

## Edward Compton and his family

*In  
memory of  
Edward Compton  
Died Jan 11<sup>th</sup> 1880  
Aged 65 years  
For here we have no continuing city,  
but we seek one to come.  
Hebrews XIII: XIV*

[Memorial no. 1 in Compton churchyard survey].

Edward Compton, the son of Edward and Ann, was baptised at the church on May 1<sup>st</sup> 1814. At this time, Edward's father who was a local man, worked as a journeyman blacksmith. However, family life became more settled in 1818 when he bought Lynam's (known as Bakers Cottage in the late twentieth century) in The Street, together with an acre of land.



*Edward Compton's bakery and Post Office had become Ellis's shop by the 1950s when this picture was taken.*

Edward's mother died in 1829 and his father remarried in 1831. The 1841 census shows that Edward, his father and step mother Elizabeth were now running a bakery business from home.

Their bakery was part of a busy street scene that housed various enterprises, including a forge, a wheelwright's workshop and a brewery. The forge, which was immediately next door, was run by the Hooker family. These neighbours knew each other very well; Hannah Hooker had been Hannah Compton before her marriage and she was Edward's great aunt.

Imagine the clamour, the comings and goings of people, carriages and carts, wagons and horses, the noise of the forge and the aroma of baking bread mingling with the smells from the brewery.

The family shop thrived and the village acquired its first post office when Edward became sub postmaster in 1855. He married a younger lady, Sarah Hepburn, the daughter of a maltster, in 1859. Her capabilities must have been very much welcomed, for his step mother had died in 1856 and his father was becoming frail. After the death of Mr Compton senior, census returns show us that Edward, Sarah and an employee ran the grocery, bakery and post office until Edward's death on January 11<sup>th</sup> 1880 at the age of 65.

After she was widowed, Sarah continued to run the business with her younger sister Elizabeth. She later married Thomas Hart, a baker who came to work for them. A decade later, she and Thomas moved to Chinthurst in Womersley where Sarah set up a business running horse drawn carriages, known as 'flies'. These swift vehicles were the forerunners of today's taxis and journeys to nearby Bramley Station, or the town of Guildford must have been very frequent.

Edward and Sarah Compton do not seem to have had children. However, Edward had a sister, Mary, and a lady named Mary Compton appears on the 1841 census, aged 25, with a three-year-old son named Edward. This boy was probably his nephew, born out of wedlock. Life would not have been easy for either of them, living in a small village.

We have already seen Edward's memorial inscription. His mother Ann and his step mother Elizabeth are also buried in the churchyard and are recorded on the parish records, but there are no surviving headstones.

More information about the history of the bakery can be found here:  
[www.compton-history.uk/lynams.pdf](http://www.compton-history.uk/lynams.pdf)

The property was re-named Lynam's, its original and historic title, after the house history was written in 2000.

Sally Gorton May 2021

### References

Compton parish registers  
Compton tithe survey

Census returns

A History of Baker's Cottage. AD 2000. Philip Gorton