

Introduction

The first Compton names we find in North American records are: John Compton, who is listed as a freeman at Roxbury, Mass. 1634. He is named as one of the associates of Wheelwright in buying the Exeter, New Hampshire lands of the Indians in 1638. We find, however, that he didn't remain in New Hampshire but kept his home in Roxbury Mass, and later took up residence in Boston, Mass.

We find James Compton in Maryland in 1637 and John Compton in Virginia in 1637.

The Baltimore, Maryland, tax list for 1699 shows Joseph Compton as the owner of five slaves.

William Compton, the ancestor of the Loyalist Comptons of Prince Edward Island, whose descendants we will try to trace down to the present time, was living in Gravesend, Long Island, New York in 1652. In a deposition the same year he stated that he was thirty years old, and was born in England. This would make the year of his birth as 1622.

We can only speculate at this point as to the place of his birth in England. However, most genealogists lean to the Compton Wyngates Castle area in Warwickshire as a likely place, since the builder of this castle in the 15th century was one William Compton. This William became a ward of King Henry VIII at an early age, upon the death of his father, and the King appointed him to wait on his son Henry, Duke of York. No doubt this would greatly enhance his financial situation when he grew to manhood. This could also explain the constant repetition of the names William and Henry down through the generations, also their ability to finance a number of land transactions upon their arrival to the New World.

The Gravesend town records reveal that William was sworn into office as constable of Gravesend on June 29 of 1677. The town records also show that Nicholas Stillwell sold the home lot plantation #29, on November 24, 1657, to William Compton, with house and barn, for 400 pounds of tobacco.

This William Compton had a son William Jr., who married Mary Bowne, sister of Rev. John Bowne, who was minister of the Middletown Baptist Church, the first Baptist church in Monmouth County, New Jersey. Their parents were Capt. William Bowne and Lydia Holmes from

Long Island. Lydia Holmes was a daughter of Rev. Obadiah Holmes, a Baptist minister from Boston.

Mary Bowne had a sister Sarah, who married Richard Salter. One of their children, Hannah Salter, married Mordecai Lincoln. They were the great-great grandparents of President Abraham Lincoln.

Daniel Boone, the "father" of the state of Kentucky was also related to the Lincolns and its quite probable it was this relationship that led the Lincolns to move to that State

William Compton Jr., moved to Middletown, Monmouth Co., N.J. some time before 1666.

In the History of New Jersey, Volume One, we find that "some 20 Long Islanders got (purchased) land from the natives in December of 1663, Little progress was made before 1664.

The first planters were John Bowne, Richard Stout and three other families. By 1668 there were a hundred purchases within two towns. They came mostly from Rhode Island and Upper Long Island and were persecuted Quakers and Baptists. The settlements were upon three necks of land, whose names were Navisink, Narumsink and Potapek."

The Town Book of Old Middletown in its first history dated December 30, 1667, states that home lots in Middletown were 36 in number and in order from 1 to 36. William Compton appears as number 15, purchasing 280 acres of land and as coming from Long Island. Another item in the book shows William Compton as a Baptist, and as one of the founders of the first Baptist church in Middletown Township.

Benedict's History of the Baptists states that "for the origin of this church, we must look back to the year 1667, for that was the year when Middletown was purchased from the Indians by twelve men and twenty four associates.

Their names are in the Town book. Of them the following were Baptists:

Richard Stout	John Wilson	William Layton
John Stout	Walter Hall	<u>William Compton</u>
James Grover	John Cox	James Ashton
Jonathon Brown	Jonathon Holmes	John Brown
Obadiah Holmes	George Mount	Thomas Whitlock
John Buckman	Wm. Cheeseman	James Grover, Jr."

It's quite likely it was their religious convictions that prompted them to move to New Jersey, as they were compelled to pay to the State Church in Long Island. In New Jersey they had the freedom of supporting the church of their choice.

It seems to have been this same tenacity to hold to principles that compelled them to take the loyalist side during the revolution. They had nothing to gain and everything to lose by upholding the government of the day, especially since most of their Compton kindred were on the opposing side.

P.L.Hatcher, in "Graves of Revolutionary War Patriots" lists:
Ichabod Compton, buried in Haleyville Methodist Cemetery in Cumberland County, New Jersey.

Joseph Compton, at Foothill Road, Bridgewater Twp., New Jersey.

Richard Compton, at Compton Castner Cemetery, Somerville, N.J.

Thomas Compton, Parsippany Cemetery, Morris County, N.J.

The list of Revolutionary war pension applications at the National Archives show, among others, George Compton, another George Compton, James Compton, two with the name of Job Compton, Joseph Compton and Lewis Compton. All of the above were from the State of New Jersey, also a number of Compton widows were applying because of their husbands deaths being attributed to the war.

The terms of the Treaty signed between England and the United States at the end of the war, granted all Loyalists restitution for all properties confiscated by the U.S. Government, However, although there were a number of Compton claimants, few, if any, were reimbursed for property lost.

John Compton, formerly from Bridgewater, Somerset County, N.J., who may have been a nephew of William the Loyalist, helped bring prisoners and recruits into British lines. He was imprisoned and fined for loyalty, and because of being a suspected person, was not allowed to live at home. He was sent out of rebel lines to Burlington County for seven months. He, with a wife and six children moved to Shelburne, Nova Scotia in 1782 and in 1787 he put in for compensation to the British Commissioners on Loyalist Claims for a house and two lots in Bridgewater, N.J. as well as cattle, expenses of three weeks confinement and a farm of 200 acres in Somerset Co., to which he was heir on decease of his brother Richard Compton, all of which was seized and sold. His

claim was rejected. He later received a grant of land in New Brunswick, from the British Government, but there is no record of restitution for property lost in New Jersey.

William (the Loyalist), too, had lost all his property in New Jersey. He was given a lot in Parrrtown, (now St. John, New Brunswick) by the British government. This was land designated for disbanded soldiers which would lead us to believe that he is the William Compton listed among those who had served with the Queens Rangers during the Revolutionary War, (see Loyalists in the Southern Campaign by M.J. Clark,) which would qualify him for a this grant.

