

May 19, 1956.

Mr. James M. Hampton,  
San Francisco, California.

Dear Sir:

About two weeks ago our Postmaster handed me your letter May 6th. in regard to a history of the Hampton family of Virginia from the early 17th. century, with branches in Kentucky and South Carolina. I was preparing it particularly for her. She died in 1925 and after that I was busy with being both mother and father to our three sons as well as very busy taking care of the large coal mine practice I had at that time.

Are you one of the Kentucky branch of the family or of the South Carolina branch? I rather think you come from the Kentucky branch as when the gold rush started in 1849 one of them went to California but so far as I could find out never mined any gold but settled near what is now Los Angeles on land he bought with the beginning of a citrus orchard on it from a man who got homesick and sold out and went back to his native state. Later he was joined by a brother who had gone to New Mexico and bought land on the Santa Fe trail. (Please excuse spelling as I am writing this without referring to my type written account of this branch and at 81 years. A few years ago I wrote out and account of the Kentucky branch from my notes and had a stenographer make me eight copies of 12 pages of closely written on her typewriter for \$5.00 each. I think it was worth the price. I kept one for myself, gave each of my three sons (the first two were twins born 4 weeks ahead of the time they were due as most all twins are, especially if their mother was a very small woman. My wife never weighed over 92 pounds except when she was pregnant, and the twins together weighed over 10 pounds, but had to be put in an improvised incubator as even the hospitals 53 years ago did not have the fine ones they do now, so I improvised one for them till they got close to the date they should have arrived at which time they weighed over six pounds each.

My third son is 3 1/2 years younger than they and weighed over 10 pounds when he was born. He is head of a big Clinic in New Hampshire and considered one of the top Internist and Cardiologist in New England.

The Postmaster would have had a time in delivering your letter to one of the boys as they are scattered from Northern N.H. to Phoenix, Arizona where the younger of the twins has been work for two big Research laboratories that make new drugs, and his job covered the entire State of Arizona to detail and furnish literature on them to the doctors, druggists and Hospitals, until his bad health forced to resign last fall. His twin brother, Henderson Hampton Hampton Miller is in New York, where he has been for the last 32 years most of the time in the bond department of an old and reliable Investment Firm dealing in stocks and bonds. Both are married but have no children as they did not want any.

It has been the custom for generations of my family that the oldest son gets his first name from the father's family and his mother's maiden name for his middle name. We named him for my father Henderson who got his name from his mother's maiden name as she was the daughter of Col. John Henderson, an officer in the War of 1812, as well as a politician and represented his county in the Virginia Legislature from 1811 till his

death in 1824. My wife was a Miss Hampton daughter of a well known lawyer in Ashland, Ky. My doctor son was named for his grandfather John W. Hampton. The younger twin was named for the prominent 17th. century emigrant to Virginia, ancestor of my mother and his mother's grandfather, a prominent Kentucky Circuit Judge in eastern Ky. So he has the name of Ireland Fielding Miller. The Ireland for the Judge.

My mother was a Kentuckian born in Woodford County about 20 miles from Lexington, so I am half Kentuckian. Her grandfather served 18 months in the Virginia forces in the Revolution and was at Yorktown when Lord Cornwallis surrendered to General Washington. After that he resigned from the army and went home to Spotsylvania County sold his land there and took his wife and two children and most of his slaves and moved to Woodford County where he bought other land besides the grant of land he had from Virginia for his service in the Revolution.

From the Bible records of John Hampton and his wife Margaret Wade of New Kent County, whom he met while living on land he inherited from his father in King William County. Later they moved to land he owned in Prince William County and settled on a tract that later was in Fairfax County that county was cut off of Prince William County. John Hampton, Junr was born 3 June 1683 and was baptized on the 28th. by his grandfather Mr Thomas Hampton (Rev) Thomas Hampton, but in the 17th. century ministers of The establish English church (Episcopal) were named Mr instead of Rev in all records.

