



# HISTORY OF TOWN OF HAMPTON

**EARLY JAN. 1781** - WHILE ON THE RUN FROM BRITISH FORCES GENERAL DANIEL MORGAN STOPS IN WHAT IS NOW KNOWN AS HAMPTON OR THE HAMPTON VALLEY AREA. HIS MEN HIDE OUT THERE FOR TWO DAYS PRIOR TO THE BATTLE OF COWPENS. SMALL SKIRMISHES AND BATTLES OCCUR DURING THIS TIME UNTIL GENERAL MORGAN DECIDES IT IS TIME TO MOVE ON. THE BRITISH HAD FOUND HIM OUT AND THEY WERE ON HIS HEELS.

**MAR. 1781** – JAMES HAMPTON DRIVES HIS MOVES INTO A VALLEY THAT IS NOW KNOWN AS HAMPTON. UNCLAIMED LAND IN A VALLEY JUST SOUTHEAST OF THE APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS IN SOUTH CAROLINA. HE BRINGS WITH HIM HIS WIFE, 4 SONS AND 2 DAUGHTERS, ALONG WITH 4 WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. THE ORIGINAL FAMILY NAMES ARE JAMES AND BESSIE MAE, AND CHILDREN JAMES JR., JOSALINE, JOHNNY, JIMMY, JESSIE, AND JACK. THE WORKERS ARE JAMES COOKE, ED QUINN, HADDEN COGGINS, & LEE GOODE.

**JUNE 1782** – AFTER 1 ½ YEARS JAMES HAMPTON HAS STAKED HIS CLAIM TO WHAT IS NOW KNOWN AS THE HAMPTON VALLEY BY PETITIONING THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE LEGISLATURE STATING HIS CLAIM. HAMPTON’S FARM CLAIMS SOME 40,000 ACRES OR 62.5 SQUARE MILES OF VALLEY FLAT LAND, FOOTHILLS, AND MOUNTAINS. IT ALSO HAS ONE LAKE ON THE PROPERTY, LAKE NOAH.

**JULY 1801 – JAN. 1802** – 35,000 ACRES ARE SOLD OFF TO DIFFERENT BUYERS AT \$0.78 PER ACRE BRINGING THE HAMPTON’S SOME \$27,300.00. THE LARGEST SALE OF LAND GOES TO HADDEN COGGINS, 9,000 ACRES. SOME OF THAT LAND INCLUDES MAOF MOUNTAIN AND IS NOW HOME TO COGGINS BED & BREAKFAST.

**SEPT. 1818** – A GROUP OF MEN PETITION THE STATE LEGISLATURE. WISHING TO INCORPORATE THE VALLEY, BECOMING THE TOWN OF HAMPTON, HONORING JAMES HAMPTON AS BEING ITS ORIGINAL SETTLER.

**NOV. 1818** – HAMPTON ELECTS ITS FIRST MAYOR AND COUNCIL; JAMES HAMPTON IS ELECTED 1<sup>ST</sup> MAYOR WITH COUNCILMEN JAMES COOKE AND HADDEN COGGINS.

**DEC. 1842** – BESSIE MAE HAMPTON SUCCOMBS TO TYPHOID FEVER AT AGE 88, THREE DAYS LATER JAMES HAMPTON SUFFERS A MASSIVE HEART ATTACK AFTER THE FUNERAL OF HIS WIFE, SOME SAY HE WAS HEARTBROKEN, HE PASSES AT AGE 91. THE TOWNS ORIGINAL SETTLERS AND FIRST MAYOR WERE GONE. THEY WERE BURIED IN NEARBY TENNESSEE BY RELATIVES. THE REMAINING LAND THEY OWN IS LEFT TO THEIR CHILDREN AND THE TOWN OF HAMPTON.

**APRIL 1853** – AFTER 7 MEETINGS THE GROUP OF MEN HAVE DECIDED ON A CHAIRMAN THOMAS R. AINS AND AGREED TO CONSTRUCT A RAILROAD. THE INNER HAMPTON RAIL SERVICE WAS BORN.

**NOV. 1853** – THE TOWNSPEOPLE AGREE DURING NORMAL ELECTIONS TO ALLOW THE INNER HAMPTON RAIL SERVICE TO BORROW MONEY AGAINST THE TOWNS NAME.

**FOR HISTORY OF RAILROAD SEE “BATTELFIELD DIVISION OF NORFOLK SOUTHERN”  
TIMELINE**

**JULY 1858** – HAMPTON CONSTRUCTS AND OPENS ITS FIRST TOWN HALL IN OLD TOWN.

**MAR. 1860** – THE TOWN OF HAMPTON AND THE INNER HAMPTON RAIL SERVICE JOINTLY AGREE TO FORM A POLICE DEPT. TALMEDGE COOPER IS APPOINTED THE TOWNS FIRST POLICE CHIEF.

**FOR HISTORY OF POLICE DEPARTMENT SEE “HISTORY OF HAMPTON POLICE  
DEPARTMENT”**

**JAN. 1861** – HAMPTON FORMS ITS FIRST FIRE DEPT. LOCAL TREE FARMER BRUCE QUINN IS APPOINTED THE TOWNS FIRST FIRE CHIEF.

