

Charles J Vella, PhD, Houghton Surname Project:

This is some of the history of George Lampton Houghton in his life in Deadwood, South Dakota, between 1879 and 1900. He was made a Medal of Honor winner in 1900 for actions in the Civil War.

1879 article (one of many legal summons initiated by GL Houghton):

**SUMMONS.**

**I**N THE DISTRICT COURT of the First Judicial District of the Territory of Dakota, within and for the County of Lawrence, William Gay, John R. Pearson, **George L. Houghton**, and Frank Welch as Administrators, Plaintiffs, vs. Ben Baer as administrator, D.M. Keller, Shelton Edwards, and Brion Philpot, Henry E. Picket, Niram F. Hale and Charles Fargo, formerly doing business under the firm name and style of Philpot, Picket & Hale, otherwise known as "The Chicago Mining and Milling Company," and Sebastian Wustum, Defendants.

The Territory of Dakota to the Defendants above named: You are hereby summoned and required to answer the amended complaint of the Plaintiffs in the above entitled action, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, the original amended complaint having been filed with the Clerk of this Court, on the 22nd day of April, A. D., 1879, and to serve a copy of your answer on said complaint upon the subscriber at the office of the Judge of Probate of Lawrence County, in the city of Deadwood, Dakota, within thirty days after the service of this summons on you, exclusive of the day of such service, and if you fail to answer said complaint within the time aforesaid, the Plaintiffs will take judgment against you in the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars, (\$50,000) as prayed for in the complaint.

GEO. L. **HOUGHTON**,  
For Plaintiffs.

Dated at Deadwood, D. T., this 22nd day of April, 1879.

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**SUMMONS.**—Territory of Dakota, First Judicial District, ss—In district court in and for Lawrence county:

George L. Houghton plaintiff vs. William G. Fargo and George W. Brown and Myron C. Thum, formerly doing business as co-partners under the firm name and style of Brown & Thum, bankers, and John A. Schmitt, defendants.

The Territory of Dakota sends greeting to William G. Fargo, George W. Brown and Myron C. Thum and John A. Schmitt, defendants above named: You are hereby summoned and required to answer the complaint of the above named plaintiff, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your answer upon the subscriber at the office of the judge of probate, in Deadwood, D. T., within thirty days after the service of this summons on you, exclusive of the day of such service; and if you fail to answer this complaint within that time the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Dated at Deadwood, D. T., this 8th day of January, A. D. 1880. The defendants will take notice that the complaint in this action was duly filed with the clerk of this court on the 8th day of January, 1880.

GEO. L. HOUGHTON,  
Att'y for Plaintiff.

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“Early Days, capter XV” article, The Black Hills Daily Times, Deadwood, SD, 21 Mar 1880

**Black Hills Daily Times.**

DEADWOOD CITY, DAKOTA TERRITORY, SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 21, 1880.

<p>New York, March 20.—The locked out piano makers in one factory resume work Monday. The men locked out from the other factories were told today that they could return to work Monday by abandoning the union.</p> <p>Washington, March 20.—Cole G. Brooks, of the Indian bureau, gave the senate committee a history of the removal of the Ponchas, which he claimed was in obedience to law, though</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>EARLY DAYS.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">CHAPTER XV.</p> <p>George L. Houghton was born in Canada, but when four years of age he removed with his father's family to Michigan, where he resided until 1857, when he went to Illinois and worked on a farm until the breaking out of the</p>	<p>to take his pay on bed rock, and it is a positive fact that every cent of it was paid. Old man Chisholm wanted some beef, but said he would not go in debt for it unless they would promise to let him pay for it when he got ready. Tillotson consented to this, and the old man came to pay him when he had \$30,000</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CHURCH SERVICES.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">CONGREGATIONAL.</p> <p>Preaching by Rev. Daniel Ames, of Spearfish, at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Morning subject: "God's thoughts compared with man's thoughts." Evening subject: "The possibilities of faith."</p>
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TRAINS RUNN

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## EARLY DAYS.

### CHAPTER XV.

George L. Houghton was born in Canada, but when four years of age he removed with his father's family to Michigan, where he resided until 1857, when he went to Illinois and worked on a farm until the breaking out of the rebellion, when he enlisted and served three years in the army under General Thomas. He emigrated to Nebraska in 1869, and remained there until the spring of 1876, when he pulled up stakes and started for the Hills, arriving at Cheyenne on Feb. 3d. A company of twenty organized, of whom Jim Allen, now living in Central City, was one. They procured five teams and rolled out on the 10th of February. There had been trouble on the road with the Indians, and when the question of organizing and establishing a guard, it met with but little encouragement from the crowd. They at length concluded it best to put out guards at night, but when it came to doing it, but four of the crowd were willing to stand, and the eternal vigilance theory was no go.