Margaret Hampton daughter to Mr. James Wade was born in the County of New Kent on the first day of May 1684, & baptized on Sunday the 20th. John Hampton and Margaret Wade was married Thursday the 1st day of May 1712 in the presence of a Goodly Company of Friends and Relations.

In the records of the birth of both Margaret Wade Hampton and her husband John Hampton the names of the God parents are given. In fact I am giving you the essentials of the births and not all of the additional data given in the records. as I want to keep this letter as short as I can as my eyes are not good and by the time I hunt and peck the typewriter keys they play out, and the eye specialist (One of the best in this state) claims that no stronger glasses can be given.

I will give you the names and dates of birth of John and Margaret Wade Hamptons children without giving the full wording of their father as he entered them in HIS Bible. as I had in my notes I had the 12 page typewritten account made from by the stenographer.

#### Children.

John Wade Hampton born 27 May, 1713.

Anthony Hampton, born 3d Feb'y 1715 He was the ancestor of the South Carolina Hampton family.

Mary Hampton born 10 June 1717

William and Richard Hampton born 30 March 1719

Elizabeth Hampton born 8, May 1720.

Henry Hampton born 5 October 1721. He was ancestor of the Kentucky branch of the Hampton family.

James Hampton born 3 September 1723.

Margaret Hampton born 16 December 1725,

John Hampton born 27 May 1727.

Thomas Hampton born 17 October 1729.

Rosamond Hampton born 8 September 1730.

The names James, Margaret, Rosamond, and Wade as baptismal names for the Hamptons after John and Margaret Wade Hampton came from the Wade family.

In 1800 Dr. Henry Hampton, Jr. bought from his brother William Hampton of Fauquier County the his half of the "Soldiers' Claim Land, 900 acres" left to them by their father Henry Hampton, Sr. xxxxx and



These "Soldier Claim lands" were given to the Virginia soldiers in the French and Indian War in the 1750 ties, but none of them moved to the section where they section of the state where the lands were located so sold these claims to someone else like Henry Hampton, Sr.

After Dr. Henry Hampton bought his brother's half of the 7900 acres left them by their father in 1800 he moved to the part of Virginia where they were located east of the Big Sandy River and settled there with his family and negro slaves. He built his house in in the eastern part of what is now Huntington West Va. largest city in our state. after he settled there he bought a thousand acres of Soldiers Claim lands most of which was on the Virginia side of the Big Sandy River. His oldest son Anthony named named for his father's uncle Anthony founder of the South Carolina Hampton family, after reading medicine with his father when to Transylvania University in Lexington to the medical department to finish his education and get his degree. His father then gave him a large piece of land located on the Virginia side of the Sandy River about seven miles above the mouth of the river where it empty into the Ohio. It was known as "Doc's Creek." I went up there many years ago with a first cousin of my wife, Judge William Hampton of Ashland, Ky. The farm had been sold after Dr. Anthony's death, but the old cemetery was there on top of a low flat hill with the graves of Dr. Anthony, his wife and some children, and also his father, Dr. Henry Hampton buried on the side of the hill just below the top. It was an old time box tomb with two large flat stones on top, but no inscription on either one of them a small tree that grew from the top of the grave had come up between the two large flat stones separating them. A few years ago some of the descendants of Dr. Henry from other sons of his who live in Huntington, Catlettsburg, county seat of Boyd County, Ky, at the mouth of the Big Sandy river, and who belong to the Daughters of the Revolution, had the tree cut out, had the tomb restored and a bronze plate giving his name, dates of birth and death, and records of his services in the Revolution set in the big top stones, which are fastened together with strips of copper at top bottom and center of the big top stones so they could not be separated again.

Dr. Henry's oldest son William who married and settled in Catlettsburg, now a good size city. He had several sons and daughters who left many descendants. William's oldest son William Jr. who married Sarah Buchannon, whose father was a first cousin or President James Buchannon who went to Kentucky and owned large land sections in and near the City of Catlettsburg. This William Jr. owned a large farm just outside of Catlettsburg on which he had a fine old brick house with ten rooms, and beautiful grounds with many old trees, and flowering shrubs. This William and Sarah Buchannon were my sifes grandparents, and she had fine oil portraits of them painted a few years before they died. When my died in 1925 she told me to keep them until I would hand them on to one of sons whom I think would most appreciate them and pass them on to a son they might have. This my doctor son who had one son now 16 years old and 6ft. and 2 inches the same as my son who is that tall.