**FOR HISTORY OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT SEE “HISTORY OF HAMPTON FIRE  
DEPARTMENT”**

**MAR. 1861** – THE TOWNS FIRST FIRE STATION IS BUILT ACROSS FROM THE CITY HALL IN OLD TOWN.

**FEB. 1861 – FEB. 1865** – THE CIVIL WAR, HAMPTON AND ITS RAILROAD PLAY A VITAL PART IN THE NORTH VS. THE SOUTH.

**DEC. 1889** – THE FIRST CITY HALL IS DESTROYED BY FIRE. IT IS REBUILT IN THE SAME LOCATION.

**SEPT. 1921** – HAMPTON MEDICAL CENTER OPENS IN THEIR FIRST HOSPITAL. IT IS STILL PART OF THE HOSPITAL TODAY.

**JUNE 1929** – THE TOWNS FIRST LINE OF DUTY DEATH FOR THE FIRE DEPT. OCCURS WHILE FIGHTING A RAILCAR TANKER FIRE.

**AUG. 1937** – CITY HALL IS REMODELED.

**DEC. 1941 – SEPT. 1945** – THE TOWN AND ITS RAIL SERVICE NEARLY GO BANKRUPT DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

**APRIL 1953** – AT THE 100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, THE TOWN OF HAMPTON WAS SURPRISED BY THEIR MOST DISTINGUISHED GUEST IN HISTORY. PRESIDENT DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER. HIS SPEECH STIRRED THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE OF HAMPTON STATING, “...THE TRUE SPIRIT OF AMERICA HAS BEEN EVIDENT HERE FOR 100 YEARS. THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF THE INNER HAMPTON RAIL SERVICE SUPPORTED WHAT THEY THOUGHT TO BE A WORTHY CAUSE DURING THE CIVIL WAR AND AGAIN SERVED WHAT WAS A WORTHY CAUSE DURING WORLD WAR II. THESE MEN RETURNED FROM A TRAGIC TIME IN AMERICAN HISTORY THAT WAS TURNED VICTORIOUS, TO YET ANOTHER TRAGIC TIME FOR THEIR TOWN NOW RAVAGED BY WAR. WITH THE TRUE AMERICAN SPIRIT, THEY FOUGHT AGAIN TO REBUILD THIS GREAT TOWN...” PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S C.O. DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR WAS NONE OTHER THAN HOWARD S. CALE THE 4th.

**MAR. 1956** – DEVELOPMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL PORTION OF TOWN BEGINS ON LAND ACQUIRED THROUGH ANNEXATION. THE PORTION WOULD LATER BECOME KNOWN AS NEW TOWN. INCLUDED IN THIS IS THE CONSTRUCTION OF “HIGH BRIDGE” CONNECTING OLD TOWN AND NEW TOWN.

**JAN. 1958** – HAMPTON HAS RIBBON CUTTING ON A TROLLEY LINE THAT RUNS BETWEEN OLD TOWNE & NEW TOWNE. IT IS STILL OPERATIONAL TODAY.

**NOV. 1970** – HAMPTON BUILDS A NEW FIRE STATION ON THE CORNER OF MAIN ST. EXT. AND NORTH AVE. THE CURRENT HEADQUARTERS STATION. THE FORMER LAND ACROSS FROM CITY HALL ON MAIN ST. LATER BECOMES VETERANS PARK.

**DEC. 1975 – JULY 1976** – HAMPTON AGAIN REMODELS CITY HALL LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF MAIN ST. & NORTH AVE. IN OLD TOWNE.

**JAN. 1981** – THE TOWN OF HAMPTON HAS RIBBON CUTTING ON “CONFEDERATE PARK” LOCATED ON MAIN ST. EXT. IN OLD TOWN, THE FORMER FIRE DEPARTMENT PROPERTY.

**JUNE 1986** – A PORTION OF MAIN ST. NEW TOWN BURNS.

**FEB. 2000 – DEC. 2001** – GROUND IS BROKEN AND A NEW FIRE DEPT. IT IS CONSTRUCTED (THE CURRENT SUB-STATION) IN NEW TOWN ON BATTLEFIELD HIGHWAY, CLOSE TO MAIN STREET.

**DEC. 2002** – THE HAMPTON EMS IS PRESENTED WITH A MEDICAL HELICOPTER FROM THE BDNS.

**DEC. 2003** – THE TOWN BEGINS TO RECEIVE A 17% FRANCHISE FEE FROM THE SALE OF THE RAIL SERVICE TO THE NORFOLK SOUTHERN LINES.

**AUG. 2005** – A NEW POLICE STATION IS OPENED IN NEW TOWN AT THE CORNER OF BATTLEGROUND HIGHWAY & PINE ST. THE POLICE DEPARTMENT STILL MAINTAINS AN OFFICE IN OLD TOWN AT CITY HALL.

**JULY 2008** – THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE OPENS A NEW POST OFFICE IN NEW TOWN ON MAIN ST.

**OCT. 2023** – HAMPTON MEDICAL CENTER OPENS AUBREY HOPE CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL.