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no.1

Hampton Historical Society.  
A History of Hampton,  
Illinois, 1838-1938.

ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY

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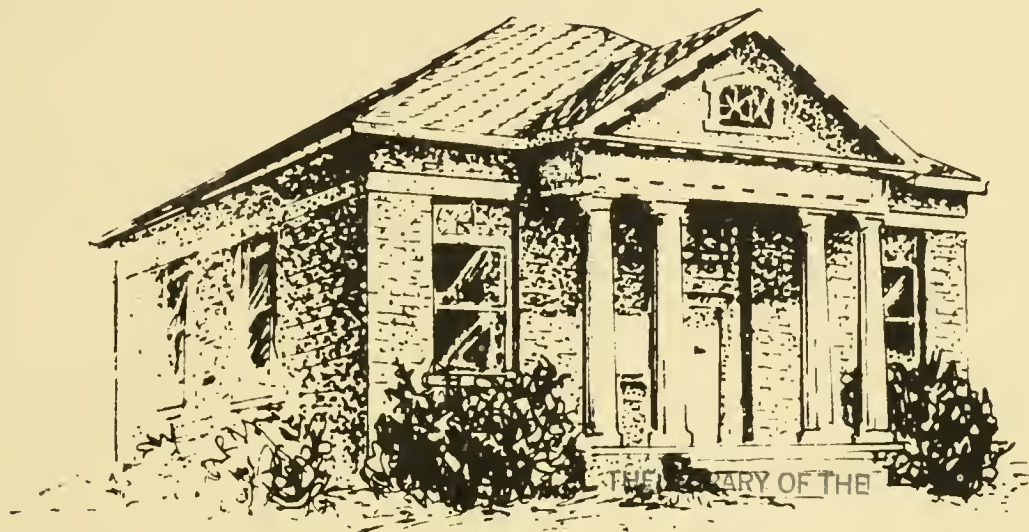
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*Ill. Hist. Survey*

# HAMPTON



MAR 11 1977

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

# HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PUBLICATION NO. I



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H18p

no. 1

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**A HISTORY  
OF  
HAMPTON, ILLINOIS  
1838 - 1938**

**A Reprint of an article published June 2,  
1938, in the East Moline Herald titled  
"History of Hampton" Written by life  
long resident of village George Mc-  
Nabney.**

Published by the Hampton Historical Society October 11, 1974

Chief Blackhawk, early pioneer settlers of Hampton community and many colorful incidents in the early days of the settlement will live again Saturday when Hampton residents stage an all day Centennial celebration in observance of the 100th anniversary of the platting of the village on June 4, 1838. The all day program, replete with colorful tableaux representing important events in the history of the community, is being arranged by the Old Timers' Club, which is sponsoring the festivities, and celebration is expected to attract hundreds of visitors. The activities, according to Charles Sikes who is arranging the observance with the assistance of George McNabney will open at 9 A.M. Features of the tableau program will be the presentation by costumed actors of early meetings and rituals between settlers of the community and Indian Chiefs. Living pictures will be presented in appropriate booths along the river street of many other pioneer scenes. An early covered wagon, drawn by a yoke of oxen, a stage coach and many appropriately costumed pony riders and other features are planned. A basket dinner will be held at noon, following which music will be furnished by a 22-piece band. Senator Robert M. Harper of East Moline will be the principal speaker upon the speaking program, to be held following the musical concert, and the entire program will be broadcast by radio station W.H.B.F. Officers of the Old Timers' will also speak, recalling briefly early incidents in the history of the community. Following the speaking program an old-fashioned dance is being planned as a concluding feature. The village will be gaily decorated for the day and many former residents of the area are expected to return for the festivities.

At the age of 82 years, as I commence this article, a panorama of 100 years of Hampton's history unfolds. The first two decades are constructed in imagination but the last 80 years, with its development and changes, are from my own knowledge secured from personal observation and research. I see a great river with its beautiful sand and gravel beach, stretching some 60 feet to the river bank--to the east a range of high hills fronted by a valley about a quarter of a mile wide and ending at the river. The hills and valley are covered with large white oak and other oaks, wild plum trees and hazel bushes. This is as I imagine it, and as has been confirmed from old settlers' descriptions. This wilderness and rapids was the favorite hunting and fishing grounds of the Sacs and Fox Indians, their village being about 12 miles south near the mouth of Rock River. Notwithstanding the hostility of the Indians, two men appear upon the scene and view the beautiful panorama spreading before their eyes, and determined to brave the danger, hardship and privations, and open up this area to civilization. Everything from soil, game and timber in abundance were at their command. Joel

Thompson from Kentucky I never knew, but Henry McNeal, aged 17, from Canada, I knew by sight years afterwards. What brought these two young men together I never learned, but from the late 1820's they had become squatters upon this site. From earlier historians, one learns that in those first years Mr. McNeal obtained his sustenance by farming and supplying the steam boats with wood from his wood-yard, and a historian has stated that Milan (now Hampton) was once known as McNeal's Landing. After several years (November 20, 1831) Mr. McNeal married Louisa, the young daughter of Rinnah Wells, Sr., and built his home, the first log cabin in Hampton, which was located on the spot now occupied by the Soldiers' Monument--and here were born his two children, Mary Ann, October 5, 1832 and George, November 27, 1833. Other pioneer settlers were beginning to arrive and it was on March 11, 1836 that Joel Thompson and Henry McNeal purchased their claim from the United States--the northwest fractional quarter of sec. 17, twp. 18 r.1 e. containing 152.29 acres. The following day, March 12, Mr. McNeal commenced to sell undivided parts of this land, and on August 19 of that year (1836) Mr. Thompson sold to Mr. McNeal his half interest in the land above mentioned. Mr. McNeal continued selling portions of the land until all, except a part which he retained, was sold.

The first owners of the original tract were now, viz.: Charles Oakley, Chas. C. Wilcox, Joshua C. Morgan, Joseph L. Shaw, Thomas J. Farnum, Joseph A. Sawyer, Riley Averill and Hashai Thomas, all of Tazewell county, Ill. and James Carpenter of the city of Alton, Ill. Joseph Ellis of Peoria county, Ill., Charles S. Hempstead of Galena, Ill., Joshua Harper of Henry county, Ill., and Henry Ogden of New York City; Henry McNeal, Samuel Lamberson and Alonzo P. Clapp, all of Rock Island county, completes the list.

After an elapse of two years, following the above land sales, John Mahoney (called Pat) it is said was hunting and trapping in these parts and viewed the beautiful area from the banks of the river or as others say, from a passing steam-boat. Returning to Tazewell county, Ill., where there resided a number of pioneers from eastern states who were evidently impressed by 'Pat's' report of this section, at any rate they later invested and several of them settled here.

Among them was a young man 31 years of age, named Saranus I. Brettun from Livermore, Me. He came to Tazewell county in the year 1836, where he remained one year, and in 1837, came to what is now called Hampton. The owners of the land heretofore mentioned decided to lay out and plat a town, and accordingly quit claimed their undivided interests to Saranus L. Brettun, who, following the usual custom, platted the town on JUNE 4, 1838--these 36 blocks was named by the Post Office Department, HAMPTON. The town now being platted, Mr. Brittun proceeded to deed

back to each proprietor his proportionate share of lots or blocks. Of the 16 men who owned the land only four of them, viz. Henry McNeal, Joel Thompson, Alonzo Clapp, and Samuel Lamberson became residents. One wonders why a town so favorably located should not have progressed as it should. The answer seems to be as follows: Mr. Brettun, who at the laying out of the large parcels of it, and with capital at his command, assumed leadership in the community. This might have worked out well had Mr. Brettun had a different personality. In the interest of truth it must be said that Mr. Brettun was a domineering type and hard to work with, since he would always insist of having his own way, in consequence of which few would work with him. His own personal welfare and shortsighted policy overshadowed a broader view. Twelve of the landowners, some of them outstanding, were only speculators, and contributed little to advance the town. Joel Thompson, having disposed of his interest in Hampton, threw his lot in with Milan, the town in sec. 8 immediately adjoining, where he built the Thompson House in 1838. Here he became the neighbor of the pioneer Lucius Wells, millowner, ferry man and active leader in that village.

If there were ever any inducements offered to entice capital or enterprise to our village, I have never heard of it. What Hampton needed was a man similar to Charles Atkinson, pioneer Moline business man. Had we had such a man, I doubt very much whether the court house would have been located in Stephenson (now Rock Island).

In Chapman Bros. History and Album of Rock Island county, 1885, p:688 can be found the story of the election held on July 5, 1833, between the forces of Hampton and the Stephenson partisans, in which 65 ballots were cast, resulting finally in the appointment of three men by the legislature, whose influence went against Hampton, and Stephenson became the winner. The court house being established 1833, and our village laid out in 1838, I now proceed with data more complex but vitally important since it has never been done before and may be too late if put off further.

Hampton, the fourth town laid out in the county, was at this time and for years to come, a river town--the story of the railroad belongs to a later period.

Mr. Brettun now commenced to dispose of his many lots. On April 13, 1838 he deeded lot 15, blk. 7 to Henry McNeal, who resold it to James P. Harvey, who erected a two-story frame building on this site which lies directly east of Black's old store. Here Mr. Harvey, and later on Mr. Almsback, ran a hotel. This building was burned down about 1863. On November 20, 1841, Francis Black, a young man 26 years of age, arrived in town and opened a general store in the above mentioned building. He was born in Barre, Mass. Feb. 20, 1815, went to Chicago in 1836, where he engaged in real estate and commission business. After about four

years in Chicago, he came to Hampton.

