

February 2023

The Hughes News

**Official Publication of the
Brigadier General John T Hughes Camp # 614, SCV
And
Lt. Col. John R. Boyd Chapter # 236, MOS&B
Independence, Missouri**



Dr. John Winton Benson – A Bullet and a Ringlet of Hair

See Paul Petersen's excellent article inside about Dr. Benson, and how he was murdered by a Yankee Firing Squad.



The Hughes News

Camp # 614

February 2023

Commander:
Sam Stanton
816-803-2815
Sdstanton54@gmail.com

1rst Lt. Commander:
Kevin Low
816-308-7410
KWLMO@yahoo.com

2nd Lt. Commander:
Zechariah (Zech) Melton
816-616-8885
zmelton1611@gmail.com

Adjutant/Editor:
Larry Yeatman
816-728-2291
larryyeatman@msn.com

Sergeant at Arms
Tim Borron
816-419-7765
theborronfamily@comcast.net

Camp Chaplain
Richard Rudd
PO Box 18
Liberty, Mo 64069-0018
816-781-9279

Genealogist:
Greg Anderson
816-305-2683
anderson1eod@aol.com

Message from Tim Borron, Sergeant at Arms

Friends and Compatriots,

Here we are in February, normally winter at its worst and its actually pretty decent weather so far. The weather around here is kind of like a Hughes Camp meeting, you never know who might show up. Spring is just around the corner, right?

Speaking of meeting, we had a good meeting in January highlighted by a visit from Mo. Div. Commander Jeff Futhey, Lt. Commander Danny Creason, Cravens Camp Cmdr. Lanny Dixon The reason of course for all this Confederate firepower concentrated in one place is the upcoming annual Mo. Division Reunion, which is being hosted by Hughes and Cravens Camp right here in Independence . A lot of last-minute discussion and decision making occurred , as the Reunion is March 25 and 26, coming right up. Gents, this is a big deal for us and if you have been on the sidelines for a while, I encourage you to come to our February 9 meeting at Zarda BBQ in Blue Springs , and our March meeting and get involved. As host camps, we want to put on a good show for all of our fellow Confederates from around the state and from National HQ . There are great speakers, good meals, fun, fellowship and how often do we have the state reunion right here in our midst? Let's show up for this Hughes Camp, come and be counted !

Speaking of showing up, besides our monthly meeting, starting in May there will be some festivals spread out through October, and that means our recruiting/merchandise selling booth will be out on the trail. It shouldn't have to be said, but I'm willing to say it. All of us swore an oath to support the activities of this camp, and the SCV in general. Folks, it takes money for our camp to function. We pay rent for a meeting place every month, our camp has been very supportive of many Confederate endeavors, and thanks to all who donate money to supplement the money we bring in from running the booth. The importance of the booth cannot be understated, both for new member recruitment and financing the activities and expenses of the camp. We have too few members committed to this very important task, and I would like to encourage some of you to get more involved. It is perplexing to me that with as any members we have in this camp, we can barely staff our booth sometimes. We are well received at these festivals, we get to interact with the public, and the public is willing to provide us with financial support buying the merchandise we offer. All kinds of people visit our booth from the young to the old, military veterans, locals, out of towners, public officials, you never know who might stop by. You get to know your fellow camp members better while providing a very necessary service to the camp, and fulfilling the oath you swore. If you can't physically help with the booth for any of the 4 or 5 events we attend, perhaps you might consider other ways you can lend support. Hope to see more of you soon.

Respectfully,

Tim Borron

www.hughescamp.org



Camp Calendar

February 9th 6:30 PM - Camp Meeting Zarda BBQ: 214 NW Hwy 7, Blue Springs, MO 64014 Show up by 6 to eat first, let's support our venues business! Our speaker this month will be **Thomas McConnell- Missouri Division Chaplain.**

March 25-26, 2023 Missouri Division and Society Reunion. Hosted by Hughes and Craven Camp! Mark your calendars now, we'll need all hands on deck!



