

Reverend Anderson Greene Hughes

Son of Eno community, school master, minister of Hawfields and Cross Roads Presbyterian Churches

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Anderson Greene Hughes



Reverend Anderson G. Hughes, 1810–1873
Painted by Anne Hartwell Hughes, about 1839.

Synopsis

Anderson G. Hughes was an important community leader during the mid 1800s. He was a dedicated and interesting person. He was fatally stricken by a stroke while preaching a sermon at Cross Roads Presbyterian Church. Although this interesting life deserves a biography, it has not been written. This document is a sketch of Anderson G. Hughes's many accomplishments. It is not comprehensive. In 2012, it benefited greatly by Steve Hannaman's research especially into church records (Hannaman 2012). His contributions are cited throughout. This document will continue to be updated as more original source documents are discovered and analyzed.

Childhood in Eno Community

The Eno Presbyterian Church was established in 1754 at a site along the Eno River deeded to John Anderson from Thomas Thompson (J. H. Anderson 1898, 3–4). In the early 1800s, its minister Reverend Samuel Paisley recruited Joseph Dunn Hughes, an educated man, to establish a school for the community's young people. Joseph Hughes had been a resident of Rowan County, North Carolina. He created the first school in all of northern Orange County and the forerunner of *Hughes Academy*. (Turner, *The Scott Family of Hawfields* 1971, 72)

Joseph Hughes married Mary Woods from Caswell County and later Sarah Clark. There were ten children by the first marriage and four by the second. The oldest child was Anderson Greene Hughes, 10 December 1810–15 June 1873. It is not known why the unusual first name was selected. The English tradition was to name the first son after his paternal grandfather. But in this case that grandfather's name was Timothy. It is possible that he was named after

the Anderson Family that was prominent in the Eno Church. The distinctive spelling of his middle name suggests Major General Nathanael Greene who directed the important Revolutionary War battle at nearby Guilford Courthouse in 1781. Joseph and Mary's second oldest son was Thomas Harvey Hughes who later became Orange County sheriff and a state senator. The next son was Samuel Wellwood Hughes, 5 March 1815–October 1884, who later founded the *Cedar Grove Academy* (Turner, *The Scott Family of Hawfields* 1971, 73).

The history of Eno Presbyterian Church records:

As pastor of this church [Eno Presbyterian], Mr. [James] Bowman, doubtless, had the privilege of baptizing a baby boy who later became a strong preacher and a power for God in Orange Presbytery; for, in 1810 Anderson G. Hughes was born near Eno. He was received into the membership of this church October 26, 1828. "He was a man of prayer, and as he grew older his earnestness became more marked. He was in the habit of secret prayer from early childhood, and would often go out into the wheat fields to pray." (Ellis, Ellis and Hughes 1955, 7)

Education at Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia, Marriage

Probably all of Joseph and Mary's children were educated in their father's school. Anderson and Samuel attended a school led by William James Bingham, either at Mount Repose or Hillsborough (Turner 1962, 140) (Hannaman 2012). It is known that Anderson attended *Hampden-Sydney College* in Virginia. On 9 October 1835, he was accepted as a candidate to the ministry in the Theological Department, now *Union Theological Seminary* (Stone 1970, 347, 370) (Hannaman 2012). At this time, he must have completed some or all seminary studies. By 1839, he had a Master of Arts degree (Coon 1915, 162).

At Hampden-Sydney College, he met Anne Hartwell Hughes. Although they shared the same last name, they were not related. They married on 29 November 1837. Soon afterward, Samuel also attended Hampden-Sydney. There he met Anne's sister Elizabeth Jesse Hughes who was organist at the college church. They married in December 1844. (Turner 1971, 74).

Anne and Elizabeth's brother Robert William Hughes became editor of the Washington Union newspaper before the Civil War, and U.S. District Attorney and later District Judge in Richmond from the 1870s until 1898. In his papers at *Swem Library* at the College of *William & Mary*, it is noted that his parents died in 1822 and he was raised in the home of General Edward Codrington Carrington, 1775–1843, and his wife Eliza Henry Preston, 1796–1877, (Hughes 1937). It is not known if Anne and Elizabeth were also raised in this home (Hannaman 2012).

