

John Augustus Hulen - A Name Fit for a General

Part 2 of a 3 Part Series on the Hulens

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At his birth in 1871, did his parents Harvey and Fannie Hulen think as they looked at their first-born child "oh we need to give him a distinguished name because he is going to become a powerful man?"

Maybe they thought he would become a philosopher and wanted him to have a name that seemed to hark back to the Greeks or the Romans. Maybe with Harvey Hulen's background in the Civil War, it sounded like a general's name. Or maybe they just liked the name John Augustus.

We really do not know why they named him John Augustus but it turned out that it was a great name for a general.

John Augustus Hulen was born in Centralia, Missouri on September 9, 1871. Two years later, his family moved to Gainesville where he would grow up with a household of brothers and sisters. He attended public school in Gainesville for part of his academic career but then in 1887 he entered Virginia's Staunton Military Academy. Eventually he enrolled in and graduated from the Marmaduke Military Academy in Missouri.

Possibly influenced by his father's stories from the Civil War, Hulen joined "Company C. of the Third Texas Volunteer Infantry known as the 'Gainesville Rifles,' as a private in 1887. He did not stay a private for long, as he was commissioned a first lieutenant in 1889 and promoted to captain in 1893."

After graduating from Marmaduke, Hulen returned to Gainesville where he went into business with his father selling real estate and insurance. He helped his father in the construction of the new opera house in town in 1895.

In 1893, he married a

Gainesville woman, Frances L. Race and together as the old song says, they became "Frankie and Johnny".

Career-wise, Hulen would divide his time between the railroads, banking, and the military, with the military consuming most of his time.

He started working for



the railroads in 1896 and over the years held many positions, including "serving as city passenger agent in Houston, then general freight and passenger agent. He worked his way up to the position of president of the Galveston Terminal Railway, the Trinity and Brazos Valley Railway, the Burlington-Rock Island Railroad, and the Houston Belt and Terminal Railroad."

Hulen was involved in banking and "served as a director of both the Fort Worth National Bank and the Second National Bank of Houston, the latter of which he helped to found."

Although he had a successful career in the rail industry and in banking, it was the military that he loved and where he would have the most success. He was the "commander of Troop D in the First Texas Volunteer Cavalry until 1898, when he was sent to the Spanish-American War as a brevet lieutenant colonel."

He fought "Philippine insurrectionists for two years in the jungle of northern Luzon as a captain for the

33rd United States Volunteer Infantry. He won the Silver Star for his service there. Governor Samuel Lanham promoted him to brigadier general when he returned to Texas in 1900. He retired from the position in 1907 but was recalled to service in 1916."

The 1900 Census shows he and Frankie living back in Gainesville with his parents and John Augustus is shown as being a captain in the U.S. Army.

From 1916 to 1917, General Hulen patrolled the Texas-Mexico border as commander of the Sixth Separate Brigade. That must have been a difficult time for him, as his younger brother had been killed in that area not long before.

In 1917, he was sent to Austin to assist in the reorganization of the state militia into the 36th Infantry Division. During WWI, "he commanded the division's 72nd Brigade, winning the Distinguished Service Medal and twice being awarded the Croix de Guerre."

He was "appointed major general of the Texas National Guard in 1920 and commander of the 36th Infantry Division, originally organized in 1917 at Camp Bowie in Ft. Worth, in 1922. He held this last position until his retirement in 1935, upon which Governor James Allred promoted him to the militia's highest rank of lieutenant general."

From 1935 until 1941, Hulen and his wife lived in Ft. Worth in a home in the historic Ryan Place district. The house still can be seen today. Hulen Street in Ft. Worth is named in his honor.

John Augustus Hulen became a "director of Texas Tech University serving in that capacity from 1931 to 1937. He also was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1932 and was appointed regional salvage manager of the War

Production Board by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1941."

Like his father before him, he believed in fraternal organizations and was a member of the Masons, Shriners, and Knights of Pythias. He died on September 14, 1957 in Palacios, Texas near the military camp that he had established in 1925 and that had been renamed in his honor in 1930. Today his home there is the headquarters of the Texas State Marine Education Center.

Interestingly, a memorial was published in honor of John Augustus Hulen in 1957 by the Philosophical Society of Texas, so it seems his name would have worked for a philosopher after all.

