

## PROLOGUE I

### SUPPLEMENTAL COMPTON FAMILY RECORD

The "Compton Family Record" is a small, slim, privately-published book printed in 1901. It was compiled by one of our family, Murat Compton, of Pennsylvania, from information provided by known family members.

The first Compton listed in the Compton Family Record is John Compton, born in New Jersey, who married Helena Shearer, of Dutch descent. Information in the Record on this John Compton is sketchy in the extreme; no dates of birth, marriage or death are given and about all that is known is that one of his several children was James Compton, who was the progenitor of our branch. The Record therefore establishes John Compton as the first generation (shown as John Compton 1) and his son James as the second (James 2). All succeeding generations are so identified, and in the Record it is easy to follow the line of descent from James 2 down to our present time (1971).

Probably every branch of the family known in 1901 received a copy of the Record; however, there is only one in our branch. It was passed by my grandfather, Charles 5, to his son (and my father), Hugh 6, who has passed it to me. It is full of handwritten additions and notations by Comptons now long gone: Charles and Mary Long Compton 5, my grandparents; Edith Moore Compton 6, my mother; and others whose writing I do not recognize.

I decided to bring all this information up to date in legible form for future generations as best I could. However, even in 1900, James 2 descendants were scattered from coast to coast, and by 1969, when I began, all sight and knowledge of most of them was forever lost. Indeed, had not Murat Compton compiled the Record when he did, I believe it would not be possible to back much beyond three generations. I decided, therefore, to record the family and descendants of Charles and Mary Long Compton 5, and that was, and is, the main purpose of this supplement. In addition, since most of those who will receive this have not had the opportunity to read the original Record, I planned to trace all our ancestors back to John 1, using the original Record as a source.

The more I considered John 1, the more perplexing the lack of data became. Where did he come from? Was he an immigrant himself or the child of established American Comptons? His fifth child, James 2, was born in 1770, so his own birth must have been circa 1740. I was certain he was of English origin; the name is common there, both of people and places, and seldom, if ever, found in old Scots or Irish records. Later developments proved this true.

In 1970, through the efforts of my sister, Alice Compton Jones 7 of Dallas, Texas, a fountain of information came to light. In 1939, a gentleman named C. V. Compton of San Antonio, Texas, later of Roswell, New Mexico, began publication of a family genealogical bulletin entitled "Comptonology," published quarterly. I wrote to Mr. Compton in 1970 to find that he had died in 1958, but through the kindness of his widow, there remained available complete sets of "Comptonology," 44 volumes in all, dated from 1939 to 1952. Each volume is from four to eight

pages, each page about 12 by 16 inches in size, and full of the most detailed information. The early issues mostly record personal research by C. V. Compton himself; the later issues contain mostly information provided by readers. There are records from courthouses in 20 states, extracts from wills, entries in family Bibles and, in general, a great mass of related and unrelated information.

I have tried, without real success, to establish a connection between our John 1 and earlier lines. The task is complicated by the fact that nearly every family of Comptons had Johns, Williams, Samuels, Marys, Elizabeths and Saras. In many cases, exact birthdays are recorded; in others (for example, extracts from wills) only a name – no wife's name, no children identified by name.

In the early 1600's there were two major colonies, Massachusetts and Virginia, and there were already Comptons in some number in both of these, as well as in New York and South Carolina. One of the few facts available on John 1 is that he was born in New Jersey, which located the area of search. Many hours have been spent studying the complete "Comptonology"; much information was gathered, as well as a great deal of frustration. The basic problem was that at almost the same time, two Williams Comptons settled in neighboring New Jersey counties and both were married to women named "Mary." Given this condition, it is easy to understand how descendents of "William and Mary Compton" can be assigned to the wrong family and completely confuse the line of descent. Some genealogists and historical societies have believed that there was only one William, but this is false and existing records prove it.

While more detail will be provided later, one William and his wife Mary came to Middlesex County, New Jersey, from Roxbury, Massachusetts, in 1666. The other William, with his wife Mary, came to Monmouth County, New Jersey, from Gravesland, Long Island, also in 1666. The two Williams are only distantly related, if at all. The Monmouth William Compton came from an area of Long Island predominantly Dutch, and this family, until about 1800 in a majority of cases, married into Dutch families. Their given names bear this out – Jacob, Job, Abraham, etc. The descendents of the Middlesex William, who came from Massachusetts, generally married into English families and had names given accordingly. This sometimes provides a clue, but it is often also misleading, since both families had Richards, James, Johns, etc., and within two generations both had spread to other areas of New Jersey. Consequently, a mention only of "John Compton and his family" tells nothing of his branch – he could have come from either the Middlesex or Monmouth County branches.

Many of the records of the Middlesex descendents are quite complete and can be traced into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, though obviously others are incomplete. Very little information exists now about the Monmouth Branch, due in part to the loss of county records at the town of Middleton (the cause unstated). Names of some of the children of the Monmouth William are known, as are names of some of their children, but beyond this lies mostly conjecture, coinciding dates and probability.

Our first definitely-established ancestor, John Compton, who married Helena Shearer, almost certainly was born in the period 1740 - 1745. This is true because his fifth child James, our ancestor, was born in January 1770. John and Helena were alive in the 1820 era – a great

grandchild recalled visiting them. With the approximate dates of birth and death unknown, I began tracing down various lines of descent hoping to establish our own John in one of them. Because the Middlesex Compton records were much more complete, I began with them.