Of course there is much more detail I emntion in the typewritten account of the Kentucky family.

If you are descended from one of the South Carolina Hamptons let me know and I will get together a lot of notes I have of that family and have them typed for you.

With best wished for you I am sincerely yours,

*J. L. Miller*

Rev. William Hampton.

Rev. William Hampton, Farmer & Clergyman, son of William and Melinda (Shortridge) Hampton, was born June 27, 1808, on the Big Sandy river, four miles from its mouth, in Kanawha county, Virginia.

His mother was a daughter of George Shortridge, a Virginian who emigrated to Kentucky, and became prominent in the Indian wars, and early affairs of the State. His Father was a flourishing farmer, and son of Dr Henry Hampton, a prominent physician of Virginia, and cousin of the old Wade Hampton, an officer of the Revolution, and also in the war of 1812.

The subject of this sketch received his education in the old log school-houses of the country, and that mainly in the winters, or between intervals of work on the farm. Throughout a long active career he took every means possible to increase his stock of learning, until he became one of the most thoroughly read men in the community.

In 1828 he was married to Miss Sallie Buchanan, daughter of William Buchanan of Pennsylvania, who was cousin to President James Buchanan, and immediately afterward went into a cabin on the bank of the bank of the Big Sandy, in Kentucky, sixteen miles from Catlettsburg, and settled down to raising corn and cattle. At that time he owned one hundred dollars worth of property. He has always lived within a few miles of his native place, and has become one of the most successful farmers stock-raisers and traders in his part of Kentucky, and is now one of the most comfortably situated men in the country. (1878).

He has been identified with most interests of the community, and has been one of the most active and useful citizens. In politics he has always been a whig; and although he served fifteen years as a justice of the peace in Greenup County, Kentucky, he has never taken an active part in any political contests.

Since 1836 he has been a licensed preacher of the Methodist Episcopal church, and has for forty years been an active local minister; has been one of the most influential and valuable men in that denomination in all that portion of the State. He never chose to become permanent pastor of any church, or to take charge of a circuit.



In 1874 his wife died, and on the 28th of July in the following year, he was again married to Mrs S.C. Mason, daughter of John W. Hite. He has from his first marriage, six living children, five sons and one daughter.

John W. Hampton, his son, who was a soldier in the Confederate army during the Rebellion, is now an enterprising young lawyer of Ashland, Ky. His other sons are business men, located in different parts of the country and constitute a part of one of the most noted families in the country, a race of able, spirited, and useful men.

(Copied from the Biographical Encyclopedia of Kentucky.) Published 1878

Thomas, W. Va.  
August 12, 1949.

Dear Mrs. Kunsford:

I enjoyed your long interesting letter of the 4th, ~~my~~ but waited to reply until the pictures came which they did yesterday.

I am indeed glad to have them but will wait to put the data on the back until I hear from you again about some details that I wish to get.

First. The outside of the house. Of course I know that the enclosed porch is modern, but am not sure whether the pillared ~~prico~~ <sup>porch</sup> at the end that goes out into the lawn or garden is original or added <sup>some</sup> years later. Also I feel reasonably sure that the present two story <sup>wing</sup> was added later, as all the houses of that period that I have seen had only one story wings. Of course the first story may be original and the upper one built on later.

