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SENIOR PROJECT - APPROVAL

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PROJECT TITLE: Genealogy Research in the 21st
Century: How Innovations in Technology and
Interactivity Have Assisted Researchers.

I have reviewed this completed senior honors thesis with this student and certify that it is a project commensurate with honors level undergraduate research in this field.

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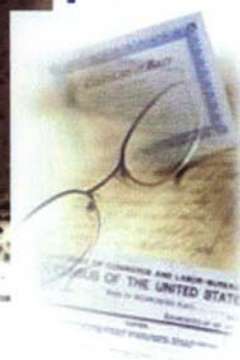
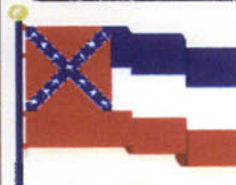
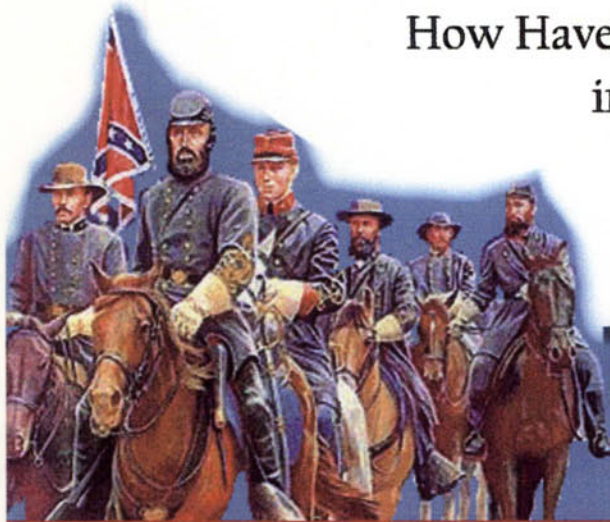
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GENEALOGY IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY:

How Have Innovations
in Technology and Interactivity
Helped Researchers?

Mary Compton
August 6, 2001





"In all of us is a hunger,



marrow-deep, to know our heritage -



to know who we are, and where we have come from.



Without this enriching knowledge,



there is a hollow yearning."



-Alex Haley



This project is dedicated to Laverne Compton and Dr. Lorri Glover. Laverne's love and curiosity provided the seeds for the project and Dr. Glover's intelligence and generosity helped it flourish.

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Introduction

This project examines how people are searching for their ancestors in today's technologically advanced society. While it is evident that the Internet has transformed genealogical research, this project will show how more traditional resources still play an important role.

The first part of the project is an evaluation of traditional resources and Internet genealogy sites. Criteria like the availability of records, searchable databases, and overall organization were used to critique the sites. The Internet sites and the resources they offer were compared to traditional resources found in public and genealogical libraries and county courthouses. The project concludes with a discussion of the merits of both types of resources and how the Internet positively and negatively impacts genealogical research.

In the second part of this project, using both types of resources, I researched the Compton family back to the early nineteenth century. This section of the project chronicles this research and gives descriptions of the records that were utilized.

Part I: Genealogy Research Methods

Census Records

The first U.S. census was conducted in 1790 to enumerate the country's population. A census was required by the Constitution to determine how many representatives each state could appoint to Congress. The results were used to divide legislative power among the states based on their populations. Since that initial count, the U.S. population increased by

244,780,659 people (Anderson 16). Over the years, the census has charted the demographic changes that have shaped the U.S. More than simply a population count, the information that the census provides has evolved with time and with the needs of a growing nation.

In *Who Counts?* a book about the politics surrounding the evolution of the census, authors Margo J. Anderson and Stephen E. Fienberg outline major events in the census' history.¹ In 1790, when U.S. marshals conducted the first census, only six questions were asked about the number of free whites, free blacks and slaves. By 1840, the number of questions rose to seventy, but the census still used the family as the unit of measure. The census only noted the head of household's name, the wife's age and the ages of any children.

In 1850, census law was changed so that individuals would be used as the unit of measure. This change was a result of controversy between Northern and Southern states surrounding the census process. Since the 1840 census noted if individuals were insane or idiotic, Southern states were using the census figures to show that free slaves in the North were being driven insane by their freedom. The 1850 census "restored confidence in the census process" because the census bureau reevaluated its process and made needed changes such as increasing its workforce and counting individuals not families.

Accurately counting the U.S. population became very pertinent during the time surrounding the Civil War. As free Northern states grew faster than slave states in the South, Southerners

¹ Anderson, Margo. 2000. *Who Counts? The Politics of Census-taking in contemporary America*. New York: Sage Foundation.

grew wary of a government dominated by representatives from Northern states. Despite the war, the U.S. census was taken in 1860 and afterwards in 1870. It is now known that census counts in the South in 1870 were not very accurate. The aftermath of the Civil War made it difficult for census enumerators to make accurate counts of the Southern population.

Census records from 1790 to 1920 are available to the public. The 1930 and later censuses are not available for public use because of a statutory 72-year restriction on access for privacy reasons. Available records are found at public and genealogical libraries and at state archives. Most census records are available on microfilm. Since these are pictures of the original records, they are handwritten. The handwriting can be difficult to read and the markings to indicate education or sanity can be indistinguishable.

With the growth of the Internet, census records are being made available online. Some services are free listings of census indexes. A recent project, www.us-census.org, is a volunteer effort to publish all census records online. Other sites, usually commercial ones such as, Ancestry.com, offer customers the options of buying CD's with census information or purchasing online access to view photographs of census files. This service can be very helpful if local libraries do not contain complete census information from all states. It is preferable to view the actual census records than to examine a retyped version because the aforementioned illegibility of the records may lead to mistakes.

Census information remains a viable part of genealogical research because it provides researchers with

facts such as the ages of their ancestors, where they were born, and where they lived. After 1840, census questions that inquired about the occupation of the male head of household and the value of any owned or rented real estate helps researchers analyze the socio-economic status of their ancestors. Since genealogical research is an ongoing process, census records are valuable because one entry can lead to the generations before and after it.

Census information is one of the easiest, most reliable, and most widely available methods of research. The census is reliable because it is a government administered count. Though public opinion of the census has changed throughout U.S. history, its important purpose lends credibility to the process. Every census has a number of indexes that aid in the research. Thus, half of the work is done for researchers before they start perusing census files. Additionally, a system has been created to further aid researchers in finding surnames. The Soundex is a coded last name index based on the way a name sounds rather than the way it is spelled. Surnames that sound the same, but are spelled differently, like SMITH and SMYTH, have the same code and are filed together. The Soundex coding system was developed so that the researcher can find a surname even though it may have been recorded under various spellings (National Archives and Records Administration). Finally, the records can be accessed for free in a number of locations such as libraries, state archives, and Internet sites.

Marriage Records

Marriage records offer researchers another way to track their

ancestors' lives. While they do not provide the depth of information that a census record can, marriage records offer a valuable name that census records omit: a wife's maiden name. Researching a married woman's genealogy can be difficult without her maiden name. A marriage record or "bond" assists in this search by showing more information about the woman and her family. Marriage bonds that were issued to couples that were under the legal age required consent. If the consent was given by the bride's mother or father, their names appear on the bond.

