

We are here today to honor the lives of **William Compton and Mary Vaughan** and to dedicate a memorial in their memory.

The first record we find of those bearing the Compton name was during the reign of William the Conqueror, in the year 1066. At that time a Compton family was living in Compton Wynyates in Warwickshire, England, which was built by Edmund Compton and his son Sir William Compton.

Sir William Compton became a ward of King Henry the VII at an early age and upon the death of his father, was appointed first Gentleman who waited upon his son Henry.

The king showered him with honours. He and his first wife Katherine of Aragon were guests at Wynyates.

This may explain why the names William and Henry appear in each and every generation of Comptons until this day.

It may also explain their favored financial status and their ability to purchase property in the new world.

Compton Wynyates is still in possession of descendants of Sir William Compton.

We find another of this family, also named William, was Lord Mayor of London in 1539.

Henry Compton, a son of Sir William was ordained in the Church of England in 1662 and in 1675 became Bishop of London. He was entrusted with the education of Princesses Mary and Anne, daughters of James Duke of York, each of whom in turn became Queen of England.

He performed the marriage ceremony when Mary married William of Orange, (later William III of England) and Anne who married Prince George of Denmark. It was he who placed the Crown on the head of William III and Mary of England.

The street named Compton in the City of London was so named in his honor.

Another William Compton who was born in 1622, was the first of our line, to leave England for the wilds of America; because he believed that the State had no right to impose upon anyone, where or what he should worship.

Anything other than the State Church was not in favor, at that time.

He settled for a time in New York State where, in 1656, he bought the home lot plantation #29, with house and barn, from Nicholas Stillwell, for

400 lbs of tobacco, but in 1667 we see his name among those who had purchased a block of land, from the Indians, in the State of New Jersey.

It is likely that it was his strong religious convictions that led him to move to that area since in New Jersey no one was compelled to pay to the State Church.

Consequently, he was able to attend and contribute to the church of his choice.

In the Middletown, New Jersey records, we find his name as one of the founders of the first Baptist church, in that area.

His son, also named William, married Mary Bowne, sister of Rev. John Bowne, who was minister of the first Baptist church in Middletown, New Jersey.

President Abraham Lincoln, was descended from Sarah, Mary's sister.

The American revolutionary War was a time of testing for many families, many times brothers were in opposition to brothers and sometimes even fathers and sons found themselves on apposing sides.

Although a great many who bore the Compton name fought on the side of American independence yet there were a number who remained loyal to the British Crown.

Among this latter group were those who emigrated to this country; they were granted land by the British Government and were given the high sounding name of United Empire Loyalists.

This William Compton whom we honor today, was part of this group. He was born in New Jersey, sailed with his parents to St John, New Brunswick where he later married Sarah Vaughan, who was from a shipbuilding family in Chester, Nova Scotia.

They settled for a time in Cape Breton where he built and operated mills in Malagawatch near Whycogomagh.

About 1835 they moved to this province where he again operated mills near to where we are standing today.

William Compton and Mary Vaughan raised 12 children; 11 of whom married and produced over 90 grandchildren, they in turn gave William and Mary over 365 great grandchildren and in due time there were over 600 great-great grandchildren.

This family of Comptons were respectful of God's command to the human race to (*be fruitful and multiply*).

Today, we say like the Royal Psalmist; *We have a goodly heritage, and our lines are fallen in pleasant places*, as we honor the lives of this couple of whom we call our forebears.