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At the time of the Wolf Mountain stampede, Houghton was supposed to be on the inside, and for days had a crowd of men watching him; but at last they got ready, twenty or thirty of them, and left and went as far as the Bear Lodge mountains, and becoming discouraged took the back track. Houghton had a pony packed with provisions, and on the return met two of his friends who were out on the wild goose chase, out of grub and out of heart, and he brought them with him back to Deadwood.

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At the Old Woman's fork they saw the first Indians, and their appearance created a good deal of nervousness among the boys, but there was no fight. A few days before they came to Hat creek, Stuttering Brown, who was in charge of the stage company, was passing down the road this side of there in the night, with several passengers, when they were fired upon from the side of the road, and Brown fatally wounded. He fell off the seat backwards, some of the passengers picked up the lines, and the team was driven at the top of their speed for some distance when they stopped, and, unhitching the horses, mounted them and rode to the Hat creek station. In the morning a party returned and found Brown alive and removed him to the station, where he received every attention, but died in a day or two. His body was taken to Cheyenne for burial. It was a question at the time whether the firing was done by Indians or Persimmon Bill's band of outlaws.

On the third day from the Old Woman's fork they had travelled forty miles, and did not get into camp until

January 12, 1876, and developed it the following season. Charles Federal, one of the party which came in with them, located the Great Eastern. Houghton, James Scott and William Frackens bonded the mine, and did the first developing on it. They drove in a tunnel over a hundred feet, and then relinquished the bond, bought a small interest in it and afterwards sold it.

In the spring of 1876 there was some trouble in the miners getting supplies, and Houghton canvassed the gulch and took orders from nearly all of them, he agreeing to furnish them with goods at the market price at the purchasing point on the Missouri river with ten cents a pound added for freight and commission. His partner, Charles Holland, went to Sioux City and purchased a portion of them, and shipped them by way of the river. The goods were lost and none of them delivered, but the miners were out nothing.

[To be Continued.]

#### Oyster Bay.

There was another art distribution at Ruggles' Oyster Bay yesterday. This, the second grand distribution, was one of the most elegant and re-

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On the third day from the Old Woman's fork they had travelled forty miles, and did not get into camp until 10 o'clock at night, and the crowd were so tired and worn out that they made up fires, laid down by them and went to sleep, saying they would not stand guard if all the Indians in the Sioux nation were surrounding them. At this camp they were opposite the mouth of the Red Canyon, which was celebrated as the slaughter pen of the early days, there being more men killed there than on all the rest of the road put together.

The next day they were followed by fourteen mounted Indians and when they came within signalling distance they made signs of friendship, and nine of them came up and talked to them as well as they could by signs. They gave them to understand that they were good Indians, of the Pocahontas kind, who were great admirers of the pale faces, and would be pleased

The next day they were followed by fourteen mounted Indians and when they came within signalling distance they made signs of friendship, and nine of them came up and talked to them as well as they could by signs. They gave them to understand that they were good Indians, of the Pocahontas kind, who were great admirers of the pale faces, and would be pleased to receive any little donation of tobacco, tea, sugar, bread—in fact would be thankful for anything. They gave them a few things, and that was their first and last Indian fight, in which every mother's son of them came out a hero. These Indians were well armed, well mounted and well painted. The train was not stopped during the inter-

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with George Warren, Samuel Tillotson and others, and a Mr. Jenny, a cousin of the professor, a splendid hunter, who kept the outfit in game all the way. They stopped on Castle creek about two weeks on account of a great snow storm, and then came in with the first party that ever came in on that route with wagons. Before coming in they met a party of miners on the head of Two Bit gulch, who had gone out to meet them. Bill Gay and a party joined them at Castle creek, and came in with them. Gay had been to Spotted Tail agency after provisions. Al Gay, A. H. Gay, Babcock and others were of the Bill Gay crowd.

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In some places the snow was very deep, and the men would have to go ahead and tramp down paths for the cattle to walk in, before they could proceed. Tillotson's cattle were in better condition than the rest, and they went in advance. When they got into the gulch they took claims, and the first thing Tillotson did was to kill his cattle, and sell the meat to the miners. The miners were all full of hope, and hungry, but had no money, and he let them have the beef at 14 to 16 cents a pound, and a quantity of flour he had for \$12 to \$15 per hundred, and was



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[To be Continued.]

1883:

George Hearst vs. Thos. Hollaran, order of publication.  
Territory vs. I. M. Rich, assault and battery. Given to Jan. 15, to plead.  
In the matter of the accusation filed upon motion of George L. Houghton for the disbarment of a number of attorneys for alleged falsification of the court record, conspiracy to defraud etc, examination was resumed and continued the greater portion of the day, and at the conclusion, the court directed the clerk to enter an order dismissing proceedings and completely exonerating the accused. The court also took occasion to administer a severe rebuke to Mr. Houghton, saying that he would take until Monday to determine which of two courses he would pursue; lay the matter before the grand jury on a charge of perjury, or consider a motion for disbarment.  
Adjourned until to-morrow morning.