Oxford Female Academy

In late 1838, the *Oxford Female Academy* in Oxford, Granville County, North Carolina, had an opening for principal. On 8 October 1838, the *Raleigh Register* published the following announcement:

OXFORD FEMALE ACADEMY.

The Trustees of this Institution wish to procure the services of a competent Teacher for the ensuing year. Heretofore, the School has been well sustained—and to persons wishing a permanent situation, but few places offer as many advantages. Oxford is a handsome Village, and has always been remarkable for health. The buildings attached to the Academy consist of the Principal's house, and all necessary out houses for the accommodation of a large family.

As heretofore, the undertaker will be required to rent the Principal's house, and to take the School upon his own responsibility.

Letters upon the subject, "POST PAID," addressed to THO. B. LITTLEJOHN, Esq. President of the Board, will be promptly attended to.

JAMES M. WIGGINS, Sec'y.
Oxford, N C. Oct. 1838.

The National Intelligencer will publish the above, twice a week, for four weeks, and forward their account to Tho. H. Willie, Treasurer, for payment. J. M. W. (Coon 1915, 160)

This job of principal was entrusted to Anderson G. Hughes, age 28. On 22 June 1839, the *Raleigh Register* published the following announcement.

OXFORD FEMALE ACADEMY.

Instruction will be given in all the branches taught in the best Female Schools in the country. The recitations will be accompanied with suitable explanations and illustrations from the Teachers; so as to give the Scholars a thorough and practical knowledge of their studies.

The government of the School will be strictly parental, uniting affection with firmness and efficiency. The unreserved confidence of the Scholars will be encouraged, and a deep interest felt in their welfare. Such attention will be paid to young ladies from abroad, as will render their connection with the School agreeable and satisfactory.

The Music room is well furnished with Pianos, and it is designed soon to have a Chemical and Philosophical Apparatus, suited to all the purposes of the School, and every exertion will be made to render this what a good Female School should be. Dr. JAMES YOUNG, in whose family the Principals reside, has charge of the Boarding Establishment.

Terms per session of 5 months:

Board from	\$40 to 45 00
Rudiments of English Education	7 50
Reading, Writing, Elements of Geography, and Arithmetic.	10 00
English Grammar, History, Philosophy, Chemistry, Botany, Mineralogy, Geology, Languages, &c	12 50
Music	20 00
Contingencies	75

The next Session will commence July 1st.
ANDERSON G. HUGHES,
ANNE E. HUGHES,
Principals.

On 22 June 1839, the *Raleigh Register* published the following result of a public examination.

The exercises of the first session of the Oxford Female Academy for the year 1839 closed by a Public Examination on the 14th inst. The Trustees in attendance take much pleasure in offering their testimony as to the satisfactory manner in which the duties of the School have been performed during the first Session. Mr. & Mrs. Hughes have laboured assiduously in cultivating the mind and manners of their Pupils, and their exertions have been rewarded with a degree of success as honourable to them as it is gratifying to the friends and patrons of the Institution. The Musical Department under the care of Mrs. O'Brien has likewise been conducted with great skill and success, and furnishes continued evidence of the diligence and ability of the Instructress.

The Trustees confidently recommend this Institution as eminently deserving a continuance of that patronage, which it has received from the public for years past.

The Standard, Newbern Spectator and Edenton Gazette will please publish the above for two weeks, and send their accounts to this Office for collection. (Coon 1915, 160–161)

In late 1839, Anderson's sister Jane Hughes joined the staff (Coon 1915, 160–161). On 11 December 1839, the *Raleigh Star* published:

OXFORD FEMALE ACADEMY.

The exercises of this Institution will be resumed on the 15th of January [1840] under the direction of its former principals, who occupy the commodious boarding house connected with the Academy, and who will be prepared to receive young ladies from a distance as boarders. Board can also be had in the best private families, on good terms. The course of study, and terms per session of 5 months, payable in advance, are as follows:

For those in the Rudiments of English Education	\$7 50
For those in Reading, Writing, Grammar, etc	10 00
For those pursuing any or all the following, viz. Natural or Moral Philosophy, Chemistry, History, Rhetoric, Logic, Astronomy, Botany, Algebra, Geometry, etc	12 50
Music, with use of Piano	20 00
Board	40 00
Contingencies	50

Ornamental Needle work, Painting, Languages, etc. also taught if desired.