I have always been interested in colonial and early pioneer architecture and have personally visited many houses in Virginia and the Ohio River part of West Virginia. For example in Mason County my grandfather John Miller built in 1809 the first brick house in the county it was a few miles down the river from Gallipolis. It was near the river and the main part was a story and half with dormer windows for the upstairs. A big chimney at each end. There were four rooms and a hall two rooms down stairs and two above. At each end of the main building there was a one story wing, which with main building gave a long facade. Later he gave it to his oldest son, Christopher Miller as a wedding present, and moved his family to Teas' Valley where he owned a thousand acres of land. A few years later he bought a thousand acres on the south side of The Great Kanawha from the Washington heirs when they were selling off the twenty thousand acre grant that Gen. Washington had gotten in colonial days. This thousand acres was in two tracts five miles apart. My grandfather moved back from Teas' Valley and settled on one four miles up the river from Point Pleasant, and after his death in 1846 my father, then a boy of 17 years and a student at Marshall Academy (now college). Grandfather died in March and grand mother had to send a negro servant with a led horse to bring father home for the funeral.

I neglected to put in above as I intended doing that my father inherited the other place and in 1850 married and moved to it. When he died in 1898 my mother and younger brother inherited the house and main part of the farm. The valley there is a ~~just~~ a mile and eight wide. Our home was back at the first rise before going into the hill and creek part of the farm, which had a half mile river front and back line a mile and three quarters back from the river.

Gt.

Coming back to old houses. My ~~gt.~~ grandfather. Lieutenant John Henderson who fought under his brother in law General Andrew Lewis in the bloody battle of Point Pleasant in 1774 against the Indians, received from the State of Virginia a grant of two thousand acres, extending a mile up the Gt. Kanawha and a mile down the Ohio from the point of intersection of the rivers. After his death in 1787 he willed this land to his sons Samuel and John, who moved to it from Greenbrier County in 1800. and settled on. In 1811, Samuel built a two story brick house, with a one story kitchen wing, and a square hall like you see in the Hollenback house. This house is standing opposite Ft. Pleasant, and owned by his descendants. I have visited there many times in my younger days. Coming on up the valley, a first cousin of my father Frances Hannan, married Mr. Albert Eastham about 1850 and he built a two story brick house--four rooms and square hall in the main part and a one story ell with kitchen and dining room. Then going on up the Valley four miles, another first cousin of father's Katharine Hannan married James Long who had a big farm he had bought from the Buffner family. they had build on it a two story with square hall with a one story ell. Another mile farther

from  
our  
home



was Holmwood the lovely old home of Judge James Couch, one of whose sons married my sister Sarah, who is still living in Raleigh, N.C. past 82 years of age. This Couch house was also a two story with square hall brick house with a one story ell. The next place was Cousin Peter Couch's place a two story frame house with square hall and one story ell. His wife was Katharine Eastham, daughter of the Cousin Frances Eastham that I mentioned before. And her ~~xxxxx~~ brother Henry married my oldest half sister.

In speaking of the old Henderson grant of my great great grandfather John Hendeson, his son John who moved to the grant with his brother Sam well about 1800, was my gt. grandfather as grandfather John Miller married his daughter Sarah as his second wife. By this marriage there were six daughters and one son my father, who was born in 1829. This John became very prominent in Mason county. He was a member of the first county court when the county was organized in 1809. He was a major in the county militia from that date on, and in the War of 1812 a Colonel. I have some of his old muster rolls and letters. From 1811 until his death in 1824 he was a member of the Virginia Legislature. His house about a mile up the Kanawha River was a two story hewn log house, later covered with weather boarding, and one story wing I have heard my father say. When the government built Lock 11 on the Kanawha the south side end was on the old Henderson land and the old house was torn down.

So you see that by marriage among the descendants of the old pioneer families in The Kanawha Valley I am kin to most of them. With all of this intermarriage I have never heard of but one case of marriage between first cousins, that was years ago between two of the Long families--there were three of the Long Brothers who came to the Valley from Page county Va.

I could go on for pages yet about old houses and my first cousins and uncles in Cabell County, Boyd Co., Ky. and other places. Owing to the fact that my grandfather John Miller had six sons and one daughter by his first wife Sophia Clendenning, daughter of Major Clendenning of what is now Mason County, when they grew up and spread out and had big families, who married well it has made me related to a lot of people, like the Thaxtons, Beuhrings and other in Huntington, Barboursville, Catlettsburg, etc.

This letter so far looks as though it is all about my own family and old houses, so after I rest a while later on today or tomorrow I will hold forth on the Hamptons and their homes.

