

JOSEPHINE BRAWLEY HUGHES—Crusader, State Builder

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Josephine Brawley Hughes, wife of a state governor and mother of a state senator was a true builder of state by her own efforts. No need for her to bask in their reflected glory, for all who knew the Hughes family knew of her part in the development of institutions that have made Arizona a great sovereign state.

Born on a farm near Meadville, Pa., Josephine Brawley attended regularly a rural school several miles from home until ready to enter Edinboro State Normal. After graduating from the normal school, she taught for two years in the public schools of Pennsylvania. While a student at Edinboro she met Louis C. Hughes, who had returned to school after service in the Civil War, and in 1868 they were married. A wound received in the war made it necessary for the young husband to seek a warmer climate. Tucson, Arizona, was decided upon as his destination in quest of health. A brother, Sam Hughes, had gone to Tucson years before, and urged the trip. Having only limited funds, Louis Hughes found it necessary to leave his young wife behind and make the journey alone in 1871. On arrival he opened a law office and began to plan and save for the coming of his wife. Money was not plentiful, and merchandise such as chickens and eggs received in payment for legal services must be sold to augment the fund. A cow received in this way was kept as a part of home equipment. It took a year to save enough for Josephine's fare—and in 1872 she started on the long journey with her baby daughter, Gertrude.

The trip from Pennsylvania to San Francisco was made by rail. There passage was taken on a boat to San Diego, known then as "New Town." At that point began a 500-mile trip by stage from San Diego to Tucson, Arizona; this meant continuous traveling for four days and nights without stopping except to change horses. After crossing into Arizona, parts of the trip became precarious, as hostile Apaches were raiding the country. Josephine carried a loaded rifle at her side and carried her baby in her arms. Bouncing over the rough road at great speed there was constant fear the rifle might go off, and at one point Baby Gertrude was bounced out of her arms, fortunately into soft sand. Only two other homemakers were established in Tucson

when the young wife and mother reached her destination—Mrs. Charles Lord (wife of Dr. Lord), and Mrs. C. Scott (wife of Judge C. Scott).

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The old pueblo was a primitive settlement in the early seventies when the young wife came to preside over the home prepared by the struggling young lawyer husband. This home, as all the others, was built of adobe, with a fireplace in each room and a woodbox by each fireplace. The adobes used in building were made on the premises and, while digging on the site, many human bones, swords, pistols and arrowheads were found. The ground was already historic ground for it was the site of the old fort which marked the original settlement by the white men there. It was there that the first American flag was raised in Arizona. The old adobe wall, which surrounded the old town and the ruins of the old fort, stood for years around the little new home until it was so undermined by rains that it was finally torn down.

The first light used was made by placing a burning rag in a saucer of grease. Mrs. Hughes sent to her home in Pennsylvania for candle molds and soon her little home and those of her neighbors were lighted by candles. It was one of the most modern homes in the community and the yard contained the only cistern there. This cistern was a great luxury for the water drawn from the earth was harsh and brackish. Drinking water was brought in by peddlers who got it from a spring and sold it at ten cents a bucket.

These early homes had no screens and flies swarmed everywhere seeking entrance. It was the day of the paper fly brush which waved constantly over the dining table. The young housewives exercised their artistic skill in making them of colored papers cut in long strips with fancy edges.

Housewives made their own soap—soft soap by the barrel. The laundry work was done by the Mexicans who took the clothes to the stream that ran in the valley near Tucson. They dipped the garments in water, soaped them and rubbed and sopped them up and down on a large smooth stone, kneeling during the process. When all were snowy white, they were hung on the mesquite bushes to dry.

The only fruits available were quinces and pomegranates, brought from Mexico in wooden ox carts. The squeaking and groaning of these carts could be heard blocks away. The Mexi-

can drivers carried buckets of thick soap which they frequently poured into the axle holes of the solid wooden wheels to lubricate them. These two-wheeled carts had a hide bottom and a framework of sticks around the top. Beside fruits they brought in loads of sugar cane. These were sold to the children who peeled off the skin and sucked the end—Arizona's first all-day suckers.

Insect life was plentiful and even in the homes, people were on the lookout for tarantulas, centipedes and scorpions. Shoes were placed on chairs at night and shaken out in the morning. These insects often crawled out of the wood in the woodboxes by the fireplace. They were plentiful in the yards, but flocks of chickens launched a safety campaign by chasing and eating them.