ANDERSON G. HUGHES, A. M.,
ANNIE E. HUGHES,
Principals.

Miss JANE L. HUGHES, Assistant.
MRS. ANNE O'BRIEN, Instructress in Music. (Coon 1915, 162)

Seminary

In 1840, Anderson Hughes reentered Hampden-Sydney College in the Theology Department, now Union Theological Seminary (UTS 1966, 206). He may have completed studies he started earlier since within a year he was working again.

Teacher at Buffalo Springs

In 1841, Anderson Hughes moved to Virginia as teacher at Buffalo Springs (Turner 1962, 141). The school was probably at Buffalo Lithia Springs resort west of Clarksville, Virginia (Hannaman 2012).

Presbyterian Minister

In 1842, Anderson G. Hughes was a licensed minister (Stone 1970, 370). He started his ministry as Stated Supply at the Hawfields and Cross Roads Presbyterian Churches (UPCUSA 1842, 309) (Turner 1962, 136) to assist aged Reverend Ezekiel B. Currie.

When he [Currie] was over seventy years old, the congregation employed an assistant for him, Rev. A. G. Hughes. As a matter of course, the earnest young preacher's discourses were more popular than those of the plain and practical old servant, who had long since ceased to study, and always drew upon his old stores. (UTS 1966, 178)

In 1842, Reverend Hughes served as a representative to the Presbyterian Church General Assembly (UPCUSA 1842). On 20 October 1843, he was ordained (Stone 1970, 370) and, at age 33, he became pastor of both Hawfields and Cross Roads Presbyterian Churches.

Cedar Grove Academy, House, Farm, Alamance Female Academy

Samuel Wellwood Hughes followed in his father's and older brother's educational footsteps. In January 1845, a month after his marriage, he established *Cedar Grove Academy* in Cedar Grove.

It was primarily a school for boys but a few girls from the community were allowed to attend. It was advertised as a "Classical and Mathematical School." The tuition was \$25 for the school year of ten months and \$60 if board was included. The enrollment averaged about one hundred each year. The main studies were English, Latin, Greek and Mathematics. The afternoon sessions of the

school were always opened with a Bible lesson in which each student was required to take part. The school was governed in a strict Presbyterian discipline manner. (Turner 1971, 79)

In 1850, Reverend Hughes, served on the board of directors for Hampden-Sydney College (UPCUSA 1842, 408). In the same year, he preached the new congregation that organized the Graham Presbyterian Church (Hannaman 2012).

In 1851, he purchased 117 acres along Back Creek (Turner 1962, 142). He farmed this land (Hannaman 2012). His and his wife Anne's house was between the two churches. It was located on Stagecoach Road near the intersection with present-day NC119 (Scott 2008).

Reverend Hughes was minister during the relocation of the Hawfields Presbyterian Church and Cemetery. In the autumn of 1852, the original church's location was recorded "rather uncomfortable" (Turner 1962). A new sanctuary and cemetery were planned on land 3 miles to the west. John Anderson of Hillsboro contracted the building project for \$5,000 (Turner 1962). Bricks were handmade at the old Craig brickyard near the new church on Old Hillsborough Road (Turner 1962). In 1854, the new church sanctuary was completed, and in 1860, the Session house was completed. (Hannaman 2012)

In 1856, he started the *Alamance Female Academy* near the Mebane depot, in what became Mebaneville and later Mebane, North Carolina (Whittaker 1949, 193).

In 1859, Samuel's wife, Elizabeth Jesse Hughes, died. He remarried Margaret Jane Murray, born 1835, daughter of Eli Murray, 1794–1870, of Cross Roads Presbyterian Church.

Civil War

In April 1861, the Civil War began. In June 1861, the Presbytery of Orange was outraged at the mandates made by the main denomination to condemn slavery (Stone 1970, 328). In October 1861, Hughes was among those who advocated separation from the main Presbyterian Church (Stone 1970, 328).

