We pray for you every night. How are you all?

I must close your loving and obedient Grandson

W. Ireland Hampton.

Note to Aunt Sally and uncle Edol.

I am ever so thankful for the present you sent me. I could not have chosen to suit me better, and will try to do you a favor sometime.

I sent my love to you in Grandmas letter.

Good bye.
Ashland, Kentucky,
November 2nd, 1946.

Mr. Howard Hampton,
Lubbock, Texas.

My dear Howardt,

First I will tell you who I am, maybe your father saw you after here was here on a short visit, my deceased husband was William J. Hampton, a first cousin of your father's, his father was named Oliver and a brother of your grandfather (Rev. John Hampton). I met your father in 1924, I think it was or there abouts he he had been to W. Va. to see his sister who soon passed away, and he stopped off here and had lunch with us and came back after visiting his friend and spend the evening with us.

Your father and Hallie were here a few years a go, and he informed me he had nothing that belonged to his grand father Hampton or his grandfather Ireland, I gave him a small black walnut chair that had been given me that belonged to his grand mother Hampton, and I also gave him two silver teaspoons one for you and one for your brother Ireland, Now I have a pewter, I think that is what it is, water pitcher that they went to house-keeping with, was given my by his second wife, and I also have the sideboard that your grandfather and grand mother Ireland, had, your father wanted it, and it was given to me when I first married, it had been in the home of my sister-in-law for years, I told your father when I could find another old one he could have it, and I wonder if you would want it when I find another one, Now I like it and do not want to try to just get rid of it, but I thought as I had promised it to your father, I would write you about it.

I have heard that your brother is now deceased, your father spoke so nicely of his daughters in law and so fondly of his two sons.

I have written Hallie several times for your address, but guess she does not get my letters, but they never are returned to me, So Joe Miller sent me the address I am using to-day. And he told me your brother was deceased.

I met Joe and his three sons, when Pamela passed away they brought her to my home and of course they were all there, I certainly like all of them.

I will be glad to hear from you,
Your cousin
Quince Stovall Hampton.

Mrs. W. J. Hampton.
Dear Howard:

I have been not well and also had company, which prevented my answering your letter of April 13th, sooner, but there was no hurry any way in regard to the Ashland Cemetery Ireland burial lots.

The main thing in all of this business of buying out other interests was to avoid the humiliation of the descendants of Judge Ireland and his family connections, like myself of permitting the ground where the Irelans and Hamps are buried belonging to strangers. Now all this is corrected as besides you Texas Hamps with one sixth (half your grandmother Hampton's third) the other five sixths belongs to me and me, and of course ultimately my third will go them. I bought Mrs. Jones' third and Aunt Rose Ireland deeded hers to my three boys, so it would not go to her brother's children who have no interest in the Ireland and Hamptons.

The main reason as I explained to you about getting a deed to me from you folks in Texas is that Lot No. 43 is vacant and can be sold to other people for about $92 four or five hundred dollars now, and it can not be sold without a clear deed from all the heirs, including minor heirs, any more than any other land, is where Ireland's children enter the picture. If this could be sold I would get back the $800 I have put in if from my own pocket, besides five dollars for clearing up the whole plot. But Quince writes me to clear their title suit would have to be brought in Boyd County to get this and it would be expensive, so we might as well forget it, at least for the present. I will have her find out what it will cost, and if not too much I may do it. There would also she says have to be some legal paper from Tarrant County to show that neighbor your father or brother left any will or court administered estate. If all this costs too much nothing would be gained anyway by the sale of the Norton lot. My idea was by selling it I could get back what I put into it and there would be some left to divide among the heirs. I am sure Aunt Rose and no doubt Ireland's widow could use it.

In the next few days I am going to mail you a package that I think you should have. It will contain the Christening dress and skirt made of your father's grandmother Ireland for him to be christened in. It is beautifully made, but most curious by modern baby clothes. On the same pattern as adult clothes--big flaring long skirt, narrow little waist, a big bow in the back etc. The reason I have it is that both your aunts also used it as a christening dress, and your Aunt Pamela being the last one of them she had it. Also there will be cape made of your great grandmother for these youngster. They are now about seventy five years or more old, and quite a curiosity. Perhaps when your daughter grows up and has children of her own she will be delighted to have the Christening dress of her grandfather Hampton. It attracted attention some years ago when the women of the church put on a show/fold things for some church benefit and your aunt included it her exhibit. No doubt Hally will some day give your daughter your grandmother's Hampton's graduation bracelet when she graduated from College in 1869. Your aunt had both of them and after she died I sent
May 26, 1947

Dear Uncle Joe:

The christening dress and other things mentioned in your letter of the 6th arrived the other day, and they are very much appreciated. We shall preserve these for Marian, and it is likely that some day she will wish to have her children wear them at christening.

