

A Standard history of the Hanging Rock Iron Region of Ohio

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William Bridwell has been twice married. He married first, at the age of twenty-five years, Esther Ann Harmon, who was born in Nile Township, where her father, Middleton Harmon, was an early settler. She died two and one-half years after their marriage, leaving a child that died at the age of four years. He married second, November 3, 1867, Sarah Compton, who was born in Green Township, Adams County, Ohio, October 10, 1840, a daughter of George Compton. Her grandfather, Samuel Compton, was born in Virginia, of English ancestry. In 1796 he migrated to Kentucky, and ten³ years later, in 1806, ^{?(or before)} he settled in Adams County, Ohio, near the present site of Dunkinsville, and there cleared and improved a homestead, on which he lived and labored until his death. He married Elizabeth Harper, whose father was the original proprietor of Harper's Ferry, Virginia. Their son, George Compton, a native of Adams County, served an apprenticeship at the tailor's trade when young, and followed it at home for many years. He subsequently turned his attention to agriculture, and having bought land in Jefferson Township there carried on general farming the remainder of his life. The maiden name of the wife of George Compton was Mary Ann Ham. She was born in Maine, a daughter of Jonathan and Sarah (Snow) Ham, natives of the same state. Jonathan Ham moved with his family from Maine to New York, and after living for a time at Sodus Bay started for Illinois, going first to Pittsburgh with teams, and thence down the Ohio river on a boat. His health being very poor, the family stopped off at Maysville for him to recuperate, but he died very soon after landing, and the family changed their plans, locating in Adams County, Ohio, instead of going to Illinois. His widow survived him for a number of years, and later in life went to Illinois to spend her last years at the home of a daughter, Mrs. Mary Ann (Ham) Compton lived to be nearly four score years old.

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