Reverend Anderson Hughes visited members of his congregation who were soldiers during the Civil War. He traveled to the front lines in northern Virginia. He accompanied soldiers returning from leave. He carried personal letters from family members and encouraged soldiers to write home. He preached at least one sermon. One such soldier was Granville Simpson Holt, 1822–1863, who wrote the following letters to his uncle Jacob Holt, 1796–1883, and cousins. These letters mention Reverend Hughes four times. They describe the difficult circumstances of soldiers helped by Reverend Hughes. Granville Holt wrote in a hurry and asked the reader to excuse his writing mistakes.

Camp Jones Near Malpas Junction V.A.
August 18th 1861

Mr Jacob Holt

Dear Uncle

Being as I have a good opportunity of sending you a letter by Rev A. G. Hughes, I have attempted to write you a short letter to let you know that I am still in the land among the living, and truly hope when this comes to hand that it may not only find you living but well. I have nothing of much importance to write to you More than we have a great many men sick in this regiment with the measles and other disease. Some of our boys have been very poorly with measles, but I think they are all improving at this time, we have any quantity of rain here this week and that has been very bad on our sick men.

We have move from our old camp ground we are near in camp about 5 miles west of Manassas, I like this place very well for we have very good water to drink and get something better to eat by paying high prices we go out in the country and buy sheep & chickens & eggs & 60 sheep is worth 5 dollars a piece, chickens 30 cnts eggs 30 cnts a dozen from what I can learn I suppose that you have heard some facts reports in regard to our Company. Some one has told it in alamanec that

Leas boys run like cowards but I dont hisitate a moment in saying that is a lie no matter who told it.

I now will give you a true Statement of the fight we arrived at Manassas about Sun rise Sunday morning, then we marched on over to the battle field a distance of 3-miles Then the regiment was form into a line of battle, and went on towards the Yankees. we marched up behing a pine thicket within 40 yds of the Yankees, but could not see them but they was up on a hill and saw us and began to fire upon us. I never saw balls fly so thick in my life I though that we all would be killed every moment, but I fuly believe that the hand of providence protected us. How could we shoot when we did not see any thing to shoot at. There never was a regiment in a more dangerous position than our company was. those that dont think that Leas company will fight just let them give them a chance. I tell it makes my bloot hot to think how we are misrepresented about the fight in old alamance. dont you listen to no snichlies but contradict all such reports,

for my sake preacher Hughes came to see us Thursday evening and brought back one of our boys John Walker I was very much surprise to see Mr Hughes he appeard very glad to see us indeed, I have never heard a word from the rest of our boys since they left, I am very sorry that they run away and disgraced themselves forever, I will assure you that I never will desert and be branded as a deserter, I had rather die in the battle field than to come home in that way. I hope that the time may speedily come when we all will be permitted to come home with our heads crown with henes to see our friends and relations, and never have to war any more, is my prayers. for I am tired of camp life and the way in which we have to live. When I come home I will give you a full history of our trip from begining to end. There is some talk of peace but I dont know whether it is correct or not, but I hope so, but I heard this morning that they was fighting at Leasburg VA but I dont know wheather it is true or not, we here so many storys, I now will close by saying that I hope to here from you soon, please excuse bad writing for I have written this in a great hurry. love to all the family & yourself from your most affectunate nephew

Granville S Holt

Granville Holt attached the following letter addressed to his cousins James Bedford Patton, 1846–1919, and Rachael Rebecca Holt, 1841–1909.

Cousen James & Rebeca

I have been looking for a letter from you for several day but have not received any yet, if you only knew how proud I am to get a letter from old north Carolina I know you would write every week, you have a better chance to write than we have here, we are still induring the hardships of a soldier life our boys are still well & harty, I expect Mr Hughes will preach for us to morrow, I want to here him very bad indeed I have not herd but one sermon since I left old North Carolina I want you all to pray for peace for the prayers of the righteous wailleth much tell Bedford Patton to write to me. I would have written to him before now but have not had a chance tell ant that I should like to have some of her good butter and fried chicken for she knows I love them or anything that is good to eat how anxious I am to see you all one time more