In 1846, S.L. Brettun and Francis Black erected the large two-story brick building on the NW corner of River and Oak streets, and together entered a general merchandise business. The steamboat transportation was important and vital to the growth of the town and a wharf was needed; consequently, eight of the property owners deeded to Mr. Brettun certain lots for him to sell. Joshua Harper, October 14, 1844, also deeded to him blk. 35, lying across the road south of the cemetery. The proceeds arising from the sale of said lots and block was to be used to build the Hampton Public Wharf, where boats could land in all stages of water. Mr. Brettun gave those men a bond of \$2,000 as a guarantee to build the wharf at the foot of Oak street. One of the lots sold for said purpose was the one upon which Henry McNeal's log cabin stood and now occupied by the Soldiers' monument. The record of transaction can be found in the court house in book C. p. 183 and in book F, pp. 238 and 239. This instrument bears the date of November 18, 1842.

Deciding to quit the mercantile business, Mr. Brettun sold his interest in the stock to his son-in-law, Milton H. Crapster, and under the new joint management the business continued for a number of years when Mr. Black bought full interest and continued alone.

On January 5, 1858, Mr. Brettun sold to Francis Black his interest in the store building, together with the warehouse on the wharf and all the wharf privileges which they had enjoyed together. Along in the early 70's, the old warehouse was sold to August Anderson, who utilized the material to build a barn.

It is difficult to clarify in the reader's mind the story of the two towns, Milan and Hampton, and separate into two accounts their activity. From this point they will be treated as one and under the name of Hampton. Among the numerous easterners who settled in Tazewell county, Ill., was young Maverick W. Wright, aged 22. His stay there was short and in the year 1837 came to Hampton, where he established a store business shortly after in part of the Joel Thompson building, the site of the present Fulscher building. On Jan. 30, 1850, Mr. Wright purchased from Samuel W. Twining lot 1, blk. 30, and built his two-story brick store building and engaged there in general merchandise business. Mr. Black's and Mr. Wright's stores were considered large in those days and their customers coming from as far as Whiteside and Henry counties and also from out in Iowa, there being at that time a ferry, run by Chas. G. Thomas, who secured his license in March, 1838 and a few years later by Lucius Wells.

Both Black and Wright engaged in the pork packing business and did a large trade with the steam-boats. This packing was done principally in the fall and winter, and so extensive was their business, that 16 coopers in the eight shops were engaged in making the

necessary pork barrels and lard tierces, the material for which they secured from the enormous white oak trees and transformed into barrel staves and heads. For the hoops they used small saplings of white oak and hickory which they would split and shave. I went many times with my father into the timber for this material, and saw how it was done. The coopers also made flour and lime barrels. Among the names of those engaged as coopers in those pioneer days one finds: Horatio Norton, Lyman Bates, Wm. J. McNabney (My father) Mr. Linkenbach, H. C. Glanz, Joseph Hermes, Joseph Thomas, Wm. Lee, Jacob Stottler, John Bishop, James Brothers, Mr. Crewel, Arnold Van Hoek, Phillip Stoeber and Ed Tunicliff. Mr. Wright built his own private wharf from which he shipped his products by boat, the wharf being located behind his store. This large and profitable business continued until after the Civil War.

Mr. Black and Mr. Wright had paid as high as 16 and 18 cents a pound for their hogs and probably gave their notes until the river opened up in the spring so they could ship and sell their product. The war closed and pork took a heavy drop, and Mr. Wright, unable to meet the loss, went broke and went out of business. He sold out to Frank Wells and Bares Shurtliff and went to Kellogg, Ia., where he acted as station agent for the C.R. I. & P. RY. His health failed him and he returned to Hampton where he died April 14, 1876. Mr. Wright married Louisa Jane Hayward, who lived for many years after her husband, her death occurring in Moline, December 29, 1910. Mr. Wright was of medium size; honorable, upright in his dealings and respected by all. Mrs. Wright was a jolly woman, loved for her character and lovable disposition. They had no children.

On April 29, 1867, George R. McMurphy purchased of Mr. Wright the large brick home in blk. 29, at the north end of Broad street--the property now owned by the John A. Mohr estate.

Mr. Black was financially better off than Mr. Wright and was able to continue in business. He had the larger stock of goods, carrying everything from a spinning wheel to silk for a lady's dress; harness, saddles, farm implements and articles too numerous to mention. He bought coal and wood and sold to his steamboat trade, who loaded the fuel while taking on his freight which included also the grain and the corn which he purchased from the farmers. He continued actively in business until he was past 90 years of age--retiring in 1903. His son Walter took over the store and ran it for a number of years. In addition to his store business Francis Black had held many offices. He was Hampton's second postmaster, serving several years, and for 10 years was township school treasurer, and declined further service. For a time he served as village treasurer. He never aspired to any office. The office sought him. At an early date he acquired blk. 36, which he had surveyed and platted

(Feb. 14, 1855) for burial purposes. These 30 by 30 ft. lots were sold for \$1 each. He later quit claimed his interest in blk. 36 to the trustees of Hampton Cemetery association which later incorporated as the Hampton Cemetery Association.

Mr. Black married Charlotte Brettun, who died May 20, 1861. One son, Charles C, was born of this union, who became an attorney at Lawton, Okla. Mr. Black later married Philena Luce on October 9, 1862. The children of this marriage were: Sophia, married to W. H. Conant and Theodosia married to Morris S. Heagy and Walter who is married to Velma Snider.

Francis Black was my ideal of a man; none stood higher in my estimation than he. He left a blameless record, loved and respected by all who knew him. He died November 8, 1910 and was followed in 1919 by Mrs. Black.

Saranus L. Brettun's history is written into many of the official records of Hampton and many details are recorded elsewhere in this article. On Jan. 1, 1829, he married Margaret Belcher. They had three children, a boy and two girls. The boy was drowned when yet a child, Charlotte, a daughter, married Francis Black, who bore him one child, Charles C. The other Brettun girl, Caroline, married Dr. Milton H. Crapster, who later after leaving Hampton became captain of the U.S. steamboat "Lilly", a boat which supplied the oil for the lights on the piers on the Mississippi. He died at St. Louis, date not known to writer; his wife died December 22, 1860. Brettun Crapster, a son of Milton, was my playmate. He died several years ago at Windfield, Kans. Louise Crapster, the daughter of Milton Crapster, married Arthur Bangs. She died in Windfield, Kans.

Samuel Cowers, a pioneer, and his wife, Susanna, came to Hampton about 1858. They were the parents of six children. He was the proprietor of the second hotel in the town. He died in 1867, 51 years of age. His wife died in 1891. Their daughter, Ann, married James McGinnis, and their only child bears the name of James McGinnis, Jr. He now occupies the old Sower hotel building, located on Broad street on lot 23, blk. 6 with his wife, formerly Mina Spaulding. They have two children. Mr. James McGinnis, Sr., and his wife are both deceased.

Henry McNeal, the pioneer, was born in Canada, July 15, 1811. At the age of 18 he ran away from home, arriving in this country in 1828. He had worked in the lead mines around Galena for a time, and later came here and became the proprietor of a wood yard which he conducted for several years. He was married to Louisa Wells, November 20, 1831. She was the daughter of Rinnah Wells, Sr. She died January 3, 1848. They were the parents of three children, viz: Ellen, George and Dan McNeal. Ellen, who died in 1871, was the wife of Erastus Carlton.

Henry McNeal was one of the 58 men who composed the Rock River Rangers." He was a member of the first grand jury appointed in this county. He was a pioneer

of the pioneers, whose deeds, actions and influence are reflected in the early history of this place and county. He died in 1878 at the age of 67.

George McNeal, his oldest son, was a blacksmith by trade while he lived at Port Byron. He later served in Company G, 126 Reg. Ill. Vol. Inf. for three years during the Civil War, after which he followed farming near Watertown. He later purchased the old S.L. Brettun homestead in Hampton and moved here. Here he lived until his death June 27, 1915, within 400 feet of where he was born, November 27, 1833, in the old log cabin. He was married to Caroline N. Addison May 1, 1856. They had one child who died in infancy. Mrs. McNeal died January 24, 1916. George McNeal, a grand nephew, now owns and occupies the old Brettun Home.

Dan, second son of the pioneer Henry McNeal, was born December 5, 1839, on a farm near Watertown. He married Anna Crawford. They were the parents of four children, three now deceased. He was postmaster and took a prominent part in the affairs at Watertown and elsewhere. His son Henry, who donated the lot for the Soldiers Monument is married to Martha Wells, who is a daughter of Edward and Dora Wells. Dan McNeal died July 4, 1916. His wife died February 21, 1894.

Joel Thompson, the pioneer, built the Thompson House in 1838 on lot 6, in blk. 30 in Milan (now Hampton) where the Fulscher building now stands. He was the first postmaster. He disposed of his interest here and went to Rock Island where he died, date unknown.

Robert Harvey, a pioneer, came here about 1838 and was the owner of several lots. He erected in 1843 the old brick dwelling which stands today on lot 22 in blk 7. It is one of the oldest dwellings in Hampton. He married Sarah S———. They had two daughters. One married a Mr. Roberts and the other one married Mr. Jennings. Mr. Harvey died August 2, 1848, age 56. His wife died September 23, 1859. Age 68.