At one time I was convinced I had found the family to which our John belonged. He appeared to be a grandchild or great grandchild of the original Middlesex immigrants, William and Mary. A careful recheck of dates and names proved I was wrong. Following all other known descendants' history also produced nothing – no John Compton listed seemed to fit the criteria of birthdate as well as the names of wife and children.

Turning to the Monmouth Comptons, I found little solid ground on which to proceed due to the lack of records mentioned earlier. I did, however, change my belief that we descend from the Middlesex branch, mainly because I could not find any connection despite fairly complete records. “Comptonology” believes we came from the Monmouth Compton family, without real documentary evidence, and now so do I. It is most certain that our John Compton married a Dutch woman, or of Dutch descent, as did many of the Monmouth family and one of their sons was named Abram, a name common in the Monmouth Compton line.

“Comptonology” also dwells at length on a John Compton who remained loyal to the Crown and who moved to Canada during or just after the Revolutionary War. “Comptonology” thinks our own John was likely the son of the loyalist John – a quite logical belief until the question of birthday is considered, after which the idea must be discarded. Elsewhere in “Comptonology,” our John is said to have been a soldier in the Continental Army and certainly many Comptons were.

It should be remembered that our ancestor John could have come from either of the two early Compton families. It is nearly certain that he came from one or the other; the odds favor the Monmouth County branch but the records of the Middlesex branch have enough omissions and are incomplete enough that this family could easily be the source of ours.

Because of this uncertainty, I have included background information on both the Monmouth and Middlesex County families. All things considered, preceding John 1 there were at least three and as many as five earlier generations. Our family, in 1970, has been on these shores for some 335 years – over ten generations. In listing our immediate family, from Charles 5 onward, I have assigned generations to correspond with Murat Compton's original Record to avoid confusion, but the reader should bear in mind that the generations as shown are not correct and are short by several numbers. These earlier generations, which pre-date our Record, have been given Arabic numbers.

Over 100 Comptons, including many from both Monmouth and Middlesex Counties, fought in the Revolutionary War and many names are listed in “Comptonology.” Comptons also fought in the War of 1812 and every following war. The southern Comptons, who migrated to Virginia and other southern colonies, generally fought for the Confederacy in 1860-65; their distant relatives in the north for the Union. Again, many of these names are given. A Civil War skirmish was fought at Compton's Ferry, Missouri in 1862.

A very noticeable practice is the use of singular given names in all our ancestors. Not until the eighth generation (as numbered in Murat Compton's Record) do the men of the family commonly have more than one given name, with rare exceptions. The same is true in the very old records found in "Comptonology"; it may be in this case that only the first given name was recorded, but I doubt this.

I intend to send a copy of this supplement to every family descended from Charles 5. The original Record, all of the "Comptonology" volumes and the accumulated pictures and mementos of the family I intend, in due course, to pass on to William Hugh Compton 8, second son of Paul 7 and Vivian Rinker Compton, with the hope that he will preserve the history and in turn pass it on to his own son or other male descendent.

Hugh Compton 7  
Titusville, Florida  
February 1972

## BACKGROUND

### The Name

“Compton” derives from two old words, one and probably both of Saxon origin. The second syllable, “ton” originally in Saxon meant a walled or enclosed dwelling or settlement, and from it the word “town” derived. Many examples of the old spelling exist, e.g., Binghampton, Middleton and Huntington.

The first syllable “Comp” has two possible origins. “Compt,” or a Saxon word that sounded the same, meant “Hill,” and a form of it still survives as “kopje,” a Dutch South African word meaning hill or mesa. A Welsh word “Cwm,” pronounced “coom,” meant a short valley backing into a hill (a “cove” in the Appalachian Region); such a site, protected from winter winds and weather, was an ideal farm or settlement site if properly oriented.

The name, then, meant “hill settlement” or something close to that. In the 12<sup>th</sup> Century in England, when a surname became a requirement, people adopted, or were given, a surname based usually upon their place of residence, their occupation or their physical appearance. Thus there was created William of Compton, John the Cooper and Henry the Black (a dark-complexioned man.) Later, such names were logically shorted by dropping the “of” and “the.”

There are at least 20 geographical locations in England with “Compton” as part or all of the name. There is a Compton Castle in Devonshire, still occupied, but whether named for its location or its first occupant is not known.

### The People

The original ancestor of all Comptons supposedly was an Angle-Saxon chieftain named Alwyne, who lived in what is now Warwickshire. Alwyne had a son Turchil who is reputed to have been Earl of the County and had great possessions, a place called Compton and 47 other manors, as recorded in the Domesday Book. This was at the time of the invasion of William the Conqueror in 1066 and apparently Turchil did not fight against him, for he seems to have retained all his holdings, at a time when the Normans generally confiscated all Saxon property. Turchil imitated the Normans by assuming a surname about 1075 and wrote of himself as Turchillus de Earden, from his holdings in Arden; by his second wife he had a son who called himself Osbert of Compton.

All of the following descent is shadowy; there are names but only a few dates, and no positive line of descent can be claimed – but information exists to show it may have been this:

Alwyne 1

Turchil 2

Osbert 3  
Thomas de Compton 4  
Phillipus 5  
Robert 6  
Thomas 7 (living at the time of Edward II, 1284 – 1327)  
(There was also a Nicholas de Compton in Lincolnshire in 1273.)  
Edward 8  
Robert 9  
Edward 10  
William 11, who may have been the ward of King Henry VIII  
Peter 12, who married Ann Talbot, daughter of the Earl of Shrewsbury.  
Henry 13, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Compton, married Frances Hastings, daughter of Lord Huntingdon.

