



## **John Calvin Hughes Papers (R0309)**

**Collection Number:** R0309

**Collection Title:** John Calvin Hughes Papers

**Dates:** 1862-1863

**Creator:** Hughes, John Calvin, 1827-1863

**Abstract:** The John Calvin Hughes Papers contain typescripts of the Civil War letters of John C. Hughes, a native of Washington County, Missouri, and member of Company I, 33rd Missouri Infantry. He wrote to his wife from camps at St. Louis, Rolla, Salem, Houston, and Hartville, Missouri; Columbus, Kentucky; and Helena, Arkansas.

**Collection Size:** 0.02 cubic foot  
(2 folders)

**Language:** Collection materials are in English.

**Repository:** The State Historical Society of Missouri

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at [rolla@shsmo.org](mailto:rolla@shsmo.org). Collections may be viewed at any research center.

**Restrictions on Use:** Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Rights & Reproductions](#) on the Society's website for more information about reproductions and permission to publish.

**Preferred Citation:** [Specific item; box number; folder number] *John Calvin Hughes Papers* (R0309); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

**Donor Information:** The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Thomas Caulley on December 22, 1986 (Accession No. RA0361).

**Related Materials:** Additional materials related to the John Calvin Hughes Papers can be found in the following collections:

*John G. Hudson Papers* (C3553)

*Ferrill Family Papers* (CA6596)

**Processed by:** Processed by John Bradbury, March 25, 1988. Revised by Donovan Mefford, June 2, 2021.

### **Biographical Note:**

John Calvin Hughes began his brief military career at Caledonia, Missouri, on August 21, 1862. In company with friends and acquaintances, he joined Company I of Colonel Clinton B. Fisk's 33rd Missouri Infantry. His family had a tradition of service including his grandfather, Captain John Hughes, who led a company of riflemen from New Madrid in 1812. He left his wife and four small children on their farm in the Bellevue Valley.

Hughes and the other soldiers from Washington County met the remainder of the 33rd at St. Louis, where they were mustered in during late September 1862. The regiment was posted briefly at Rolla, then was sent on a circuitous march through Phelps, Dent, Texas, and Wright counties. The campaign was notable chiefly for the capture of the regimental baggage train by rebels at Beaver Creek in Wright County.

The 33rd was recalled to Benton Barracks in late December prior to transfer along the Mississippi River. After a brief stay at Columbus, Kentucky, the 33rd was assigned to the garrison at Helena, Arkansas. John C. Hughes was never healthy after leaving Missouri. He was plagued with chronic diarrhea, and in March 1863 he was hospitalized with pneumonia. His condition worsened and he was placed aboard the steamer *City of Memphis* for transport to the general hospital at St. Louis. He died enroute on April 8, 1863. He is buried in the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery at St. Louis.

### **Arrangement:**

The collection has been arranged in its original order.

### **Scope and Content Note:**

The collection contains 27 letters to John Hughes' wife, beginning on September 7, 1862, and continuing through February 27, 1863. Twenty-one of the letters, all dated 1862, were written from encampments in Missouri. In his letters he talks of his motivations for enlisting. He was drawn by a patriotic desire to strike at the rebels, by Colonel Fisk's reputation as an advocate of temperance, and the generous enlistment bounty put up by St. Louis businessmen. There is one letter from Columbus, Kentucky, and five from Helena, Arkansas. In addition to family and household matters he commented on camp life, officers, furloughs, dissatisfaction with the military, soldiers from Washington County, the attack on the wagon train at Beaver Creek, and sickness within the regiment. Hughes was obviously homesick, and his morale suffered when he missed a visit by his wife to the camp at Salem. His disillusionment with the war increased as his health deteriorated. He wrote on February 9, 1863, that even some of the officers were suggesting that desertion, under the conditions, had become a duty. However, he assured his wife that he could stand the service a while longer. Less than eight weeks later he was dead.

Folder 2 contains genealogical data and copies of military service and pension papers from the National Archives.

**Container List:**

Box 001    f. 1                      Letters, 1862-1863  
                  f. 2                      Genealogical records, no date

**Index:**

| Index Term  | Folder |
|---|--------|
| Arkansas--History--Civil War, 1861-1865               | 1-2    |
| Beaver Creek (Wright County, Mo.)                     | 1      |
| Benton Barracks (Saint Louis, Mo.)                    | 1-2    |
| Columbus (Ky.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865         | 1      |
| Dent County (Mo.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865      | 1      |
| Fisk, Clinton Bowen                                   | 1      |
| Hartville (Mo.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865        | 1      |
| Helena (Ark.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865          | 1      |
| Houston (Mo.)   | 1      |
| Hughes, Harriet Newell Campbell, 1833-1904            | 1      |
| Hughes, John Calvin, 1827-1863                        | 1-2    |
| Kentucky--History--Civil War, 1861-1865               | 1      |
| Missouri--History--Civil War, 1861-1865               | 1-2    |
| Phelps County (Mo.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865    | 1      |
| Saint Louis (Mo.)--History--Civil War, 1862-1865      | 1      |
| Salem (Mo.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865            | 1      |
| Texas County (Mo.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865     | 1      |
| United States. Army. Missouri Infantry Regiment, 33rd | 1-2    |
| United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865          | 1-2    |
| Wright County (Mo.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865    | 1      |