Indeed, we do appreciate the old family heirlooms. My great aunt recently gave us for Marian a china plate that was a gift to my great-great-grandmother at her wedding in 1820.

In regard to the bracelet of Grandmother Hampton's that is in Hally's possession; she has said that this is to go to young Ireland's daughter. On Pop's death she delivered to me the oil portrait of Grandmother Hampton, and she said that Pop's watch—which I think was Grandfather Hampton's—was eventually to go to young Ireland's son. As the oldest living male Hampton, I thought it should have come to me, but Hally decided otherwise. If Pop left a will, Hally has never mentioned it, although it seems that, being a lawyer, he would not have overlooked so essential a provision. However, I presume he did not, since subsequent to his death Hally asked for and my brother and I executed quit-claim deeds to their home in Ft. Worth.

From the above, please do not get the impression that Hally and I do not get along. We are fond of each other, and have always gotten along well.

As you mentioned, Mendlie's Helen has told us that her onyx bracelet of Grandmother Ireland's is eventually to go to our Marian. She will treasure it highly as her only piece of jewelry from the paternal side of her family. I am preserving my mother's watch for her.
one to your father and the other one I gave to John's wife. I don't know if you and Val care for old family relics, as my boys do and their wives do. The two Helms have the great grandmother Ireland enameled bracelets, and I think the arrangement is that when they die one goes to your daughter and the other one to "Dusty" John's boy. Helen, Hendie's wife has some lovely jewelry that belonged to my mother and fine pieces I had given your Aunt Pamela. These of course will go to "Dusty".

Hendie spent last week end with me. He had business last Thursday in Washington, and Friday in Baltimore, so left there Friday afternoon on the Limited and I had him met that night at eleven o'clock at Oakland, Md., our nearest B & O. stop. He stayed until Sunday afternoon when he had to leave for Richmond where he had two days business before going back to New York. They were all well and Helen had gone to her father's for the week end to help celebrate her parents' 50th wedding anniversary.

We are still having winter, yesterday had snow, hail as big as marbles, sleet etc. Cold and rainy today.

With kindest regards and best wishes for all of I remain,

Sincerely Your Uncle,
We still are expecting young Ireland's widow and children out for a visit with us the latter part of June. During her visit I will find out definitely whether she has been empowered by the court to act legally for the children, and if not see whether we could get it arranged in the court here. I feel quite confident that she will be willing to make the conveyance, with me to attend to the details for her, and, as I have already stated, I shall be glad to sign the deed covering my interest at any time that you care to send it to me.

After two rather dry years in this western country, we have had a great deal of rain recently, and range conditions were never better. However, the farmers are beginning to cry for dry weather, as the continued rain is endangering what promises to be the largest wheat crop ever.

Now that school is out, we will be at the ranch for the summer. The address there is Route 2, Slaton, Texas, should you wish to communicate with us.

Our fondest wishes for you, the boys and their families.

Sincerely,
JOSEPH L. MILLER, M. D.
THOMAS, WEST VIRGINIA
March 29, 1947.

Dear Howard:

A letter from Quince Hampton this morning told me about her letter to Hally about your interest in the Ireland cemetery plot at Ashland, and your reply to the same.

I was shocked last fall to find out that when Aunt Rose Ireland dies, and whatever estate she leaves goes to her brother's heirs in Indiana, then two thirds of the ground where the Irelands and Hamptons are buried will belong to strangers, not connected with the family and not interested in it, so started at once to correct this as far as I can. Knowing your grandfather and grandmother Hampton, as well as your father, as well as all of the Irelands, except your great grandfather Ireland, I am sure that they would have been horrified at the thought their descendants did not think enough of the families to keep them from being in ground that belongs to strangers. I am quite sure that your father, when I knew even better than some of my own brothers, if he were living now, would do all that he could possibly do to correct it, and naturally it would have been his place rather than mine, as he carried their blood and I do not--only connected by marriage, but my boys of course have the same Hampton and Ireland blood that you do.

