



HISTORY OF HAMPTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

MAR. 1860 – THE TOWN OF HAMPTON APPROACHES THE INNER HAMPTON RAIL SERVICE SEEKING BACKING THROUGH FUNDING TO START A TOWN POLICE DEPT. INNER HAMPTON RAIL SERVICE AGREES AND THE HAMPTON POLICE DEPT. IS FORMED. LOCAL FAVORITE TALMEDGE COOPER IS APPOINTED THE TOWN'S FIRST POLICE CHIEF. THE POLICE STATION IS LOCATED IN THE BACK OF TOWN HALL IN A 10' x 10' OFFICE.

JAN. 1878 – HAMPTON POLICE DEPT. DEPUTIZES ITS FIRST DEPUTY. VIC ROSS BECOMES THE TOWNS FIRST DEPUTY.

JUN. 1891 – AT AGE 64 COOPER STEPS ASIDE TO HAND THE POLICE DEPT. OVER TO HIS DEPUTY VIC ROSS. ROSS IMMEDIATELY DEPUTIZES R. L. LARK AS DEPUTY.

AUG. 1903 – THE FIRST BANK ROBBERY OF HAMPTON OCCURS. B.B. PHILLIPS ROBS THE HAMPTON SAVINGS AND LOAN OF \$73.00. HE IS CAUGHT LATER IN THE DAY TRYING TO SNEAK OUT OF TOWN ON AN INNER HAMPTON RAIL SERVICE FREIGHT CAR.

APR. 1909 – VIC ROSS PASSES WHILE STILL THE POLICE CHIEF. THE HAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL APPOINTES OUTSIDER WAYNE BUTLER. THIS DOES NOT SET WELL WITH LOCAL TOWNS FOLK.

SEPT. 1926 – THE TOWN OF HAMPTON PURCHASES ITS FIRST MOTORIZED POLICE CAR. A 1926 MODEL T FORD IS PURCHASED.

AUG. 1937 – TOWN HALL IS REMODELED AND THE POLICE DEPT. RECEIVES A LARGER SPACE AND 2 HOLDING CELLS IS THE REAR OF TOWN HALL.

DEC. 1940 – WAYNE BUTLER RESIGNS (FINALLY) AS POLICE CHIEF AND R.L. LARK RETIRES. THE TOWN OF HAMPTON DEPUTIZES THE GRANDSON OF THE LATE TALMEDGE COOPER, JOHN COOPER AS DEPUTY LATER THAT WEEK HE BECOMES POLICE CHIEF. HE DEPUTIZES R.C. TINSLEY AS DEPUTY.

DEC. 1941 – HAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL PURCHASES ITS SECOND POLICE CAR. A 1941 CHEVROLET.

JUN. 1948 – HAMPTON PURCHASES A 1948 CHEVROLET POLICE CAR.

FEB. 1956 – JOHN COOPER RETIRES AS POLICE CHIEF. R.C. TINSLEY ASSUMES THE POLICE CHIEF DUTIES AND DEPUTIZES PAUL PETTIT AND RANDEL LARK. THE LATE R.L. LARK'S SON.

JULY 1962 – HAMPTON REPLACES THE 1941 AND 1948 POLICE CARS WITH 2 NEW 1962 FORD POLICE CRUISERS.

AUG. 1969 – R.C. TINSLEY RETIRES AND HAMPTON APPOINTS VICTOR ROSS AS POLICE CHIEF. HE IS THE GREAT-GREAT GRANDSON OF THE LATE VIC ROSS THE TOWNS SECOND POLICE CHIEF.

JUN 1974 – PAUL PETTIT AND RANDEL LARK RETIRE FROM THE POLICE FORCE. B.L. MOTTS AND JACK REYNOLDS ARE DEPUTIZED.

JULY 1975 – HAMPTON BREAKS GROUND ON A NEW CITY HALL AND POLICE STATION. ALSO DURING THAT MONTH CHIEF ROSS CONVINCED TOWN COUNCIL TO START REPLACING POLICE CRUISERS AT A RATE OF ONE EVERY OTHER YEAR. THIS WILL ALLOW THEM TO HAVE AT LEAST ONE NEW CRUISER ON THE ROAD AT ALL TIMES HE STATES. (POLICE CRUISERS ARE PURCHASED AT THIS RATE UNTIL 1990)

DEC. 1976 – HAMPTON OPENS ITS NEW MUNICIPAL BUILDING WHICH HOUSES LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICES. THE TOWN ALSO ADDS TWO (2) MORE POLICE OFFICER POSITIONS. THIS BRINGS THE POLICE FORCE TO FOUR (4) DEPUTIES AND THE POLICE CHIEF.

JUN. 1980 – VICTOR ROSS RETIRES DUE TO ILLNESS AND RICHARD TINSLEY A COUNTY POLICE IS APPOINTED POLICE CHIEF. HE HIRES RIC MAKUPSON AS DEPUTY BRINGING THE FORCE TO SIX (6). MAKUPSON IS THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN POLICE OFFICER IN THE TOWN.

JULY 1990 – HAMPTON TOWN COUNCIL BEGINS PURCHASING ONE (1) NEW POLICE CRUISER PER YEAR. THEY ALSO ALLOW THE DEPT. TO KEEP THREE (3) VEHICLES IN ACTIVE USE AND ONE (1) IN RESERVE.

AUG. 1995 – RICHARD TINSLEY RETIRES AND RIC MAKUPSON IS APPOINTED POLICE CHIEF. HE IS THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN POLICE CHIEF AND ALSO THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN DEPT. HEAD IN THE TOWN OF HAMPTON.

JAN. 1998 – FIRST CITIZENS BANK IS ROBBED AND ONE (1) CIVILIAN SUFFERS MINOR INJURIES. THE CASE IS STILL UNSOLVED. AN UNDISCLOSED AMOUNT OF CASH IS TAKEN.

FEB. 1998 – THE POLICE DEPT. IS NOW STAFFED BY 12 UNIFORMED PATROL OFFICERS, A SECRETARY, AND CHIEF MAKUPSON.

AUG. 2005 – CHIEF MAKUPSON RETIRES AND PHIL COOPER IS SWORN IN AS POLICE CHIEF. HE IS THE GREAT GRANDSON (4 TIMES REMOVED), OF THE FIRST POLICE CHIEF TALMEDGE COOPER. DURING THIS SAME MONTH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT MOVES INTO A NEW STATION IN NEW TOWN.

JAN. 2017 – CHIEF COOPER RETIRES AND HANDS THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OVER TO HIS SON, GRANT COOPER. COOPER STILL SERVES AS THE TOWN'S POLICE CHIEF.

PRESENT DAY – THE HAMPTON POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS A STAFF OF THE POLICE CHIEF, ASST. POLICE CHIEF, 40 UNIFORMED PATROL, 12 DETECTIVES, AN ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, AND A VICTIM'S ADVOCATE FOR A TOTAL OF 56 PERSONNEL. THEY ALSO HAVE A SWAT TEAM THAT HAS THEIR OWN VEHICLES.