Br. Gen. John T Hughes

What's been happening on the Western Front

Camp Meeting, January 12th....

At the January Meeting, we voted to have Hughes Camp donate \$300 to the Missouri Division Legal Defense Fund, and Compatriot Paul Petersen is donating an additional \$100 to that cause also. We're at the expensive part of Liberty's attack on our Grave Marker, paying for Depositions, Expert Witnesses. Trying to maybe pay something to Bryan Wolford for his countless hours of legal work on our behalf. But our witnesses are great, our case for ownership and proof of burials around the marker, are tremendous. Our proof should work, unless we have a crazy anti confederate racist Judge or Jury. But with some luck, the Judge will rule to dismiss Liberties case, we have made a motion requesting him to do just that by giving him our proof. By all rights he should see this does not fit the State criteria to re-vest unused grave plots. But, some chance he'll just pass the buck to a Jury so it's not all on his head. If that's the case, then, it's expert witness fees etc, so we best be prepared! If the money is unneeded, it will stay in the legal defense fund for the future battles that surely lie ahead.

In Lieu of a speaker- We had Jeff Futhey- Missouri Division Commander, and Danny Creason- Missouri Division Lt. Commander, come speak to us about the Reunion and last minute details. It struck me, this is the 2nd or 3rd time Futhey has come to see our Camp and he lives in St Louis, and probably Danny's 4th time to come see us, he lives near Jeff City or something. Cuddos to those men, that's a high level of

commitment to their positions and time and fuel money. Very nice of them to come see us as often as they have.

Tourist board of Independence is excited we are coming. Look for a survey, and if enough folks want to tour the historic courthouse on Sunday the 26th, they will open it up for us.

Hank Roberts will play music for us on both Friday and Saturday nights. You may know him from playing at Wreaths Across America in Higginsville, he's very good!

Registration Desk- Steve Ferguson and David Langston will run that, but as always, more help would be welcome, please volunteer to help!

Name Tag holders will have what meal tickets people buy put in those ahead of time. Keep track of yours, you'll need it to get thru the food lines!

Paul Petersen is our speaker Friday night, and Saturday night is Susan Holyfield-Of the Virginia Flaggers.

We'll set up a Hughes camp merchandise booth, need guys to man that.

Need a way to display our camp flag, as we can't hang stuff on the walls of the hotel. A frame to hold and stand it up in. Larry will work on that.

Get your registrations in, if you're local, you can skip the hotel expense if you want. But think about getting a room there, treat your wife to a nice place, you'll have more fun if you can hang out and drink moonshine and not drive home!



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New Boyd Chapter officers swore in

At the January meeting Boyd Chapter swore in it's recently elected officers. From left to right is 1st Lt Commander Greg Anderson, Commander Steve Ferguson, 2nd Lt Commander Scott Ferguson, and Adjutant Larry Yeatman is swearing them in. Congratulations to Boyd Chapters new leaders! They'll do a great job of leading us into the future!



Boyd Chapter staff, if you need something let us know!

Commander Steve Ferguson: jsteveferguson@sbcglobal.net

1st Lt Commander Greg Anderson: anderson1eod@aol.com

2nd Lt Commander Scott Ferguson: scottferguson3@sbcglobal.net

Adjutant Larry Yeatman: larryyeatman@msn.com

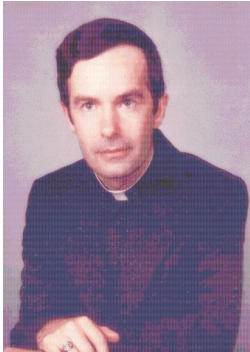
Note! You'll notice on the page 1 contact info section, we've added Greg Anderson as Genealogist. Greg loves running down Genealogy and has great tools at his disposal! And offered a while back to do this work when needed. So, if we have a recruit that is having trouble finding an ancestor or his records, reach out to Greg. He'll track them down for you! Greg has already done great work chasing down info attorney Bryan Wolford needed from old newspapers!