Their children:

William 14  
Thomas 14  
Margaret 14  
Henry 14

Even casual research into English history shows that Compton is a fairly common family name. Among others, it is the family of the Marquess of Northampton, from the early 1600's until the present. The first of this line was a William Compton (1568 – 1630) who is listed in the Encyclopedia Britannica as the 2nd Lord Compton. Williams's son Spencer (1601 – 1643) fought with the Royalists against Cromwell in the Civil War; he was killed in the battle of Hopton Heath in March 1643. A whole series of Comptons follow in the line down to the incumbent, who is listed as "6th Marquess and 14th Earl of the Compton line." IN the same reference is depicted the cavalry guidon of a knight named Compton, undated but probably of the 16th century. It contains a red cross on a white field next to the staff and in the fly, a red dragon rising from a gold coronet, both these on a field of gold and blue, the gold half uppermost.

English heraldry records show at least one coat of arms granted to a Compton. The blazon of these is "Ermine, on a bend sable three helmets or; Crest, out of a chapeaux ermine and purple, a fleur-de-lys gules." In plain language, the arms have a shield of ermine, a diagonal black bar across it, and on the bar are three gold helmets. The crest is an ermine and purple cap with a red fleur-de-lys above it. There is no motto recorded.

The foregoing should not imply that the American Comptons are of noble or aristocratic descent, at least not our branch. There is evidence that one or more of those who emigrated to Virginia were English nobility, but those who settled ultimately in New Jersey appear to have been what would now be called middle class; they were tradesman, farmers and artisans, as were most of those who followed and who are listed in Murat Compton's "Family Record."

## I. The American Comptons

### A. The Family Originating in Middlesex County, New Jersey

John I and Susanna Compton are known to have been in Roxbury, Massachusetts, in September 1634, and to have come from Kent County, England, probably in the same year. There is little vital information known about John; birth, marriage and death dates are unrecorded, though Susanna died in 1664, at which time she had been a widow “for many years.” John was a “freeman”, that is, he had sufficient funds to pay his passage and was not indentured, as many poorer people were. He was apparently a Baptist, as many early Comptons were, and no doubt left England to escape the religious persecutions against “dissidents” which were common as the Reformation and Counter-reformation forces rose and fell. There is some evidence, though not conclusive, that he first went to Holland and from there to America.

He moved to Boston about 1637; in 1638 he was “disarmed” – apparently actually deprived of his weapons because of his opposing political or religious belief – and in 1642 was admitted to the Boston church. This was probably the Puritan church, the dominant faith in Massachusetts and one which was very intolerant of other beliefs. It appears he was later expelled from this church because of conflicting beliefs.

John and Susanna Compton had at least three children:

1. Abigail II (This may be a misspelling of Abigail) b. ? d. ? Married Joseph Briscoe, Boston, 30 January 1652
2. John II b. ? d. ? Married ---- Briscoe in Charles County, Maryland
3. William II b. ? d. 21 September 1694. Married Mary Wilmot in 1666.

There is a record of William II's purchasing land in Ipswich, Massachusetts in 1662, but in 1666, in company with 16 or more other men, he left Massachusetts and settled at what is now Woodbridge, Middlesex County, New Jersey. The emigration was due to Puritan persecution, the party being of Baptist belief. William II settled on 174 acres, for which there are records of “quit rent” paid the English Crown; this is payment made by a freeholder in lieu of services which might otherwise be required of him. The land itself was purchased from the Indians.

“Comptonology” states that 90 percent of all American Comptons descend from William II of Middlesex County, his brother John II who settled in Charles County, Maryland, the William II from Long Island who settled in Monmouth County, New Jersey, and Francis Compton who emigrated from England to Virginia.

Children of William II and Mary Wilmot Compton:

1. Mary III b. 1667 (According to her tombstone, "The first white child born at Woodbridge, East Jersey.") She married Caleb Campbell in 1695 and died 15 February 1735. There were children of this marriage but no names are known.
2. John III was born in 1669 and married Elizabeth Munday on 6 March 1689. Not much is known of his life and work; he seems to have lived in Middlesex County all his life, and died in 1735 (although some information indicates 1731).  
Children:

Mary IV b. 20 January 1690  
 John IV b. 28 February 1691  
 William IV b. 27 March 1693, d. 1754  
 Elizabeth IV b. 17 September 1695  
 Sara IV b. 1697  
 Rachel IV b. 17 January 1699  
 Hanna IV b. 29 January 1708  
 Samuel IV b. 1712

3. Sara (First) b. 1670 d. 1670
4. Sara III (Second) b. 1670 d. ? Married John Drake in 1697. Their children:  

Mary IV b. 10 October 1698  
 Nathaniel IV b. 28 October 1699  
 Abigail IV b. 19 July 1701  
 Sara IV b. 5 July 1703
5. Jonathan III b. 1674 d. 1747. Married Esther Martin in 1701. Their children:

Samuel IV b. circa 1702 d. 1783 Somerset County, New Jersey  
 James IV b. circa 1703 d. 1784 Somerset County, New Jersey  
 Rachel IV  
 Jonathan IV  
 John IV  
 Margaret IV  
 Sara IV

Fairly detailed records exist of the descendents of Samuel, James, John and Rachel above.