Lucius Wells, the pioneer, is a son of Rinnah Wells, Sr., who died suddenly in 1852, and was found in his buggy along the roadside. Lucius was born October 11, 1803, was a native of Ohio. In the year 1832 at 29 years of age, he located here. On June 13, 1836, and September 30, 1839, he purchased from the U.S. 186.23 acres of land in sec. 8. This land is the Albert Oltman farm in the Village of Hampton. Mr. Wells was one of the prominent and influential men in the early development here and in Rock Island county. He was one of the Rock Island Rangers, organized in 1831, and composed of 58 men, to protect the settlers from the hostility of Black Hawk and his warriors. He was elected county commissioner in 1836 and sheriff of Rock Island county in 1839. He became the first supervisor of Hampton township, when township organization was adopted at the November election in 1856.

He owned and ran the second ferry across the river from here to Iowa, and had the first sawmill here, which was

located near his old residence which he built in 1838. This is the home now owned by Arthur Huber. He taught the first school here in 1833-34, in a log cabin located above the Oltman farm dwelling. He was a man of excellent character and of marked ability. He was a justice of the peace for many years. He married Eunice McMurphy. They had eight children. Mr. Wells died December 16, 1875. His wife died in 1900.

George R. Wells, oldest son of Lucius Wells, was born in Wayne county, Ill., Dec. 11, 1827, having come here with his parents in 1832. When old enough, he helped his father in the sawmill and on the farm. He was married to Julia Ann Poston. They were the parents of five children. Mr. Wells was a justice of the peace and supervisor of Hampton township. He was also village president. He, with Wm. H. Pettangill, were the contractors and builders of all the wood and frame work of the present school building in Hampton. Date of Mr. Wells' death not known to writer. His wife died August 28, 1873.

Edward, his oldest son, age 82, Orrin B. Cook, age 84, Leonard Poston Sr., age 82, Lona (Guckert) Cook, age 76, and myself, age 82 are the last of the old settlers here.

Sidney W. Willis came to Hampton about the year 1858. He was a carpenter by trade and was noted as a framer of large buildings. He was born November 27, 1821, and was married to Mary R. Adams. They were the parents of four children. Bot Mr. and Mrs. Adams died years ago. Their daughter, Ella Jones, and her husband, David Jones, are deceased.

Ephraim A., son of Sidney, was born in 1854. He was also a carpenter. He married Jennie Taggart, and of this union five children were born, among whom is Thomas S. Willis, his oldest son, who is well known as a contractor and builder of schools and other buildings. He lives at Janesville, Wis. He is married to Gertrude Mohr, who is a daughter of John and Elanora Mohr. Ephraim Willis died in the spring of 1936.

George McMurphy, a native of New York, came west to Pike county, Ill. later went to Wayne county, and from there to Hampton township, near Rapids City, in 1832, where he died. His son, Geo. Rodney McMurphy, was born at Rochester, N.Y., was eight years old when his parents settled here. When he grew to manhood, his ability was soon apparent. He followed farming. He broke the soil of the valuable property in the north part of Hampton, now owned by Albert Oltman. Later on January 5, 1856 he traded this land for the grist and sawmill which Wm. Luce owned and which he had built in 1855. He operated the mill until June 5, 1865, when he sold it to Isaac Negus of Rock Island.

He also acquired lots 4, 5, 6, blk. 30, on January 20, 1850, where the Fulscher building now stands and the lot where Dr. Vincent's drug store stood; also lots 2 and 3 in blk. 30, where Mr. Wright's packing plant building stood; and blks. 28 and 29, which included Mr. Wright's fine brick

residence.

George Rodney McMurphy married Amanda Howard. Their family consisted of nine children. Some of their descendants live in Zuma and Canoe Creek townships, and are prominent and influential people. Mr. McMurphy died April 22, 1866, and his wife in 1854.

Henry F. Thomas was born at South Weymouth, Mass., January 8, 1811. He was a shoemaker by occupation. He was united in marriage to Alice Hayward September 10, 1835. In the year 1837 he came west and settled in Tazewell county, Ill. working at his trade there until 1858, when at the age of 37, he permanently located at Hampton, where he secured a position as clerk in the store of M.W. Wright.

In the year 1853, Mr. Thomas and Leonard F. Baker built the brick store building standing today on River street, where they engaged in business together (general Merchandise). They continued in business until 1861 when they sold their stock of merchandise to Samuel Heagy. Mr. Thomas served as county treasurer from 1865 to 1869. He then opened a shoe store in Moline, Ill. with Theodore D. Wheelock, his son-in-law, continuing in that business until 1878. He then removed his merchandise to Hampton and continued in that line up to the time of his death, April 12, 1881.

The business was continued by his son, Henry until his unfortunate death by drowning, which occurred October 28, 1881 when the steamboat Jennie Gilchrist sank at the Davenport bridge. He, with eight others, were drowned. Henry F. Thomas purchased the north half of blk. 28 on January 14, 1850, from Robert and Sarah Harvey, and built the beautiful home which still stands today and which is practically the same as when it was first built. The Thomas family was prominent here and well known in Moline. The daughters were singers in the Congregational church choir when I first started singing with them. Camilla, who married Theodore Wheelock, was my school teacher in 1864-66. Herbert was my school and playmate. Of this large family of eight children, all have passed on. Alice, wife of Samuel S. Crompton, being the last of the family. Alice Thomas the mother of all, died December 9, 1906, I being one of the singers at her funeral.

Samuel S. Crompton, son of Rev. Wm. Crompton, was born in England, January 24, 1843, and came to this country with his parents in the year 1850, when he was seven years of age. What he did in his early boyhood days I do not know, but he later learned the black-smith trade and was a good one. He built the two-story brick building on River street in blk. 1. The lower part was his shop and above was a hall. He quit blacksmithing and moved to Moline and engaged in the sale of real estate and insurance.

During the Civil war, he enlisted in Company F, 69th. Reg. Ill. Inf. June 4, 1862; discharged October 6, 1862. He enlisted again in Company A 9th. Ill. Cavalry and served until the close of the

war. He married Alice H. Thomas February 24, 1870. She died November 14, 1932. They have one daughter Winnifred, who married Dr. Sargent of Moline. Samuel S. Crompton, the subject of this sketch died September 9, 1936.

Dr. George Vincent was born at Montpelier, Vt., in 1823. In his youth he worked on a farm and in the winter taught school. In 1845 he commenced the study of medicine and graduated in 1847. In 1852, at the age of 29, he came west to Port Byron, where he remained only six months and then came to Hampton where he practiced his chosen profession.

On April 1, 1854, he purchased from M. W. Wright lot 4 in blk. 30 in Milan, now Hampton, upon which he built his drug store the finest and best stocked ever in Hampton. He was recognized as one of the leading men in the community. At an early date he held the office of school treasurer of Hampton township, and had the first drugstore in Hampton. He bought lot 2 in blk. 18 from Thomas Bailey in 1853 and built the west part of that fine residence, which is well preserved today. He married Eliza G. Gates, who died in 1853. They had one daughter, who married Isaac Nichols. She is now deceased. Mr. Vincent's second marriage was to Mary L. Thomas in 1857. They had six children; three now deceased. Those remaining are: Stella B., of Chicago; Ethel, who married John Odell, now in Los Angeles, Calif.; and Phillip D., of Texarkana, Tex. Mr. Vincent died in 1899 and his wife Mary in 1928. His drugstore building was born down several years ago, and the lumber used to build a dwelling on Campbell's Island.

Alonzo Clapp, a pioneer, and one of the 16 original owners of Hampton was born October 16, 1808 and was a native of Massachusetts. He came west when a young man and arrived in Hampton in 1837 when only 29 years of age. Here he engaged in farming in his younger day, but later moved into the village where he owned considerable property. He built the frame dwelling on lot 5, blk. 9, which he occupied until it was sold to Frank Stevens, who moved across the street—it is now owned and occupied by Carl Monson. Mr. Clapp later built the two-story brick residence on lot 3, blk. 9 where he lived until his death. Ratph Shafer now owns the place. Mr. Clapp married Sarah Bailey. They had no children. Mr. Clapp through worry or despondency, drowned himself near Black's wharf on July 20, 1882. His wife died January 21, 1904.

John Mahoney, the pioneer, who reported to S.L. Brettun on this beautiful location, near Hampton came here about 1837. When Mr. Black operated the pork packing business, he was one of the men who carved and split the hogs, and for years worked for Heagy & Stoddard on their wharf, and later still at their coal mines. He married Anna Shields. They were the parents of three children. Mr. Mahoney died September 19, 1901, age 92. His wife died November 3, 1900.

John P. Lemmon came here in 1857. He was the pioneer butcher and peddler of

meat, and ran a meat market here for years. Data concerning his wife is unknown but six children were born to this couple, one of them being John Lemmon, now residing in Moline. Mr. Lemmon owned the old brick dwelling built by Robert Harvey in 1843, on Lot 22, blk. 7. He used the basement for his meat market. Mr. Lemmon was born in 1819, died in 1881. His wife is also deceased.

Samuel W. Twining was born at New Town, Pa., in the year 1811; came here about the year 1839; was 28 years of age and was one of the early pioneers. On October 14, 1840, he purchased all of the land in Milan which lies east of the road and which was later vacated as lots and blocks and assessed as land. He made a successful start but unfortunately he took sick and died March 26, 1847, at 36 years of age. He married Martha Welding. They had one child, Henry C. Twining, 1842, who was five years of age when his father died. During the Civil war, the son, Henry enlisted and served in Company I, 28th. Ill. Inf. for 18 months. He built the large two-story frame dwelling in Milan (now Hampton). He never married and he died in Hampton. His mother, Martha T. Twining, died March 10, 1886. He was the village clerk for several years. Their old home was on lot 2, blk. 9 Edward L. Moody now owns the house which has been remodeled.

