

## DANIEL GODDARD COMPTON

Daniel was born in 1838, the elder son of John Townsend Compton and his wife Maria Harris Compton (née Hallilay). John was the third generation of Comptons to live in Urchfont, though he lived in the neighbouring hamlet of Wedhampton where he had bought the Manor House. Earlier Comptons lived in Chitterne St Mary and All Saints where the first mention of them is as paying two gold nobles to Henry VIII in 1545.

Daniel had a younger brother, William, who died in 1852 as did their father. Both are commemorated by windows in St Michael and All Angels at Urchfont.

From 1848-56 Daniel was at Marlborough College in B1 House, he was good at sport. Awarded an Exhibition, he studied at Exeter College, Oxford University, gaining his BA in 1861 and his MA in 1864. He was ordained priest in 1862 and became Vicar of Wroxton from 1864 to 1874. In 1869 he married Louisa Mary Waller, a daughter of the Reverend Ernest Adolphus Waller, second son of Sir Jonathan Wathen Waller, Bart. The parish gave them a silver inkstand later mentioned in Daniel's Will. In time they produced four children: Mary Goddard (1871-1931), John Henry (1875-1928), William Edmund (1883-?) and Rose Waller (1887-1919). William went into the Royal Navy and was a Lieutenant Commander when we find him latest in *The London Gazette* as being retired in 1914. He does appear briefly later, then we lose him. Rose was a nurse at St Thomas' Hospital where she died from influenza, the year suggests 'Spanish flu'.

In 1875 the family (with the two eldest children!) moved to Barnsley, Gloucestershire. The Rectory later passed into the possession of a later Rector, Mr Verey, whose daughter Rosemary created a fabulous garden, it is now a posh hotel. The Comptons are mentioned in her book *Making of a Garden*. A governess, Swanhild Etmüller of Zurich, was now employed to teach the children.

In 1891 Louisa died. Curiously the burial place of the Comptons has never been found. All the parishes they lived in have been contacted, even the National Burial Index reveals nothing. In William's case, he could have been lost at sea.

Daniel became Rural Dean of Fairford and, in 1899, retired to Adderbury. He and the two elder siblings later moved to Southbourne by Bournemouth where, by 1931, they had all died. William was still alive in 1928 when Daniel made his Will as he received his father's gold watch and land around Urchfont (this needs researching!).

The Will was quite amazing for a country clergyman. He left £12,189.18.11 in gross value. A number of silver items are mentioned, most presents from parishes, but also the *Three Batchelors* cup which had belonged to his father. The freehold messuages, land and farms in Urchfont went to William. Now forty-five, did he live there?

There must be considerably more information on Daniel Compton but little has appeared. There are no photographs of any of them except one of the family at Barnsley which Mrs Verey told me about when I had a brief correspondence with her.

The research continues...