6. William III b. ? d. 1694 (died without children)
7. David III b. ? d. 1694 (died without children)

If our John Compton 1 was a descendent of the Middlesex Comptons, he was most likely a son of one of the fourth generation children listed above.

B. The Family Originating in Monmouth County, New Jersey

In 1657, and undoubtedly well before that time, a William Compton lived in a Dutch colony at Gravesend, Long Island where he owned a “plantation” and at least twice engaged in legal disputes and much later was a magistrate. In some records he is shown as “Welleum” Compton. He has been mistaken for the William who settled in Monmouth County, New Jersey, but this was almost certainly his son, for records exist showing William I was still on Long Island long after the Monmouth settlement. Nothing exists to show William I’s origin but probably he came from England in the first half of the century. He most probably had several children, but only one can be established rather definitely:

William II, born 1631, place unknown; died 1709 in Monmouth County, New Jersey; married Mary Browne, date unknown. In 1666, with a party including Capt. John Bowne, William II and Mary Bowne Compton migrated to Monmouth County, New Jersey, where he claimed or otherwise was granted 250 acres of land. Not much more is known of him before 1800, his descendents had spread north and west through and beyond the state, including numbers in Hunterdon, Somerset and Sussex Counties. Children of William II and Mary Compton:

1. Cornelius III – No data
2. Jacob III – No data
3. Judith III – No data
4. Possibly William III and others
5. Richard III, born possibly 1672 (quite late in his father’s life), died 1711. Married in 1694 to Prudence Isselstyne, of an eminent Dutch family.

A fairly complete record exists only of the children of Richard and Prudence Isselstyne Compton, though no birth or death dates are known of this fourth generation:

1. Isselstyne IV, born possibly around 1700 and married circa 1720 to Altje Blaaw (spelled phonetically in some accounts as “Orchie Blue”)
2. Richard IV who married Elizabeth Cox in 1727 and who moved at some point to Somerset County. Ricahrd IV had at least two sons, John V (who was the Loyalist John Compton mentioned earlier – born about 1730 and never returned to this country after leaving it) and Richard V who married Sytie Hoglein in 1749.
3. Mary IV who married William Smith in 1728.
4. Joseph IV – No record.
5. John IV who married Mary (last name unknown).

We come now to our known ancestors: Those who are the subject of Murat Compton’s Family Record. From this point on, the generations will be identified with Arabic numerals rather than Latin, to be consistent with the Record.

John 1, born most probably between 1740 and 1745. Married Helena Shearer (of Dutch birth or descent and possibly "Scherer"), place unknown, and most likely no later than 1765, since their fifth child was born in January 1770. One volume of "Comptonology" states he was a private in the Revolutionary War, from Sussex County New Jersey, but this may not be the same John Compton, as ours had at least one son born in Vermont in 1770 and would have had to return to northern New Jersey in order to have enlisted from there.

John 1 and Helena were alive about 1820 and at that time lived in Pennsylvania just over the New Jersey line; Miss Lorinda Wicker 4, a great grandchild born in 1812, visited them there when she was quite young. Helena Shearer Compton reportedly lived to the age of 111 years.

The children of John 1 and Helena Shearer Compton:

1. Priscilla 2 – m. Luther Burt
2. Hugh 2 – m. Patty Burt
3. Hannah 2 – m. Thomas Dennis
4. Rachael 2 – m. Jonas Parkes
5. James 2 (our ancestor) – m. Clarissa Cleveland
6. Samuel 2 – m. Katy Brewer
7. Helena 2 – m. James Vaill
8. Polly 2 – m. Aruney Cooley
9. John 2 – m. Lucy Evans
10. Abram 2 – unmarried

James Compton 2, fifth child and second son of John 1 and Helena Shearer Compton, was born in Brattleboro, Vermont, on 21 January 1770. Married Clarissa Cleveland, daughter of Josiah and Ruth Johnson Cleveland, on 17 February 1793. Josiah Cleveland was the great-great-grandson of Moses Cleveland who emigrated to Woburn, Massachusetts from Ipswich, England in 1635; family tradition is that President Grover Cleveland was a descendent of the family.

James 2, when a young man, moved from Vermont to Delhi, Delaware County, New York, where he was a lumberman and an expert pilot on the Delaware River. It was there that he met and married Clarissa Cleveland; her family had moved to the region from Connecticut where she had been born 26 September 1771, and was later a schoolmate of Noah Webster.

James 2 and family moved four or five times to various locations in the area until 1826 when he bought a 200-acre farm just north of Moscow, New York. By 1834, he and his sons had paid for it from its earnings and in that year he sold it for \$7,000, an appreciable sum in those days.

By 1836 his children had settled in Erie County, Pennsylvania, except Fanny 3, who had moved to Vermont.

James 2 died at Moscow, New York on 9 February 1835; Clarissa Cleveland Compton had apparently moved to Pennsylvania with her children after the death of James 2 and herself died near Blooming Valley, Crawford County, Pennsylvania on 27 January 1845.