1885:

George L. Houghton made the sale for the owners of the Fairview and Roland mines to the syndicate with Captain Uren at its head. The deed is in escrow, awaiting a test of the ore, but the parties interested think it is a go.

1889:

#### Charges Abandoned.

The wisest act **George L. Houghton** has performed in the matter of his charges and specifications against members of the Deadwood bar, was that of yesterday morning, when at the advice of counsel he concluded to abandon the pursuit, for the very excellent reason that there was not one syllable of evidence to support a single allegation he has made. The announcement he wanted to abandon the case and withdraw the charges was entirely unexpected, and took the gentlemen most interested completely by surprise. After some hesitation, and brief consultation, they, however, decided to interpose no objections to Mr. **Houghton's** proposition. An order was at once made dismissing the matter and discharging all of the defendants. The charges brought by Messrs. Van Cise & Wilson against **Houghton** will be heard Monday.

1889:

**George L. Houghton** put in the day distributing in Deadwood and on the belt, a circular "open letter," the subject of which, as all acquainted with the author and distributor, readily conceive, was the oft repeated one of corruption on the part of certain members of the bar. Of the truth or falsity of the accusation the **Times** has not now to do; but the **Times** cannot but question the peculiar tactics resorted to by Mr. **Houghton**. If he has a grievance he should seek redress in the proper way, by legal proceedings. He certainly will not for a moment say that justice is not to be obtained at the hands of Judge Thomas; or at the hands of a jury of fellow citizens.

1889:

District Court.

The long drawn out **Houghton** case reached a conclusion yesterday afternoon in the disbarment of **George L. Houghton**. Argument was submitted by Colonel Steele on behalf of defendant; and by Judges Moody and Bennett for plaintiff's Van Cise, Wilson and Romans. In making the order, Judge Thomas expressed himself freely and clearly, saying that he had advised **Houghton** to pursue a course different, and he regretted that his counsel had not been heeded. The peculiarities of the case had led him to give a long and patient hearing taking a wide range, and drawing in much extraneous matter. He reached a conclusion without doubt, and for the good of all parties concerned, it was right that the order should issue.

It was a righteous order, meeting the approbation of all, even of those deeply sympathising with **Houghton**.

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1895:

GEORGE L. HOUGHTON, one of the earliest pioneers of the Black Hills and who was a lawyer in that country for several years, has presented the Journal with a copy of his book, called "Appealed Cases." It recites the way Mr. Houghton was beaten out of rich a mining claim in that country by the machinations of a corporation in collusion with the courts and some of the prominent lawyers of that section; how he was disbarred from practice for endeavoring to recover his rights and then his reinstatement after long years of trials. He practically charges sev-

eral of the judges of that district with corruption.—Sioux Falls Journal.

Charitably inclined newspapers will ignore George L. Houghton and his book. He has been granted the fullest latitude by the successive judges of this district and circuit, and Deadwood attorneys have assisted him in preparing and presenting his case. A special examiner from the department of justice spent nearly two months in looking up the case, and his charges have been proven, time and again, to be absolutely groundless. If George don't subside, the PIONEER will go into a history of the case.

POOR, old George L. Houghton has broken out again. This time he gets himself interviewed by the Watertown Public Opinion. George has cost Lawrence county and the United States several thousand dollars in investigating his case and his supposed grievances, and all over an old quartz mill to which he never had the shadow of a title. He tried to beat the owner out of his property and because the courts would not sustain him, he charges all sorts of things. If Houghton was financially or mentally responsible he would be made to answer for the falsehoods set forth in that book of his.

Jan 30, 1897:

PIERRE, Jan. 30.—The Supreme court this morning handed down a decision in the application of **George Houghton** to bring proceedings against ex-Senator Moody and Van Cise of Deadwood. The court holds that the matter presented was decided adversely to Houghton in circuit court years ago and no appeal taken and it cannot now be opened.

1897:

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1897, SD:



In the senate **George L. Houghton** of Deadwood introduced a petition stating that some ten years ago the courts of Lawrence county were corrupt, that Gideon C. Moody, judge, was corrupt, and that in pursuance of a conspiracy between Moody, Van Cise and others of the Lawrence county ring, petitioner was disbarred and defrauded out of \$100,000. He prayed for re-instatement. It was referred to the judiciary committee with instruction to report quickly. It is an old story which has been before the people of the state for years, and is now to be made a Populist measure.

1899 KS:

**George L. Houghton** of Dakota was in town this week looking after some Indian settlements to be made in the near future. Mr. **Houghton** is a pioneer of the Black Hills being the first man to enter the country after the Indians had been subdued. He visited Hiawatha in 1870 and notes the many changes since that time with interest.

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Aberdeen News: It seems from the dispatches that **George L. Houghton** of the Black Hills has gone to Washington with his grievances of fifteen years standing. Mr. **Houghton** will be remembered as the man who came to this city and wanted people to pay admission to a hall to hear him tell his troubles.