Additionally, family members could serve as witnesses and their names would be recorded. Like census records, marriage records are appearing on the Internet, but they are still widely available in more traditional locations. Some libraries and genealogical libraries carry copies of marriage records. A genealogical library is most likely sponsored by the local genealogical society. It contains books about the history of that county or town, biographies of famous town residents, and other genealogical publications. It is more common to find these records in county courthouses, where they were originally issued. There are also compiled indexes to marriages available at genealogical libraries.

Land Records

With land records, researchers can literally trace their ancestors' lives across the country and around the world. Land records can be found in state archives and in county courthouses. Writing to state archives usually requires a searching fee and an additional fee if records are found and need to be copied

and sent to the researcher. Records at county courthouses can be difficult to research because each courthouse has its own method for storing and organizing the information.

Recently, the Internet has become one of the best ways to search for land records. At www.glorerecords.blm.gov, researchers can search land patents from thirty-one states. These states were once public lands and when the government sold parts of this land to individuals, they issued a land patent. These records are very well organized and offer the researcher the option of searching by several different fields. With this feature, it is not necessary to know everything about an ancestor in order to find their records. Moreover, this site includes the actual images of the land records (see Appendix – C for a sample land record). These can be downloaded and saved on disks for further examination. This eliminates the need to go to the state where the patent was issued to obtain a copy of the record.

Military Records

Military records can be obtained through various channels. A researcher could write to the Military Archives Division of the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, DC for information about an ancestor. Forms for this request are available at libraries and at genealogical libraries. The form can be used to search all branches of the service including the Coast Guard. Information can be requested on active, reserve, discharged, or deceased members of the armed services. These libraries often have numerous publications devoted to indexing veterans. Usually a name and

geographic location are required to start the search.

As with land records, the Internet is becoming one of the best ways to search for military records. The National Parks Service has an excellent site devoted to publishing information about Civil War soldiers and sailors at www.itd.nps.gov. This site makes it easy for researchers to find their ancestors by offering searches based on names and regiments. Additionally, there are descriptions of the regiments' activities and travel during the war.

There are countless other sites devoted to cataloging civil war soldiers, battles, medals, and cemeteries. Unfortunately with these sites, like other sites devoted to genealogical research, only one enthusiast maintains each one. They are all organized differently and contain different information. Thus, researchers might go through many different sites to find the desired information.

Internet

The Internet, an increasingly popular and valuable resource for genealogy research, not only offers records, but also allows researchers to communicate with each other. The following nine sites were evaluated to determine the characteristics of some of the most popular sites on the web. These sites were selected because they are large and well maintained. Most sites include databases that allow for searching surnames. Additionally, these sites offer many different types of records. Unlike other websites that concentrate on one surname or one geographic location, the selected sites draw from many surnames and locations. Many sites are built and maintained by

one family member to publish his or her ancestry and the focus of those sites is too narrow to include in this report. Three of these sites require one-time, monthly, or yearly fees to use their services. The remaining sites offer free use of the resources. Both types, commercial and free sites, were included so that the differences between the two could be examined.

1. www.ancestry.com

This site offers access to over 700 million names and more than 3,000 databases for a yearly subscription price of \$59.00. It allows the researcher to search birth, marriage, and death records. Researchers also have the ability to look at cemetery records, military rolls, and church records. One interesting feature not found on many other sites is the Online Census Viewing package. For an additional yearly charge, the researcher can view scanned images of original U.S. census forms. This site is well organized and visually appealing.

Ancestry.com's records were consistent with land records found through state archives and military records found on the National Parks Service website on military history. There were only slight differences in marriage records found on this site and in a county courthouse. This discrepancy can be attributed to the couple celebrating the marriage on a different day than the day the marriage bond was issued. The fee for using these services is reasonable because it allows the researcher to find reliable, organized information that may otherwise be obtainable only through a specific resource located in another state.

2. www.familysearch.com

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints maintains this site. As a result of being partnered with the world's largest Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, this is an impressive free site. The Church of Latter Day Saints identifies its members' ancestors in order to make covenants on behalf of them. The Church is famous for gathering genealogical records from all over the world.

Unlike other sites that offer basic surname searches, this site allows a researcher to input information like "spouse's name", "country" and "event" in an effort to narrow the search. This site allows researchers to create a login name and share genealogical information with others.

This vast site offers free information to researchers and allows them to share their discoveries over the Internet. The Mormon Church's reputation as a genealogical resource gives the site notoriety and provides researchers with access to information from fellow researchers around the world. Because this site is part of the Mormon Church, researchers can visit Mormon genealogical libraries across the country for assistance in using the site and researching genealogy. Marriage records from the site were accurate compared to records gathered at a county courthouse.

3. www.nara.gov/genealogy

This site is maintained by the National Archives and Records Administration. Not only does it offer researchers information about how to find records in its DC and regional offices, it provides links to online

records as well. These links give researchers information that includes military records, Native American and African American records, and immigration records. The NARA site teaches researchers about genealogy and provides guides to both traditional and online resources.

One disadvantage of the site is that it does not provide comprehensive surname searches. While it links researchers to indexes and gives detailed instructions on how to find information through both traditional and online sources, it does not provide the researcher with concrete information like names and dates that can be obtained on other sites. Because of the teaching tools it provides, this site is an excellent starting point for a beginning researcher.

4. www.usgenweb.net

UsGenWeb.net is a nationwide project devoted to connecting people to genealogical information via the web. This website is a portal site to direct researchers to different individual projects. A portal site serves as a starting point to direct Internet surfers to useful sites. For instance, this page has links to separate UsGenWeb pages for each state and county. The creators of the project want the research to be at the county level, since many genealogical records, such as land and marriage records, can be found at county courthouses.

This site also sponsors a national census web publishing project. They are attempting to transcribe every census from 1790-1920 on the Internet. When complete, this will be an excellent source of census data for researchers who purchase this information over the web or travel to other states to find it.

There are a few drawbacks to this collection of sites under the UsGenWeb name. Different volunteers all separately maintain the county sites. Thus, there is little continuity between county sites and information is organized in various ways. Additionally, since these are free sites, the information is usually a mixture of postings from separate researchers. While most postings are organized by date or surname, it can be time consuming to review each one to find valuable information.

However, these sites offer information that might not be available on a larger, better maintained site. For instance, Carroll County Mississippi's site publishes information from family bibles and area church records. These small but valuable records reach an enormous audience through this site. To assure accuracy, researchers should attempt to match findings such as a church marriage record to a county marriage bond.

5. www.rootsweb.com

This is another portal site that also offers a surname search and many links to information about researching genealogy. Like other sites, this website concentrates on teaching about how to research genealogy on the Internet. This site offers researchers message boards for posting and responding to inquiries.

Like the UsGenWeb county websites, Rootsweb sites are organized by county. Researchers may experience some of the same difficulties from lack of consistency between sites. Though smaller than commercial sites, these sites offer personalization in their research tools. Individual sites may offer links to volunteers that will look up information

for them in their hometown library or courthouse. The sites also provide researchers with the history of that county and information about local projects like transcribing tombstones in local cemeteries. Smaller sites like this should be included in Internet research because they focus on a particular geographical area and give researchers rare, viable information that larger sites cannot provide.

