

## **Colonel Samuel Hampton - Fixed Commandant of Fort William (Calcutta)**

The first reference to this saga was found in Vol II of the memoirs of Warren Hastings by Rev G I Gleig. In a letter to a Mr Scott dated 28 April 1781, Hastings, then Governor General based in Calcutta, discusses the logic of various personnel moves he is making. He includes the comment: *"to save Hampton, and indeed for my own relief, I propose to make him fixed commandant of Fort William"*.

Fort William - India House Correspondence - from Fort William to "Head Office", 10 April 1782

Item 24: In consequence of a minute from the Governor General, stating the irregularities and inconveniences which he experienced in conducting the details of the garrison for want of [a] fixt (sic) officer under him whose duty it said [would] be to attend to the order and cleanliness of the place, and to the due execution of such points as properly fell under that station, we agreed to appoint a fixed commandant of the garrison, and this place has accordingly been given to Colonel Hampton.

Fort William - India House Correspondence - from Court (Head Office) to Fort William, 11 April 1785

Item 23: *the item begins with several sentences relating to the need to cut military expenses back to 1776 levels now that peace has returned: ..... It is our positive direction that no promotions of field or other officers be made in any of the corps until all such as are supernumerary are provided for or until you receive other orders from us; and as we have abolished the post of Commandant of the Garrison of Fort William, by which means, under the preceding regulation, Colonel Hampton may claim from his rank to succeed to the command of a brigade as vacancies may happen, we leave it to your own discretion and judgment either to appoint him to such a command or to give him, in lieu thereof, colonel's pay and half *batta* without any command as you may think best for our service.*

*Further note: At his death in May 1786, Colonel Hampton was the Commander of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade based in Berhampoor*