William B. Webster, born April 16, 1809, at Bristol, Me., came to Hampton in November, 1843, when 34 years of age. He was a shoemaker, but his hired man, Jacob Weimer, made the boots and shoes. Mr. Webster did the repair work. He always did the work for our family. He was my father's personal friend, and was supervisor many terms. He was the first President when the village was incorporated. His old home is on lot 5, in blk. 8 on Broad Street. He was a quiet, good-natured man, honest, friendly and well liked. He married Eliza Jane Palmer October 1843. They had no children. Mr. Webster died October 11, 1881. His wife died April 15.

Thomas Bailey, born in 1828, came to Hampton about the year 1848. He married Nancy Wells a daughter of Lucius Wells. He worked as a sawyer in Wells mill and also in the sawmill of Geo. R. McMurphy. He later followed farming. He was a veteran in the Civil war. There were three children all now deceased. Mr. Bailey died in 1900. His wife was born in 1832 and died in 1905.

Leonard G. W. Poston was born in the year 1828, came to Hampton about the year 1849. His wife was Mary Wells, a daughter of Lucius Wells. They were the parents of three children, two now deceased, and Leonard Poston, Jr., my school mate, who is now living in Moline. Mr. Poston, Sr., died March 21, 1858 at the age of 30 years. His widow married Henry Fitch, who was born on a farm near Watertown, Ill. in 1840. He was a veteran in the Civil war. He died in 1920 and his wife died in 1907.

Hugh Fullerton came to Hampton about 1853. On August 12, 1854, he purchased

from Luke Cheeney the land in sec. 18 where he built his dwelling. He had one of the four potteries located here, the others being Edward and Hiram Rhodes, Benjamin Haverling and Mr. Hummerstone. They made crocks, jars, churns, jugs, flower pots, etc. All of them quit the business except Mr. Fullerton, who continued. His sons, Henry and Charles, together with Isaac Keller and Wm. R. Casey, who married Mr. Fullerton's daughters, were his main potters.

Mr. Fullerton later made drain tile, paving slabs and brick. The brick in the present school house was made at his works. Mr. Fullerton delighted in taking part in debates at the lyceums during the 60's. This family consisted of five children, all now deceased except Charles. Mr. and Mrs. Fullerton have long since died. His pottery stood where Charles Serieber's residence now stands, and his two-story residence stood on the river bank across the road.

The Hiram Rhodes two-story brick pottery stood on lot 3, blk. 1, in E.F. Arcularius' addition in Hampton. The Benjamin Haverling pottery stood on lots 9 and 10 in blk. 12, all razed many years ago.

Leonard F. Baker was born December 5, 1824, in Phillipston, Mass. At the age of 26 he left there and came direct to Hampton in August 1850. His first occupation was clerking in the store owned by M.W. Wright. He also clerked for Francis Black in the 60's after he and H. F. Thomas had quit business. In 1880 he engaged in general merchandise business with Henry Clark and in 1887 he bought out Mr. Clark and took in his sons, H.G. and S.S. Baker. The firm name became L.F. Baker and sons. They continued the business for 20 years and in 1907 sold out to J. F. Oltman. He then retired from business. He was prominent and influential in legal affairs, strictly honest and of good ability. He held the offices of postmaster, justice of the peace, supervisor, notary public and school director. He was a bass singer and he and I sang in the choir and for funerals for over 40 years. His last singing was at the funeral of Marie J. Sikes August 20, 1911. He was past 80 then, and living with his son, Silas Baker, at Reynolds, Ill. He returned home and had a partial stroke of paralysis. He later went to his daughter's in Chicago, where he had another stroke and died March 19, 1912. The hardest trial I ever faced was singing at his funeral.

Mr. Baker was married to Milla W. Sawyer September 7, 1856. She died May 24, 1887. They had five children, Silas S. Baker, residing at Reynolds, Ill., remaining, all the others having passed on. One of my best and truest friends was Leonard F. Baker, subject of this sketch.

The most important business enterprise in Hampton's history was the mining industry, an enterprise in which the names of Heagy and Stoddard play a party.

Samuel Heagy was born in Taney Town, Md., on April 20, 1838, where he lived until 1854, when he went to Baltimore and hired

out as a clerk in a wholesale notion house where he served three years. About this time M. H. Crapster of the firm Brettun, Black and Crapster, made a trip to Baltimore where he met Mr. Heagy, then a boy of 19, and told him he could get a position in their store in Hampton. This was in August, 1857, and Mr. Heagy was soon on the job where he remained until April, 1861, when he purchased the stock of the firm of Thomas & Baker who had quit the business.

He conducted the store until December, 1868, when he formed a partnership with Albert R. Stoddard. The entry of the railroad through Hampton in 1860 had created an additional demand for fuel and Heagy and Stoddard, in the spring of 1869, commenced prospecting for coal and later on opened mine number 1 located on Diedrich Oltman's old farm. The business increased so rapidly that they formed a stock company under the name of Hampton Coal Mining Company. At first they hauled their coal to Hampton and sold it to the railroad, but in 1823 the Western Union R.R. Company built a spur from Watertown out to the various mines and from this time most of the coal was sold direct to the railroad.

After the coal reins were extended, they used small mules underground to haul the cars to the shaft. One of the writer's first jobs was driving one of them. This was the only mine in this locality that used mules. Six other mines were opened by this Company.

Mine No. 3 was equipped with a long, steep chute into which the coal was dumped from the mine cars and so arranged that lump, nut and slack were separated and deposited into the separate cars below. The shaft was located about 300 feet back and upon a higher level than the track, thus permitting the cars to run down by gravity.

Among the 300 miners employed there was the writer who worked with Pat Mahoney, previously mentioned as a trimmer. The mines were located about two and one-half miles from Hampton and the miners had to arise at 5 o'clock and eat, and then wade through the snow and rain to mines. Heagy & Stoddard grew prosperous; they built a wharf and sold coal and wood to the steamboats. Their store business alone was over \$75,000 a year. A tragedy that deeply affected the welfare of Hampton occurred when Matoon, Ill. attempted to sink a well to supply the town with water. The well driller reported that his log showed two veins of coal; one about 100 feet and the other about 800 feet below. Heagy & Stoddard were offered an alluring offer to sink a shaft there which they accepted. The fine vein of coal they expected dwindled down to less than a three foot vein. In this venture they lost about \$100,000. Then they organized another local company in 1884: The Northern Mining company, with the following officers: G.D. Toothaker, president; A. R. Stoddard, superintendent and Samuel Heagy as secretary and treasurer. This mine was back on the bluff from East

Moline. The office and store was in Hampton. They built a track from the mine to the railroad, but carried on only for a few years, the operation being too costly to be profitable. Mr. Heagy's son, Morris S. who was the bookkeeper, sacrificed over \$1,000 of his own salary to help keep the business afloat, but it was doomed. The company went into the hands of a receiver. Mr. Stoddard, one of the owners, was a man who could not stand reverses without becoming affected seriously by it, but it was Mr. Heagy upon whom fell the difficult task of solving the company's difficult financial problems. He was of a different temperament and his problem was desperate. When the writer was postmaster, Mr. Heagy bought an armchair and placed it in the postoffice where he could sit and visit. I could see the strain and worry he was passing through, and finally his vitality gave way and he died January 27, 1896. Mrs. Heagy died at the home of her son in Rock Island in 1907 and is interred beside her husband in Oakdale cemetery in Davenport, Ia.

Albert R. Stoddard was a good-sized man, and jolly and most always in good humor. After his serious financial loss, he later was engaged as superintendent by his brother-in-law, A. J. Blethen, who had a coal mine at Briar Bluff, Henry county, Ill. They continued there for about six years, when Mr. Stoddard retired and came back to his home in Hampton. He was born at Pembroke, Me., May 22, 1837. He started in the hardware business, which he continued in until 1867, then came to Hampton in 1868. He was married to Eliza A. Hunter April 4, 1863. She died in 1898. Mr. Stoddard died in 1912. They had no children.

Joseph Atkinson, the pioneer, was a skilled blacksmith. He worked for Amos Saylor, the wagon maker in Milan (Hampton) in 1838, and later had a shop of his own. He also worked for Heagy and Stoddard as a blacksmith at their coal mines. He married Cornelia Waterman. They had two children. Ann Eliza married Charles S. Lee, the Soldier. Laura married Jack Cooper. Both are now deceased. Mr. Atkinson died December 8, 1876. His wife died June 25, 1904.

Ephraim W. Adams was born in Nicholas county, Ky., October 6, 1825. In 1842 at 17 years of age, he came to Hampton and is among the earliest settlers here. What his occupation was at that time I do not know. I first remember him about the year 1865, when he lived in a house which he owned, that stood on the top of the hill in blk. 32. He later purchased property in blk. No. 4 and had a blacksmith shop at the river bank near his home. Mr. Adams' interests later were on Campbell's Island. It was thickly covered with oak trees, and he with many others cut off the timber to sell to steamboats, railroads and for home fuel. He later purchased the balance of the Island except a small part at the south end. He owned 265 acres there. Here he engaged in farming; raised some cattle and sheep, but mostly hogs. He never lived on the island, but kept a hired man and his

family there. He had a ferry and a wire cable stretched from the island to the Illinois shore. A pulley was attached to the ferry so as to roll along the cable when propelled by oars or pushed with a pole. He had almost 100 acres in cultivation. I worked for him two seasons when I was 13 and 14 years of age; plowed with oxen when breaking, and with a horse and bar plow when cultivating the corn. There were many stumps not yet grubbed out. He was a hard worker and strictly honest in all his dealings. He was married November 2, 1848, to Anna D. Willis. They had five children, now all deceased, except Myra, who married Ship Silvis of Rock Island. Mr. Adams died in 1888 of a paralytic stroke. His wife died in 1920.

