

James Hughes

(- 21 Oct 1873)

The Evening Star, October 21, 1873

The Death of Judge James Hughes

The report this morning of the death of Judge James Hughes, at his residence near Bladensburg, surprised his large circle of acquaintances here, as but a few days ago he was in the city attend to business. For some months past he has suffered from attacks of heart disease, and was taken with one at an early hour this morning, and died between 7 and 8 o'clock.

Judge Hughes was in his fiftieth year, and a native of Maryland. In early life he went to Indiana, and received his education at the Indiana University. He then studied law, and was admitted to practice at Bloomington, in that state, in 1842. He received the appointment of first lieutenant in the 16th U.S. Infantry, in which he served to the close of the Mexican War, and returned to the practice of law at Bloomington. In 1852 he was elected circuit judge, and served as such for six years and from '53 to '56 filled the position of professor of law in the University of Indiana. He was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1857, and served in the 35th Congress as a member of the committee on territories. In 1861 he was appointed by President Buchanan a judge of the Court of Claims, and filled that position until 1865, when he resigned. On the 9th of July of that year he was admitted to the bar of this District, and with the exception of the period he acted as a cotton agent for the Treasury department, (having received the appointment as such from President Johnson in May, 1866) has been actively engaged in his profession, practicing principally in the Court of Claims, the Supreme Court of the United States, and before the departments.

The Evening Star, October 22, 1873

The Late James Hughes

Meeting of the Bar Association

A meeting of the Bar Association was held at their rooms in the City Hall at 11 o'clock this morning, Mr. W.B. Webb president, and B. Fendall secretary, to take action as to the death of the late Hon. James Hughes. Mr. Webb in stating the object of the meeting spoke in high terms of the character of the deceased.

Mr. N. Wilson moved the appointment of a committee to draft suitable resolutions; adopted, and Messrs. Coombs, N. Wilson, Davidge, Merrick and Perry, were appointed.

The president announced that the funeral would take place at 1 o'clock tomorrow afternoon at Bladensburg, and that the remains would arrive here at 3 o'clock p.m., and be taken to the Congressional cemetery.

The meeting adjourned to 2 1/2 o'clock, when resolutions of respect to the memory of the deceased were reported and adopted, to be presented to the Court in General Term.

The Evening Star, October 23, 1873

Respect to the Memory of the Late Judge Hughes

A general meeting of the members of the bar was held in the court room at 11 o'clock this morning. Mr. R.K. Elliot was called to the chair, and Mr. Reginald Fendall was elected secretary. Mr. Elliot briefly stated that they had been called together to take action relative to the death of Judge Hughes.

Messrs. Moore, Webb and N. Wilson were appointed a committee on resolutions, and reported a series: "That by the death of the Hon. James Hughes the bar of the District of Columbia has lost one of

its most cherished and valued members; that, in his social relations among his brethren of the bar he was kind and affable in his professional attainments able and distinguished, and as such we deeply deplore his loss; that in testimony of our regard for his memory the members of this bar will, in a body, meet his remains at the Baltimore depot, this afternoon at 3 o'clock, and go with them to the place of interment at the Congressional burial ground; that the chairman of this meeting cause to be transmitted to his family a copy of these resolutions; with the expression of our deep, sincere, and heartfelt condolence with them."

Judge Moore, in presenting the resolutions, said that Judge Hughes on Friday last was in the adjoining court room, attending to the ordinary duties of his profession; and now all that was mortal of him is cold in death. His demise was unexpected, although the marks of disease had made their appearance. He paid a feeling tribute to his character.

Mr. Elliot said he had known Judge Hughes since 1853 when he was in Congress, and he was then a young man. He was a man of great learning, with a noble heart. No detraction by his enemies can have effect on those who knew him.

The resolutions were adopted, and the meeting adjourned.