Monday morning.

My office is a corner room and gets all of the afternoon sun on both side and front, and even with windows and doors open is terribly hot in the afternoon. Sunday I am not in the office but spend the day reading and listening to the radio. A heavy rain all night and still falling this morning has made the day very comfortable. In all my nearly fifty years up here (50 next May) on this mountain top three thousand feet above sea level I have never seen a summer like this one. <sup>like this</sup> In other years we have had a week or ten days of hot weather, but never more than two months of it with terrible humidity as it has been this year.

Coming back to the pictures of the Hollenback house interiors. I am sure that the floors, baseboards, paneling in the hall, and upstairs wooden mantel are original. I feel sure that behind the iron front upstairs that after coal was brought to Huntington, that the old wood fireplace was reduced with brick and a coal grate put in. As to the white mantel in the living room I am not sure. It looks like an iron mantel that became fashionable in the 1870ties, but a careful study of the moulding finishing the bottom of the upright pillars, and the moulding under the top part under the shelf there seems to be cracks where the different parts were put together. However the top mantel board seems to be iron, which was fashionable with the white iron mantels to have the top board black iron

No doubt the tiling was put in much later when gas came to Huntington, or may have had a coal or wood basket for use in the winter.

I am of the opinion that the stair railin and newel post are not the ones put in when the house was built in 1811, as at that time the uprights on the steps and the newel post were square. The rails and newel post shown are of the style used in good houses after the War between the States, and were bought direct from some manufacturer of architectural supplies.

I hope some time you may be able to consult some good architect in Huntington and see how near right I am.

I am like you about the old house at 16th. street, <sup>where</sup> that it is the old home of Dr. Hampton himself. It is true that after shooting Col. Shortridge the court costs etc. ate up most of his fortune. However your uncle is wrong as to where the shooting occurred. It was not at his office but at his home. After the bitter quarrel between the two, Col. S. told a good many people that he was going to shoot Dr. Hampton on sight. Some of them told Dr. Hampton, so a week or so later, after Col. Shortridge had cooled off he took his gun and told his family that he was going to see Dr. Hampton, apologize and ask him to go squirrel hunting with him that day. Dr. Hampton was sitting on his porch when he saw the Colonel with his gun open the yard gate and start up the path to the house. The Doctor stepped inside his door picked his gun and shot the Colonel before he got close to the house. This account of the shooting I had from my father-in-law, Mr. John W. Hampton, who had it from his father, who was a grandson of both Dr. Hampton and Col. Shortridge, and was a grown man when the shooting occurred.

Speaking of the Buffingtons, a sister of my father married Captain James Robert Buffington, and after living for a short time in an old brick house on the Big Sandy River near the mouth of the river, they then moved to St. Louis, where she died the next July at the birth of a son. According to the family records she died of "Cholera Morbus", but I am reasonably sure that instead it child bed fever. In spite of the heat in July. She and her infant son were brought back by boat to my grandfather's home place on Kanawha to bury in the family graveyard there. They were in a hermetical seal iron casket I have heard my father say. I have seen the monument many times which unlike the other plain marble ones had a marble angel on top. I have a fine daguerrotype of Capt. Robert and Aunt. Lyde taken at the time of their marriage.

Also speaking of the Buffingtons. When my father, James Henderson Miller, was attending Marshall Academy in 1845-46 he and his roommate and class mate Albert Galletin Jenkins boarded with the Buffington family. Later this room mate was father's groomsman when he married his first wife, and still later became a famous general in the Confederate army.

When speaking of the woodwork in the picture of the hall I am sure that if the paint is scraped off you will find the wood walnut if I am right about it not being the original stair railing, if it is the original it is more likely to be cherry, if not then I native black walnut. I am also of the opinion that the door at the back of the hall going in the ell wing is not the original door, as at the time of the house was built, doors were not made with two upright panels in the top part of the door, and two shorter upright panels in the lower half of the door. The panels always extended crossways of the door. The number of pannels above and below the center part of the door frame depended upon the height of the door.