Carl Wilken, a pioneer, came here in 1859. He was a tanner by occupation. His tannery was located on the north road in the hollow leading east of Hampton. There were three children: Charles and August W. Wilken, now deceased, and Mrs. Tillie Ingwers. Carl Wilken died March 18, 1880. His wife, Augusta, died 1894.

Martha Sikes, a native of New York, came to Hampton from Nauvoo, Illinois, in the year 1844, accompanied by her son Reuben and daughter Hattie. On June 28, 1848, she purchased from James M. Ballard lots 15 and 16 in blk. 9, upon which she built her residence which remains today, opposite the Community hall. She was a widow, her husband having died previous to her coming here. Martha Sikes died February 9, 1884. Hattie, her daughter, never married. She died July 20, 1917. Rueuben Sikes was married to Caroline W. Welding, who bore one child, named May, who was married to Dr. Arthur. She died April 18, 1896. Mr. Reuben Sikes died October 14, 1855. Mr. Sikes was married again, his second wife being Maria J. Payne. They were the parents of seven children; four are now deceased. Mr. Sikes died Aug. 16, 1884 and Maria his wife, died Aug. 18, 1911. Mr. Sikes served as a soldier during the Civil War, and was a painter and paper hanger by occupation. He also was a clerk in Francis Black's store prior to the Civil War. He served in Company D, 9th Ill. Cav.

Peter Edelman, his wife and family, were all born in Germany. They came to this country in 1855, and to Hampton in 1856. He was a blacksmith by trade. He died 1875. His wife died 1866. Conrad, his eldest son, was married to Christina Merz. They were the parents of six children. Four now deceased. John Edelman, a son, was well known as a fisherman for many years. Julia and Mary, unmarried daughters, are the last of the family to survive. Conrad, their father was wounded in battle during the Civil war. He died in 1913. His wife died in 1916. William Edelman, a son of Peter Edelman, was born in Germany. He came to Hampton with his father and mother in 1856. He was married to Caroline Burmeister. They were the parents of six children, one of whom is now deceased. Mr. Edelman enlisted during the Civil



An early settler of Hampton,  
Lucian Wells (1803 - 1875).



Eunice McMurphy Wells (1809 - 1900)  
wife of Lucian Wells.

One of the earliest settlers of Hampton,  
Henry McNeal (1811 - 1878).



George McNeal (1833 - 1915). He was the  
first white male born in Rock Island County.





A panoramic view of Hampton as it appeared in 1930.



Three Hampton vetrans (c.1930) from left to right are: Ralph Lee; World War I, Charles Lee; Civil War, and Robert Lee; Spanish American War.



When Hampton had a train depot.





Photographs taken during the year of Hampton's 100th Anniversary. Above, the stage coach ride during the celebration on June 4, 1938. At right, the author of this reprinted historical account, Mr. George McNabney and his wife. Below, Old Timers Club Reunion on Labor Day, September 5, 1938. Club members from left to right are — Theodore Hermes, John Gribben, Albert Oltman, Silas Baker, Jake Hermes, Andrew Ferman, John DeVinney, John Jacobs, Chas. Sikes.



War; was wounded in battle, and his leg amputated above the knee. He went to school after he came home from the war. He ran a livery in the village for many years, during coal mining days. He died in 1919. His wife died in 1915.

John P. Odell of Ohio came to this county at an early date and to Hampton about 1859. He was a brick and stone mason by trade and an ordained minister and could preach a good sermon. He once owned the Samuel Heagy brick dwelling. His father and he built the Congregational Church at Port Byron. He was born October 27, 1824, and died October 25, 1909. He married Sarah Nelson, she died June 21, 1900. They were the parents of seven children, one of whom is deceased. S. F. Odell, a son married Gertrude Mohr. They own and occupy the old McNabney home built by my father in 1857.

Manuel Smith came to Hampton at an early date --about 1857. He enlisted in the Civil war in Company F, 89th, Reg. Ill. Vol Inf. on Aug. 6, 1862 and was mustered out June 10, 1865. After the war he married Mary O'Dell, the daughter of John P. O'Dell. Of this union six children were born, all are living except one. Mr. Smith died May 27, 1926.

Henry C. Harttung was born in Germany in 1815 and came to Hampton in 1849. He was married to Martha——. They were the parents of eight children, three now deceased. Mr. Harttung was employed by M. W. Wright in early days. Mr. and Mrs. Harttung lived to a good old age. He died in 1886; his wife in 1890. Mrs. Starosky, a daughter, lives in Moline and Mrs. Walter Cook, a daughter lives in Rock Island.

Abel Propst, a pioneer, came here at an early date; was born in 1816; was married to Sarah H.——. They were the parents of four children, all now deceased. Columbia J., a daughter, was my school teacher in 1867. She died in 1932. Abel Propst died in 1900, and his wife in 1904.

Joseph Hermes, from Ohio, was born in 1840, and came west about 1866. He was a veteran of the Civil war and was wounded in his arm while in the service. He was a cooper by trade, and later was section foreman for the railroad company. He was also village trustee and school director for many years. He was married to Mary Mohr. They were the parents of 11 children, two now deceased. He died in the year 1920. His wife died in 1913.

Peter Mohr was born in Germany and came to Hampton in about 1851. He purchased lot 4, blk. 19, upon which he built his residence, which still remains. He married Matilda Earhardt. Six children were born to them; Mary, married Joseph Hermes, the Civil war veteran; Elizabeth, married James J. Vogel, who was well liked by his many friends. The other Mohr children of this family were Jacob, Adam, Pauline, and Henrietta, all of whom were married. Of this large family, but two survive: Adam Mohr of Grand Mound, Ia., and Henrietta Kelly of LeClaire, Ia.

Milton Ward came to Hampton about

April, 1846, and purchased lots 7 and 8 in blk. 20, upon which he built his home, which today is owned by Harry Kipp. He was married to Amanda M. Dennison. He was a cabinet maker, carpenter and painter. The family consisted of six children. Five of them were my schoolmates. Mr. Ward died January 10, 1885, age 70. His wife died April 11, 1866, age 46. Samuel, the only survivor of the family, lives in Iowa. Almost every year he and his wife come to Hampton to see the old home and to eat a lunch under the trees, the home of his childhood is dear to them.

DeLance Cook, born in 1827, and a native of Connecticut, came to Hampton about the year 1859. He ran a hotel here at an early date, and at one time was proprietor of a meat market. He was married to Mary L. Lee, a sister of Charles S. Lee. They were the parents of three children, all now deceased. DeLance Cook died in 1902. Mary, his wife, died 1926. Herbert and Walter (DeLance's sons) were my schoolmates. They moved to Rock Island and were the oldest employes of the Street Car Company. They ran on the Milan line. Herbert Cook, Jr., (son of Herbert, Sr.) is an alderman of the city of Rock Island. Della, Herbert, Sr.'s daughter, is a valued employe at the Modern Woodmen of America office in Rock Island. Herbert Cook, Sr., was married to Rose Kiefer, both now deceased. Oliver Cook from Connecticut, came to Hampton about the year 1859. He was born in the year 1830. He married Sarah Lee, also a sister of Charles Lee. He was a well digger by occupation and at times was a miner. Two of their children Orrin and David, were my schoolmates. Orrin married Mary Benson. He is now 84 and is the oldest of the old settlers now living. He makes his home in East Moline, his wife Mary is now deceased. David married Lona Guckert, who has now passed her 76th birthday and is the oldest Hampton-born woman alive. Oliver Cook and wife are both deceased.

Jeremiah Payne, the pioneer, brick and stone mason, was widely known in early days. He was born at Long Island, Jan. 1, 1912; came west and located near Pleasant Valley, Ia., in 1837. He was married to Letitia M. Orr, who was born at Elsworth, Ohio, Feb. 16, 1816. They moved to Hampton in 1851. They were the parents of 10 children. William, their oldest son, was the sheriff of Rock Island county at the time of the riot on the steamboat "Dubuque", on July 29, 1869. Later he was state senator for several years. George and Charles were my school mates. Maria married Reuben Sikes.

The land at the top of the hill which he purchased from Lucius Wells May 24, 1852, was sold October 21, 1865, to Jacob Weaver. Mr. Payne built the brick building adjoining the farm. Both are now owned by Geo. W. Wilken. All the children of this large family are now deceased. Mr. Payne died Nov. 15, 1873. His wife died May 23, 1902.

William J. McNabney was born in

Rochester, N.Y., July 31, 1832. When about 18 years of age, he came west to Albany, Ill., where he remained about one year, then came to Hampton in 1851. Here he followed his cooper trade, and in 1853 married Josephine Borck, who came from Germany with her parents when 11 years of age. He purchased lots 13 and 14 in blk. 15 on Feb. 11, 1854, and built his residence there; and it was in that house that the writer was born Nov. 17, 1855. The old home was razed many years ago. March 18, 1856, he purchased lot 3 in blk. 10 and erected a new home where he resided the balance of his life. This dwelling is now owned and occupied by S. F. Odell. The McNabney family consisted of eight children and are now all deceased, except the writer, who is the only one left by that name in Hampton. My father was an excellent cooper by trade and a lover of good music. He died Sept. 9, 1874, at 43 years of age. My mother died July 9, 1890, age about 58.

