

## **Evidence of Landownership in Compton Dando by the Branch Family in 1692**

The National Archives C5/100/7

A long and complex dispute in the Court of Chancery during 1692 between Benjamin Branch, gent., of Queen Charlton and James Calley, John Hayward and William Hayward concerning the purchase of land by Benjamin Branch at Barridge Hill [Barrow Hill] in Compton Dando containing a messuage, orchard, garden and several closes of meadow, pasture and arable worth £9 per annum. Also the purchase of land at Lyncham [Lye Hill] in Compton Dando by Benjamin Branch. The land was let by copyhold tenure upon the lives of Richard Barnes and Elizabeth Barnes. Dispute arose over who held the deeds of these properties since they had been mortgaged by the previous owners. Tenancies were traced back to the reign of Henry VIII. Evidence was taken from Richard Jones Esq. of Wick Farm.

**Note: Barrow Hill was a detached part of the manor of Compton Dando. It lies south of the road between Chelwood and Marksbury.**

The case proves that the Branch family did hold property in the parish of Compton Dando. This explains why the monument to two members of the family was erected in Compton Dando church.

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