

## OBITUARY

HIS HONOUR DAVID JOHN HUGHES,  
*Late Judge of the County of Elgin.*

A notable figure passed off the scene when the late Judge Hughes died at St. Thomas, on April 21st, in his 95th year.

Mr. Hughes was born in Kingsbridge, Devonshire, England, on 7th May, 1820. In 1832 the family came to Lower Canada. Subsequently Mr. Hughes moved to St. Thomas, where he was called to the Bar in 1842. In December, 1843, he went to Woodstock, practicing law there until 1847, when he went to London, forming a partnership with Mr. Wilson. In 1853 he was appointed Judge of the County Court of the County of Elgin, where he resided until his death. His first wife was Miss Richardson, daughter of the late Richard Richardson, Manager of the Bank of Upper Canada at London, Ontario. His second wife was the daughter of the late Edward Rowland of St. Thomas.

No better estimate of his character could be given than what appears in the *St. Thomas Times*, which we copy and bear witness to its accuracy:—

“The death of His Honour Judge Hughes marks the close of a long and remarkable career. His wonderful vitality, nearly a quarter of a century after having passed the mile-stone of man’s allotted span, had for years rendered the venerable jurist a notable figure in the life of the community. With a record of one year more than half a century actually presiding on the bench in our courts of law, the late Judge Hughes was for many years a dominating personality in legal circles in this country. A man of fixed convictions and unalterable principles of the highest order, he dispensed justice impartially according to the dictates of his well-balanced legal mind, and to his careful interpretation of the statutes of the land. His grave, scholarly and stern cast of countenance masked a kindly spirit, and his keen, shrewd eye could twinkle with whatever humour appealed to him. While undoubtedly he owed his longevity and splendid constitution largely to the sturdy stock from which he descended, he also owed much to his rational mode of life and the fact that his constitution never suffered ill-treatment at his hands. The name of His Honour Judge David John Hughes will ever be inseparably bound up with the annals of Elgin and, to some extent, Middlesex, counties. His passing severs one of the fast disappearing links connecting Elgin County and St. Thomas with the early days of development in every walk of life.”