Give my love to all my friends and relations and tell them to write to me tell all the gals hody. I must go out and get supper so must stop for the present. all of my tent mates sends there respect to you all. Burton say that he is coming to see you all when he gets home to get something good to eat and tell you all about a soldiers life he says that he knows that uncle Jacob must be a great place from the way I talk, write soon and give the news

Your true cousin
Granville S Holt (Holt 1861)

In a separate letter on 20 January 1863, Granville Holt describes a wintertime visit by Reverend Hughes (Holt 1863). On 7 November 1863, Holt was wounded and captured at Rappahannock Station, Virginia. Two days later,

he died of wounds in a hospital at Washington, DC. (NC Archives & History 1973, 385). The above letters were transcribed from originals by William Holt Anderson about 2005 (W. H. Anderson 2005–2012).

During the Civil War, attendance declined at Samuel Hughes's *Cedar Grove Academy*. Samuel taught school in his home and renamed it *Hughes Academy* (Turner 1971, 79).

In 1864, Hughes was elected Moderator of the Synod of North Carolina which met in Goldsborough (Hannaman 2012).

Reconstruction

In 1867, Reverend Hughes preached to the new congregation that organized Mebane Presbyterian Church (Hannaman 2012).

By the late 1860s, reconstruction brought political violence to Alamance and nearby counties. The imposed political order offended people accustomed to governing themselves. The Ku Klux Klan openly opposed government officials (Hannaman 2012). In 1870, African-American leader and Graham night constable Wyatt Outlaw was lynched and hanged at the steps of the county courthouse (Vincent 2009, 55–56). North Carolina Governor William Woods Holden declared martial law. In July 1870, Colonel George W. Kirk marched to Yanceyville with soldiers from the North Carolina mountains and illegally from Tennessee. While encamped at Yanceyville Presbyterian Church, some soldiers were sent to Graham to restore order (Powell 1977, 244–250). Prominent members of both Hawfields and Cross Roads Churches were arrested, including Henderson Scott (Turner 1962). In retaliation, state representative Frederick Strudwick, a prominent member of the Hillsboro Presbyterian Church, led the impeachment and conviction of Governor Holden, who became the first governor removed from office (Powell 1989, 400). (Hannaman 2012)

During autumn 1870, Reverend Hughes organized the Orange Presbytery Centennial celebration which was hosted at Hawfields Presbyterian Church (Stone 1970, 370) (Hannaman 2012).

Personal Character

The Cross Roads Presbyterian Church history room contains the following article:

Mr. Hughes was a man of imposing appearance, being six foot three or four inches in height. He was dignified, yet courteous and affable in his manners. He was frank and candid, tenacious of his own opinion, yet willing to allow others the privilege of enjoying theirs. Among his people he was social, and displayed fine conversational powers. His visits to his parishioners were always acceptable. They delighted to see him come, and they believed that he was "an Israelite indeed in whom there was no guile." He loved to control by kindness and love. If he erred in the administration of church government, it was by leniency and forbearance, and not by "laying judgment to the line, and righteousness to the plummet." The church in those days had no well defined system of benevolence. The Presbyterial assessment was made up by the session, and collections were made for the principal objects of benevolence. In his public duties he was singularly discreet and prudent, and maintained his popularity with his people through all the troublous times previous to, and during the war, and in the eventful era of reconstruction.

In his private affairs he was methodical and economical. For a large portion of the time he received but \$400 and a Manse for his services — never more than \$600. Marriage fees and donations did not add more than \$20 annually to this sum. Of his income he gave one-tenth to benevolent purposes. And yet, with this slender income, by economy and prudent investment, Mr. Hughes managed to accumulate a handsome property worth several thousand dollars at his death. The talent for a prudent and wise economical talent very much needed by a class of men like our ministers who are expected to be genteel in dress, liberal and hospitable; to keep abreast of the world of general intelligence; to procure and study an expensive library of books, to travel often at their own expense on considerable journeys, all on the income of a clerk in a dry-goods store, or of a respectable mechanic. But such economy is rarely practiced, except at the expense of such care, study, and parsimony, seriously interferes with ministerial efficiency in the higher province of winning souls to Christ, and training believers for holiness and heaven. (History Room n.d.)