Of course I would like very much to have a picture of the old house at 16th. street, but I do not feel like paying the expense of having it taken, if there has been one taken I would like to have a print of and will send you the money for it when ever you let me know.

With kindest regards to you and yours, I am,

The stair way at "Beach Hill" has exactly the same stair posts, but the newel post is slightly different - B. H. presumes was built in 1877 - the railing bought in Cincinnati.



517 Fourth St.,Huntington 1 W.Va.

August 4 1949.

Dear Dr.Miller:

Have been waiting for an envelope to mail the pictures. Since I am such a nervous writer,will try to answer your questions and you can make the notes on back of pictures to suit yourself. Dr.Cary Henry Hampton only had one daughter,Eleanor Hampton(have forgotten her middle name)who was born in Virginia in 1791 and was married to Martin Hellenback Jr.September 1,1811 in what is now Cabell Co.She died in August in 1873. After she was married,Dr.Cary Henry Hampton built this house on a tract of land at the mouth of Fourpele Creek and the Ohio River.I do not know if it was at once or later,but he disposed of his sixteenth street property, on which Marshall Collegewas later built in 1821 and I do know he lived with Eleanor at this place for some time,and was living there when he got so disgusted with everything and thought every one was trying to take all his property away from him and threw all his deeds and notes and valuable in the fire. From George Wallace's history I find that James Holderby was sheriff in 1821 ,and I wonder if that had any connection with him getting possession of the Hampton estate at sixteenth St. The House at 141-16th St is so much like the one I am sending at 2730 Orchard Ave.,and Uncle Henry Buffington told me Dr.Henry Hampton had a brick office on Ohio River bank and that is where he had the trouble with Col.Shertridge,and the court costs ate up his fortune.The Hellenbacks and McGinnis's went his bond and put up the money and that is why he deeded so much of his estate to them.

The walls of this house and one on 16th st. too are 18 inches thick and some are thicker and both are made of same kind of brick(I think they said they were made by hand) Both houses have gone through many Ohio River floods but are in perfect condition.The plaster had horse hair in it and the flood did not even crack it.If you are in a room with the door shut ,you hear no noise from the rest of the house. This house has been painted many times

and at the present is light yellow and very attractive. A retired Presbyterian minister, Rev. C. L. Nisbet is the present owner and occupant of this Eleanor Hampton Hellenback home at 2730 Orchard Ave., Huntington, West Va. Martin Hellenback died in 1849 and in 1851 this estate was sold to Edmund McGinniss and later came into the hands of the McCullough's, whose daughter married a Marcum. You probably remember the place as the Jim Marcum home. My grandmother was born there in 1822 and told me about the boats landing there and the slave traders driving the negroes there to be shipped down the river. Now about Sarah Hebsen Hampton who married George Newman Brown, my grandmother was named for her and eventually I was named Sarah Ann For " My grandmother and father used to talk a lot about the family but I do not remember whether she was an aunt or great aunt. You give Sarah Browns line as daughter of Henry Hampton and Betsy Cary Hebsen Hampton which would make her a sister of Cary Henry Hampton, but Geo. Wallace gives her as the daughter of John and as half brother of first Henry, instead of his daughter. Have also seen other places as " " " ". Do you have the exact data about it? Do you have the lineage of this Brown family, or did you give it to Wallace? If you would care to have it, I would be very happy to copy it for you. One thing that makes me very happy is the fact that I have lived very close to the Hampton property all my life if not actually on it. The original tract came west of 14th st and I lived above 12th st. until I was grown, and then my father built a new home on fifth ave and fourth st and I have lived on this lot 37 since 1906. I do not know if this has any thing to do with the original tract 37, but it was between 4th and 7th streets and the Sarah Brown home was between 4th and 5th Sts on second ave and was torn down a few years ago to make way for addition to incinerator. This tract was divided between the two sons and the one on the southern part had a hewn log house on it which has been covered over and still stands at 6th st and 13th ave. The Brown property also came into the hands of the McCullough's later. The abstract to our property goes back to the McCullough's too, but much later.