

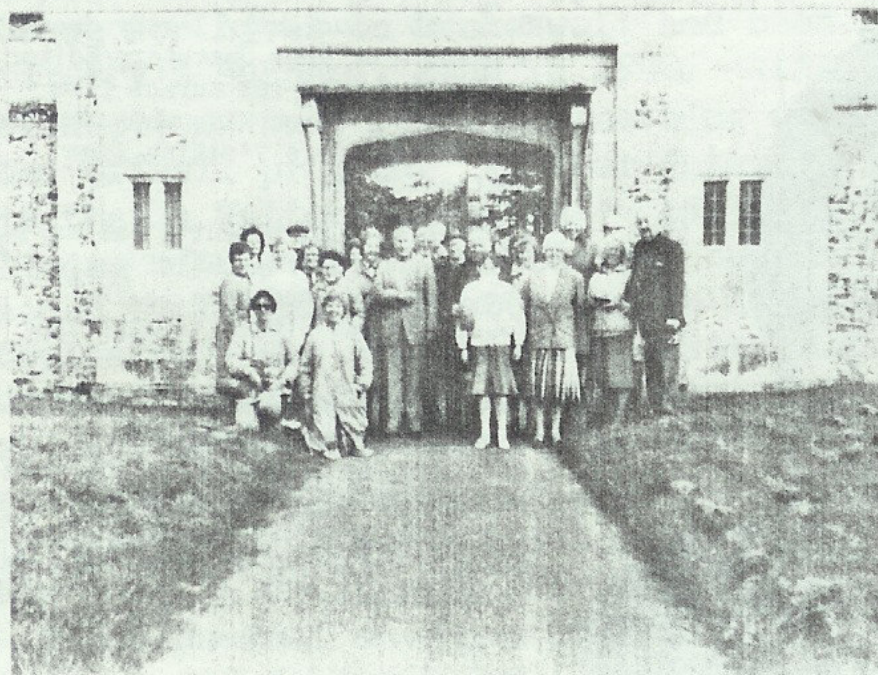
The first two issues of this Newsletter, in January and April 1979 consisted of two A4 pages, growing in the October edition to 3 folded A4 pages. During the seven and a half years in which the Newsletter has been produced a great deal of family history, both ancient and modern, has been discovered and related in these pages. Three Family Gatherings have been held in Devon and cousins of various degrees have met and exchanged information, becoming good friends in the process.

At the first two Gatherings we saw large and ancient houses once inhabited by members of the Copleston family, churches containing stained glass memorials to different branches, with Arms displayed, also a number of graves and tombs. For one day of the Gathering this year I had thought that a visit to some villages where simple, working Cop(p)leston(e)s had lived out their lives in farms and cottages, had worshipped in the churches and had been born, married and buried, would be of interest to the simple, working Cop(p)leston(e)s of today - for the majority of us have been working folk for many generations. I think most of us felt some atmosphere and enjoyed just being where ancestors had been before us, but I heard a few remarks like "We only saw three graves in four villages" and "There isn't anything about Coplestons".

Even the grandest of families must run out of great houses some time and many of the older tombs and graves have crumbled or are unreadable - as instanced at Whitchurch Canonorum where the Coplestons of Nash were buried between 1597 and 1718 and we may have seen a tomb or two belonging to them but so much weathered that no inscriptions could be read. We know that they were there and while it is exciting to see the name and the Arms, it has to be enough sometimes that they are still to be seen recorded in Parish Registers. Our family history is well-established and we must at times use our imaginations when our eyes see nothing.

I suppose the most exciting discovery I have made during these years is the existence of Richard de Copleston who was adult in the year 1200 and I intend to devote more time to finding more evidence which will bring him out of the shadows and establish his relationship to William, Hugh and his probable gt-grandson Richard, father of Adam de Copleston. It is, though, equally important to find the forbears of present-day Cops who want to know where they belong: my efforts in this direction will also continue.

Family at the Gatehouse, Shute, where lived Anne Bonville until her marriage to Philip Copleston, Sheriff of Devon in the 12th year of the reign of Edward IV



In June and December every year I will do a 1-page news-sheet. You can receive one by sending an s.a.e. and one 2nd class stamp to cover photocopying costs. Make a note in your diary, for you won't receive one if you don't ask for it!

