

On March 23, 1845, Joseph and Jane Hampton of Blount County in East Tennessee became the parents of a son. They named him Samuel Pate Hampton. Young Samuel and his family soon migrated to live in Missouri. In 1861, Samuel was about sixteen years old when the Civil War erupted. His young age prevented him from enlisting into the Union Army but in 1863, at age 18, he enrolled in a Missouri militia unit. Unfortunately, while serving with the militia, he was seriously injured.

*"I have a feeling that [my great-grandfather], Private Samuel P. Hampton, served in a unit of the Missouri State Militia before serving in Company G, 47<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Missouri Infantry. He as much admits this in an August 10, 1895 Affidavit. The governor of Missouri required men to serve [in the State Militia] before being authorized at the federal level. The injured soldiers were denied support by the U.S. Government."<sup>1</sup>*

*"He joined some Organization Called Mo. State Militia, in 1863, but he got badly hurt before he rendered any service, and was exempted from further service in that organization; that all the papers in regard to that organization got burnt; therefore, he is unable to remember the name of Company or Regiment."<sup>2</sup>*

*"In the year 1863 all able bodied male citizens subject to do military duty in Iron County, Missouri were enrolled in the 'Enrolled Missouri Malitia' [sic] to assist in the suppression of the rebellion by order of the department commander. A portion of said enrolled malitia [sic] was called into service. A portion was not. I cannot state if said soldier was called out or not. I was not. Have never known of any organization to which said soldier belonged other than government service in the suppression of the rebellion."<sup>3</sup>*

Getting injured and discharged from the state militia did not dampen young Samuel's desire to become a federal soldier. By September, 1864, he was living in the town of Ironton in Iron County, Missouri and had recovered sufficiently from his injury to finally enlist in the Union army. "He was enrolled on the 9th day of September, 1864, he was enrolled in Co. G, 47, Reg't Mo Inf'y. Vols."<sup>4</sup>

Living conditions in the field were definitely a challenge for young Samuel. He quickly contracted small pox and also suffered much from exposure. He was given leave of absence to recover but, "He was last discharged the 29<sup>th</sup> day of March, A.D. 1865, at Benton Barracks, Missouri."<sup>2</sup> "He states that a Captain Mace, due to his sickness, released him from duty. I have found on the roster for Company G, 47<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Missouri Infantry Vols., a Captain Morgan Mace listed."<sup>1</sup>

After his 1865 military discharge, Samuel P. Hampton focused on resuming life as a civilian. He was awarded a pension of twelve dollars per month. The basis of his pension was "disability from total blindness of one eye and partial blindness of [the] other, result of Small Pox incurred in the Military service of the United States, while serving as a Private (in) Co. G 47<sup>th</sup> Regt. Mo. Info. Vols."<sup>4</sup> He worked as a blacksmith in Ironton and soon married Virginia Wallace. But, his marriage quickly proved to be a rocky one and it was dissolved in Ironton in 1867 (or 1868) by divorce. On October 19, 1871, Samuel married again - this time to Martha E. Abrams. They eventually became the parents of seven children.

On August 10, 1895, Samuel Pate Hampton was fifty years old and living in the town of Ellsinore in Carter County, Missouri. He visited the local office of Notary Public Joseph Pace and filed an *Original Invalid Claim* and dictated a sworn affidavit in an attempt to increase his pension.

On May 30, 1898, Samuel finally got around to responding to a May 1895 questionnaire received from the Commissioner at the *Bureau of Pensions* in Washington, D.C. regarding his personal family situation. His response included the fact that his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife, Martha, had passed away the year before - on December 4, 1897. And he also reported that he was the father of six children by his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife, including: Florence Hampton/Farris (b. 1873); Joseph H. Hampton (b. 1875); Uri Dow Hampton (b. 1877); John W. Hampton (b. 1878, deceased); Minnie M. Hampton/Daniels (b. 1881); and Della C. Hampton/Colyott (b. 1891).

On January 29, 1907, Samuel was sixty-one years old and living near the town of Annapolis in Iron County, Missouri. On that day, he appeared before a Notary Public and swore out a statement again appealing for an increase in his pension allowance. He reported that the small pox that he had contracted during his military service had severely affected his eyesight and of other service related maladies.

