



Dr. Marsena McGavran Hooton, Surgeon, 86th Illinois Volunteer Infantry
Great Great Uncle of Valerie Fox

Marsena McGavran Hooton was born on June 11, 1827 in Carroll County, OH, the son of William H. Hooton and Anna Elizabeth (McGavran) Hooton. The Hootons came to Illinois in 1840, settling in McDonough County. William died on January 14, 1846 and Anna died on April 19, 1868. William and Anna were buried in the Scott Cemetery near Birmingham, IL in McDonough County.

In the early 1850's Marsena attended Rush Medical College in Chicago, Illinois, graduating with his Degree of Doctor of Medicine on February 19, 1852. He started his private practice of medicine in Centralia, Illinois. Except for his three years in military service, he practiced medicine in the Centralia area until 1878.

Marsena M. Hooton was married to Susan Amelia Holland on May 22 1856 in Hancock Co., Illinois. Susan was born on December 28,, 1832 and she was a school teacher in the Hancock County area. It is believed that they did not have any children.

In the summer of 1862, Marsena volunteered his services to the United State Army and he was assigned as a Surgeon in the 86th Regiment of Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Marsena is believed to have held the rank of Major in the Medical Corps.

The 86th was organized at Peoria, Illinois at Camp Lyons, which was formed on the grounds of the Peoria County Fairgrounds, near present day Glen Oak Park. On August 27, 1862, 992 officers and men, including Major Marsena M. Hooton were mustered into service as the 86th Regiment of Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

ILLINOIS CIVIL WAR DETAIL REPORT

Name HOOTON, MESSENA M

Rank SURG Company HQ Unit 86 IL US INF

Service Record

Joined When AUG 27, 1862 Joined Where PEORIA, IL

Joined By Whom N/A Period 3 YRS

Muster In AUG 27, 1862 Muster In Where PEORIA, IL

Muster In By Whom N/A Muster Out JUN 6, 1865

Muster Out Where WASHINGTON, DC Muster Out By Whom LT SCROGGS

Remarks N/A

For about ten days the men of the 86th drilled and drilled. Then on September 7, 1862, the men of the 86th Illinois marched out of the gates of Camp Lyon through the streets of Peoria, with much fanfare, down to the railroad depot and the war. On October 8, 1862, only a month and a day after they marched out of the gates of Camp Lyon, the men of the 86th Illinois were in the field as part of Col. Daniel McCook's Brigade and were engaged with Confederate troops during the Battle of Perryville, Kentucky. There Dr. Hooton was called on to treat his first battle casualties. There would be many, too many opportunities, during the next few years. After the Union victory at Perryville, the Confederates withdrew from the State of Kentucky and the men of McCook's Brigade marched on toward Nashville, Tennessee, where they would spend the winter of 1862/63.

During the following two and a half years, Dr. Hooton served faithfully on the Regimental Staff of the 86th, and treated the men of the 86th who participated in numerous skirmishes and battles, some of the bloodiest fighting of the western theatre of the war, including the Battles of Chickamauga, Georgia; Resaca, Georgia; Rome, Georgia; Peach Tree Creek, Georgia; Averasboro, North Carolina; and Bentonville, North Carolina.

However, it was at Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia on June 27, 1864 where the 86th suffered the most and where Dr. Hooton and his assistant surgeons were almost certainly overwhelmed by the number of casualties. On that fateful day, over 110 men of approximately 400 men of the 86th who made the charge on Cheatham Hill, were killed, wounded or captured in less than 30 minutes.

On the morning of June 27, 1864, the men of McCook's Brigade found themselves across from Cheatham Hill on Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia. The five Union Regiments of McCook's Brigade were formed in line of battle, one regiment in back of another, the 86th Illinois third in line. It was hoped that this formation would allow the Union Brigade to punch a hole in the Confederate line, each regiment giving some protection to the regiment in back of it. When the signal gun fired, the men of the brigade stepped off and moved down a hill, crossed a small stream and then moved through a wheat field before beginning the climb up Cheatham Hill and the Confederate breastworks toward an angle in the Confederate line that was soon to be called "The Dead Angle."