Colored paper was the means of adding color and cheer to all sorts of festive occasions. One had to be resourceful with the little material available for decoration. On the Fourth of July and other occasions, the people decorated small tin cans with bright paper of various hues, placed a lighted candle in each, and arranged them all around the edge on the tops of the flat houses. It was really effective. Christmas was delightfully observed in the Hughes home. There was always a tree which Mrs. Hughes decorated with colored papers, cotton and simple toys. Later in the evening, Santa Claus with sleigh bells brought from Pennsylvania, pranced about on the flat roof, blowing a horn and beating a drum. The horn and drum appeared among gifts on the tree next morning. Little Gertrude and her brother John were taught to believe in Santa Claus, who in later years was to them a great spirit of love, with parents and friends as his agents to carry out his wishes.

Summer nights were just as warm in the old pueblo fifty years ago as they are now. The inhabitants all slept in the open, in their yards or on the sidewalks in front of their houses. The Hughes family slept in their yard inside the historic adobe wall. When all were settled in their cots with the starry Arizona heavens above them, Mr. Hughes would tell them of the stars and planets, nowhere more clearly visible than during Arizona nights. In the far distance the howl of the coyote, closer to the houses the bark of the dogs, and in the surrounding yards the crowing of the roosters were the accompanying night sounds as gradually the pueblo sank in slumber. At times the stillness of the later night was broken by the crying and moaning in some Mexican home where death had claimed his own. At other

times, pistol shots rang out sharply over the town as some brawl was at its height in a saloon, and at intervals a loud resonant voice was heard from a distance calling out "k-e-e-n-o" (keno) from the gaming table.

New Year's day, everyone kept open house and served refreshments. The men called at the various homes and left unique calling cards. They called at the Hughes home first, because it was the only home that did not serve liquor, and after having made the rounds they did not feel safe in calling there. At this season came barrels of apples, apple butter, buckwheat flour, maple sugar and a sack of dried apples from Grandpa and Grandma Brawley in Pennsylvania.

The first carpet for the "parlor" was an event. It came in long strips that were sewed together by hand, and laid upon layers of straw and paper. The whole family sat upon it and stretched and pulled until it was tacked in place. New furniture, upholstered in blue, was purchased from W. C. Davis, who had brought it in from San Francisco. The bill of lading was dated March 23, 1875, and accounted for "9 packages measuring 247 ft. at \$1.00 per foot—total \$247." Its routing was indicated—"San Francisco—for Colorado River—to any Colorado Navigation Company's vessels at the mouth of the Colorado—to be delivered in good order and condition at Ft. Yuma." It was taken from Yuma to Tucson by wagon train.

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It was in this historic home that General Nelson Miles, in his campaign against the Indians in 1886, planned many of his military ventures. Mrs. Hughes kept the map used by General Miles in planning his campaigns against the Apaches, and just before her death she presented it to the Historical Society of Arizona.

General Crook was also a guest at this house and much admired by the Hughes family. Significant conferences on other matters of historical interest have been held in this house, as late as 1914 when despatches concerning the troublesome affairs of a sister republic were prepared and sent to eastern papers.

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In this new country teachers were in demand, and the young housewife found herself called upon to use her normal training secured at Edinboro Normal in Pennsylvania. A call had been

sent out for teachers in Arizona the year before *(1872) and in 1873 two teachers had been engaged to come to Tucson to take charge of a school for girls. An outbreak of Apache Indians made it unsafe for them to come by stage into Tucson, and Mrs. Hughes opened the school in March of 1873 and continued the school until travel was safe for the California teachers who were engaged to come.

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Announcement of the opening of the Centennial Exposition to be held in Philadelphia in 1876, carried with it recognition for Arizona Territory, and in 1875 Mrs. Hughes was appointed Commissioner for Arizona to the women's department. So, in 1876, the family, father, mother, little Gertrude and Baby John, made the still dangerous stage trip to Los Angeles, thence by boat to San Francisco, and by rail across the continent to Philadelphia. Here, with pride and honor, she performed the distinguished service reposed in her by Arizona.

The following year (1877), Mrs. Hughes joined with a group of women to launch another new institution—the first Protestant church in Arizona. This little group of women helped to raise funds for the little church erected under the auspices of the Presbyterian Board of Missions. Mrs. Hughes, however, had been a life-long Methodist, and when the Reverend George E. Adams, pioneer Methodist missionary to Arizona, arrived, he found an ally in her. She became the leading spirit in organizing Methodism in Tucson which found its first outward manifestation in the brick church at the corner of Pennington Street and Stone Avenue. This little brick church became the center for many reform movements in Arizona. Here Frances Willard, a warm personal friend of Mrs. Hughes, spoke for the temperance cause, and these two crusaders set out over the territory and organized the first W. C. T. U. As president of the new organization, Mrs. Hughes found much to engage the efforts of a reformer. Arizona was wide open—and all days were alike. Their first efforts were centered upon a Sunday closing law—which was finally placed upon the statutes by the legislature in 1887.