6. www.cyndislist.com

Cyndi's List is one of the most widely used genealogy sites on the Internet and it does not even offer a way to search for ancestors. The main advantage of this site is that it gives links to over 105,000 genealogy websites. Moreover, the site organizes the websites into separate indexes so that researchers can easily find informative pages.

While this site is well maintained and very organized, perusing its links can still be a daunting endeavor. The site's enormity may be an advantage to seasoned researchers but could be a maze for beginners with little genealogical information to input into the search for links. Since the links on Cyndi's list can be submitted by anyone, they offer information that is not monitored for accuracy. Many genealogy sites suggest double-checking information found on the Internet with traditional resources. This may undermine the convenience of the Internet, but it may save researchers from following incorrect information.

7. www.genealogy.com

This site offers four subscriptions for researchers. They range from

offering an index to the 1900 census for \$99.00 to an expansive genealogy library for \$79.00. Since this is a fee-based site, it is well maintained and offers organized assistance to the researcher. Like many others, this site has a surname search feature that entices new users to try before they subscribe.

The site gives free information to researchers and then tries to sell a subscription or CD ROM by telling the researcher that these services and products can tell them more about their ancestors. Commercial sites like this one are valuable in that they offer accurate information and personal assistance through e-mail and telephone. However, many of the paid services they offer, such as CD ROMs that contain census files, can be obtained at local libraries or through free sites on the Internet. Moreover, the sites "tease" researchers with offers of information about an ancestor, but there is no way to find out if this is the desired relative until the fee is paid. Since nearly every search leads to a request for purchase, researchers should use sites and services like these only if they are certain they are purchasing information that involves their ancestor(s).

8. www.gendex.com

This site is a free site that simply offers a surname database. This is a very basic site without graphics and without special features like message boards and family trees. It does offer researchers the option of renting web space with them for a small fee. People rent web space on this site so that they can publish their own family trees. Its simple design allows the researcher to bypass the advertising and extras of

other sites and research over twenty million names in its databases.

The main advantage of this site is that it allows researchers to post their family trees on the Internet through the use of a GEDCOM file. GEDCOM stands for GENEalogical Data COMMunications. Computer programs like FamilyTree Maker assist researchers in creating an ancestral chart through a GEDCOM file. This file can then be imported into the Internet through a site like Gendex.com. This site allows researchers to merge their family trees with others that they find on the Internet and saves them time they would have spent manually entering the data. A site like this is useful to researchers using this software, but also allows non-users to perform surname searches on the all the family trees that have already been published.

9. www.genserv.com

This site has been operating since 1991 and offers researchers the GenServ - Genealogical GEDCOM Server system. This is a collection of GEDCOM databases on one computer system. According to the site, "The data in these databases is accessible through commands sent to the system via a regular email message and also via WEB access." Unlike Gendex.com, this is not a free website, researchers must pay for access to the system. It does offer a free, one-time look up for new users. Since this site is comprised of many family trees submitted by people all over the world, it is not monitored for accuracy. Any information found on a site like this should be scrutinized for reliability. Researchers should use caution when examining information gathered from any site that allows individuals to upload

their personal research. Using this personal information from other researchers should serve as a temporary support until actual records can be found to substantiate the findings.

Conclusions

While there are thousands of sites devoted to genealogy research scattered across the Internet, the preceding nine sites are good examples of the larger ongoing projects. Internet research can be incredibly valuable, especially for those who must travel to find records. When tracing ancestors internationally, the Internet's ability to access foreign records and provide contacts in distant countries becomes invaluable. While a journey to find family roots is enticing, the expense may keep researchers firmly planted in the U.S.

This financial aspect of genealogy research warrants discussion. It is reasonable to assert that commercial sites offer a larger and more organized collection of information than free sites. However, many sites require that fees be paid before any records are viewed. While this protects the site's business interests, it forces the researcher to pay without knowing if there is any valuable information to be gained. Additionally, the researcher must determine if it is more cost-effective to purchase records on the Internet rather than search for them in more traditional resources. If this search leads them out of state or across the country, the convenience of the Internet may triumph.

What traditional records lack in convenience, they make up for in sentimentality. Though it may not be possible to see the originals of every

record one discovers, there is something special about finding copies in library filled with books, records, and other researchers. The Internet fosters its own community of researchers. With the aid of message boards and e-mail, it facilitates conversations between individuals. The Internet also makes it possible to store and organize information so that researchers can easily access it.

As genealogy grows in popularity, the ability to electronically preserve records for future generations becomes crucial. Since genealogical research is built upon sharing information and making connections, the Internet continues to be a very useful tool.

Part II: Research on the Compton Family

In July of 2000, the first step I took to research my ancestry was going to the Memphis Public Library. I had decided that I wanted to research my father's family, the Comptons. From my father's cousin's wife, Laverne Compton, I had a list of names of my ancestors. They included my grandfather's parents' names and the names of his brothers and sisters. Laverne gave me possible birth and death dates and had written the color of their eyes and hair. She also included the children of one of my father's aunts and one of his uncles. The two names I wanted to track were James Rufus Compton and Jody Smith Compton (my father's grandparents). I knew they were from Carroll County Mississippi, but Laverne said to be careful when I was researching because she had often heard her husband's family say they were from Grenada, which is the county north of

Carrollton. She thinks they might have said that because living in Carroll County meant you were probably poor and a farmer. Laverne was the only member of my family that I could interview for an oral history of my family. I find this ironic because she married into the Compton family. Her curiosity led her to ask questions of her in-laws and because of that those questions, I have a good base for beginning my research.

My brother William and I went to the library and found the history section where census records are kept. According to the librarian, the first step to take was to look in the Soundex index for the number that corresponds to the last name you are seek. Compton is number 513. Next, I went to the soundex cards that are on microfilm to find any Comptons in Carroll County. I found Rufus Compton and his wife Josie, not Jody, in the Soundex for 1910. It listed their names and the names of their children, Allen, Parrelee, Vanderbuilt, Maudie, R.C. and W.D., my grandfather.

Next, I looked through the rolls of census film to find the complete census information (please see Appendix -A, Exhibit-1.) This was the thirteenth census. It listed the names, sex, marital status, age, race, language, trade, industry, employment status, education, and ownership of land. Rufus was 43 in 1910, and Josie (not Jody) was 35. They had been married for 18 years. What I thought was interesting about this census was the way in which it was taken. I think the census worker went down Carrollton Road and asked each house for information. I found it out of the ordinary that in 1910 in Mississippi, a white family lives next to 4 black families on one side and one black

family on another. Neighborhoods are still very segregated in twenty-first century Memphis, so this seemed strange. Considering that they farmed, there might have been some distance between the homes. Another detail of this census is how it shows that my great grandmother Josie had 8 children and only 6 survived.

This was the first record I found in my search. I can't describe how it felt to find this first piece of information. It was wonderful because my father knew nothing about his grandparents. They died when his father was young and he never spoke of them. Finding their names in print somehow proved that they had existed and that they are a part of me (please refer to the Compton Family Tree on page 17.)