Charles S. Lee was born in the state of Connecticut Dec. 1, 1846. He came to Hampton with his parents in 1858 when he was 12 years of age. He was married March 28, 1867 to Ann Eliza Atkinson. They raised a large family of 10 children; six are now deceased. Mr. Lee was widely known especially among the miners, where he was known as an expert at sinking shafts for coal mines. He supervised the sinking of most all the shafts for Heagy & Stoddard. He enlisted in Co. G, 126 Ill. Vol. Inf. when he was only 15 years of age, in the Civil War where he served three years. He was a prominent member of the Hampton Methodist Church and was instrumental in the raising of funds for the church building, and very zealous in his aid for its upkeep. Mr. Lee died Nov. 21, 1927. He and his wife had many loving and loyal friends.

Henry O. Norton came to Hampton from Nauvoo, Ill. about 1854. He was a carpenter by trade and followed that line of work for years. Mr. Norton's name is always associated with the old saw and grist mill which stood on the corner opposite his residence and near the foot of the hill on Oak St. It was built by Wm. Luce in the year 1885. He held it only a short time and sold it Jan. 5, 1856 to Geo. R. McMurphy who evidently owned it for ten years and then sold it Jan. 5, 1856 to Geo. R. McMurphy who evidently owned it for ten years and then on June 5, 1865, sold it to Isaac Negus of Rock Island. On Sept. 21, 1874, Mr. Negus sold the mill to Henry O. Norton, who owned it until it was torn down in Oct. or Nov. 1901.

I was too young to know anything about the operation of the mill during the ownership of Mr. Luce and Mr. McMurphy. During its operation when owned by Mr. Negus, the grist part of the mill was run by the Bowers Bros. I can remember them branding barrels of flour. Later the mill stood idle for years until Mr. Norton purchased it and the dwelling house across the street. Mr. Norton did not operate the mills very often, only occasionally. The last operation of the saw mill was to saw oak

lumber. Mr. Norton had the whole yard covered with large white oak logs to be sawed. H. C. Glanz was the sawyer; John Edelman was his assistant, and I was a helper. Mr. Norton was the engineer. The mill was run by friction power with a muley saw. There was a good demand for oak lumber in these early days, but scarcity of timber and long hauls made profit impossible so the days of the old mill came to an end—and silent she stood, a relic of the past.

Mr. Norton was born in 1842; he was married twice, his second wife being Miss Emma Hamilton, of Geneseo, Ill. Mrs. Norton was born in 1844, and died in 1914. Mr. Norton held various offices: Supervisor, Justice of the Peace, Village Trustee and Village President. He died in 1896.

Paul Mohr, a brother of Peter Mohr, was born in Germany and came to Hampton about 1858. Here he married Henrietta Zindahl, and raised a family of four children; William, John, Gertrude and Joseph Mohr. William and John are deceased. The Paul Mohr residence was built by David Roberts in 1851, and is now owned by Mr. Mohr's daughter, Gertrude, who married S. F. Odell. Mr. Mohr was a shoemaker by trade and served as a soldier during the Civil War. He died Jan. 1, 1900. His wife died in 1919.

Francis H. Stevens was born May 10, 1835, in Dryden, N.Y., was married March 26, 1859, to Emma Lindsey. They came to Hampton about 1867. They were the parents of three children, Charles E., Lena, and Clarence L. Stevens. He was by occupation a carriage wagon and sleigh builder. He was very successful in the line for years, until the advent of the wagon and carriage works at Moline, which operated with machinery. Mr. Stevens could not compete by hand work, so his business dwindled, and then stopped. Mrs. Stevens died in 1902, and Mr. Stevens died March 17, ———, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. F. M. Bager at Los Angeles, Calif. He and his wife are both buried in the Hampton Cemetery.

Frederick Wendel was born in Germany June 15, 1824, and came to this country and to Hampton about 1856. He was by occupation a cabinet maker and wood turner and made neck yokes and single trees, used on a wagon. He was the first and only undertaker here, and in those days made the coffins. He purchased Lots 11 and 12 in blk. 7, Sept. 10, 1856, for his residence. In the early days, the basement was used by Lucius Wells, J. P., as his office, and was also used as a saloon by Mr. Wendel. The building has been wrecked, only the basement remaining. Mr. Wendel married Louise Schafer. They were the parents of three children, all now deceased. Mrs. Wendel died Nov. 27, 1867. Mr. Wendel's second wife was Wilhelmine——— who is now deceased. Mr. Wendel died Sept. 8, 1898.

There are others who came to Hampton prior to 1862, and who deserve mention. Wm. Lee, the father of Chas. S. Lee; Wm. LaPoint, Ferdinand Ward Schneider, Wm. Wentworth, Samuel and John

Lamberson, who were school teachers in 1838-39. Mr. Crewel, a cooper; Martin Sayre, Ira Crawford and George, his son. Henry Parker, Horatio Norton, Wm. Taylor, Wm. Denison and his two sons, Samuel and John. Henry Wilcher and Ezra, his son, who was an engineer at the Happy Hollow Mines. Henry C. Glanz, a cooper; Dr. Judd, A. M. Hayward, the hunter and boat builder. John Bishop, a cooper, and engineer at the coal mines; Joseph Thomas, a cooper and township Clerk. Mr. Neimyer, Reed P. Vinyard, a well digger and meat carver for Black and Wright.

Charles Honnewacker, the tavern keeper, Carl Baumbach and Jacob Guckert, wagon and carriage makers. Mary Guckert, the grocer, remembered by all the youngsters, who received candy from her.

Henry and Wm. Clark who came in 1886. Dr. M.B. Underwood, nursery salesman and mining company doctor and Wm. Ferman who came in 1875. Dr. Warren Hunter who came about 1881, Diedrick Oltman who purchased the Clark Bros. farm in Feb. 16, 1875, and settled on it.

During the boom days from the '70s to the '80s, Hampton had 3 general stores, 3 meat markets, 2 wagon maker shops, 2 blacksmith shops, 3 pottery shops, 1 saw and grist mill, 8 cooper shops, 2 drug stores, 3 saloons, 1 hotel, 3 shoemaker shops, 1 millinery store, 1 undertaker, 1 furniture dealer, 2 wagon scales, 3 churches, 1 school house. There was then a depot agent, express and telegraph office, and 2 halls.

Today, we have 2 churches, 1 school, 2 halls, 2 small grocery stores, connected with the dwellings, and a curio shop run by C.E. Sikes. Mr. Sike's museum is well worth seeing. Here one finds many weapons, household utensils and numerous mementoes of the pioneer period.

All the other enterprises mentioned above are extinct. We still claim, however, that we have the most beautiful location as a residential district in this county.

At an election held April 22, 1876, to determine whether the town should become incorporated village, with its own town officials, there were 83 votes cast; 79 voted for, and 9 against the proposal. The first village officers elected were: Village Pres., William B. Webster; Clerk, Albert Wells; Trustees, Samuel Heagy, Henry O. Norton, Fred Wendel and Frank Stevens; Village Treasurer, Francis Black. The village officers in 1938 are Pres., George Wilkin; Clerk, Floyd Lang; Trustees, Lewis Taylor, Milton Geisler, Joseph Lang, C. G. Hall, Harold Hofstetter, and Glenn Hanneman. Village Treas. Lloyd Light, Street Commissioner and Marshal, Ferdinand Ingwers.

After the town was incorporated and became a village, it took in the Town of Milan and E.F. Arcularius' Addition to the Town of Hampton, and it was necessary to provide a place for the Village Board to meet. Francis Black had quit the pork packing business and his one

story brick building was available. He had it repaired and plastered, and built two cells in the north of it, and a council room in the south end, and the building was rented and became the Village Hall, and was used for election purposes, until 1906, when the present Village Hall was built. Village Trustees meetings are held the first Friday in each month.

Post Masters who have served the village since the Post Office was established are: Joel Thompson, Francis Black, Samuel Heagy, L.F. Baker, James Winans, Henry Clark, Geo. J. McNabney, Mary B. Edelman, Walter Black, J.C. Hawkins, Emil C. Henline, and Lillie Sederland who resigned. The meager remuneration from this office was unattractive and no one cared to assume it so the office was discontinued and the town is now served by the Rural Delivery Service.

A beauty spot in Hampton is the Soldiers Monument on River Street. The building of the monument was brought about by a committee selected by the Sons of Veterans, and Ladies Auxiliary. The committee was as follows: Maniel Smith, of the Civil War; Robert E. Lee, of the Spanish American War; Henry Hermes, of the World War; Charles E. Sikes of the Sons of Veterans; and Wilhelmina McGinnis, of the Ladies Auxiliary. Charles E. Sikes was the chairman and manager. Its location, after months of deliberation was finally settled by Henry McNeal, who is a grandson of the pioneer, Henry McNeal. He came forward and presented a deed to Lot 7 in Blk. 6, on which to place the monument.