This plot, purchased by Judge Ireland in 1883 consists of three adjoining lots, Nos. 43, 44, and 45, at his death they naturally descended to his surviving children, your grandmother, Mrs. Norton, and Sam Ireland. Judge and Mrs. Ireland, Sam Ireland, and Aunt Rosa's mother and father are all buried on lot 45, where the big Ireland monument stands. There are two vacant graves on it, and no doubt when "Aunt Rose" dies she will be buried in one of them. On lot 44 three of the small Ireland children who died in infancy, William, Joseph and Annie are buried, also your Hampton grandparents, your aunts, Pamela and Alice Hampton, and a Miss White, whom Aunt Rose took care of and who left her her property when she died. This lot is the larger of the 3 lots and there is room for 5 or 6 more graves on it. In the course of time I will be in one of them, and possibly one or both of your twin cousins and their wives may be in the others. Lot 43 which was intended for the Nortons has not been occupied, and as the ashes of Mr. and Mrs. Norton were buried in the foot of Dianna's coffin when she was buried in the National cemetery at Arlington, and her daughter buried in California, which ended this branch of the Ireland family, and the third interest in all three lots passed to the widow of Col. Jones.

I had Quince take the matter up with her, and I bought her interest for $25.00 in all three lots. When I put the matter up to Aunt Rose, she deeded her third interest to my boys, as they are closer to Ashland and naturally with their parents buried there will see to it that it does not pass from the family, as I am sure that your father would have done, and you folks will, although no doubt none of you Texas Hamptons will ever be buried there, and probably will never even visit the cemetery as you live so far away and none of the family in Ashland to ever come to visit.

Now as to the reason for wanting a deed for your father's one sixth interest, half of your grandmother Hampton's third, is the possible disposal of the empty Norton lot No. 43, which is the smaller of the three and has room for seven graves in it. Cemetery lots are the same as other real estate and must have proper deed etc. recorded to show ownership. As the old part of the Ashland cemetery is now pretty
April 13, 1947

Dear Uncle Joe:

I have your letter in regard to the Ireland family cemetery lots, concerning which I had heard earlier from Cousin Quince Hampton.

From your letter I judge that she has advised you that Hally did not acquire any part of Pop's interest on his death. This in view of the fact that I had written her that so far as I know he left no will; and the same in regard to Ireland, Jr.

So far as I am concerned, I want no remuneration for my interest, and I desire that the entire consideration of $50 that you mention should go to Ireland, Jr.'s, widow and children.

There may be considerable difficulty in obtaining court permission for the widow to assign the minor children's interest, and for me to help her with it. She lives in Fort Worth, something over 300 miles from here, and about the same distance from where they were living when Ireland, Jr., died. If it is necessary to obtain such permission from the court where he died, the difficulty would be increased. If such authority might be granted by the court at Fort Worth, she might be willing to undertake it. Between teaching school, keeping house, and caring for her children, she has her time pretty well taken up.

She and the children expect to visit us around June 20th. If any Texas court could grant her the desired authority, we likely could effect it here much better at that time. I would be glad to hear from you on this point.

All of us are well, and we hope that all of you are also. Sincerely,
well filled up, single graves are now selling at $50.00 or a little more up to $60.00 depending on the location. So this lot with room for seven graves is worth around $350.00, and a deed for it would have to be signed by every one having any interest in it, whether by inheritance or by purchase, which means a lot of other expense and trouble if there are a lot of them, so the fewer number of owners the better. If were not for this vacant lot and possible sale, the matter would have not been mentioned to you folks as I feel absolutely sure that so far as any vacant graves in the lots 44 and 45 where the Hamptons and Irelands are buried none of you would think of selling a single one of them any more than my boys would as long as you descendants of Judge Ireland were the sole owners.

So far the getting of the various wills from the places where they were recorded, and the deeds from Mrs. Jonas and Aunt Rose and the recording of them in Boyd County, and the attorney's fee for doing this the expense has to date been $88.70 which I have paid in order to get the whole mess straightened out regarding outside ownership, and there the matter would have been dropped had it not been for the Norton lot, and nothing said about the expense, as I am glad to do that much for your grandfather and grandmother whom I loved very much, as well as for your father who closer to me than my own.