Next, I found Rufus' parents in the Soundex, Allen G and Niocessa Compton in the 1880 Carroll County census (please see Appendix-A, Exhibit - 2). The name Niocessa surprised me because it sounded Native American. Allen and Niocessa had 9 children when this census was taken. It shows some of the same information as the 1910 census, but also mentions where the parents of Allen and Niocessa were born. Allen's mother was from South Carolina, S.C or the District of Columbia, DC on the census. The handwriting is a very slanted cursive and a little difficult to read. His father was from Virginia. Niocessa's parents were from Tennessee. This census is especially hard to decipher because there are both X's and /'s to indicate education. I cannot determine if Allen and Niocessa were literate based on the enumerator's markings. Because this census index indicated the town where it was taken, I know that they lived near Gerronton, MS.

With this information, I looked again in Carroll County for more Comptons. I found a Jane Compton and her son Allen in the 1850 census (please see Appendix - A, Exhibit - 3). This census was not as detailed as the previous ones. Since only Jane and Allen were listed as members of the household written, I was limited in gathering more information. There were no more census records for Comptons in Mississippi. Without a male's name, I had no idea how to trace Jane's husband's history. Additionally, census records do not give the wife's maiden name. However, I did gather some relevant information. This census showed that Jane was 50 years old, owned \$400 worth of land and had been born in North Carolina. It showed that Allen was 15 years old and that he had been born in Mississippi. Unfortunately, this census put my research to a halt for a while. It is more difficult to trace females than it is males. Even with a maiden name, I do not know how to find her family's history without a male relative. I assumed that Jane's husband had died and that she was raising Allen alone.

At this point, the library's census files were not helping me trace any further back into Compton history. Even though I knew what states my oldest ancestors were from, I did not know the father's first name or which county the father was from in Virginia. I decided to start searching on the Internet. I had a good list of names with which to search. I started getting information on Allen Compton, thinking it would lead me to his father's name. While surfing web pages, I would post inquiries about my great grandparents.

One huge advantage of the web is the two-way communication. I could

e-mail someone researching a branch of the Comptons that looked like my branch and I would get a response very quickly. Most of these responses were not much help in tracing back in the early 1800's but some provided good information about more recent events. All e-mail correspondence is located in Appendix - B. From the Carroll County Website,

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~msgenweb> I e-mailed a woman who has a collection of marriage records from Carroll County about my great-grandfather James Rufus Compton. While she was unable to assist me in that request, she did find a record for a T.L. Compton in 1905. When I looked back in my 1880 census records I found a Thomas L. Compton born in 1860. Perhaps he or his son could have been the T.L. Compton in her records.

While e-mail correspondence was helpful in giving me more names to work with, random clues and names from people responding to my e-mails or Internet postings often blurred my research. In one instance, I exchanged e-mails with a woman who thought our Compton family was the same. She told me that her father was named William after his father who died before 1916. This matched up with my 1880 census records that showed a William Compton born in 1871. She also mentioned that her great-grandmother was Native American. At this point I was very interested in finding out if the Niocessa in the 1880 census was a Native American. I attempted to search for Niocessa's name Tennessee genealogy websites, especially those that focused on Native Americans. However, without her maiden name to aid me in my search, I was unable to find any good information. When surfing the

Mississippi page, www.us-gen.com/ms/carroll, I found a page that listed cemetery gravestones in Carroll County Mississippi. It was called Enon Cemetery and it listed seven members of the Compton family. Through an e-mail inquiry to the man who posted this page, I learned that the cemetery is currently in good shape because there is an active church nearby.



Enon Methodist Church Coila, MS

The cemetery gravestones provided information that helped further my research. It showed the dates of births and deaths of two of Allen and Niocessa's children who died very young. One child, M.C. was born after the 1880 census and died the day he or she was born, October 1st, 1881. Three other children were buried here, including Allen Ethelior, a daughter who died in 1956. After reading that W.D., the son I assume is William D. died in 1907, I believe that the woman who e-mailed me weeks earlier was wrong about our family connection. Her father was born in 1916, so my great-great uncle W.D. could not be her grandfather. There is also a tombstone for Niocessa, with the initials N.E., who died on September 6th, 1906. This is of particular interest to me because my grandfather was born just four years later in 1910.



Enon Cemetery

The last Compton family member in the cemetery is listed, "COMPTON, Allen Co F 1st Miss Cav CSA (no Dates). I am speculating that this is the patriarch of the family, Allen G. Compton who served in the Civil War.

At this point, I returned to the library to look for the marriage records on the couples I had found in the census research. The marriage records were organized by the county and the date. I guessed that Josie and Rufus were married about a year before the birth of their first child, Allen. According to the census, Allen was born in 1892. They were married on February 18th, 1891 in Carroll County. I also used the birth of Allen and Niocessa's first child to guess when they were married. Their first child, Elizabeth was born in 1858 and I found their marriage certificate dated November 5th, 1857. Allen's wife's name was written differently on the marriage record, Narcissa. I was beginning to speculate that this woman was not of Native American descent, but that she had a difficult name that neither she nor the county official nor the census enumerator could spell.

In August of 2000 and I returned to school in Knoxville and continued my research. The East Tennessee Historical Society is located in downtown Knoxville. Using a book in the genealogy library, I connected Jane

Compton and her husband. In the book, *Carroll County Mississippi Pioneers*, by Betty Couch Wiltshire I found a will that named Jane and Allen Compton. It was Drury Compton's will and I assumed he was Jane's husband. Dated May 13, 1848, the death of Drury Compton is consistent with the 1850 census count of only Jane and Allen. Additionally, the will stated that other children were mentioned but not named. This was an important discovery because I needed Jane's husband's full name to continue my research.

With both a first and last name, I returned to the Internet to search for clues. I utilized a commercial site, Ancestry.com, to find records on Drury Compton. I used the search engine to search the entire site and found matches in a Mississippi land records database and a Kentucky marriages database. The land record revealed that Drury Compton had purchased land on October 9th, 1834 on the Choctaw baseline. This record proved that the Compton's were in Mississippi when Allen Compton was born in 1835. This corresponded with the 1850 census that showed Allen was born in 1835. In the marriage database the record showed that Drury Compton married Jane Cheek in October 25th, 1817. With this record, my research shifted from Mississippi to Kentucky.

Caldwell County Kentucky

This land opened for settlement in 1795. The county was organized in 1809. Many of the early settlers had served in the Revolutionary War and were coming to Kentucky from the Carolinas, the Virginias, and parts of Central Kentucky and Tennessee. In 1819, many Caldwell County settlers migrated to states like Missouri, Illinois, and Mississippi, where new territory was opening.

By searching through the Historical Society's holdings on Kentucky, I found a book, *Caldwell County Kentucky Marriage Records*. It included the information I had found on ancestry.com. According to both records, Jane's mother, Elizabeth Cheek, had consented to the marriage. From the 1850 Mississippi census, I knew that Jane was born in 1800. Since she was seventeen when this marriage took place, she needed her mother's consent.