2023 Hughes News Sponsors

2023 Sponsors Needed! Thanks to Matt Knapp, and Steve Ferguson of Spring Cliff Farm



Chaplain's Corner, Hughes Camp Chaplain Richard W Rudd



Edward Hale of Massachusetts was a grandnephew of Nathan Hale. As a Unitarian clergyman, he served as a chaplain in the US Senate. His claim to fame was a book he wrote in 1863 entitled *The Man Without A Country*. The book was written to bolster support for the North during the WBTS and to

discourage the election of Clement Vallandigham, a Confederate Sympathizer seeking office in Ohio while living in exile in Canada. In the story, army Lt. Nolan renounces his US citizenship during a trial for treason and is sentenced to spend the rest of his life at sea living on ships.

In reality, the story of Confederates is a tragedy about a people who found themselves without a country. Having declared its independence in 1861, the CSA was a nation of people with a geographical location, an organized government, constitution, elected officials, military, currency, postal service, etc. After the war, the form of the nation, its land and government, was decimated and lay in ruins. However, its people, the spirit and soul of the CSA, remained and continue to exist through their progeny. Today, we who are their descendants are simultaneously citizens of the US and a people without a country, continuing to preserve our own beliefs, values, and identity.

In 1965, the Beatles composed a song called *Yesterday*, the lyrics of which lament:

Yesterday
All my troubles seemed so far away
Now it looks as though they're here to stay
Oh, I believe in yesterday.

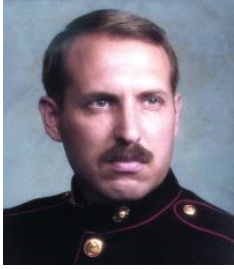
A haunting tune on the theme of unrequited love between a boy and a girl, love can also be sentimental about objects, places, and periods of time. We tend to think of the progression of time along a horizontal line. The Aztec concept was a spiral in which time and events go round and round, up and up, faster and faster, like the flow of electricity around the coils of a transformer, transforming lives into new dimensions. Last month's article

dealt with how technology is increasing the volume and expediting the flow of information, influencing our beliefs and habits, overwhelming our thought processes, and preventing an orderly transition in how we live. The traumatic and concurrent flow of events such as the rise of Islamic militancy, the infectious spread of viruses like AIDS and Wuhan, the war in the Ukraine and threats of war in the Middle-East are changing our world into an unfamiliar landscape. In the US we are experiencing the effects of inflation, a porous boarder allowing the influx of aliens from different cultures with different beliefs and values, internal secular militancy against our Judaeo-Christian foundation, and chaos produced by relativism replacing social order. Although hate and violence are becoming more prevalent, we are also currently engaged in a different conflict, not a war in conventional terms, but nevertheless a conflict on multiple fronts which if lost will make us aliens in our own land. Our memories take us back to yesterday when all our troubles seemed so far away and we wonder if they are here to stay. The disparity between yesterday and today makes us feel like aliens in the world in which we now live.

Most of the world's major religions are associated with a particular land. Islam is concentrated in the Middle East and Indonesia, Taoism and Confucianism in China, Hinduism and Buddhism in India and other Asian nations, Shinto in Japan, Mormons in the US, and Judaeism in Israel. God told Abram, "Go from your country...to the land that I will show you." (Gen. 12:1) Four times the Israelites have been a people without a land: during their sojourn in Egypt, the exile of the northern kingdom of Israel by Nineveh, the exile of the southern kingdom of Judah by Babylon, and the diaspora resulting from the Roman invasion lasting from AD 70 until 1948. During all of these times, Jews retained their religion, language, and identity as a nation of people without a land.

Unlike all of the aforementioned religions, Christians are a people without a land in this world. Although Christianity originated in Israel, that land belongs eternally to the Jews. On earth, Christianity's influence is global. Christ commanded, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel..." (Mk. 16:15) "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..."

