

Colonel John T. Hughes 1st Regiment Missouri State Guard

On this spot, during the **1st Battle of Independence**, on August 11, 1862, Colonel John T. Hughes, commander of the Confederate forces and Quantrill's Raiders, was killed. He was killed during the surprise attack against the Federal troops commanded by Lt. Colonel James T. Buel. At this location the attack was against Federal troops lead by Captains Breckinridge and Axline. Capt. Breckinridge was so taken unawares that he immediately shouted: "Boys, we are completely surrounded, and we had better surrender." This was the first command heard by the troops. Captain Axline was able to successfully counter the order and got the troops to rally **a few yards from here behind a stone wall**. It was from behind the stone wall that the fatal shot was fired, instantly killing Col. Hughes by a shot to the head.

John Taylor Hughes, born in Kentucky, soon moved to Missouri with his family. He was a college graduate, an educator, a teacher and later became a business man. He gained his military experience in 1848 during the Mexican War. He was one of many Missouri Citizen Soldier volunteers that took part in Alexander Doniphan's Expedition to Mexico. Hughes wrote the only major book on the history of the Mexican War, *"Doniphan's Expedition"*. As a Colonel of the Missouri State Militia and the Missouri State Guard he participated in all the early Civil War battles in Missouri. At the time of his death he was in Missouri to recruit soldiers for the Confederate Armies.

Colonel John T. Hughes is buried in nearby Woodlawn Cemetery.