My thanks to you all for your help and interest. Do keep in touch. The fact that this is my last Newsletter doesn't mean that I don't want to hear from you.

Libraries and Archives will continue to receive the news-sheet without making application.

FRANK

I have not written much about my immediate family, but since this last Newsletter appears in an anniversary month I would like to tell something of my late Father, Frank Barford. At the PRO at Kew recently I noticed in indexes that they had a War Diary of 1916 for the 1st Canadian Pioneer Battalion in France. Having ordered this item I sat reading a section written by the OC of 'D' Company and came to the remarks for July 21st, 1916 - "Company entrained at Poperinghe arrived at Ypres 10.15 pm. No. 1 party under Sgt. Barford employed at Sunken Road and Petticoat Lane building bomb proof dressing station and battle Headquarters." (PRO Ref.WO95/3753)

My father was a gentle man, never talking about that War unless questioned; kind and sensitive, he showed me when very young how to catch a spider in a matchbox and release it in the garden - unnecessary killing of any creature was anathema to him and I do know that he thought WWI wasteful in the extreme, "It was a dirty war" he said. This War Diary entry was made 70 years ago this month. Three years later my Mother, Maud Hilda Copleston, went to Canada from London and married Frank in Sorrento, BC on July 15th, 1919 and I was born in Vancouver on July 6th, 1920.

This picture of Frank was taken after his discharge in 1918, when he went to BC. In Wrigley's BC Directory of 1919 are two entries: 'Barford, Albert - small fruit growing' and 'Barford, Frank - fruit growing' in the section for Sorrento. Albert was the eldest son of my Grandfather, William Barford, Frank being second son.



Born Islington
Feb 13th 1893

Died Wanstead
Hospital
April 23rd 1969

Somewhat reluctantly I reproduce a picture of your Secretary/Editor taken in a City restaurant last November by Agnes Wade when she and her friends were visiting from Charleston SC.

I think at that moment I was saying "Don't you dare!", but of course she did. We had been to the Tower and had a walk through the City.

Having been persuaded to publish, I put the responsibility for this face upon my 16 gt-gt-grandparents: Barford, Triplow, Hill, Bono, Dickerson, Witney, Wagstaff, ?, Copleston, Sharpe, Galloway, Woodcock, Rush, Groome, Wise, ?.

Will I ever find the missing two?



RECENT SEARCHES

I mentioned in a recent issue Gunner W.E. Copplestone who was killed in the first battle of WWI at Néry. A letter to the Commonwealth War Graves Commission brought a prompt and detailed reply. Gunner Wm. Edwd. Copplestone 55306 "L" Battery Royal Horse Artillery was killed in action on 1 September 1914, aged 20 and is buried in Néry Communal Cemetery, France. He was the son of Edward and Elizabeth Copplestone of Gosport, Hants. The village and cemetery are described fully and I, like many others, am most grateful to the Commission.

They also informed me that my Father's younger brother, Frederick, of the 10th Battalion (Alberta Regt.) died on 13 July 1916 and is commemorated on Panel 24 of the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial, Belgium. This was just one week before the item regarding Frank (p.170) was written.

.....

There is mention on p.179 of Widworthy being in the possession of the Woottons and then Chichesters. A further investigation found that the manor and advowson were sold by John Chichester of Widworthy to Benedictus Marwood about 1701. In 1610 Thomas Marwood of Northleigh obtained a lease of Dunkeswell Grange 'for 31 years next after the death of Margery Copleston and Hugh her son, the then Lessees'. A Lease for Lives on Dunkeswell had been granted to Margery's husband, John in 1590. All these land connections must lead to something which helps solve the Offwell problem. Another interesting discovery is that a Walter Copleston in 1513 was occupying the living of St. Mary, Washbourne and in 1520 was succeeded by Thomas Copleston and in 1540 by George Copleston - who are these Coplestons? All clerics, which possibly links them to John of Crewkerne, since so many of his descendants were of the Church.

It was John 'the Great' Copleston who presented George to the living and who had the manor and chapel, which had been in the family for many years. So many clues - I always feel on the edge of a great discovery, but never quite making it!

