

# Copleston Family History

Houses, Manors and Lands owned by  
Coplestons

**Live 1.0**

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Purpose of this document

To bring together information about the  
Cop(p)leston(e) Family.

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**VERSION HISTORY**

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Live 1.0	28 July 2006	Live	Paul Copleston

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## 1 Introduction

The Copleston family has been well researched (believe it or not!) and can be traced back as far as the year 1200.

A lot of this work has been to the credit of Muriel Reson who sadly left us in 2003.

I hope you find the information here informative and an incredible insight to the world of

Cop(p)leston(e)s

Note the spellings vary and are predominantly the same family

## 2 Warleigh House

# Warleigh House

Plymouth, Warleigh House, Tamerton Foliot

### **WARLEIGH HOUSE, TAMERTON FOLIOT**

The original Warleigh House was built sometime between 1135 and 1154 by Sampson Foliot, whose manor of Tamerton for evermore became known as Tamerton Foliot. The family continued to own the estate until 1253, when it passed to the Gorges, who were, in any case, descended from Sampson Foliot. In 1435 other descendants, the Bonvilles, took over and they were followed by the Coplestones sometime around 1472, the Bampfyldes in 1631 and finally the Radcliffes in 1741.

The north side of Warleigh House is believed to date from the 12th and 13th centuries and to contain some of the original house and chapel. The south side was built by the Coplestone family during the reign of King Henry VII as a result of which it became a fortified manor house. The Reverend Walter Radcliffe then enlarged and remodelled parts of the House between 1825 and 1832. This was designed by [John Foulston](#) of Plymouth in what has become known as the Strawberry Hill Gothic style. A lodge and a second boat house were added at that time.

The Radcliffe's held the estate for over two hundred years until, in 1969, it was

found that the House was in need of substantial repair. It was sold to a Doctor Holliday, who re-roofed it and did some restoration work before he turned it into a nursing home. Ten years or so later Warleigh House was again on the market and after further work had been carried out on it, the House was converted in 1985 into suites of accommodation for retired people. It has now been returned to a private residence.<sup>1</sup>

## **GENUKI: Devonshire, Tamerton Foliot**

### **TAMERTON-FOLIOT**

#### **[Description(s) from *The National Gazetteer of Great Britain and Ireland* (1868)]**

"TAMERTON-FOLIOT, a parish in the hundred of Roborough, county Devon, 5 miles N.W. of Plymouth, its post town. The village, which is extensive, is situated at the confluence of the rivers Tavy and Tamar. It is supposed by Camden to be the Roman Tamara, on Icknield Street. The parish is celebrated for its fruit. In the grounds of Warleigh House is an heronry. The living is a vicarage\* in the diocese of Exeter, value £315, in the patronage of the lord chancellor. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, contains monuments of the Copleston, Radcliffe, and Bampfylde, families. The greater portion of the church has been rebuilt since 1850. The parochial charities produce about £140 per annum, of which £124 go to Dean's school, and £8 to Sir C. Bampfylde's almshouses. There are an endowed and a parochial school, and a Sunday-school is held at each. Maristow, Looseley, Roborough, Upland House, Cann Cottage, and Warleigh are the principal residences. The last named has been the manorhouse since the reign of Stephen. The manor descended through the Folliotts, Gorges, Bonvilles, and Coplestons to the Bampfylde family, and is now the property of the Rev. W. Radcliff, wh-G purchased the estate of the Bamfylde. A fair for cattle is held on the third Wednesday in July."

"STOWE MARTIN, a chapelry in the parish of Tamerton Foliot, hundred of Roborough, county Devon, 7 miles N.W. of Plymouth.

## Etched on Devon's Memory



**Polwhele, Revd. Richard.** *The history of Devonshire.* London: Cadell, Dilly & Murray, 1793-1806. Vol. III. pp.447-448.