Children of James 2 and Clarissa Cleveland Compton:

1. Fanny 3, b. 27 February 1794, m. Jonah Wicker
2. Hugh 3, b. 9 December 1795, m. 1. Allynda Burt 2. Martha Proudfit
3. James 3, b. 9 July 1797, m. Betsy Orr – our ancestor
4. Sophia 3, b. 5 June 1799, m. Joel Densmore
5. Sarah 3, b. 5 May 1801, m. Harry W. L. Mills
6. Eliza 3, b. 21 May 1803, m. Cyrus Ensign
7. John 3, b. 21 September 1805, m. 1. Eliza Ensign 2. Ophelia Webster
8. Johnson Josiah 3, b. 23 February 1808, m. 1. Julia Church 2. Maria Wentworth Peek
9. Narcissa 3, b. 9 May 1810, m. Leonard C. Blood

James Compton 3, born in Delaware County, New York on 9 July 1797; married Betsy Orr of the same county in 1822. Betsy Orr was born in 1801 to Walter and Mary Craig Orr.

James 3 moved to Erie County, Pennsylvania in 1835 and was primarily a farmer, although he also engaged in lumbering and the manufacture of wooden bowls. In 1869 he moved to Minnesota and from there in 1870 to Columbus, Nebraska, where he died 28 November 1878; Betsy Orr Compton died there 6 March 1887. Their children:

1. Walter 4, b. 28 October 1823, m. Hannah Campbell
2. Clarissa 4, b. 18 May 1825, unmarried
3. Mary Melissa 4, b. 14 February 1826, died unmarried at 24 years.
4. Betsy Jane 4, b. 9 April 1829, apparently unmarried
5. James 4, b. 27 November 1830, m. Priscilla Davidson
6. Hugh 4, b. 25 November 1832 at Moscow, New York (our ancestor), m. Ella Morgan
7. Robert Orr 4, b. 16 September 1834, m. Irene Kellam
8. Emeline 4, b. 12 June 1837, m. Lewis M. Saley
9. Johnson 4, b. 24 March 1839, died at 13 years
10. Helena 4, b. 21 December 1840, m. Samuel McCaslin
11. John Green 4, b. 12 November 1843, m. Josephine Wentworth

Hugh Compton 4, born 25 November 1832 at Moscow, New York, was married 22 September 1861 at Vermillion, South Dakota, to Ella Morgan, daughter of Charles and Elizabeth Smith Morgan. He was nearly 29 years of age when married and clearly had moved from Pennsylvania to South Dakota on his own, since his father did not leave Pennsylvania until 1869. Hugh 4 by 1868 had moved to Columbus, Nebraska and was a merchant there when he died, at age 42, on 15 October 1875. His widow later married

Charles H. Young, eventually moved to San Diego, California and died there 7 December 1907. Children of Hugh 4 and Ella Morgan Compton:

1. Charles 5, b. 27 July 1863, m. Mary Lavina Long (our ancestor)
2. Hugh 5, b. 15 January 1866, m. Emma Iva Adler
3. Flora 5, b. 22 September 1868, m. Dr. Frank Ernest Sampson
4. Byron 5, b. 19 January 1871, m. Name not known or recorded
5. Ella 5, b. 26 April 1873, m. Robert M. Stender

Charles Compton 5, born 27 July 1863 at Vermillion, South Dakota, married 4 February 1885 to Mary Lavina Long, daughter of David Blair and Sarah Kunsman Long, at Lanark, Illinois. For 44 years Charles 5 was a conductor on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, retiring in 1934. A railroad passenger conductor was a man of considerable importance and stature and his grandchildren remember Charles 5 as being imposingly dignified and impressive in his conductor's uniform; he also had a distinct sense of humor.

He was a man of education and culture: He had an extensive library and loved to read; he liked good music and had an Edison Victrola with many opera recordings. He would often spend \$2.00 or \$3.00 for a record or book, at a time when this sum was a day's pay in many occupations.

He had fine table manners and loved to dance as well as play cribbage and chess. By faith he was a devout Episcopalian. He was deeply interested in the Masonic Order and was a 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree Mason. He helped organize the first Shrine Saxophone Band and his son recalled his many hours of practice whenever he was home between railroad runs; the band was well-known in its day and played in many cities. Mary Long Compton was active and held office in the Order of the Eastern Star, the Masonic auxiliary.

Mary Long Compton was a sweet and gentle woman, remembered with affection, who wore her hair braided into two sections and coiled atop her head. She wore the small, oval-lensed, gold-rimmed glasses of the period and was a fine cook who always prepared special treats for visiting grandchildren. She died, after several years of illness, on 9 May 1941 and is buried at the Mount Hope Cemetery, Mound City, Missouri, where a number of the family are buried.

Charles 5 married a second time 9 August 1942 to Mrs. Addie Hewitt in Los Angeles, California; this marriage ended in separation. Charles 5 died at age 84 on 19 January 1948 and is also buried at Mount Hope Cemetery in Mound City, Missouri.

Children of Charles 5 and Mary Long Compton:

1. Blair 6, b. 24 March 1886
2. Hugh 6, b. 12 March 1890
3. Ralph 6, b. 7 March 1892
4. Ruth 6, b. 2 May 1898
5. Mary 6, b. 28 December 1901

6. Kathryn 6, b. 1 May 1904

Blair Compton 6, born 24 March 1886 at Lanark, Illinois, married 29 April 1907 at St. Joseph, Missouri to Dorothy Cahill, daughter of John and Caroline Fitz-Simmons Cahill. This marriage ended in divorce in 1918. Married second time to Maud Mary Potter, daughter of Henry and Florence King Potter, on 29 September 1919 at Chicago, Illinois. The best man was Alex Gammie, who later married Mary Compton 6. Like his father, Blair 6 was a 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree Mason and was very active in Masonic affairs. He died on 10 May 1929, from complications following an appendectomy, at Jackson Park Hospital, Chicago, Illinois, and is buried in Beverly Cemetery in that city. There is no official record of any children to either marriage.

