rifles of the Confederacy took over Tucson, William Oury advised Sam Hughes that if he did not leave town he might get shot. Hughes, on meeting Henry Clay in the Mississippi steamboat and hearing him speak, had become a Whig, and, the Whig party having ceased to exist, he had turned Republican. Hughes looked at the situation sensibly, turned his business interests and property over to Alphonse Lazard and went to California. After the California Column drove the confederates out, Sam Hughes returned and found his property well taken care of. He was associated with Lazard in many kinds of business ventures for eighteen years and with Hiram Stevens for twenty-one years.

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Hiram Stevens, then, one of his business associates, was married to the elder daughter of Don Juan Santa Cruz, one of the prominent families in Arizona. The girls were orphaned and the young sister, Atanacia, was living with the Stevens. Atanacia was only 12 years old when Samuel Hughes married her on May 27, 1862. Fifteen children were born to her. At the time of his death seven children were still living, five girls and two boys.

In February, 1871, the governor appointed Samuen Hughes adjutant-general. He was adjutant general under two governors. He served as councilman during the years from 1871 to 1876, and resigned in 1877; as chairman of the Board of School Trustees in 1881-82; and as sheriff and a deputy sheriff for Pima County.

Samuel Hughes was putting up money for the newspapers of John Wasson--The Arizona Citizen, and of Sylvester Mowry--The Arizonan, while the two editors were engaged in vitriolic quarrel and losing money. He grubstaked a large number of prospectors and participated in the development of Tombstone, Harshaw, the Montezuma, and the Washington camp. In January, 1875 he opened an assay office near the Pioneer Brewery on North Main Street. He organized the first bank in Tucson; collected the money to build the first protestant church. "I helped build churches and schools and spent my time and money on them. My hobby was to make a town. When I was in the legislature, during the administration of Governor Safford, I helped get up good school laws . . . .I offered to help the Mormons build a church and will yet. I have beautiful letters from the pupils of different schools, thanking me for what I did for them.

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"But I thought it was pretty tough that we had to build a courthouse and a jail. I have helped every club and every organization. I helped the different lodges. You see, I owned so much property that I had to do these things to boost my own game. . . . I have always encouraged amusements and went in with Tom Fitch in building the first courthouse."

"I am the first Mason who was raised in the Gadsden Purchase." Samuel Hughes was a thirty-second degree Mason. He started the first Republican organization in Tucson. He was one of the leading men who founded the Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society, and was its third president. He celebrated with his wife and great-grand children his golden wedding anniversary on May 27, 1912.

He died early on the morning of June 20, 1917, at his home, 223 North Main Street, Tucson, Arizona. He was buried under the auspices of the Masons, June 22, at 8:30 in the morning, Col. George Roskrige conducting the ritual. His widow and five daughters survived him, Mrs. J. Knox Corbett and Mrs. E. C. Dietrich, of Tucson; Mrs. Jeffrey Stradling and Mrs. W. B. Isaacks of San Francisco, and Mrs. O. B. Leonhardt of Portland, Oregon. There were two surviving sons, David Lous Hughes of Miami and James Hughes. The living sisters were Miss Annie Hughes of Tucson and Mrs. Sally Taylor of De Soto, Kansas; and a flock of grand children survived him.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Weekly Arizonian, January 2, March 23, 28, 1869; March 26, 1870.

Arizona Citizen, February 18, 1871.

Arizona Citizen, October 12, 1872; October 26, 1872.

Arizona Citizen, November 16, 1872; November 30, 1872.