A note about accuracy: I am always trying to double-check the records and bits of information that I find, especially if I find it on the Internet. Census, land, and marriage records always seem more reliable and useful than Internet postings and searches. However, as I explained earlier with the e-mail correspondence and the Enon Methodist Church cemetery, corresponding with real people over the Internet is giving my research deeper meaning and giving me tools to more efficiently find relatives.

After a semester of researching in Knoxville, I returned to Memphis for the holidays and made a trip to Carroll County Mississippi for more research. With my boyfriend, Shawn Hamm, we drove 120 miles south of Memphis to visit the Carroll County courthouse. I was using a map I had found on the Internet that was labeled "1900." While we also had more current directions, I thought this map would take us on older roads that would have been in use when my ancestors were alive. The courthouse in Carrollton, Mississippi is in the center of the town square in this very small town.



Carroll County Mississippi Courthouse Jan '01

When we arrived, the courthouse was closed but would open later that day. Earlier that day I had called the courthouse for information on researching genealogy in the area. The woman had directed me to Greenwood, Mississippi, a town ten miles west of Carrollton. She said that many of the records in the courthouse were available at Greenwood's public library. The Greenwood Public Library has an impressive collection of genealogy books. I researched Carroll County and discovered that many pioneers came to Mississippi after land opened up in the 1820's and 1830's. Looking through the library's collection of books on Carroll County, I found another record of Allen and Niocessa's marriage in a book *Carroll County Marriage Records* by Mrs. O.K. Gee Sr. In this publication, Allen's wife Niocessa is named "Norine." Next, I looked through books on Kentucky and found a book devoted to Caldwell County pioneers. While looking for information on Drury Compton I found Richard Hays' will in which Drury Crumpton purchased land on August 20th, 1827. Not only did this give me another name to use in searching for records, it proved that the Comptons (or Crumptons) moved from Kentucky to Mississippi between 1827 and 1834. In another record with a different variation of Drury Compton's

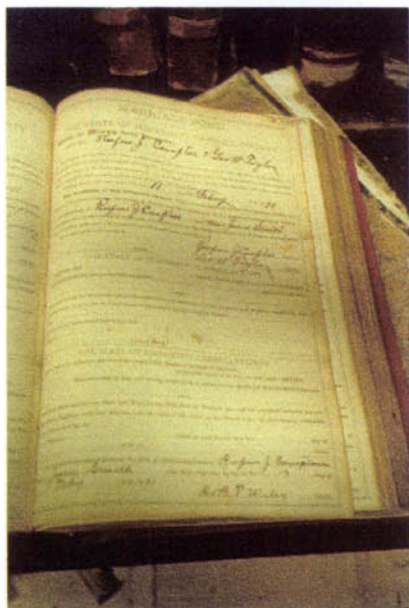
name, I found where "Brury Compton" bought land in December of 1818 from the will of John Gordon. At this point I thought these discrepancies were the result of untidy handwritten records. I was not yet convinced that my name was "Crumpton" and not "Compton."

When we returned to Carrollton, a woman in the clerk's office led us into a room across the hall. She lit a gas furnace in the middle of the room to keep us warm as we sifted through the books of marriage and land records. The books were the original records and they were roughly organized by year. Since I knew the marriage dates from the Memphis library, I was able to find both Josie and Rufus' and Allen and Niocessa's marriage bonds. While the date of Josie and Rufus' marriage was February 18th, 1891 according to the library, the date was February 11th, 1891 in the book of marriage bonds. This minor discrepancy did not hinder my research, but it is interesting to note how dates can vary according to records.

The discovery of Allen and Niocessa's marriage bond was very helpful in solving the mystery of her heritage. I had speculated that she was of Native American descent because of her unusual name. The marriage bond showed her name to be "Narcina Elvira Trotter." I think her name and the variations on it are more indicative of illiteracy than an ethnic heritage. At the bottom of the bond, there is a space for two people to sign as "sealers." The husband, Allen, was one of the sealers and L.M. Cheek was the other. Allen's mother's maiden name was Cheek, so I think that one of Allen's relatives signed the bond with him.



Carroll Co. Courthouse's Rows of Marriage Bonds and Land Records



Rufus and Josie's Marriage Bond, Carroll Co. Courthouse

Among the marriage records I found was the marriage of Allen's son William D. to Sidney Willoughby in 1892 and his daughter Elizabeth to Ben Carpenter in 1884. Back in July of 2000, while corresponding through e-mail with other researchers, a woman named Terrie Carman e-mailed me about any information I might have about a William Compton from Carrollton. I sent her a picture of her great-

grandmother Sidney's marriage certificate by e-mail and gave her the information I found at the courthouse.

The rest of the information I discovered at the courthouse was in the form of land records. I found a number of records in which Allen Compton was the grantor of land. Since members of my family were sharecroppers in Mississippi, these were records of their business dealings.

At the suggestion of my faculty advisor, Dr. Lorri Glover, I wrote to the Mississippi Department of Archives to inquire about land purchased in Mississippi in the 1820's and 1830's by a Drury Compton or Crumpton. I learned that in the 1820's Carroll County Mississippi was still Indian Land.

Indian Removal

The United States passed the Indian Removal Act in 1830. The Choctaw tribe ceded their land to the U.S. government in the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek in 1832. The Choctaws of the south and the Chickasaws of the north were deported across the Mississippi River in 1832-4. This led to the arrival of white settlers from eastern states.

Source:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~msgenweb/statehistory2.htm>

According to the five land records I received from the MDA, my family was part of the influx of settlers after the Indian Removal. The first record was dated 1835. Drury Compton, not Crumpton, made four subsequent purchases in the same area, from 1835 to 1841. The photocopied records are very difficult to read, but they show that the family was in the area at the time. On a few records, Drury's wife Jane has signed her name as well. The

photocopies were made from microfilmed copies of the original documents. They were microfilmed in the 1972 for the Genealogical Society of Salt Lake City Utah.

With the new name "Drury Crumpton," I returned to the Internet and looked on several sites for information, including familysearch.com, the Mormon website. On ancestry.com, a commercial site, I found land records for both Drury Compton and Drury Crumpton in Mississippi. The online records gave the land office, date, and base line from which the purchase was made. The base line for these plots of land was Choctaw and I am assuming this means that the land was next to Choctaw County, which is located north of Carroll. I think these records are the same as those found at the Mississippi Department of Archives. While the handwriting is difficult to read, I can clearly read the name "Compton" on the signature of one records and "Cumpton" on another. Again, this discrepancy in the family name could be due to my ancestors being illiterate. Another possibility is that Drury Crumpton changed his name to "Compton" when he brought his family to Mississippi.

Along with Drury's land purchases, a "John Crumpton" bought land on the Choctaw base line in 1860. I am speculating that this is Drury's son who was mentioned but not named in his 1848 will. Unfortunately, I have no other evidence that would lead to this conclusion.

All of these land records are available on the Internet. At www.glorerecords.blm.gov, I found downloadable images of each of these land patents (please see Appendix - C Exhibits 3 - 8). The images show that there was confusion over how to spell

Drury's last name when the patents were issued. On two of the records, someone has marked out the "a" in "Crampton" and replaced it with a "u."