Continued on Page 7...



Historians Corner, Paul R Petersen

Paul is the Author of *Quantrill of Missouri*, *Quantrill in Texas*, *Quantrill at Lawrence* and *Lost Souls of the Lost Township*. Petersen is a retired U.S. Marine Corps master sergeant and a highly decorated infantry combat veteran of the Vietnam War, Operation Desert Storm, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He is a member of the William Clarke Quantrill Society, the James-Younger Gang Association, the Sons of the American Revolution, and the Jackson County and Missouri State Historical Societies.

Dr. John Winton Benson – A Bullet and a Ringlet of Hair

When Quantrill was commissioned a captain of cavalry scouts by Colonel Gideon W. Thompson on August 12, 1862, he organized and structured his company in accordance with regular army regulations. He had with him at this time 150 men who were likewise sworn into Confederate service. Immediately following, his men selected their officer: Captain, William C. Quantrill, 1st Lt., William Haller, and 2nd Lt, George Todd. His new structure included William H. Gregg as third lieutenant. Gregg later became Quantrill's adjutant; Cole Younger was one of those sworn in that day. Cole remembered, "It was within a day or two after the surrender of Buel at Independence that I was elected as first lieutenant in Captain Jarrette's company in Colonel Upton B. Hays's regiment, which was part of the brigade of General Joseph O. Shelby." Quantrill's new company duty roster was reported to regular Confederate authorities the next day. Richard P. Maddox was assigned as company quartermaster. Andy Blunt was assigned the position of orderly sergeant. John McCorkle and several other guerrillas were assigned as scouts. Former slave John T. Noland served as Quantrill's hostler. Many prominent physicians rode along as surgeons.

Dr. John W. Benson from Marshall Mo. offered his services to Quantrill. He was described as a robust man over six feet in height and a wonderful horseman. He had it in mind for several months to join Quantrill whose exploits were gaining accolades in the eyes of the Confederacy. Sometime later Benson approached Quantrill and was sworn into the partisan service by Quantrill himself. Benson took the guerrilla oath: "I'll fight to the death, one or 5,000, never give up, never show quarter, never surrender." The guerrilla chieftain told Benson that he would serve as his surgeon and not as a fighter unless he so chose himself. Benson's fiancée Miss Ethel Lewis made him an elaborate embroidered 'guerrilla shirt' for him to wear.

Benson found himself assigned to Captain Andy Blunt's company of guerrillas. Quantrill directed Blunt to take his command to Saline County and recruit in preparation to the Lawrence raid. As the guerrillas rode into Marshall it stirred the excitement of the residents living there. One remarked on the guerrilla's appearance by saying they were all heavily armed and excellently mounted. Most wore tartan jackets and slouch hats with large ostrich plumes on them.

Most of the guerrillas in Blunt's company were from Saline County and by noon found their ways home to take dinner. The guerrillas that remained in town were on the lookout for any Northerners left behind. Dr. Benson was credited with saving several Northern lives that day. Two such men were Northern sympathizers, George Nye and his son William. On Benson's advice the two men were not shot. Benson administered an oath paroling the prisoners. A Federal soldier home on furlough, Pvt. Samuel W. Davis of Co. E, 6th Reg. MSM, was found by Benson. Being in Federal uniform Benson feared that one of his comrades would shoot him on sight but the doctor discovered Davis lying drunk in John Ferrell's feed lot. Benson secured a horse and made sure Davis was safely on his way home before he rejoined Blunt and the rest of his company.

A few days later as the guerrillas were gathering near the Blackwater River in Johnson County, Benson remarked about seeing Quantrill as he stood outside his tent making preparations for the raid. "W. C. Quantrill wore his Confederate colonels' uniform only when encamped, to impress his men with the fact that he held a regular Confederate commission. When (we) got ready to ride he appeared in his guerrilla outfit and threw his bundle into the wagon reserved for that purpose. His black slouch hat held a large ostrich plume...and

Continued on Page 6...

