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Exciting News From Our Hughes Family

Kim Self Hughes, who is married to George Hughes from Jefferson County, AL, recently contacted me concerning our Hughes family. She spoke to John Carrol Hughes, who is a descendant of George Washington Hughes (1813-1890). John has a copy of the book *In Memory* by Alice Emily Hughes Barnwell Deavenport (daughter of John Taylor Hughes, whose father was Matthew Martin Hughes). This book contains personal letters written by Alice Emily Hughes and the letters answer a few questions we have been wondering about for some time.

Mr. John Carrol Hughes has graciously given us permission to place an excerpt from the book here:

"This is the story of my life. I was born October 15, 1867, in Hall County, Georgia, where Flowery Branch now stands. As you will note from the date 1867 this is the second year after the Civil War. And, the war or conditions existing from the war affected my life greatly.

Father leased land and cleared the trees on enough of it to build a house. He kept busy clearing land during the winter months and cultivating it in the spring. Under the terms of the lease after four years the cleared land went back to the owner, he then would have to clear more land for his use. He decided to look for something better since he only was able to make a bare living.

He found a friend, Mr. Gunter, with a small family who was in the same mood. The two families planned to move to Alabama. Father bought a big yoke of oxen and a heavy wagon in which to move both families' house furnishings and farm equipment. Mr. Gunter would furnish a one horse wagon for the wives and children to ride in.

Although I was only four years old I remember the oxen were afraid to cross bridges; instead of facing forward they would push each other sideways and at times almost go overboard. When we came to a bridge father would walk on one side and Mr. Gunter on the other, each had a big ox whip, they would crack the whips in front of the oxen, in this way keep the oxen more to the center of the bridge.

The distance was two hundred miles. We made it in nine days. We soon found homes to rent. The Gunter family stopped in Blount County, Alabama. Father and mother went on to Jefferson County about 18 miles north of Birmingham where father's great-uncle Jesse Hughes lived. Father's uncle Washington Hughes lived in his same neighborhood. "

- reprinted from "In Memory" by Alice Emily Hughes Barnwell Deavenport (daughter of John Taylor Hughes, whose father was Matthew Martin Hughes)

Note: This excerpt is confirmation that Matthew Martin Hughes and George Washington Hughes were brothers. Also confirms that Jesse Hughes (1811 - 1882) was an uncle to Matthew & George.

The above information tells us that Jesse was most likely a son, not of William H. and Jane Hughes as we have thought for sometime but rather a son of George and Rhoda and a brother to William. For Jesse to have been born in 1811, this is the only conclusion that can be drawn. Apparently he just was not listed in the family Bible.