At this point, I wanted to investigate my family's history in Kentucky. At the East Tennessee Historical Society, I found Drury Crumpton in an 1820 census. In 1820, the census does not ask the breadth of questions that it does in 1850. In fact, it only shows that he lived in Caldwell County with other male and female relatives whose names are not revealed. In 1820, only the name of the male head of household was recorded. At this point I have not been able to find any more information about my family's history in Kentucky.

I am still using the Internet to find out more detailed information about the lives of my ancestors. There are some wonderful sites devoted to the Civil War that have been helpful in uncovering my great-great grandfather's role as a soldier. Through the National Park's website, www.itd.nps.gov, I found some new information about Allen G. Compton in the Civil War. He is on the muster rolls for three regiments. He was a member of the First Regiment of the Mississippi Calvary Reserves, the 15th and 42nd Regiments of the Mississippi Infantry. According to the site, the 15th Regiment contained 820 men in January of 1862 and served in the Vicksburg area, the Atlanta Campaign, and the Battle of Bentonville. One of their bloodiest battles occurred at Fishing Creek where 44 men were killed and 153 were wounded. The site also gave information about the 42nd Regiment. This unit served in Virginia and fought at Gettysburg and around Apomattox. Only five enlisted men surrendered on April 9, 1865. I do not

have any specific information about my great-great grandfather's personal role in the war, but I can speculate that he was not badly injured in the war because he returned to Mississippi and fathered nine children after 1863.

able to discover my family's origins outside of the United States.

Conclusions

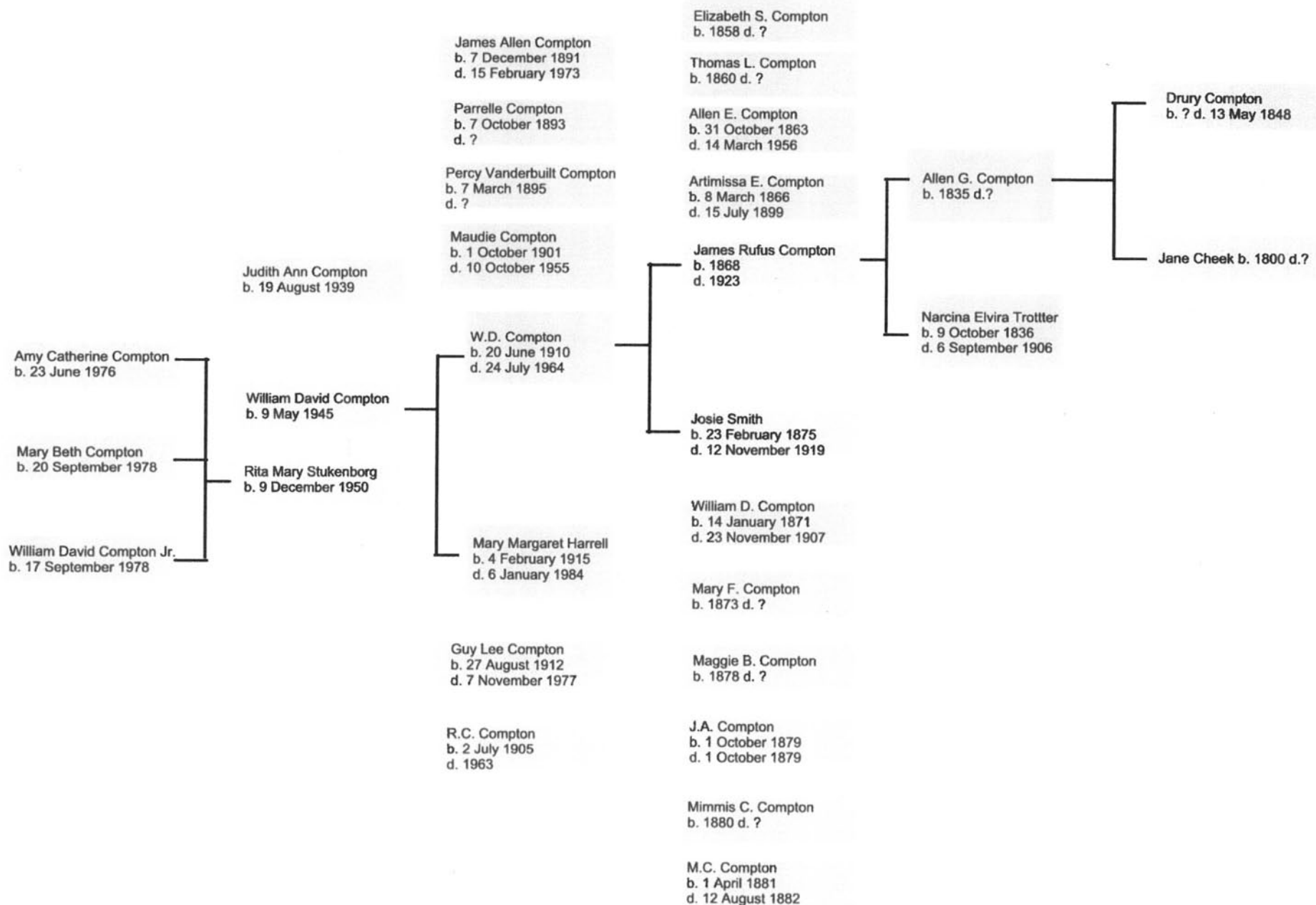
While evaluating a website for this project, I came across this quote by Alex Haley, "In all of us is a hunger, marrow-deep, to know our heritage - to know who we are, and where we have come from. Without this enriching knowledge, there is a hollow yearning." I think this is an eloquent explanation of why people research their family histories. It alludes to the emotional element that is found in this research. Haley speaks of this "hunger" as present "in all of us" and I found this to be especially true when I searched the Internet for information. With hundreds of thousands of websites devoted to gathering and sharing names and histories, the sheer number of researchers is staggering.

I am concluding this project with reservations about my research. While I was able to trace a branch of my family back to 1817, I have superficially explored into the personal lives of my ancestors. Without the aid of written pieces such as diaries or letters, I have no means of describing their personalities or characteristics. I can only make assumptions about events in their lives. However, this research has been fulfilling because it has given me the confidence to keep searching. In one year I have found fourteen new ancestors and tracked my family's path across the South over the last two centuries. With this project as my starting point, I will continue my research and hopefully be