The parish of TAMERTON-FOLIOT is hilly, with narrow vales inclining from the east to the river Tavy: and some part of Roborough-down is within in; and hath been often the scite of encampments, and is a very commanding spot, well suited for the purpose. It appears from Domesday, that Tamerton was the king's demesne in the time of Edward the Confessor. Warleigh-House is situated in this parish, near the conflux of the Tavy and Tamar, and was the residence of Sampson Foliot, (in King Stephen's time), who likewise possessed the manors of Warleigh and Tamerton. This property was never alienated till the year 1741, but passed by the female line from the family of Foliot to that of Gorges; from Gorges (whose reputed descendant lately suffered in France) to Bonvill to Copleston; from Copleston to Bampfylde. In 1741 Warleigh-house, with the manors of Warleigh and Tamerton-Foliot, with the borough of Tamerton, came by purchase into the possession of Walter Radcliffe, esq. who married Admonition Bastard, (daughter of William Bastard of Gorston, in this county, esq.) who by the female line was lineally descended from Gertrude Copleston, one of the two coheiresses of John Copleston, the last of the male branch of Warleigh.<sup>3</sup>

## 3 Eggesford

# Eggesford

## Etched on Devon's Memory



**Extract from *Devon* by W.G.Hoskins (1954), included by kind permission of the copyright holder:**

EGGESFORD has no village. The church (All Saints) stands alone in what was once the park of a great house. The estate belonged to the Coplestones in the 16th century, an ancient Devon family with nearly as many branches as the Chichesters. Edward Chichester, afterwards Viscount Chichester, married the Coplestone heiress and inherited Eggesford through her in 1606. She died in 1616, he in 1648, and they lie under a noble monument in the church. This monument was begun by Edward Chichester, and completed by his son, Arthur, Earl of Donegal (1606-75). There is another "most sumptuous monument" to the latter, and his two wives, "where he standeth in full and just proportion, curiously cut out of pure alabaster, finely polished, between his two ladies, lying in effigy by." He was the nephew of Arthur Chichester, Baron Chichester of Belfast (1563-1625), the Lord Deputy of Ireland, and made his

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own career in Irish politics. His two wives died long before him, and Arthur Chichester raised this magnificent memorial in 1650, 25 years before his own death. These two monuments are among the finest of their kind in Devon: only the Tawstock monuments of the Earls of Bath are comparable with them. Eggesford was bought by William Fellowes, Esq., in 1718, to whom there is a good monument (1723). The church was much rebuilt in 1867, but is still very pleasing both inside and outside.

The old Eggesford House was demolished about 1832 when the Hon. Newton Fellowes built the present Eggesford House, which is actually in the parish of Wembworthy. It probably stood in front of the large walled garden which remains on the hillside near the church.<sup>4</sup>



## 4 Offwell

# Offwell

**GENUKI: Offwell, Devon - Genealogy****OFFWELL****Select map to view parish boundaries in detail.**

"OFFWELL, a village and parish on the hills, 2½ miles E.S.E. of Honiton, near the source of a rivulet, has 438 inhabitants and 2206 acres of land. It includes part of *Wilmington* village, which is partly in Widworthy parish. . . . The parish now belongs to Sir. E.M. Elton, Sir E.S. Prideaux, Lord Ashburton, the heirs of the late Bishop of Llandaff, and a few smaller freeholders. West Colwell estate was purchased about 30 years ago, by the late *Rt. Rev. Edward Copleston, D.D.*, who was enthroned *Bishop of Llandaff*, in 1828, and had a seat here. called *Offwell House*. He died in 1849, and was patron of the *rectory*, valued in K.B. at £14. 3s. 6½d., and in 1831 at £380. The Rev. J.G. Coplestone, M.A., is the incumbent, and has 80A. of glebe, and a large and handsome *Rectory House*, in the Elizabethan style, erected in 1845, at the cost of about £1800. . . . An ornamental *tower*, on Honiton hill, in this parish, was built by the late Bishop of Llandaff, in 1843, and commands extensive prospects. The *Church* (St. Mary,) has a tower and five bells, and is of the age of the 15th century. . . ." [From White's *Devonshire Directory* (1850)]