In selecting this location it commemorates a historical spot. It is on the site where Henry McNeal built his long cabin in 1828, and where his son George was born Nov. 27, 1933. He was the first white child born in this township. Sept. 6, 1926, was the date set for the laying of the cornerstone. Several Veterans of the Civil War, and ex-servicemen of other wars were present. Special tributes were paid to the memory of three deceased Civil War Veterans, viz: Joseph Hermes, Henry Baumbach and Daniel Young. Joseph Hermes had insisted in removing Campbell's rock from the Mississippi River in 1868. Parts of the granite rock are the two front cornerstones of this monument.

Henry Baumbach was commissioned fife major at the age of 14 and was one of the youngest in the army. Daniel Young, whose body was the first one brought back for burial, was the third of this group who received tributes. The presentation of the deed was made by Dan McNeal, in behalf of his father, Henry McNeal to the Sons of Veterans and Ladies Auxiliary. James Maxwell accepted the generous gift on behalf of said organizations. The address of the day was made by Hon. Floyd E. Thompson.

The designer and builder of the monument was Charles E. Sikes to whom great credit is due for its unique design and workmanship. The cornerstones bear the following inscription: "BLACK

HAWK WAR 1832. CIVIL WAR 1861-65.  
SPANISH AMERICAN WAR 1898.  
WORLD WAR 1917-18.

The Congregational church was organized Feb. 15, 1853, by Rev. A. B. Hitchcock, and started with a membership of 14 among whom were the following: Luther Pearsall and wife, Elisha Barr and wife, Milton Ward and wife, and David Jennings and wife. The house of worship still stands, but the tall steeple has been removed, leaving only the belfry. William Luce built the church during the years of 1856-57, at the cost of about \$2500. In this old church the Blacks, Bakers, Thomases, Vincents, Heags, Stoddards, Clarks, Clapps, Cromptons, McNabeyns and many others gathered to worship. The pastors were Rev. A. B. Hitchcock, Rev. Wm. Porter, Rev. Miles and Rev. Almer Harper. Those I have mentioned have all passed on.

Through removals and other causes, the membership dwindled and finally dissolved, some of the members joining the Methodist church. The trustees, by act of the remaining members transferred the title to the building and lot to the village of Hampton, to be held in trust for the benefit and use of the Sons of Veterans and Ladies' Auxiliary, and other patriotic organizations. It is now called Community hall. The Church had a fine bell weighing over 600 pounds, and when it was first installed, it used to be rung at 12 noon by Henry Clark to give the correct time. The bell is still there, but is seldom rung, its silence a reminder of the days long passed.

The Methodist Church had its organization here in the year 1842. The Rev. G.G. Worthington organized the first class which contained 11 members. Among its members were Harmand G. Reynolds, E.F. Arcularius and wife, and Nancy Thompson. The church once belonged to Moline Circuit, then Port Byron, and in the year 1865 the Hampton Circuit was organized by B. C. Swartz, with Rev. A. Freeman in charge. In 1870 Hampton was joined to Zuma and called Rock River Circuit. In 1874 Zuma being cut off, Hampton Circuit was again resumed with Rev. G. C. Woodruff in charge. The present church building was erected during the years 1878-9. Chas. S. Lee had a prominent part in raising the money for the building and was greatly assisted by the pastor, Rev. C. W. Sherman, E.F. Arcularius, J.B. Cox and many others. The contractors and builders were Hugh Fullerton and his son Henry. The church has a good organization and an active Sunday school, efficiently officered, and taught by competent teachers. A Ladies' Aid society staunchly supports the pastor, Rev. J.V. Kennedy who thoroughly exemplifies his calling.

Catholic Church. It is regrettable that no member of the original group of Hampton Catholics has seen fit to write the history of their organization. That generation has long passed on but there are still a few of the older members of the second generation whose duty it is to complete this brief outline. The earliest

Catholic activity around this locality dates from the arrival of Father J.A.M. Pelamourgues, a French priest, who became St. Anthony's first local pastor in Davenport in 1839. His jurisdiction reached from Lyons.

In the 100-year old record at that church, one finds the names of Vogels, Yosts, Mohrs, Weigand, Scherschalls and others. It is said that Father Palamorgues used to go up to Hampton about twice a year and christen and confirm the children and say a mass. Nicholas Mohr remembers just such an occasion although he cannot remember in what house mass was held.

It was about 1845, after the Hampton ferry had started to run, that some of the members would cross to Iowa and walk to Davenport to attend mass. Just who the first Catholic was in Hampton is not known, but around 1845 to 1855, quite a few had settled around Hampton and Rapids City. There were the five Mohr brothers, Jacob, Peter, John, William and Paul; Nicholas Mock, Michael Hoffman, Christopher Weigand, Joseph Thomas, Henry C. and Peter Glanz and Anton Kiefer from around Hampton. Those from around Rapids City were the Buckleys, Scherschalls, Gumpers, Schniders, Colemans and Mrs. Hofstetter. There was also a Mr. Schall of Port Byron. Men and women bearing the above names formed the foundation of the church. After the Civil war came Joseph Hermes whose family alone was a fair start toward a congregation. There are some of the names that were listed in the early church records and their families formed the nucleus of the church organization. In 1856, St. Joseph's Catholic Church was dedicated in Davenport and Father Niermann, the German priest of that church, used to also visit and say mass in the surrounding towns and in the early days came occasionally to Hampton. He officiated at the wedding of Joseph Hermes and Mary Mohr. After the Civil war, a famous and indefatigable missionary, Father J. G. Alleman of St. Louis arrived in Rock Island to serve that city and surrounding parishes. He was a Dominican Friar and was a giant of a man and thought nothing of walking from Rock Island to Hampton to say mass. His long legs made the trip easy for him. Upon one occasion Jacob Mohr, the shoemaker, noting his worn boots, decided to make him a pair, which he did. About 1865 a regular church organization was formed and a church was built. One of the Mohr boys remembers a story his parents told of how Father Alleman and the ladies of the organization picked blackberries from the surrounding hills in order to raise a few dollars to start the church fund. The original church was built and located near the farm owned by George H. Wilkin. Adjoining the church yard was the cemetery which still contains some of the graves, but most of the remains have been removed to the Rapid City cemetery. This church was still standing until 1879 for during that year the Hampton public school was burned

down and school was held in the old Catholic church. It was also during 1879 that the second Catholic church was built. It was a frame building and was located on the N.E. corner of Pearl and Locust Streets, on the same site as the present church, but faced west. It cost \$2870. Sometime about 1900 it was destroyed by fire from some unknown cause, and at a later date, a third church was built, which is the present one. Jacob Mohr, one of the church's most active members, at one time taught a German class in his home as a sort of parochial school. As soon as conditions warranted it, the Rapids City members built their own church and the priest in charge officiated in both parishes. The present pastor is Rev. Father Michael Tracy who resides in Rapids City.

#### Hampton School

The first school was started here in 1833-34 in a log cabin located north of Albert Altman's farmhouse, near the river. It was taught by Lucius Wells. The scholars attending the little school were the Wells, McNeals, Danforths, Richardsons and Thompsons. Other teachers in this school were John and Wm. Kelley and Mr. Thurston.

After this for some months, a small school was kept in a cabin east of the present Hampton cemetery. The teachers being John Lamberson and H.G. Reynolds. This school was supported by the parents of the scholars. During the summer of 1839, a log schoolhouse was built especially for a public school, and was located just south of the present school building. The first school teacher in this new school was Samuel Lamberson.

In 1844 a one-story brick school building was erected beside the log schoolhouse. The town had grown larger now, there being 20 housed here, and a better school was needed. The first two teachers in the brick school were Philip and Addison Chamberlin. A two-story brick school building was erected in 1857 on the same site as the present school house. It was there I started going to school, Miss Sawyer and Miss Blanchard being the teachers. This building stood many years until October 29, 1879, when it caught fire while school was in session and burned down. The school was then held in the old Catholic church which stood at the foot of the hill near Wilkens farm and also in a small house east of the present Catholic church--both have since been torn down. The teachers were W. C. Smith, Carrie Spencer and Mary Hobert. After the two-story brick school building was built in 1857, the old one-story brick school building was sold on January 21, 1858, to the German Lutheran church for \$400. Here they held their services for about six years, after which they built their new church on the bluff two miles east of Hampton. The church is called the Zion Lutheran church. After erecting their new church building, they sold the old building and lot to the Town of Hampton, on Dec. 5, 1864 for \$200. Here they held their town meetings and elections. On May 2, 1904, it

was sold for \$50. to the School Trustees to be used as a playground. The old building upon it was razed.

The present school house was erected in 1880. The first teachers in it were W.C. Smith, Miss Merritt and Miss Hobert. The Hampton schools have been well managed and have kept up with the educational standards of the times. The present teachers are Paul W. Powell, Principal; Helen Mangrove, intermediate department, and Grace C. Kerns, primary department. The present directors are Harry Kipp, Glenn Tompkins and Ralph Meeske. The first trustees of Hampton township who hold the title of all school buildings and grounds were Geo. R. McMurphy, John Skinner and Geo. C. Parker, who were appointed by the county commissioners at the Sept. term 1836. The township was divided Feb. 19, 1842. The Hampton district, which originally was No. 2, is now N. 29. The first school treasurer was Luther D. Edwards. The first school directors here were Wm. E. McLellan, Robert Harvey and Lucius Wells. The first school census taken was Dec. 29, 1843; the number of children listed in the township under 21, was 222. The present school secretary and treasurer is E. C. Dennhardt of Silvis. The present school trustees are Chas. E. Sikes, Louis A. Schave and Henry Johnson.