Hugh Compton 6 and Ralph Compton 6 will be listed following the other children.

Ruth Compton 6, born 2 May 1898 at St. Joseph, Missouri, died 5 December 1900, at just over 2-1/2 years of age. She is buried at Mount Hope Cemetery, Mound City, Missouri.

Mary Compton 6, born 28 December 1901 at Clarinda, Iowa, married 30 March 1921 in Chicago, Illinois, to Alexander Gammie, son of James Alexander and Jane Cant Gammie. She died at age 20, on 4 April 1922, in Chicago, Illinois from complications resulting from childbirth and is also buried at Mount Hope Cemetery, Mound City, Missouri. Mary Compton 6 lived most of her short life in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Kathryn Compton 6, born 1 May 1904 at Clarinda, Iowa, youngest child of Charles 5 and Mary Long Compton, married 1 June 1927 to Charles J. Rathke, son of Carl Frederick Henry Rathke and Wilhelmina Meyer Rathke. There were two children of this marriage:

1. Barbara Ann Rathke 7, b. 28 May 1928 in St. Joseph, Missouri
2. Carol Jean Rathke 7, b. 30 October 1934 in St. Joseph, Missouri

This family is a mystery to the others because of its strange and unexplained disappearance. The few known facts are these: Carl Rathke was a service representative for Burroughs Adding Machine Company (as was Hugh Compton 6, Kathryn's brother). In 1934 or 1935, Carl Rathke and his family were living in Sedalia, Missouri, where he had the Burroughs "residency" - that is, he was responsible for Burroughs service and operations within a specified surrounding area.

At some point in time during this period, the family simply disappeared, without a word before or after to friends, relatives or employer. Carl Rathke's last paycheck from Burroughs went unclaimed, which would indicate there were no financial problems, and nothing was later discovered which would show otherwise.

Both Ralph 6 and Hugh 6 were seriously concerned about their sister and her family and investigated to the limits of their ability, even retaining a private investigator. Nothing was ever discovered which could account for a voluntary disappearance. Carl Rathke was in

no trouble with his employer; there was no evidence of domestic or any other kind of trouble; there was no evidence of foul play at their home.

The mystery remains to this day; no word has ever reached any other family member as to why the Rathkes disappeared, where they went or what subsequently happened to them.

In present times, with the multiplicity of Government records – social security, military, income tax rolls, etc. – such a disappearance would be much more difficult to maintain under a serious investigation, but after 35 years it would be nearly impossible to pursue the matter further now.

Ralph Compton 6, born 7 March 1892 at Alliance, Nebraska, married 28 June 1916 at Plattsburg, Missouri, to Hattie Elizabeth McDaniel, daughter of Squire and Mary Benge McDaniel. During his early working days, Ralph 6 was a farrier but the rapid growth of the automobile industry put an end to the horseshoeing business and he turned to welding as an occupation.

On 25 August 1918, he enlisted in the U. S. Army but did not go beyond the Atlantic coast before World War I ended in November 1918; he served in “B” Company but the regiment is not known, and was discharged 8 February 1919.

From 1926 to 1944 he was employed as the welding foreman of the Locomotive Finished Material Company at Atchison, Kansas. From 1944 to 1949 he worked at the H. H. Libby Welding Company of Kansas City, Missouri and from 1949 to 1961 at Midstates Ornamental Iron Company of the same city.

His marriage to Hattie McDaniel Compton had ended in divorce and he married a second time on 27 August 1947 to Flora Mae Cowan at Miami, Oklahoma. Hattie Compton died 25 May 1952 at Atchison, Kansas.

Ralph 6 retired 6 January 1961 and moved to Gravois Mills, Missouri, in the Lake of the Ozarks region. Taken ill there in 1970, he died 16 September 1970 from complications following chest surgery and is buried at Versailles, Missouri.

There were three children born to Ralph 6 and Hattie McDaniel Compton:

1. Mary Kathryn Compton 7, born 23 October 1924 at West Suburban Hospital, Oak Park, Illinois. Died at age 2, on 15 January 1927, from intestinal influenza and following complications and is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery, Atchison, Kansas.
2. Ralph Compton 7, born 7 May 1926 at West Suburban Hospital, Oak Park, Illinois.
3. Ruth Ann Compton 7, born 3 February 1929 at Atchison Hospital, Atchison, Kansas

Ralph Compton 7, born 7 May 1926, married 5 January 1946 at Atchison, Kansas to Betty Jane Cunningham, daughter of Earl O. and Nora Dona Cunningham. Ralph 7

enlisted in the U. S. Army Air Corps (later U. S. Air Force) on 15 July 1944, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, received basic training at Buckley Field, Colorado, and in November 1944 was transferred to Kelly Field, Texas, where he was an instructor. From April 1946 until January 1948, he served at Wiesbaden, Germany, with 25<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron.