## 5 Newton Ferrers

# Newton Ferrers

**GENUKI: Newton Ferrers, Devon - Genealogy**

## NEWTON FERRERS



**Select map to view parish boundaries in detail.**

"NEWTON FERRERS is a pleasant scattered village, on rising ground, at the head of a small creek from the estuary of the Yealm, 7 miles S.E. by E. of Plymouth, and 2 miles from the sea-coast. Its parish contains 778 souls, and 2991 acres of land, extending two miles northward along the east side of the estuary, and including the small hamlet of *Torr*, and a number of scattered farms. There are *oyster-beds* in the estuary, belonging to companies in London and Southampton; and a variety of other fish are taken here. The *manor* of Newton anciently belonged to the Ferrers family, whose co-heiress carried it in marriage to Lord St. John. It afterwards passed to the Bonville, Copleston, Hele, and other families. It now belongs in moieties to H.R. Roe and John Holberton, Esqrs., the latter of whom has a pleasant seat, called *Torr House*, where his family has resided for many generations. . . . The *Church* (Holy Cross,) is an ancient structure, with a tower and five bells, and was repaired and new seated about 60 years ago. Near Puslinch House stood the ancient chapel of *St. Toly* (Olave,) but its remains were removed some years ago. The *rectory* . . . is in the patronage and incumbency of the Rev. John Yonge, B.A., . . ." [From White's *Devonshire Directory* (1850)]

## 6 Woodland Cottage

# Woodland Cottage

Etched on Devon's Memory



**Mogridge, Theodore H.** *A descriptive sketch of Sidmouth; comprising its ancient and modern history.* Sidmouth: J. Harvey, 1836. p. 44.

Returning to Mill Lane is Woodlands, a cottage originally altered from a barn, by the Rev. Mr. Copleston, father of the present Bishop of Llandaff, from whom it was purchased by Lord Gwydir, who greatly improved it, and changed its previous name of Old Hayes, to the one it now bears: its present possessor, Shirley Newdick, esq., has added much to its appearance by laying out the grounds (formerly an orchard) into a pretty lawn, through which trickles a clear and chrystal [sic] stream; and repairing a covered walk of great simplicity and beauty running along its northern side, 180 feet in length, supported by oaken pollards, around which the glycine sinensis, the perpetual scarlet rose, and many really splendid creepers entwine themselves in rich profusion.<sup>7</sup>

## 7 Pynes

# Pynes

## Etched on Devon's Memory



**White, William.** *History, gazetteer, and directory of Devonshire.* Sheffield: William White, 1850. p. 214.

UPTON-PYNE is a straggling village on the north-east side of the vale of the small river Creedy, near its confluence with the Exe, and nearly 4 miles N. by W. of Exeter. Its parish extends to *Cowley Bridge*, and contains about 2200 acres of land, and 512 inhabitants. *Sir Stafford Henry Northcote, Bart.*, is lord of the manor, and owner of a great part of the soil, and resides at PYNES HOUSE, a commodious brick mansion, in a small but well-wooded park, commanding picturesque views. The manor belonged to the Pyne family as early as the reign of Henry I., and it afterwards passed to the Larders, Coplestons, and Staffords. The heiress of the latter carried it in marriage to the late Sir Henry Northcote, one of whose ancestors was created a *baronet* in 1641.<sup>8</sup>

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**8 Tor Church**

# Tor Church

## Etched on Devon's Memory



**White, J. T.** *The history of Torquay*. Torquay: Directory Co., 1878. pp. 296-7.

The dimensions of the interior, as given by Dr. Oliver, are 70ft. by 42ft. The building may be described as having north and south aisles which communicate with the nave by four arches. [...] The singing gallery was removed in 1830, to make room for a more modern one; it bore the date of 1760, and the panels contained heraldic shields of the Ridgeway, Coplestone, Seymour, Denis, Southcote, and Cary families; side galleries were afterwards added. The screen was destroyed about 1825, probably at the same time that the pulpit and "misereres" were removed to Cockington.<sup>9</sup>

## 9 Bicton House

# Bicton House

## Etched on Devon's Memory



**Britton, J.** *Devonshire & Cornwall illustrated from original drawings by Thomas Allom, W.H. Bartlett, &c, by J.Britton & E.W.Brayley* (London: H.Fisher, R.Fisher & P.Jackson, 1832). p. 100.