#### The Railroad

The three histories of Rock Island county which were published in the years of 1877, 1885 and 1914, respectively, have given very little information regarding the R.R. which is now known as the C.M. & St. Paul. It is from the Davenport and Rock Island Directory of 1856-7 that one learns that the Warsaw and Rockford railroad was building a line through Hampton. It contains the information that "the grading was rapidly going ahead and was graded to the Rapids near Port Byron." The road was never completed and many citizens in Rock Island county lost money on it. Another company was formed, known as the Sterling and Rock Island R.R. and the progress of these roads can be best understood by the following news items found mostly in the Rock Island Argus: "The iron is now laid to Port Byron and cars will soon be running over the road. A grand ball will come off in Port Byron on Thursday evening, the 15th inst., in honor of the event." Rock Island Argus Nov. 5, 1860.

#### Port Byron Ball

On Thursday evening we left this city in company with a large party of ladies and gentlemen to attend the ball at Port Byron, in honor of the opening to that place of the Sterling and Rock Island R.R. The party was composed of our first citizens, and the fairest of Rock Island's fair daughters. Mr. Boomer, the lessee of the road, was also on the train, and his hospitality began to develop itself long before we arrived at our destination. At Port Byron, the company led by Storms band, marched from the cars to the

DeSoto House, where the dancing began, and was continued up to the small hours. Everybody did come to dance and we know that everybody did dance. The music was good. The supper, if possible, was better, and Lowery outdid himself in attention to his guests, and in making everybody happy at what might be called a supplementary supper. Mr. Boomer presided, and speeches were made by Messrs Belcher, R.W. Smith, Dr. Judd, E.P. Reyholds, J.J. Beardsley and others. The best of feeling prevailed throughout. Belcher felt good. Judd felt better, and Boomer proved himself a perfect "boomerang," his generosity sweeping from his room and encircling the entire company. At about 4 o'clock the dancing stopped, and the train started, everybody pleased, but everybody sleepy. There were fair deputations from Hampton, Cordova and LeClaire." (Rock Island Argus, Nov. 19, 1860)

A regular train of cars now make daily trips between this city and Port Byron on the Sterling and Rock Island railroad. Leaving Port Byron about 8 a.m. and this city about 5 p.m. We expect to have the official advertisement in a few days. Mr. Alexander will pay careful attention to the wants of the public. (Rock Island Argus, Jan. 16, 1861) On and after this date, trains will run on the road as follows: Leave Port Byron at 8 a.m., connecting at junction with trains going east and west on C.R.I. & U Ry. Leave Rock Island at 4:45 p.m. connecting with trains going west on C.R.I. & P. Ry. Signed, L.B. Boomer, Lessee." (R. I. Argus) Jan. 18, 1861.

Charles Hangsen, and not Mr. Alexander, is the conductor of the Port Byron Cars. He can be found at the railroad depot, and will take charge of any packages for Moline, Carbon Cliff, Hampton, Watertown, Rapids City, Port Byron and LeClaire. Mr. Alexander is superintendent of the road.

The Sterling and Rock Island railroad has succeeded in getting the road as far north as Port Byron, but was financially unable to build further and had evidently been absorbed by the S.R.I. & P. Ry. Co.

In 1866, the Western Union R.R. Co. had started a railroad that was to connect Galena and Rock Island. They had laid their track as far south as Cordova when the C.R.I. & P. Ry. Co. got out an injunction and tried to prevent the Western Union from crossing the old Warsaw and Rockford grade which had been established back in 1857. Notwithstanding this opposition, the Western Union had built their depot in Cordova and were running a hack to connect their line with the Sterling and Rock Island Ry. Co. Line at Port Byron, and in this fashion service was commenced about Jan. 1866.

The fight between the two railroad companies continued, but the Western Union kept right on building to Port Byron and reached there in the spring of 1866. The writer has not yet established definitely the date when the Western Union purchased or absorbed the Sterling and Rock Island, but it must have been

during the next two years.

In the spring of 1866 there was a consolidation of the Northern Ill. Railroad Co. and the Western Railway Co. which was later on to be known as the C.M. & St. P. Ry. company.

#### Brass Bands

Of course Hampton had a brass band. As near as I can figure out, it was back in 1862 that I heard the old band. I was quite small, but I can remember them standing in the street in front of one of the stores, playing. None of the details of this band are known except the names of the members which is as follows: George Baumbach, Chris McDaniel, Reuben W. Sikes, W.J. McNabney, my father, H.C. Glanz, Peter Cewe, John Cewe, Samuel Devinney, Ezra Wilcher and Nick Wiltamuth. These men have long been deceased.

There was another Hampton band organized about 15 years later, on July 4, 1879. The members of the band were: Joseph Adams, Eugene McNabney, Earnest Baumbach, G.F. McNabney, E. A. Willis, George A. Heagy, Wm. LePoint, Charles Fullerton, Samuel S. Crompton, Henry Clark, Julius McNabney, Morris S. Heagy and George Mandler.

After purchasing our instruments, we hired Joe Ramsey of Rock Island to teach the band and later on, John Bleuer taught us for a while. Our first band leader was Joseph Adams and later on my brother Eugene McNabney and later on G.F. McNabney (myself).

We played for money when we could get it, but were not in it for money alone. We played at Fourth of July picnics at Cleveland and also at McEniry's Grove up in Zuma. We took part in political parades in 1880 and several times played up in Port Byron at church suppers.

One occasion I will not forget. We were playing a serenade over at George Crawford's place over in the valley and he treated us royally to ice cream, cake and watermelon. Mr. Crawford had a number of fine melons laid aside for seed but some of the boys swiped them and attempted to bring them along, but Mr. Crawford got next to us and the plan failed. I won't say which one of the boys took the melons, but I will say it wasn't Deacon Clark.

My brother Eugene died at the age of 22, while he was a member of the band. At his funeral his cap and cornet were placed upon the casket and after the services, the band marched up the hill to the cemetery. Of the members listed above, only four of us remain: Morris S. Heagy, Wm. LaPoint, Chas. Fullerton and myself, Geo. F. McNabney. The rest have all passed on.

#### Oak Trees and Rail Fences

I have mentioned elsewhere the large and beautiful trees that grew in abundance upon the hills and surrounding country. There are still five native oak trees that I am confident were here over 100 years ago. There is one near the river next to the residence owned by Beder

Woods. It was there when I was a boy and appeared to be an old tree then and since no one else has ever named it. I hereby designate it henceforth to be known as "Pioneer Oak!"

There is another one on lot 9, blk. 10 east of the Methodist church, and near it stands the old dwelling erected by the pioneer Henry McNeal, who sold it to Samuel Lamberson December 1, 1838, for \$600. He taught school here in a log cabin in the year 1839. There are two other old oaks on a lot owned by Charles Altman, in blk. 3. The fifth one stands near the residence of the pioneer E. W. Adams, located in Blk. 4. I purchased several lots in blk. 5, in 1878. In front of this property was a rail fence which had been erected by the pioneer S.L. Brettun. It was there when I was a small boy. That rail fence is the last that I ever saw in Hampton, except the one which I believe still stands on the George Wilken farm.

Mr. Brettun had a rail fence around that entire block and there he used to pasture his ponies. Brettun Crapster, Mr. Brettun's grandson, was my playmate and he and I used to sneak in and ride the ponies. Mr. Brettun had a large barn in this pasture yard, and in it was an automatic device that pumped water into a trough when the pony stepped upon the platform in front of the trough. Reuben Sikes was the agent of the device.

One of the oldest buildings in Hampton stands on lot 1 in blk. 2. This was sold by Samuel Lamberson, Nov. 4, 1838, for \$1. to David Lamberson, who resold it to S.L. Brettun May 17, 1853, for \$220. David Lamberson, who I believe, erected the building thereon, I assume in the early 1840's.

#### Personal Reflections

An event of my boyhood came to mind as I pen these lines. It was in 1867, I believe, when I was about 11 years old a man by the name of Atkinson, who lived on a farm near Union Grove, Whiteside County, Ill. gave Mrs. John Mahoney a cow and a calf. She had, before her marriage, worked for him as a hired girl, and it was understood that she was to send or come for the cow later on. Her son Henry, who was about my age, and I went upon the train to this town to get the cow and calf and drive them to Hampton, about 35 miles distant. The first day we went as far as my uncle's about one mile back of Albany. The next morning we started out early and arrived at Hampton in the evening footsore and hungry. Can I remember that trip? I'll say I can, and what can't boys of that age do by having grit, common sense and determination to arrive at their destination.

I recollect another escapade when I was about 10 years old. John Edelman, who was a littler older than I, induced me to go to Moline with him to have a coffee pot mended. We walked to Moline. I never thought of how I was to get back home without money. It so happened that John only had enough money for his own fare. It was about 4:30 p.m. and John got on the train, and it started out, and there I stood.

Dr. Clerke, who knew me, was on the train, looking out of the window and sensing the situation, he reached, grabbed me, and pulled me through the window. It is by these two events that I fix in my mind the early running of the railroad through Hampton and the conductor on it, who was Charles Tanner.

In closing I wish to state that it has been no easy matter at this date to fill in the gaps and record the various items which have been too long neglected. The gap between 1828 and 1877 should have been more carefully covered while many of the old settlers were still alive. I trust that this data will be of interest to those who care to read it. I dedicate it to Old Hampton, the place of my birth; to the memory of those who have passed on to the great beyond; and to my many friends who have honored me by their faith and friendship.

G.F. McNabney





*Cover Design* Courtesy of JAMES GILLESPIE  
a former Hampton resident









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