



Dear Family,

As the time approached for typing this Newsletter I wondered how I was going to fill it, since some eye problems have prevented me from doing any searching since the last one. Then I had an inspiration - I decided to list a number of the unsolved problems over the centuries and if you all keep this Newsletter perhaps someone, some time, may try to do some solving!

Firstly, though, I must mention that it has been good to be in touch with a number of the family. Art has written and 'phoned from California, Larry from Calgary, Norma from Mississauga, Hazel from New Zealand, Agnes from Charleston, all fellow colonials. Reg and Olive in Birchington, David and Ruth in Chester, Rose in Banbury, Betty in Rochester and a number of others. Deck Copleston was over from Connecticut and although I wasn't able to see him, we had a couple of telephone chats. Margaret Taylor in Australia, to whom I sent a pedigree, has sent me an enormous line pedigree which she has put into her computer program. And 1st Coz's Ron & Anne of course!

The first and, I guess, the most important of our mysteries is the Richard de Copleston I found representing Muriel de Bruere at an Essoin in Lincoln in the year 1200. This means of course that he was born in the 12th century and there must, somewhere, be more information about him. I suspect he was a lawyer, as were several of later family members. The next member of whom we have note is the William who witnessed the Grant of Wootton in 1241, in which a Richard is also named - the same one? Hugh, son of William who married a Petronilla, had a son Hugh who witnessed the Grant of a Chantry in Colebrooke Church in 1260 and who appears in Comesday Hundreds in 1275. In 1301 Hugh appears to be the first of the Churchwardens (or whatever they were then called) when the Bishop made a Visitation at Colebrooke. Between this Hugh and Adam I believe we have a missing generation.

Adam must have had brothers and cousins and although I have a lot of names I've not proof of relationships. In Bishop Edmund's Register appear two entries: Rob. Copleston 6 Per eundem, in Ecclesia B.M. majori 22 Dec 1397. Wm. Copleston Rector of Stowford to Milton Damerel 1415 D. soon. Two more Reverends unaccounted for.

Then there is the Richard who is stated in the Hylle Cartulary to be Esquire to the Earl of Arundel. He married Alice Catecote in Somerset and died soon thereafter. He was MP for Wareham Borough in 1383 and for Dartmouth Borough in 1384. Did he go to Spain with the ill-fated Earl? Many of those who went died of fever.

There was a William who married Katherine Penhargard of Cornwall in the 14th who may have been a brother of Adam. There is also Thomas Copleston who was given two Papal dispensations because of his illegitimacy in 1442 and 1446. Was he son of a female Copleston and if so, who was she?? From 1481 - 1583 there was a family of Coplestons in Ashburton, many bearing the same first names as those in the main line. John C. was Churchwarden there and his name appears on the actual parish chest in the Church. There was another John, a Philip and an Adam and the Adam had a daughter Eleanor, like his namesake in Copleston. How and where do they fit?

Washbourne, near Totnes, was in the patronage of the Coplestons and three Clerks in Holy Orders are named as being there: Walter C. 1513, presented by Thomas C. Thomas C. (after Walter's resignation) and George C., 1540, presented by John C.

There is an interesting item in the Faculty Office Records for September 30th 1539. Francis Coppleston alias Brige pr. Ex. dio, dispensation to take holy orders and hold a benefice despite defect of age, he having previously obtained a dispensation for this by the pretended authority of the Bishop of Rome. £4. How very intriguing this one is!

Wiltshire records provide Minutes of Proceedings in Sessions, among which are five items regarding a George Copleston who seems to have been a jack of all trades and a rogue, to boot. In 1584 three men of Lurgesall were bound to keep the peace, particularly towards George Copleston by certificate of William Button Esq. George was 'husbandman' of Pewsey. In the next session George C. of Lurgesall, yeoman, was bound in £20 for his appearance and pleads not guilty to an indictment of battery. At the Easter Session George C. mercer, was bound in £40 and his surety for appearance at the next sessions. In St. Thomas Session the fine of George C. for battery is bound by the court at 5s and 6s8d for the fine for unlawful games. Finally, at the Summer Assizes George C. of Lurgesall, barber, bound in £40 and two yeomen of Pewsey were bound each £20 for his appearance at the next sessions. Now, the first George may be the father, a respectable husbandman, but the George who gives various trades may well be the black sheep son. Where were they from? Perhaps the family at Nash. I found no further records.

I suppose the most mysterious of all is Gabriel, the cutler at Southampton who appears there in the early 1600's and had three sons, one of whom was Parish Clerk at St. Michael, Southampton 1560-71. We have no other Gabriels and I could find only the marriage of one son who had twin sons, Gabriel and John--then they seem to disappear from Southampton. There is a large Hampshire branch starting in the 1700's which has not yet been fitted in, but I don't think they are Gabriel's descendants.

A Stephani Copleston, armiger, shows in Ancient Documents of the Abbey of Buckfast in an Inquisition on Brent in Dartmoor in 1554. I have't a clue!

Early Chancery Proceedings give in 1538-44 Richard Copleston of St. Breock and Jane his wife late the wife of William Roche, versus Paul Arthur, John Nycoll and Margery his wife. Lease of a tenement and pasture called Treligan in St. Issy claimed in reversion after the death of Richard, son of the said John and Margery. This could be the Richard of Otterham, 4th son of Ralph and Ellen (Arundel), but I shouldn't guess!

I think you must have had enough of all this, but hopefully, if it is passed down, someone may decide to delve into these 'lost' people. All this, of course, is additional to the fitting in of present day family which really needs some work.

I do hope you all have a happy Christmas and that the New Year will see some dreams come true. I'll be at Seaford with Michael and family and hope for a fine Christmas morning for a wee walk on the Downs. Last year Michael and I were out walking before anyone else awoke! If there are mistakes in this Newsletter, forgive me - there is no-one around at present to proof-read and I'll be out first thing to have it copied. Overseas copies must go out within the next couple of days and I just don't know where the time is going.

Take good care of yourselves.

*Your Coz,
Muriel.*