After returning to the United States in 1948, he served until April 1953 at various stations as administrative or personnel supervisor:

Smokey Hill Air Force Base, Kansas  
Great Fall AFT, Montana  
Elmendorf AFB, Alaska  
Offutt AFB, Kansas

Leaving active service, Ralph 7 then served with the Air Force Reserve from September 1953 until October 1961 when he again resumed active duty. In August 1962 he returned to the Reserve and retired in October 1967 as a Master Sergeant with ten years of active service and 12 of Air Force Reserve. Now (1971) is employed as Administrative Clerk by the U. S. Postal Service and lives at Gladstone, Missouri, near Kansas City.

Children of Ralph 7 and Betty Cunningham Compton:

1. Donna Jean Compton 8, b. 5 November 1946 at Wiesbaden, Germany, m. 19 April 1969 to Robert Edward Brennan, son of James E. and Elaine Smith Brennan, at Shawnee Mission, Kansas.
2. Barbara Jo Compton 8, b. 3 December 1947 at Wiesbaden, Germany, m. 2 September 1967 to Michael Joseph Anderson, son of James F. and Fern Parrick Anderson, at Kansas City, Missouri.
3. Kathy Ann Compton 8, b. 22 August 1954 at Kansas City, Missouri,

Ruth Ann Compton 7, born 3 February 1929, married 23 December 1945 to Frederick Walter Davis, son of Frederick and Marzella Davis, at Kansas City, Missouri. This marriage ended in divorce in March 1961; Ruth Ann 7 married second time on 5 November 1965 to Theodore Parker, son of James and Gladys Parker, at St. Joseph, Missouri, and resides there at this time (1971). Children of Ruth Ann Compton 7 and Frederick Davis:

1. Robert Edwin Davis 8, b. 6 April 1947 at Kansas City, Missouri, m. 1 July 1966 to Mary Elizabeth Duke, daughter of Donald and Margaret Duke, at Barnard Missouri. Robert E. Davis 8 served five years in the U. S. Marine Corps, both in Viet Nam and the continental U. S., received a number of awards and decorations, and left the Corps in March 1971. Children of Robert Edwin 8 and Mary Duke Davis:

1. Robin Elizabeth Davis 9, b. 20 December 1967 at St. Joseph, Missouri.
  2. Jefferson Daniel Davis 9, b. 29 May 1970 at Oceanside, California
2. William Edward Davis 8, b. 6 April 1947 (twin brother of Robert) at Kansas City, Missouri, m. 20 June 1970 to Susan Marie Reuter, daughter of Leroy and Wynona Reuter, at Valdosta, Georgia. William Edward Davis 8 served four years in the U. S. Air Force, including service in Viet Nam, and was discharged with the rank of Staff Sergeant in February 1970. Now (1971) resides in St. Joseph, Missouri where he is a carpenter and a student of Missouri Western College.
  3. Frederick Walter Davis 8, b. 26 July 1948 at Kansas City, Missouri, m. 21 June 1969 to Gwendolyn Root, daughter of Gerald and Beverly Root. Served in the U. S. Marine Corps until his discharge with rank of Sergeant in June 1970. Now (1971) resides in St. Joseph, Missouri.
  4. Vicki Ann Davis 8, b. 6 October 1949 at Atchison, Kansas, m. 3 April 1965 to Robert Neil Starks, son of Conda and Marie Starks, at St. Joseph, Missouri. Robert N. Starks served in the U. S. Army for two years until December 1969; now (1971) resides in St. Joseph, Missouri where he is a city fireman. Children of Robert N. and Vicki Davis Starks:

1. Stacy Ann Starks 9, b. 2 August 1970 at St. Joseph, Missouri

Hugh Compton 6, born 12 March 1890 at Alliance, Nebraska, married 21 March 1914 to Edith Inez Moore, daughter of C. S. and Phoebe Lowry Moore, at St. Joseph, Missouri. Hugh Compton 6 was employed by the Burroughs Adding Machine Company in 1912 and remained with the firm for 43 years, finally retiring in April 1955, having seen business machines develop from relatively simple hand-operated adding and calculating equipment to complex, solid-state electronic units. He was a service representative and later service manager in a number of different cities:

Kansas City/St. Joseph, Missouri	1912 – 1918
Albuquerque, New Mexico	1918 – 1919
St. Joseph, Missouri	1919 – 1920
	1921 – 1924
Fort Smith, Arkansas	1920 – 1921
Little Rock, Arkansas	1924 – 1926
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	1926 – 1927
Syracuse, New York	1927 – 1932
El Paso, Texas	1932 – 1937
Des Moines, Iowa	1937 – 1955

Edith Moore Compton, born 5 August 1893, was a telephone operator before her marriage. She loved flowers and gardening and was a fastidious housekeeper for her family. During her last few years she was an invalid requiring constant home care; Hugh 6 tended her faithfully for several years until a nursing home became necessary. She

died peacefully on 7 November 1970 and is buried at Chapel Hill Gardens, Des Moines, Iowa.

Hugh Compton 6, now (1971) nearly 82, having suffered two serious illnesses rather late in life without ill effect, continues to be alert and vigorous, maintains himself and his home without help and visits his children and grandchildren at every opportunity.