Outline of the Compton Family's Route Across the South

- ~1800 Drury Crumpton born somewhere in Virginia
- ~1800 Jane Cheek born somewhere in North Carolina
- October 25, 1817 Drury and Jane marry in Caldwell County Kentucky
- December 1818 Drury Crumpton purchases land in Caldwell County
- August 20, 1827 Drury Crumpton purchases land in Caldwell County
- September 14, 1835 Drury Crumpton purchases land from the U.S. government in Hinds County Mississippi
- 1835 A son, Allen, born to Drury and Jane
- 1840-1841 Drury purchases land in Hinds and Madison County Mississippi
- 1848 Drury Compton dies
- November 5, 1857 Allen G. Compton marries Narcina Elvira Trotter in Carroll County Mississippi
- ~1858 Allen and Narcina have their first child, Elizabeth
- ~1861~1865 Allen Compton serves in the Confederate Army during the Civil War
- June 30, 1868 Allen and Narcina have their fifth child, James Rufus
- February 13, 1891 Rufus marries Josie Smith in Carroll County Mississippi
- December 7, 1891 Rufus and Josie have their first child, James Allen
- September 6, 1906 Narcina dies
- June 20, 1910 Rufus and Josie have their sixth child, W.D.
- November 12, 1919 Josie dies
- May 5, 1923 Rufus dies
- ~1932 W.D. moves to Memphis, Tennessee
- December 25, 1937 W.D. marries Mary Margaret Harrell in Memphis, Tennessee
- August 19, 1939 W.D. and Mary Margaret have their first child, Judith Ann
- May 9, 1945 W.D. and Mary Margaret have their second child William David
- July 24, 1964 W.D. dies
- December 15, 1974 David marries Rita Mary Stukenborg
- June 23, 1976 David and Rita have their first child Amy Catherine

Compton Family Tree 1800 - 2001



Appendix – A

Census Records

Source: Memphis Public Library

1910 Mississippi Census

[illegible]

1880 Mississippi Census

SCHEDULE 1.—Inhabitants in the 2d district, in the County of San Diego, State of the U. S., enumerated by me on the 17th day of June, 1880.

enumerated by me on the

[illegible]

Exhibit - 3

1850 Mississippi Census

Case No. 11. Two Indians in the Mother Mission in the County of [redacted] State of [redacted] enumerated by me, on the 24th day of [redacted] 1880. [redacted] and [redacted]

Dwelling-house numbered in the order of valuation.	Family numbered in the order of valuation.	Name of every person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1840, was in this family.		Age.	Sex.	Color. White, black, or mulatto.	Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each Male Person over 15 years of age.	Value of Real Estate owned.	Place or Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.	Married within the year.	Awarded School within the year.	Person over 20 years of age who cannot read & write.	Whether deaf, dumb, blind, lame, idiotic, paraplegic, or convict.	
		1	2											
265	24	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	Farmer	400	Mississippi		10	11	12	13
266	25	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"	1500	Mississippi		10	11	12	13
267	26	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		Mississippi		10	11	12	13
268	27	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		Mississippi		10	11	12	13
269	28	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
270	29	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
271	30	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
272	31	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
273	32	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
274	33	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
275	34	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
276	35	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
277	36	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
278	37	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
279	38	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
280	39	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
281	40	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
282	41	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
283	42	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
284	43	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
285	44	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
286	45	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
287	46	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
288	47	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
289	48	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
290	49	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
291	50	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
292	51	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
293	52	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
294	53	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
295	54	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
296	55	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
297	56	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
298	57	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
299	58	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
300	59	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
301	60	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
302	61	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
303	62	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
304	63	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
305	64	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
306	65	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
307	66	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
308	67	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
309	68	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
310	69	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
311	70	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
312	71	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
313	72	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
314	73	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
315	74	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
316	75	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
317	76	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
318	77	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
319	78	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
320	79	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
321	80	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
322	81	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
323	82	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
324	83	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
325	84	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
326	85	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
327	86	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
328	87	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
329	88	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
330	89	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
331	90	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
332	91	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
333	92	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
334	93	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
335	94	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
336	95	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
337	96	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
338	97	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
339	98	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
340	99	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13
341	100	John C. Campbell	27 M	4	5	6	"		"		10	11	12	13

Appendix – B

E-mail Correspondence

 **WebMail - RE: Carroll County Resource**



Date Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2000 9:30 AM

From: jjjuul@bellsouth.net [Add to Address Book](#)

To: mcompton <mcompton@utkux.utcc.utk.edu>

Subject: RE: Carroll County Resource

Status: ☐ Urgent ☐ New

mcompton wrote:

- >
- > Ms. Juul
- >
- > Thank you so much for your help. I have one last question.
- > I am planning on coming to Carroll County to do some research on my ancestors.
- > Where is the best place to go to sift through birth and marriage records?
- > Thank you again,
- >
- > Mary Compton

Mary, I don't live in Carroll County, so I'm not sure where you might need to go. I'm sure that anyone there can tell you however. The old courthouse in Carrollton is quite interesting. You could probably start there.

Good Luck!

Joan



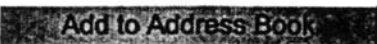
[Click here](#) to enter secure mode.

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 **WebMail - Compton in Carroll**

Date Sent: Sunday, July 30, 2000 4:00 PM

From: Terrie0177@aol.com 

To: mcompton <mcompton@utk.edu>

Subject: Compton in Carroll

Status: ☐ Urgent ☐ New

Thank you for your response. I don't know anything about William Compton. I can't find anything but then I'm not very experienced at looking up records on the web. I found my great grandmother Sydney's grave in the Old Union Church of Christ Cemetery near Carrollton. After William Compton died, she married a Trotter. My grandmother was her only child Eula May Compton who married W.A. Boyd. That is the sum total of everything I know. Any tips on searching would be appreciated.

Terrie Boyd Carman



[Click here](#) to enter secure mode.

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 **WebMail - RE: Comptons, Carroll Co. Ms.** 

Date Sent: Sunday, October 22, 2000 4:35 PM

From: Robertsj977@cs.com 

To: mcompton <mcompton@utkux.utcc.utk.edu>

Subject: RE: Comptons, Carroll Co. Ms.

Status: ☐ Urgent ☐ New

Thanks so much for the reply. I have checked the census. My problem with that is that on Grannies death information at the funeral home, her parents were listed as Luther Compton and Maude Estelle Adams. I can't find her in the census with those parents. My father in law said she had a brother George, so I went back to the census and found a Thomas with an Ethel (Grannies name) at the right age in the household in 1910. However by 1920, I can't find them. And Grannie married in Carroll or Leflore Co. in 1926. I've looked in the soundex, so I don't find them in any county in Ms. Grannies suppose to be about 1/4 Choctaw Indian and supposedly she has a brother Elick Compton that proved his Native American heritage and received his land. I'm just at a loss to prove who her parents were. I might could establish it if I could find her and the brothers in a 1920 census. My father in law is getting older and his memory isn't real good. Can't seem to find any Comptons researching my branch. If you should hear of any other Comptons, keep me in mind. Thank you,
Judy Roberts



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 **WebMail - RE: Question about Caldwell County**



Date Sent: Tuesday, January 16, 2001 6:07 PM

From: Brenda Jerome <bjerome@sigecom.net> [Add to Address Book](#)

To: mcompton <mcompton@utk.edu>

Subject: RE: Question about Caldwell County

Status: ☐ Urgent ☐ New

Hi Mary. The marriage records are filed in the Caldwell County Clerk's office in Princeton. I know of no other resources for early Caldwell County records on Internet. I've published several books on the area. Most records are in the county courthouse and some are, of course, at the archives in Frankfort.

Good luck.

