

Dear Family,

Greetings to the faithful! Of the several June News-sheets sent to members who have not been applying to receive them, only one acknowledgement has been received and it does seem that since I ceased doing the Newsletter interest has waned. This means, of course, that a Gathering next May is impracticable if only those receiving this News-sheet are to hear about it; there is also the problem of hotel accommodation in the Exeter area - Derek and Betty kindly searched the area and charges are astronomical. If some of you still wish to gather, it will have to be arranged between you. This, I suppose, is the result of having a one-name society without a committee!

Sadly, I have to tell you of the passing of two of our senior family members. Alice Laura Copleston Smith, sister of the late Frederick Elford Copleston, last of the line of Rectors of Offwell and aunt of Hermione, died in Exmouth on October 24th, aged 91. Willis Copleston of Flint died on November 20th aged 83 years, 10 months. I had been missing his long and enthusiastic letters during his illness and it doesn't seem possible that they will not be coming any more. Clwyd Family History Society will miss his presence and the articles he wrote for their Journal. Our condolences to both families.

David has recently had an operation, but is now recovered and returned to work - it was good to speak with him and with Ruth on the 'phone recently. I've developed a form of arthritis which gave trouble at the start but has settled to a condition with which I can deal very well now. As a consequence researching was neglected for a while but I am now 'back in the saddle' and some interesting things have come to light, not only from my own searches, but with the help of others.

You may remember that I found a Gabriel Copleston(e) living in Southampton in the early 1600's with sons apprenticed to him (he was a cutler). He is the only Gabriel in the family, except for his grandson; we have no idea where he originated but Dorothy Martin did some searching at the Record Office in Southampton and found that in 1608 he was living in Windmill Lane (now Regent Street) and in French Street at No. 239 in 1620. She sent a photocopy of an extract from a Southampton Record Society publication telling of 'Edith wingham wife of Nichollas wingha' of bramsher (Bramshaw) in the new forrest Tayler: presented for a newcomer in the windmill Lane at Gabriell Copstones'. Although there is no indication of Gabriel's origins 'his does put flesh on his bones and gives hope of further discoveries. Thank you, Dorothy!

A delightful surprise in the summer was the receipt from Jeremy Copleston in Coxsackie NY of a number of photocopies of some of Edwin the painter's landscapes, photographs taken during his father Lancelot's visit to England probably around 1900 of members of the Attwood family and the villages in which they lived. One photograph is of Emily Copleston and another young woman not named; two of the pictures include Lancelot, but since this was soon after the time of Edwin's second disappearance there is no mention of him! It is a frustrating search for the enigmatic Edwin and we don't even know when and where he died. I did, however, look at the Census for Wheathamstead where the Attwoods were living in 1851 and found Edwin's wife Eliza aged 20, a straw plaiter, with father Joseph, mother Charlotte, sister Harriet and brother George. I have written to an Attwood living in Wheathamstead, but three months later have had no reply, so will try another one! Someone, somewhere, must have the answer to the mystery.

To go back 750 years through our family history, I ordered the entry from the Devon Feet of Fines at the PRO (and as always when holding these ancient documents in my hands, was awestruck) regarding the Manor of Colebrooke in which the Querent was Walter de Bathe and the Deforciant Hugo de Sancto Vedasto in 1240. I have ordered a copy, which is not yet to hand, but it is witnessed by William de Copleston and I believe that Richard is mentioned in the document, which I shall have translated from the Latin as soon as possible. This, together with the Essoin of 1200 in which Richard de Copleston represented Muriel de Bruer, proves that we are not, as stated in the illumination in St. Andrew's Church, Colebrooke, St. Vedasts! I will ask permission of the PRO to reproduce the copy document for family members and those of you who would like a copy please send an A4 s.a.e. plus one 2nd class stamp to cover photocopying. I already have permission to copy the document of 1200 and the same applies in respect of this.

Larry Copleston of Mississauga, Ontario, has sent the details of his family to add to the 'A' pedigree. I have given this 'A.9.i' to add to the end of the pedigree (it still grows!) and will send it for the usual s.a.e. + 15p stamp. Larry has helped me to sort out the children of Edwin and Louisa Peel (son of Coriolanus and his second wife, Ann Hadaway) and those with the A ped can correct them as below:

Fredk. C.	Herbert D.	Ellen E.	Ada M.	Henry Edison	Eveline May	Agnes Lilian
7.2.1882	1886	(Rose)	1892	12.8.1895	1898 Leeds	1900 Leeds
(as given)	Basford	1890	Lambeth	Leeds	= Albert Black	
		Lambeth	d.6.2.1942	(A.9.i.)	27.3.1948	
			Toronto		Toronto	

- There I had left this until today, December 2nd, since I'd been trying to contact Reg and Olive Copleston at Birchington, for Olive has eye trouble and was to see a consultant. No-one at home for the past week, so we can only wish her well. A delightful surprise last evening was a call from the above-mentioned Larry in Canada. He has kindly offered to circularise the News-sheet to those in North America who have not so far been gathered into the family fold. We shall hope to hear from them and to fit them into their respective branches. For their information, the Cop(p)leston(e) pedigree has been proved to Adam de Copleston who was born between 1310 and 1320 and the family history is full of incident, variety and characters more interesting than any in fiction.

Joyce Copplestone in Kirby Cross has just sent pictures taken in Llandaff Cathedral of the memorials to Edward Copleston, Bishop of Llandaff and Dean of St. Pauls - a wonderful addition to the collection; she was visiting Myra Copleston in Penarth. It is warming to know how many Cops who might never have known of each other now visit back and forth. I spent enjoyable weekends with Olive and Reg, Derek and Betty and a couple of day visits to Marjorie Copleston in Worthing.

The Flower Festival at Crediton was beautiful and the Cup looked very handsome under a glass bell by the West door of Holy Cross. For new readers, this is a replica of the Grace Cup given to John Copleston DD by Charles II in 1683 and it represented one of the 'West Country Worthies' - the theme of this year's Festival in June.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a good New Year. My thanks to all correspondents who have sent information and observations.

I have just been given the sad news that Derek passed away on November 28th. We appreciated his arranging of accommodation for the last two Gatherings and his interest generally and will all want to send condolences to Betty and her family.

Your coz,
Muriel.

COPLESTON: Arg., a chevron engrailed gu. between three leopards' faces az.

