

2020

Guide to MS236 John R. Hughes papers

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Guide to
MS236
John R. Hughes papers

1890 – 1981, Span Dates
1890 – 1947, Bulk Dates

5 inches (linear)

Donated by Emery Hughes, 1981.

Citation: John R. Hughes papers, MS236, C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department. The University of Texas at El Paso Library.

C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department
University of Texas at El Paso

Biography

John Reynolds Hughes (1855 – 1947) was a captain in the Texas Rangers. He was born on February 11, 1855 in Henry County, Illinois, to Thomas and Jennie (Bond) Hughes. In 1865, the family moved to Dixon, Illinois. Later they moved to Mound City, Kansas. At the age of 14, Hughes left home. After a brief time working on a neighboring cattle ranch, he headed for Indian Territory. He lived among the Choctaw and Osage Indians for four years; in 1874, he moved to the Comanche Nation. After several years of trading in the Fort Sill area, he purchased a farm near Liberty Hill, Travis County, Texas and began raising horses. In 1886, he pursued and brought to justice some horse thieves who had stolen horses from him and his neighbors. His success caught the attention of the Texas Rangers, and he was persuaded to enlist. He was sworn in on August 10, 1887 and assigned to Company D, Frontier Battalion at Camp Wood. He served mainly on the Texas-Mexico border and for many years was headquartered at Ysleta, Texas. He was made a captain in 1893, after his superior officers were all killed by bandits. He retired on January 31, 1915. He spent his later years prospecting and traveling by automobile. Although he became chair of the board of directors of the Citizens Industrial Bank of Austin, he maintained his residence in El Paso. He was the first recipient of the Certificate of Valor in 1940, an award for bravery of peace officers. He never married; he died on June 3, 1947.

Series Description or Arrangement

These papers are minimally processed.

Scope and Content Notes

The John R. Hughes papers date 1890 – 1981, bulk 1890 – 1947. The papers contain photographs, correspondence, financial and legal documents, newspaper clippings, and a diary.

Provenance Statement

Donated by Emery Hughes in 1981.

Restrictions

None.

Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish material from these papers must be obtained from the C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library. Citation should read, John R. Hughes papers, MS236, C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library.

Notes to the Researcher

See also:

Captain John R. Hughes, Lone Star Ranger by Chuck Parsons (2011)

Container List

Box #	Folder #	Title	Date
1	1	Newspaper clippings	
1	2	Magazine <i>Ford News</i>	1936
1	3	Correspondence	
1	4	Resolutions and Honors of John R. Hughes	
1	5	Warranty Deeds, Abstract Titles, Power of Attorney to Sell Lands, and Agreements	
1	6	Wanted Poster for Ben B. Myatt	
1	7	Letter from James A. Day to Mr. Emery Hughes (Xerox copy)	October 5, 1981
1	8	License plate receipts for automobile	
1	9	Diary	1942-1946
1	10	Expenses	1927-1933
1	11	Cancelled checks	1928-1940
1	12	Photographs (3)	
1	13	Scrapbook	
1	14	Photographs (15)	
1	15	Photographs (14)	
1	16	Postcards to Emery Hughes, nephew	1930-1940