*—Free schools were established by an act of the legislature in 1868. This law was repealed and others were passed in 1871 and in 1875. In 1872, a call went out from Arizona for teachers to come into the territory to meet the demand for opening of free schools in Tucson and in Yuma. Clara Skinner, Frances Bishop and Mary E. Post responded to the Yuma call. Miss Wakefield and Mrs. Fish responded to the Tucson call.

During the struggle, over a period of years, to secure a Sunday closing law, Mrs. Hughes discovered the power of the ballot in legislation. She persuaded Mrs. Laura M. Johns, a national suffrage organizer, living in Kansas, to come to Arizona to organize the suffrage movement into a territorial organization. Mrs. Hughes became president of this organization of which Mrs. L. Collins was recording secretary and Mrs. R. C. Phillips, corresponding secretary. Thus was crystallized the initial movement to secure equal rights, before the law, for Arizona womanhood. In resigning from the presidency of the W. C. T. U. to take up the suffrage cause, Mrs. Hughes said: "Let us secure the **vote for women, first**—then the victory for the protection of our homes and for the cause of temperance will follow."

In the Constitutional Convention called in 1891, (by act of the legislature), a strong fight, led by General William Herring, was made to incorporate into the constitution an equal rights provision. Mrs. Hughes and Mrs. Laura Johns, national suffragist leader, were invited to present the matter before the convention. They made able presentations and remained throughout the convention, almost winning an equality clause for the constitution.

Then began a personal campaign, led by these two suffrage pioneers, to form equal suffrage clubs in every county. Woman's right to the ballot became an issue before each successive session of the legislature. Legislative tactics permitted the equal suffrage bill to pass in one house, only to kill it in the other—during 1891, 1893, *1895, 1897—until 1899 it passed both houses, only to be vetoed by Governor Brodie. This veto was a distinct shock to the aggressive advocates of equal suffrage, but they were not discouraged. They merely changed their policy, and began a quiet educational campaign for suffrage, temperance and other reforms.

*—In 1893, Mrs. Hughes' husband, Louis C. Hughes, was appointed governor of the territory by President Grover Cleveland. In 1894, Mrs. Hughes, accompanied by her son and daughter, attended the National Suffrage Convention held in Washington, D. C. Susan B. Anthony, a close friend of Mrs. Hughes, brought the young son (later Senator John Hughes), to the platform and after introducing him as the son of Governor and Mrs. L. C. Hughes, life-long champions of equal rights, dedicated this native son of Arizona to the cause espoused by his mother. She named him "The Suffrage Knight of Arizona." He accepted the charge of his knighthood—and in 1912 when the time was ripe, as state senator, he introduced in the senate the resolution which amended Arizona's new state constitution by giving the franchise to women several years before the nation was ready for the amendment.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Hughes were workers in reform movements. They had recognized early the power of the press. In 1878, they established the Tucson Star, which they continued to operate for a period of thirty years. Its pages were always open for the promotion of the reform movements to which they gave so much of their time.

In the early years of the Star, Mrs. Hughes was business manager, bookkeeper and cashier, while Mr. Hughes was editor, doing all the work, local, exchange and clipping.† Both the Star and the Citizen (afternoon paper), received a "pony" Associated Press report of about 500 words.

During the early days of the wide open saloon, Mrs. Hughes conceived the idea of changing pay day from Saturday night to the first of the week, as Saturday pay days meant a "hang over" for the first of the week and difficulty in getting out the paper. The change at first caused a riot and some dropped out, but in time it was accepted. The Star was, as now, a morning paper, and when it was off the press in the early morning hours, Mr. Hughes would take home a large bundle, and Gertrude and John were routed out of bed to help get them addressed and ready for the stage mail. Often after the office help was paid off, there was little left for the owners of the paper.

The Star was the determined and aggressive foe of saloons and gambling houses of the early days. Both Mr. and Mrs. Hughes lived to see the gamblers go out of business as a result of a law passed by a territorial legislature, and the elimination of saloons by an initiated law after the initiative and referendum power had been placed in the constitution of the State of Arizona and was put in operation by the voters of the state.

The owners of the saloons and gambling houses of the territory constituted the dominating influence in the politics of that period, but even so, Editor and Mrs. Hughes had the courage to bar the columns of the Star to any advertising from these sources. Their war was on the liquor evil and not against individuals in the business. While the Star was not popular

†—In 1887, Major George Kelly, late State Historian, joined Mr. and Mrs. Hughes as a member of the Arizona Daily Star force, having decided to leave Missouri and cast his lot with Arizona, after correspondence with the owners of the paper. In a recent editorial he paid tribute to Mrs. Hughes' ability as manager and cashier and to Mr. Hughes' ability as a paragrapher who commanded attention. The aggressive and determined policies of the Star brought it early recognition as the foe of evil influences and the friend of churches and early day organizations for the uplift of Arizona's citizenship.

among those who inhabited and controlled the bar rooms, it was always recognized as a power, both in politics and in promoting the development of Arizona.