On the evening of June 27, 1864, Sgt. Levi A. Ross wrote the following of the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain. "Our forces rushed upon the rebels five lines deep and in fifteen minutes were hurled back, by them, leaving 2500 brave Union Soldiers dead within twenty feet of the Enemy's works. The loss in the 86th was 106 -- in our Brig. over 400. Among the killed in Co. K was our Orderly Sergeant Buchanan, shot in the head and died without speaking. He was a brave man."

As the men of McCook's Brigade fell back from the Confederate fortifications, they were forced to leave most of their dead and wounded behind. These bodies laid between the lines until the 29th when a truce was called so the Union could bury it's dead because the smell from the decomposing bodies became so horrible, that neither side could stand it any longer. However, as the men of Co. K fell back after the assault, somehow they did manage to drag the body of Sergeant Alexander Buchanan's body off the field so that it could be given a proper burial in back of the lines.

After the war came to a close, the men of the 86th marched on to Washington, D.C, where in May, they marched down Pennsylvania Avenue on the 2nd day of the Grand Review. On June 6, 1865, the surviving men of the 86th Illinois where mustered out of the service. A few days later, they boarded a train bound for Chicago, where they received their final pay and were discharged. By the end of June, Dr. Marsena M. Hooton was back at home in Southern Illinois.

In 1876, Marsena M. Hooton was nominated to run for Secretary of State with the Greenback Party. Lewis Steward was nominated for Governor, James H. Pickrell for Lieutenant-Governor

and Marsena M. Hooton for Secretary of State. Marsena M. Hooton received over 17,000 votes but was well behind the representatives of the Republican and Democratic Parties..

Dr.Hooton continued to practice medicine in Centralia, Illinois until about 1878. At this time he imoved his practice to the Chicago, Illinois area. He remained there until about 1890, when he moved to Plymouth, Illinois, Susan's home, where he practiced 3 more years.

Sometime in the 1880's or early 1890's, Susan A. (Holland) Hooton had died.Here is the obituary from the Daily Illinois State Journal edition of Thursday, August 14, 1884:

“Mrs. Susan A Hooton wife of Dr. M. M. Hooton formerly of Centralia, died near Kewanee, a few days ago. Mrs. Hooton was formerly a Miss Holland, of Jacksonville, where she was well known. Susan A. Hooton died on August 3, 1884 in Kewanee, Illinois and her mortal remains were laid in the Wethersfield Cemetery in Kewanee, Henry County, Illinois.”

Marsena was then married to a widow by the name of Martha Laura (Paine) Sapp. This marriage is believed to have occurred on December 27, 1892 in Peoria County.

Martha was born on July 24, 1834 in Bridgeport, Vermont and was formerly married to Dr. Newell Sapp, who was a Physician in Hancock County, Illinois for many years. Newell and Martha, who were married in January of 1855 in Knox County, Illinois, were the parents of five children. Newell died on December 5, 1890 in Plymouth, Illinois and was buried in Rosemont Cemetery in Plymouth, Hancock County, Illinois.

It is interesting that Marsena's sister Armintha Hooton had long been married to William Perry Sapp , who was the brother of Newell Sapp. Armintha and William are my great great grandparents.

Shortly after this, most likely in 1893, Dr. & Mrs. Marsena M. Hooton moved to California, where they settled in Redlands, California in San Bernardino County. There he invested in an orange grove and operated this until he was incapacitated.

At the time of the 1900 census, Marsena was living with Martha in San Bernardino County. Marsena's California Voter Registration describes him as follows. Marsena is 6 feet tall, with a fair complexion, blue eyes, white hair and is a Physician.

Marsena McGavran Hooton died on June 28, 1907 at Redlands, California in San Bernardino County. He was buried in Hillside Memorial Park in Redlands, San Bernardino County, CA.

At the time of the 1910 census, Martha Laura (Paine) Sapp Hooton lived in Redlands, San Bernardino County, California. She was 75 and listed as widowed and born in Vermont.

Martha remained in California after Marsena's death until failing health resulted in her daughter, Cora Tuck, traveling to California and bringing her mother home. Laura resided with her daughter and husband until her death on July 17, 1915. She was laid to rest in Hope Abbey in Galesburg, Knox County, Illinois.



Dr. W. M. Boston