**Petersen continued from page 5...**

he wore a brown and red plaid 'guerrilla' shirt under his tartan jacket, and black jeans." Benson recounted that along the way to Lawrence before they got out of Missouri farmers' wives along the way rode up alongside the men to pass along tidbits such as cakes, pies, and bottles of whiskey to treat any wounded they might have. Many had pistols, and ammunition, coats, vests, and shirts for the guerrilla soldiers.

During the Lawrence raid Benson was accredited with saving many lives in town. During the raid many guerrillas reported that they saw Dr. Benson pulling many women and children from the cellars and wells where they had sought refuge when their houses were burned and helped them escape through a cornfield. Benson found a wounded Federal soldier shot in the thigh. He probed and removed the bullet and assisted him well away from the town. Benson was kept busy, not only with his own comrades but with wounded citizens; if they needed a doctor he was on hand. Guerrillas later said that he seemed to want death, for he courted it amid the smoke and flame.

On Quantrill's withdrawal from Lawrence Benson was riding alongside guerrilla Captain John Sims when they stopped by a farmhouse to feed their horses. The woman of the house asked the doctor for medical attention for her small child suffering from fever. Benson chose to stay with the child until the fever broke the next morning. The thankful woman tried to pay for his services but the only payment he took was before leaving he leaned over the bed, and with his keen Bowie knife, cut off a blonde curl from the sleeping six-year-old girl "I've seen so much blood that whenever I think of it, I will look at this, as long as I live."

Upon returning to his home in Saline County a Unionist friend of his pleaded for him to go to Marshall and surrender, that he would be treated as any other prisoner. Two days later Benson headed for the Union headquarters in Marshall. His pistols were taken from him and his hands tied behind his back. Benson had been known as a crack shot, but never fired a pistol while with Quantrill. Unfortunately, Benson was taken prisoner under the command of Major George W. Kelly of the 4th Missouri Cavalry, an officer known as a "martinet, who would hang a man on a whim or a whim."

Benson was court-martialed in September, but all records of the trial were destroyed, and none ever got to Washington. Convicted for being a Quantrill man Benson was sentenced to be shot on October 15. On October 6 an excited messenger arrived with an important dispatch for Major Kelly. Kelly summoned his sergeant to immediately get a firing squad together and execute Benson. The sergeant asked for volunteers; not a man stepped forward. A squad was finally ordered to carry out the order but only complied if they could cover the face of the kindly doctor with a white cloth. As he sat on his coffin Benson only had one last request for the firing squad. "Shoot me below the face, boys." When the order was given all the shots entered the doomed man's chest. They buried Benson in a shallow grave north of town. When one of the soldiers asked why the hurry, another replied, "Shelby's Iron Brigade is coming up from Jeff City. If we're here, then we'll all dangle from these trees. No quarter for us if he finds out about Benson."

When Shelby and his men came to Marshall the Yankees were gone. Townsfolk told Shelby what had happened to Dr. Benson to which he replied, "If I get this man (Kelly), he will have the same sort of trial that he gave the doctor, who I understand did not kill anyone."

Benson's parents took his body from the shallow grave and brought him to town, where he had a real funeral among his erstwhile friends. It was then discovered, inside his guerrilla shirt and next to his heart, a little yellow curl of hair. A bullet had centered the ringlet he had taken from the head of the little Kansas girl whose life he had saved at the verifiable risk of his own.

Article by Paul R. Petersen

Photo on the cover Courtesy of Emory Cantey at CanteyMyerCollection.com





Rudd continued from page 4....

(Matt. 28:19) Unlike the followers of other religions, Christians' mission is not to claim land; it is to claim souls. Concerning Christians' homeland, Christ said that "...you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world..." (Jn. 15:19) New Testament saints are like Old Testament saints who "...were strangers and exiles on the earth." We, like them, ".... desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one." (Heb. 11:13, 16) As St. Paul said, "... (W)e would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord." (II Cor. 5:8) As Christians, our belief is not in yesterday. We are not to look back wistfully to the past, but ahead with hope to the future, to Heaven, to that "...undiscovered country from whose bourn (shore) no traveler returns..." (Shakespeare; Hamlet, Act 3, Sc. 1) Only then will all of our troubles be far away.