### BICTON HOUSE.

BICTON, or *Bickton*, as the name was formerly spelt, is the principal seat of John Rolle, Baron Rolle, of Stevenstone, Co: Devon, who was so created on the 20th of June, 1796;-but the title had been previously enjoyed by Henry, first Lord Rolle, his uncle, who died without issue, in 1750. At the time of the Domesday Survey, this manor was held in demesne by *William Portitor*, (the king's door-keeper,) by the service, according to Risdon, of keeping the county gaol; by which tenure it continued to be held until the year 1787, when,

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from the parliamentary influence of his present lordship, and the payment of a stipulated sum, the lord of Bicton was exempted from that onerous burthen under the provisions of an act for erecting the new county gaol at Exeter.

Henry the First gave the manor to John, surnamed *Janitor*, from his office as connected with the above tenure, and his posterity continued owners for three generations; but in 1229, Bicton was the property and residence of *Ralph Balistarius*, or *Le Balister*, (the cross-bow bearer,) from whose descendants, named *Alabaster*, it passed, after five generations, by successive heiresses, to the families of Sacheville, or Sackville and Coplestone. From the latter, this manor was purchased, in queen Elizabeth's reign, by Sir Robert Dennis, who, as Lysons states, "rebuilt the old mansion, enclosed a deer park, and made Bickton his chief residence." Anne, his grand-daughter, conveyed this estate in marriage to Sir Henry Rolle, an ancestor of Lord Rolle.-Bicton is situated about six miles from Exmouth, in a north-eastwardly direction. The present mansion, which is represented in the annexed View, is a spacious and handsome edifice, standing in a pleasant park, plentifully stocked with beech, elm, and oak, and abounding in deer: the beech trees are particularly fine.<sup>10</sup>

## 10 Aishmore

# Aishmore

### **GENUKI: Morchard Bishop Records**

John Copleston and Amyas his son of Warleighe purchased part of Aishmore from Sir Arthur Aclande of Aclande, Kt and Dame Elynor his wife for an unrecorded sum on 7 April 1606.<sup>11</sup>

## 11 Winkleigh

# Winkleigh

**GENUKI: Cruwys Morchard: Will of Ann Cruse 1586**

*The manor of Winkleigh Keynes was sold by John KEYNES at an unspecified date, probably in the early 1500s. By the time of the 1524-1527 Subsidy Rolls there are no KEYNES living in Winkleigh and the largest landholder in the parish is Thomas COPLESTON.<sup>3</sup> By 1630, when WESTCOTE wrote his "View of Devonshire", the castle was "ruinated by time and overgrown with tall trees".<sup>12</sup>*

## 12 Washbourne

# Cornworthy

**GENUKI: Domesday to D-Day**

Coplestone, Philip & Raphe Washbourne (Halwell parish) Lords of Manor,  
Washbourne 15thC 19<sup>13</sup>

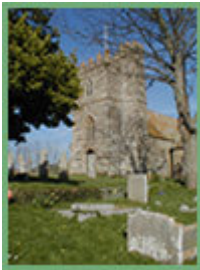


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**13 Shipton Gorge**

# Shipton Gorge

## Shipton Gorge Parish Council



In 1231 Thomas Gorges, Sergeant-at-Arms to King Henry III was granted the tenancy of Powerstock Castle, the hunting lodge restored by Henry's father, King John. On Thomas's death the tenancy was granted to his wife Joan together with a pension other allowances. There has been some speculation that Joan was the illegitimate daughter of King John, a frequent visitor to Dorset. The de Gorge family owned both Litton Cheney and Shipton Gorge having come originally from Normandy. So it was that some time before 1285 the manor of Shipton came into the possession of the Gorges family, who had originally come to England in 1066 with William the Conqueror, although at that time it continued to be known as Shipton Maureward after the previous owner. In 1461 the Gorges family found themselves without a male heir and the estate went, with the marriage of an only daughter, to a Devon family, the Coplestones. From this time the village of Shipton Maureward became known as Shipton Gorges. It was the Coplestones who built Court House in the field just south-west of the church, still called Court field, and a branch of the family lived there for nearly two hundred years. No trace of the house remains today but there is a splendid wall just inside the field.<sup>14</sup>

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