Brenda

Brenda Joyce Jerome, CGRS
Western Kentucky Journal and book list
<http://pweb.netcom.com/~cpalmer/wkj/wkj.htm>



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Appendix – C

Land Patents

Source: www.glorerecords.blm.gov

Exhibit - 4

1835 Mississippi Land Patent

Exhibit
No. 1234

The United States of America,

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Whereas

Henry Campbell of French County, Mississippi
has deposited in the General Land Office of the United States a certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Natchez, dated August 1st 1835, whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said *Henry Campbell* according to the provisions of the act of Congress of the 25th of April, 1820, entitled "An act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for the sum of *one hundred and thirty dollars* and that the said *Henry Campbell* is entitled to the said land subject to be taken at *three dollars* per acre and after the expiration of *one year*

according to the official plat of the survey of the said Lands returned to the General Land Office by the Surveyor General, which said tract has been purchased by the said *Henry Campbell*

NOW KNOW YE, That the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in consideration of the premises and in conformity with the several acts of Congress in such case made and provided, have given and granted, and by these presents do give and grant, unto the said *Henry Campbell*

That he and to his heirs and assigns forever, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities and appurtenances of whatsoever nature, heretofore belonging unto the said *Henry Campbell*

In testimony whereof, I,

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these Letters to be made patent, and the Seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto affixed

W

17756

(9)

Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, the *thirtieth* day of *September* in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and *thirty five* and of the Independence of the United States the *thirtieth*

By the President

John A. Andrew

By

Andrew Jackson

Seal

Commissioner of the General Land Office.

Exhibit - 5
1835 Mississippi Land Patent

446 {Certificate.
No. 7975

The United States of America.

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

Whereas, Drury Crumpton of Hinds County Mississippi
has deposited in the General Land Office of the United States, a certificate of the Register of the Land Office at Mount Salus
whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said Drury Crumpton
according to the provisions of the act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands" for
The South half of the East half of the North West Quarter of Section Seven in Township Seven of Range One
East in The District of Lands subject to sale at Mount Salus Mississippi containing Forty acres and
fifteen hundredths of an acre
according to the official plat of the survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the Surveyor General, which said tract has been pur-
chased by the said Drury Crumpton

NOW KNOW YE, That the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, in consideration of the premises, and in conformity with the
several acts of Congress, in such case made and provided, have given and granted, and, by these presents, do give and grant, unto the said Drury Crumpton
and to his heirs, the said tract above described:
To Have and to Hold the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities and appurtenances, of whatever nature thereunto belonging, unto the said
Drury Crumpton and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In testimony whereof, I, Andrew Jackson

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these Letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the General Land Office to be hereunto
affixed.

Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, the 19th day of September in the year of our
Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five and of the Independence of the United States
the fifty ninth Year

By the President:

Andrew Jackson,

By A. J. Donelson Secy

Ethan A. Brown Elijah Hayward

Commissioner of the General Land Office.

502

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WHEREAS Greary Township of Hinds Mississippi
County

Query Crumpton

The South half of the East half of the South West quarter
of Section Six, in Township Eleven, of Range one East, in the
District of Lands subject to sale at Mount Salem -
Mississippi containing forty acres and thirty six hundredths
of an acre,

NOW KNOW YE, *That the*

United States of America, in consideration of the Premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress, in such case made and provided, HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents DO GIVE AND GRANT, unto the said *Specie Commission*

and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In Testimony Whereof, I, *Martin Van Buren*

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these Letters to be made PATENT, and the SEAL of the GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be herewith affixed.

WITNESSED under my hand, at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, the

in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and *forty* and of the
INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES the Sixty *first* *fifth*

BY THE PRESIDENT:

By *J. C. Brown* Sec'y

H. M. Garland RECORDER of the General Land Office

Exhibit - 7

1841 Mississippi Land Patent

CERTIFICATE
No. 16, 018,

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS *Henry Crumpton*, of Madison County, Mississippi,

has deposited in the **GENERAL LAND OFFICE** of the United States, a Certificate of the **REGISTER OF THE LAND OFFICE** at *Columbus*,
Henry Crumpton,
whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said

according to the provisions of
the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An Act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for
the North West quarter of Section twenty seven, in Township eighteen North, of Range
four East, in the District of lands subject to sale at Columbus, Mississippi, containing one
hundred and sixty one acres, and thirty six hundredths of an acre,

according to the official plat of the survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the **SURVEYOR GENERAL**, which said tract has been purchased by the said *Henry Crumpton*,

NOW KNOW YE That the
United States of America, in consideration of the Premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress, in
such case made and provided, **HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED**, and by these presents **DO GIVE AND GRANT**, unto
the said *Henry Crumpton*,

and to his heirs, the said tract above described: ~~TO HAVE AND TO HOLD~~ the same, together with all the rights,
privileges, immunities, and appurtenances of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said *Henry Crumpton*,

and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In Testimony Whereof, I, Martin Van Buren,
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these Letters to be made **PATENT**, and the
SEAL of the **GENERAL LAND OFFICE** to be hereunto affixed.

~~WITNESSETH~~ under my hand, at the **CITY OF WASHINGTON**, the *twelfth* day of *February*
in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and *forty one* and of the
INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES the Sixty *fifth*

LS.

BY THE PRESIDENT:

By *Martin Van Buren* Sec'y
Wm. Williamson
Recorder of the General Land Office.

Signed by the Recorder 13 July 1841

Exhibit - 8
1841 Mississippi Land Patent

CERTIFICATE
No. 16, 020.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, E

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS *Drury Crumpton, of Madison County, Mississippi,*

has deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE of the United States, a Certificate of the REGISTER OF THE LAND OFFICE at *Columbus,* whereby it appears that full payment has been made by the said *Drury Crumpton,*

according to the provisions of

the Act of Congress of the 24th of April, 1820, entitled "An Act making further provision for the sale of the Public Lands," for the North half, and the East half of the South West quarter of Section twenty seven, in Township eighteen North, of Range four East, in the District of lands Subject to Sale at *Columbus, Mississippi,* containing forty acres, and thirty four hundredths of an acre,

according to the official plat of the survey of the said Lands, returned to the General Land Office by the SURVEYOR GENERAL, which said tract has been purchased by the said *Drury Crumpton,*

NOW KNOW YE, That the

United States of America, in consideration of the Premises, and in conformity with the several acts of Congress, in such case made and provided, HAVE GIVEN AND GRANTED, and by these presents DO GIVE AND GRANT, unto the said *Drury Crumpton,*

and to his heirs, the said tract above described: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same, together with all the rights, privileges, immunities, and appurtenances of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto the said *Drury Crumpton*

and to his heirs and assigns forever.

In Testimony Whereof, I, *Martin Van Buren,*

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, have caused these Letters to be made PATENT, and the SEAL of the GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed.

WITNESS under my hand, at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, the *twelfth* day of *February* in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and *forty one* and of the INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES the Sixty *fifth*

L.S.

BY THE PRESIDENT:

Martin Van Buren,

By

Wm. H. Harrison Jr. Sec'y

Wm. H. Harrison Jr. Recorder of the General Land Office.

J. Williamson

Signed by the Recorder 13 July 1841