Children of Hugh 6 and Edith Moore Compton:

1. Alice Marie Compton 7, b. 16 February 1915 at St. Joseph, Missouri
2. Dean Compton 7, b. 5 November 1918, d. 13 December 1918 and is buried at Mt. Auburn Cemetery, St. Joseph, Missouri
3. Hugh Compton 7, b. 3 March 1923 at St. Joseph, Missouri
4. Paul Compton 7, b. 12 January 1928 at Syracuse, New York

Alice Marie Compton 7, born 16 February 1915, married 6 July 1940 to William Thomas Jones, son of Mrs. William Baker Jones, at El Paso, Texas. Alice Compton 7 had remained in El Paso when her parents moved to Des Moines, Iowa in the winter of 1937; William Thomas Jones, born 2 October 1914 in Brownsville, Tennessee, was then and still is employed by Employers Insurance of Texas. After the United States entered World War II, William Jones began service in the field artillery of the U. S. Army; later selected for Officers Candidate School, he was commissioned and stationed first at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, later at Orlando, Florida. Resuming his civilian occupation after the war, he and Alice Compton Jones 7 lived in El Paso, Corpus Christi and now (1971) Dallas, Texas, where he is senior vice president of his firm, heading all sales operations.

Children of William Thomas and Alice Compton Jones 7:

Paul Thomas Jones 8, b. 22 February 1947 at El Paso, Texas, m. 30 August 1969 to Pamela Joyce Nichols, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carol Nichols, at Dallas, Texas. Paul Thomas Jones 8 received his law degree from Baylor University, Waco, Texas, and was admitted to the Texas Bar in 1971 and is currently (1971) employed by the U. S. Internal Revenue Service. Children of Paul Thomas 8 and Pamela Nichols Jones:

Clayton Travis Jones 9, b. 8 January 1971 at Waco, Texas.

Hugh Compton 7, born 3 March 1923 at St. Joseph, Missouri, married 25 April 1946 to Dorothy Ann Rodeghier, daughter of Harris and Dorothy Yates Rodeghier of Chicago, at Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, Illinois. Hugh Compton 7 enlisted in the U. S. Navy in December 1940 and served continuously in naval aviation until retirement in 1959. His prewar service included fleet units in the North Atlantic, wartime service was exclusively in the South and Central Pacific and postwar mainly in the Atlantic and Mediterranean areas. Sea duty was mainly in fleet patrol squadrons and seaplane

tenders/bases; shore duty was mostly as an instructor. He retired as a Senior Chief Petty Officer (Aviation Ordnanceman).

Entered the field of missile/space vehicle safety upon retirement from the Navy and was employed at first the Air Force Test Range and later the Kennedy Space Center. Was associated mainly with the Polaris and Pershing missile programs while with the Pan American World Airways at Cape Canaveral; with the Minuteman missile program while with The Boeing Company. And with the Apollo/Saturn/Skylab space programs with the Bendix Corporation at Kennedy Space Center, where he is a supervisor in the Systems Safety department. Since 1959 has resided in Titusville, Florida. Children of Hugh 7 and Dorothy Rodeghier Compton:

1. Janis Ann Compton 8, b. 12 October 1947 at Jacksonville, Florida, m. 23 March 1968 to Marion B. Stroman, Jr., son of Marion B. and Sarah Ruddock Stroman, at Charleston, South Carolina. This marriage ended in divorce in February 1971; Janis Compton Stroman 8 now (1971) lives in Titusville, Florida and is employed by the State of Florida. Children of Marion B. and Janis Compton Stroman 8:

John David Stroman 9, b. 17 July 1970 at Titusville, Florida.

2. Christine Marie Compton 8, b. 8 March 1951 at Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, Maryland. Now (1971) resides in Titusville, Florida and is employed by The Boeing Company at Kennedy Space Center.

Paul Compton 7, born 12 January 1928, married 9 June 1951 to Vivian Arlene Rinker, daughter of Francis M. and Martha Rinker, at Des Moines, Iowa. Paul Compton 7 enlisted during World War II in the U. S. Coast Guard, on 7 July 1945, and subsequently served aboard USCG ships Jackson and Salvia and ashore at the Operating Base, San Juan, Puerto Rico and Radio Beacon Station, Trinidad, B.W.I. He was discharged in March 1948 with the rating of Motor Machinist's Mate Second Class.

Entering the field of industrial safety, he has resided in Des Moines, Fremont, Nebraska, and Sioux City, Iowa and was employed for a time on the Apollo/Saturn space program at Kennedy Space Center, Florida. Now (1971) resident safety engineer for the American Fire and Casualty Company in Greenville, South Carolina and resides there with his family. Children of Paul 7 and Vivian Rinker Compton:

1. Robert Paul Compton 8, b. 13 March 1952 at Des Moines, Iowa.
2. Patricia Ann Compton 8, b. 3 June 1956 at Des Moines, Iowa.
3. William Hugh Compton 8, b. 21 July 1959 at Fremont, Nebraska.
4. Donald Ray Compton 8, b. 19 September 1960 at Fremont, Nebraska

## EPILOGUE

This is the history of our branch of the family up to early 1972. Within a few short years, as births, deaths and marriages occur, it will again be incomplete, even among the descendents of Charles 5 and Mary Long Compton that I have listed here. The blank pages which follow are here for your own updating of these events, both sad and happy, though I fear we will inevitably lose track of each other's families because of the considerable geographical separation and the infrequency of communication. None of my own seventh generation has sons to perpetuate the Compton name in our branch except Paul 7 and Vivian Compton, so to Bob, Bill and Don –

CARRY ON!!

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