One of the early campaigns of the Star was for the removal of the blood-thirsty Apaches from the state. These Indians by their depredations prevented the state from becoming thickly populated. The Star plan provided for the removal of the Apache leaders to the Everglade country of Florida, and the editor, in the National Democratic Convention of 1884, caused a plank declaring for a removal policy to be placed in the platform. Following the election of Cleveland to the presidency in that year, the policy was put into practice, and General Miles was sent to the state in 1886 to rid it of the warlike redskins.

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On April 1, 1893, Mrs. Hughes became the first lady of the territory when her husband was appointed territorial governor by President Grover Cleveland.

Mrs. Hughes and the governor were both ardent advocates and supporters of higher education. They were active in establishing the University of Arizona, and later their daughter, Gertrude, was the first woman instructor in the university.

In 1912, Mrs. Hughes had the honor and satisfaction of seeing her son, John Hughes, a member of the first state senate. Like his mother, he was an advocate of temperance and of the enfranchising of women. He introduced a resolution in this first state senate proposing a constitutional amendment enfranchising Arizona's womanhood. The amendment was passed and the following year (1913)* Arizona women first went to the polls, and even elected a woman to office.

*—Enfranchisement of women in Arizona came by this early amendment to the new constitution which had been adopted in 1910. Recall of public officers and the initiative and referendum were incorporated, but the enfranchisement of women had to wait until after Arizona's star was made one of the galaxy of states, in 1912. Too many innovations could not be incorporated into the body of the constitution. In 1913, the women proceeded to test out the recall of officers and enfranchisement of women. In that election and by the decision of the Supreme Court of Arizona, C. Louise Boehringer became the first woman to hold public office in the new state. Later, an interesting meeting took place between the first president of the Arizona Suffrage Association, Josephine Brawley Hughes, and the first woman to hold public office in Arizona. The meeting occurred in the historic Hughes home where battles with Indians and battles for progressive ideas had been mapped out.

Senator Hughes' death in 1922 was a shock to his mother from which she never fully recovered.

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Josephine Brawley Hughes was a true crusader, sacrificing financial gain, comforts and herself for the causes she had espoused. A pioneer in righteousness, in freedom for womanhood, in protection of the home, and in education, she was a true state builder. She was a wide reader, and as the wife of a governor, the mother of a state senator, and the business manager of a daily paper, she was well informed on the political questions of the day, both national and international.

She and her husband both lived to see the gamblers go out of business, the saloons eliminated by means of an initiative law, after the initiative and referendum power had been placed in the constitution of Arizona, and they saw women enfranchised and elected to office. For all these measures and others, they fought aggressively and were willing to have enemies that future citizens might come into their own. Mrs. Hughes saw Arizona become a pioneer state in woman suffrage and in curbing the liquor traffic, after thirty years of unremitting effort. So unlikely was it that either of these measures would ever be adopted, that for years the work in their behalf was considered a joke. Their adoption brought hundreds of letters of congratulation to these pioneers in state building.

Self-denying, eager to share the beauties and plain comforts of life with her neighbors and the needy—from rare plants, shrubs and plots of green grass in the days of early desert barrenness—to food, medicines and personal ministrations for the healthseekers who came to seek life's greatest boon was this little mother and teacher of the seventies and eighties. Quietly aggressive in her vision of Arizona as a clean and free state for future citizens, was this fearless crusader and builder of state in the nineties and the days of emerging statehood.

The pioneer spirit was transmitted to her daughter who was the first woman on our state university faculty, and to her only grandchild, Miriam Meredith Woodward Taylor, who was for several years connected with the Ince Picture Studios at Culver City and is now a scenario editor with National Pictures in New York.

Mrs. Hughes died at Hermosa Beach, California, in April of 1926, at the age of 88 years. She was buried in Evergreen

Cemetery, Tucson. She leaves her daughter, Gertrude Hughes Woodward, of Hermosa Beach.

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The only tablet in memory of a woman who has rendered service to her state yet placed in the rotunda of the State Capitol in Phoenix is the one in memory of Josephine Brawley Hughes, placed there December 16, 1926.

In Memorium

E. JOSEPHINE BRAWLEY HUGHES

Wife of

GOVERNOR L. C. HUGHES

and Mother of

HON. JOHN T. HUGHES

Mother of Methodism

Founder of W. C. T. U.

and Founder of the First Daily Newspaper in Arizona

Born at Meadville, Pa., Dec. 22, 1839

Died April 22, 1926