Death

Beginning in 1872, Reverend Hughes' health deteriorated. He was ill at the Spring Presbytery meeting in New Bern (Stone 1970, 386). The *History of Eno Presbyterian Church* contains the following:

He died in the pulpit of Cross Roads church in 1873 while preaching from the text: "Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, He will give it to you." At the time of his death a writer said, "Rev. A. G. Hughes has probably won more souls to Christ than any other minister in Orange Presbytery. His record is indeed on high; but it is well for the church to preserve the memory of such a good man as her precious legacy." (Ellis, Ellis and Hughes 1955, 7)

The Cross Roads Presbyterian Church history room contains the following article:

Many ministers desire to die with the harness on, yet few are permitted to obtain the desire as literally as Mr. Hughes did. At the age of sixty-three his health began to decline and his hair to turn rapidly gray. During the Christmas holidays of 1872, Mr. Hughes had the misfortune to meet some of his youth members in a state of intoxication. This was a serious shock to his affectionate heart, and he wended his way home wearily and sank down upon the sofa in unutterable distress. It seemed as if his heart would break. He was ill again at the Spring Presbytery, 1873, at Newbern, but recovered after returning home. On Friday, June 13th, 1873, he was visited by one of his elders, and engaged in a long and animated conversation concerning church officers, on his piazza, where he was wont for many years to sit and mediate and prepare for his Sabbath work. On Sabbath morning he rode early to Cross Roads church, a distance of five miles, and enjoyed the singing of his Sabbath school. As the day was somewhat threatening, the congregation was small. He began his services as usual, took his text from the John XVI:23, "Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you." When he had progressed to about the middle of his sermon, he observed, "I am so unwell that I shall not be able to finish my discourse." He called on an elder to close with prayer, and sank down in the pulpit. During the short prayer some of the people gathered around him, among them, his brother, Prof. Samuel Hughes, of Cedar Grove Academy. After the prayer he was taken down from the pulpit, and it was found that his whole left side was paralyzed. One of his elders was a physician, and did for him what he could. But little could be done. He was placed on a bed temporized of buggy cushions and shawls and his stricken people gathered around him. When questioned, he replied, "I suffer greatly." He told the people that his work was done — That he regretted it had not been better done — That he was dying with the harness on. Attempting to answer his physician, his tongue refused to utterance, and his eye grew dim in death. Thus died the faithful pastor, after serving but one charge for thirty years, surrounded by his weeping congregation. Messengers had been dispatched to his wife, but before she could reach his side, he had passed over the river and was enjoying the rest of the people of God. Though deeply smitten with grief she bore the stroke with Christian submission and fortitude. This was the Sabbath, June 15, 1873. The next day he was buried at Hawfields, the funeral services being conducted by Rev. P. T. Perick and Rev. Archibald Currie. The members of his churches erected a handsome stone over his grave with this inscription,

Rev. A. G. Hughes
Was born Dec. 10th 1810
Died June 15th 1873
"Whatsoever ye ask the Father
in my name, he will give it you."

(History Room n.d.)

Reverend Hughes remains the longest serving minister at both Cross Roads Presbyterian Church and Hawfields Presbyterian Church (Hannaman 2012).

On 13 October 1887, widow Anne Hartwell Hughes, age 67, died in Orange County. A *Hillsborough Recorder* obituary indicated that she died at the residence of Charles W. Johnson.

Restored Portrait

About 1839, Anne Hartwell Hughes painted a portrait of her husband Reverend Anderson Greene Hughes. Its purpose could have been to demonstrate the type of portraiture taught at the Oxford Female Academy. It was inherited by their descendants. About 2008, the Fraune Family donated it to the *Scott Family Collection*, Alamance Community College, in Graham, North Carolina. The portrait was restored by artist conservator Ruth Barach Cox. On 11 March 2012, it was dedicated at the *Scott Family Collection*. Miriam Tate Scott Mayo was instrumental in bringing this portrait to the Scott Family Collection. (Hannaman 2012)

Name Continuity

Anderson G. Hughes's name continued with his grandnephew Anderson Hughes Scott, born 1911, 2nd great-grandnephew Anderson Hughes Scott II (Scott 2008), and 3rd great-grandnephew Anderson Hughes Bradley (Boswell 2012).

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