Fr Richard Rudd
Hughes Camp Chaplain

Missouri Division SCV Life Membership Certificate and Lapel pin presented to Scott Ferguson.

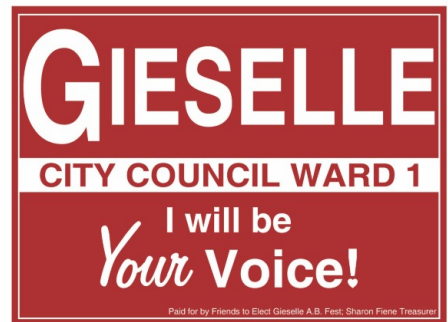
At the January meeting, Mo. Division Commander Jeff Futhey Presented Scott Ferguson with his Division Life Membership Certificate. Pretty cool that the top dog was able to present that to Scott, and thanks to Commander Futhey for doing that!



Gieselle for Liberty City Council!

Please make checks payable to :
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I welcome your questions, thoughts, comments and ideas.
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Missouri Division SCV/Missouri Society MOS&B
Joint Annual Reunion and General Convention

Hilton Garden Inn (816)-350-3000
19677 East Jackson Drive
Independence, MO 64057

March 24-26, 2023



Convention Registration Form

Name: _____ Title: _____

Chapter/Camp/Organization _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Spouse/Guest(s):

Dress Code for Meetings and Meals will be Business Casual

Registration (SCV/ MOSB Member) @ \$20.00 \$

Registration (all guests) @ \$10.00 \$

Late Registration after Feb 1st

Registration (SCV/ MOSB Member) @ \$40.00 \$

Registration (all guests) @ \$20.00 \$

Friday March 24 -

6 :00 PM - Commander General's Reception (BBQ Buffet)
and Keynote Speaker

Optional Meals/Events

@ \$25.00 \$

Saturday March 25th Morning

SCV Mechanized Cavalry Business Meeting

N/C

Missouri Society MOSB Business Meeting

N/C

Missouri Division SCV Business Meeting

N/C

Optional Meal/Event

Saturday Evening, March 25

6:00 PM Award Banquet Meal and Keynote Speaker -

@ \$35.00 \$

Ancestor Memorial (See supplemental information sheet)

@ \$5.00 \$

Additional Convention Medal (if available)

@ \$25.00 \$

Additional Convention Program (if available)

@ \$10.00 \$

CHECK #

\$

TOTAL

Make checks payable to: Missouri Division SCV and mail to: Wes
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**No Meal tickets available after March 14, 2023
DEADLINE for all pre-registrations is March 14, 2023 · No Refunds**



Missouri Division SCV/Missouri Society MOS&B
Joint Annual Reunion and General Convention

Hilton Garden Inn (816)-350-3000
19677 East Jackson Drive
Independence, MO 64057



March 24-26, 2023

Honor your Confederate ancestors and kin by purchasing an Ancestor Memorial in the 2023 reunion program. Each memorial is only \$5.00 per ancestor and you may purchase a full page of 12 for \$50.00. All memorials and payments must be received no later than February 24, 2023.

Name: _____

I am a member of multiple groups and wish my ancestors allocated by rank

Chapter /Camp/Organization Name and #

Address, City, ST, Zip _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

Memorials # _____ x \$5.00 each = \$ _____ Check # _____

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Company _____ Unit _____ Regiment _____

2. Name _____ Rank _____
Company _____ Unit _____ Regiment _____

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8. Name _____ Rank _____
Company _____ Unit _____ Regiment _____

**Make checks payable to: Missouri Division SCV and mail to:
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For additional ancestors, please duplicate this form and continue.**