When I sent Aunt Rose the deed to sign for her third to my boys I told that when and if the Norton lot is sold and she is still living I would see to it that she got her third of the price, and I feel sure that at times she needs it, also wrote Quince that you folks would get your one sixth interest in it if there was no more expense connected with it that I had to pay.

Now that it has gone this far, if you decide to sell your one sixth interest to me or my boys, and have your court grant permission for Ireland's widow to sing for the rights of her minor children's interest I will have the deed prepared and send you my personal check for $50.00, and so get the matter all straightened up and prepared to talk business to any one wishing to purchase the lot, and not have to write every one concerned for permission to sell and then send the deed to two or three states for a great many signatures. My own boys give me their power of attorney to sign for them. I am glad that Quince told you the value of the lot so that you might not think I want it as an investment with the prospect of making a profit out of it. It is merely to simply the sale in case it ever came up. I will never be bothered with selling a single grave at a time if the lot stays vacant for ever, but if some one wants to buy the whole lot of seven graves space at one time I would of course let it go and be done with it.

No doubt you hear more or less often of your Miller kinfolks through Helen as she loves all of you very much and I know keeps in touch with you, so there is nothing I can add about the family, except at the present we are in our usual health, and that letter writing for me anymore is quite a job so do not write very many.

With love to all of you, your uncle,
Dear Howard:

The enclosed letter from Quince was received some time ago, but due to the extreme heat and humidity up here which takes all of the pet out of me, as well as visitors from Richmond and New York for short visits I did not do it before this. I am mailing this to Slater, although you are probably back in town on account of Marian's school, but if so it will probably be forwarded to you.

Last year Quince wrote me about the old Hampton graveyard on your great-grandfather William Hampton's old place above Catlettsburg which no Hampton has owned for some seventy odd years, after he deeded it to his second wife when he married her. Deeded her all real estate he owned as well as gave her all personally property, even to fine old furniture and silver that belonged to his first wife Sarah Buchanan. Then when he got sick, his sons, your grandfather and his brother, Oliver, also a lawyer in Ashland, had to take care of paying the nurse, doctor etc., who took care of him until he died. His first wife and her children by her first husband got every thing, and no doubt didn't even pay the old man's funeral expenses.

Quince suggested that he and his first wife and two small children who are buried on the lot be moved to either Catlettsburg, where his son Oliver and his wife are buried or to Ashland where your grandparents are buried. I told her that I thought that the proper thing to do, and would gladly pay as much as a hundred dollars to have it done, but to let the matter rest for awhile until the tangle about the Ireland lots in Ashland was settled satisfactorily, and you folks in Texas consult about it, since you are the ones that carry the Hampton blood, and I do not, but my boys do.

I suggested then to her that, unless buried in steel caskets, that probably the only things found would be some bones of all of them, and coffin plates and handles, and that all be put either in a small rough box as supplied by an undertaker, of a small inexpensive coffin and that put in a rough box. I am willing to pay as much as $150.00 for my share of it, if it is decided to do it. I think the place for them to be buried would be in the vacant graves above your grandfather and grandmother Hampton in the Hampton lot in Ashland. I know how much grandfather loved and admired his father and mother, and am sure that is what he would do if he were living, and also your own father who was named for him and knew his grandfather Hampton, for several years before the old gentleman died. I'm not all a put in one grave just now unless I can.

I have the old portraits of the old couple, which were painted by the same artist that painted your grandmother Hampton's portrait which you now have. When your grandparents gave her portrait to your father, they gave your aunt Pamela the Hampton portraits, which of course they kept until after we were married. I intend them for Henderson or John who is named for your grandfather Hampton, and the only one of the three with a son to pass them on to, just John gets the will portrait of my grandfather John Miller, who has been dead 101 years—died while father was away in college in 1846.

As I wrote you in the summer I have some other things to send you when I know where to send them, and since then still other things, such as a fine set of brooch and earrings that belonged to grandmother Hampton before she was married, a very ornate silver cake basket that need some repair and replating that was one of her wedding presents and has her name "Lucy Ireland" engraved in the bottom, and some lovely carved black walnut book ends that I understand were made by an old cabinet maker in Ashland from a design drawn by Mrs. Ireland.