*"That he believes himself to be entitled to an increase of pension on account of Increased disabilities resulting from pensioned causes; Blindness Totally in Right Eye; and Visible in Left Eye; and Cattarah of the Head; and Bronchital tubes of the Lungs; and also Kallises under the Bottom of Both feet, But worse in Right foot; Also age and general Disabilities. And that He were not treated at any Hospital; that He were given Leave of absence By Captain Mace and was taken Home until He were duly well of Small Pox; and while on Line of Duty at Pilot Knob Battle and fever High just setting in with Small Pox; and not being able to go with the Command is the Reason He got the Leave of the absence; and Being Exposed to the weather on the day of the Battle of Pilot Knob; and diseased with Small Pox is the Cause of the Loss of Eye Sights."<sup>4</sup>*

On May 6, 1907, Samuel was sixty-two and still living in Annapolis when he petitioned once again for a pension increase before a Notary Public.

*"He Claims increase of Pension on account of Small Pox; that 4 days Before the Battle of Pilot Knob, He was released from Duty on account of fever; and the Day of the Battle, the 26th day of September 1864 or about that, He was called in Line of Duty; and on or about 27th day September 1864 was Released to take care of Himself as best He could; and found that His ailments were Small Pox of the Very Worst stage; and He were Held in the Rain all day in that Battle was Causes for the disease of Being more Severe on Him; and that from said exposure the Disease attacked eyes and Put one out and the other unfit for to see to do Manual Labor; also Has Caused Him severe pains in the head; and that said pains in moving downward and has been going down for the past ten years; and for the past eight months, He has been unable for to do anything on account of said disease contracted in the Line of Duty in the U.S. Service; and that He Claims Higher Rating."<sup>6</sup>*

On October 29, 1907, Samuel was still 62 years old and had relocated to the town of Des Arc in Iron County, Missouri. On that day he appeared before a Notary Public in Wayne County, Missouri to again plead further for a pension increase.

*"On or about the 24<sup>th</sup> day of September 1864, I was siezed with a violent feaver for which I was releaved from all manner of duty and was assigned to my tent for treatment until further developments of my diseases. And on or about the 26<sup>th</sup> day of September 1864, while in line of duty at the Battle of Pilot Knob, Missouri, I was exposed to a very heavy rain fall and got very wet with Small Pox feavor. And in the Retreat Being to sick to travel, I was 'Inroled' to take care of myself the best I could. I made my way home the next morning. I was broke out with a very severe case of Smallpox. And as soon as I was able, I returned to the Command in February or March 1865. I was treated in the Hospital at Collumbia, Tenn. for a Pain in my head and right Eye. Further in 1865 about June while in the field hoeing corn I lost the hearing in my Right Ear which I believe was caused by the feaver I had while in The Service. In 1867 one Dr. I. M. Raney treated me at Des Arc, now dead. In 1877 also by Dr. Harrison, who address was Lesterville, Mo., and also one Dr. McKinsey who is also dead ????. During more treatment - I lost the use of my Right Eye. Dr. McKinsey address was Centerville, Mo."<sup>6</sup>*

On April 2, 1915, Samuel was living in the town of Hunter in Carter County, Missouri when he responded to a questionnaire from the *Bureau of Pensions* about his family. On the questionnaire, Samuel acknowledged that he and his wife, Martha, also had a seventh child - Samuel Jefferson Hampton (b. 1884)<sup>7</sup>. In 1919, Samuel was still living in Hunter. In 1923, after many years of battling his various health issues, the final ailment occurred. He bravely fought a seven-day attack of acute nephritis. But, he finally passed away at 7:00 a.m. on July 6, 1923. He was 78 years and 3 months old. The old soldier was laid to rest at Mt. Carmel Cemetery in Hunter on the following day.<sup>8</sup>

1. Memo by great-grandson Samuel F. Hampton Jr. of Pasadena, Texas, 19 Jul 2007.
2. Affidavit by Samuel Pate Hampton, State of Missouri, County of Carter, Claim No. 1135262, Co. G 47<sup>th</sup> Mo., Vols., filed by Wm. P. Grove, Solicitor of Pensions at Washington, D.C., 10 Aug 1895, pension file record.
3. Affidavit by William A. Fletcher, State of Missouri, County of Iron, pension application of Samuel P. Hampton, Co. G, 47<sup>th</sup> Mo. Inf. Vols., 1900, pension file record.
4. *Declaration for the Increase of an Invalid Pension*, State of Missouri, County of Iron, by Samuel P. Hampton, 29 Jan 1907, filed by Soule & Co. Attorneys, Washington, D.C., pension file record.
5. Affidavit by Samuel Pate Hampton, State of Missouri, County of Iron, 6 May 1907, pension file record.
6. Affidavit by Samuel Pate Hampton, State of Missouri, County of Wayne, 29 Oct 1907, pension file record.
7. Questionnaire from Bureau of Pensions, Washington, D.C., 2 Jan 1915, to Samuel Hampton, pension file record.
8. *Certificate of Death*, Samuel Hampton, MO State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, No. 20963. Reg. 145, File No. 12.