NEWLY ACQUIRED COUSINS

Of the Cop(p)leston(e)s contacted recently by Ruth and David, Brenda Copplestone joined us at the Gathering. She is a head teacher and lives in Chislehurst, belongs in my Cornwall tree and has visited with Milly Short of that branch who lives in nearby Orpington.

Others at the Gathering were Dina Copplestone, widow of Sidney Ernest, with her daughter Pat. They descend from John and Sarah (Bond) Copplestone of Thorverton. Marlborough is home base.

We were delighted to meet these cousins and perhaps in future we may also meet the rest: Joyce Copplestone of Frinton-on-Sea who descends from the Iddesleigh/Spreyton/Ide family and is cousin of Michael in Ruislip; Stella Summerlee née Coppleston who, excitingly, has connections to the mysterious Edwin who went to the U.S. and was of the Luton family of Rev. Coriolanus - Vera Caulford and son Edd in Utah are cousins. We may at last solve this problem.

Lucy Coppleston, living near Wrexham, is a jeweller and comes from Benjamin and Harriet's family, being daughter of Frederick Stanley. Jack and Joan Copplestone live in Bowburn, Co. Durham and belong in a family with Cornwall connections, to which I as yet have no beginning and no end! H.S.G. Copplestone of Styvechale, Coventry, (Horace), is grandson of the George William C. I found entering the Navy in 1852 and marrying Charlotte Threadingham in Portsmouth in 1859 and giving his father as Joseph, a shipwright in the Dockyard. One of my families 'stuck' in Hampshire.

John Coppleston in Newick connects to the Samuel family, several of whom were born in India. Hilda Copplestone is 92 and lives in South London. She is widow of Edward Walton Copplestone whose family goes back to Cornwall, also 'stuck' in the 1700's. I hope to see this lady soon; this looks to be a very interesting family. Paul Coppleston of Plymouth belongs in the large number of descendants of Thomas the painter who went to Wrexham; he is grandson of Frederick Augustine whose children were born in Wales.

WILL OF JOHN COPLESTON OF NAYSH, ESQRE.,

sick of body. Dated 28 April 1601. Proved 1 May, 1616 by John Copleston. (?)

To be buried in the par.ch. of Whitchurch.

To my 3 children John, George and Mary £3,000 equally, to be used for them during their minority or until marriage; if they all die under 21 and unmarried £1,000 to be given to such one of my name and blood as shall then happen to be right heir of the house of Copleston in the co. of Devon and £2,000 to my wife Ursula. To my said wife £1,000 and all my goods, plate and household stuff, also my two leases of Shaves grounds and all such grounds as I possess by lease from my brother Nicholas C. for the education and maintenance of my children.

To my brother Nicholas C. all monies due to me from George Wadham Esqre., being £100 principal. To my brothers-in-law Thomas and John Farewell all monies due to me from Thomas and Mathew Keete by bond or otherwise. To Alexander, Richard and George

Farewell all monies due to me from William Anthony of Dorchester, William Travers of & Robert.

To poor of Marshwood 20/- of Whitchurch 20/- of Charmouth 20/- and of Wootton Fitzpayne 20/-.

If Master Edward Phillippes do proceed in the purchase of the parsonage of Curry Rivell it shall be bought to my said sons John and George and their portions employed therein.

To my godson John Longe £6.13.4d.

Residue to my son John whom I make my Executor.

Overseers, my beloved in Christ John Farwell the elder, George Farwell the elder, Christopher Preston and William Borcombe.

Admon.cum.test. 22 June 1601 to John Farmwell senr. and George Farwell senr. during the minority of John Copleston in person of Edward Willett noty.publ., their procurator. (PCC 45 Woodhall)

.....
Imagine, if you will, John treading where we trod at Nash. Imagine, too, his tomb at Whitchurch Can., for while we didn't see it, it is there, defaced, sunken or indecipherable, along with all the others buried there.

Derek Copleston

The Third Copleston Family Gathering got into top gear at Sidmouth on the 30th May 1986 when some 30 souls from the 'four corners' of the earth gathered at the Torbay Hotel for the evening meal and a reunion natter. Prudence dictated a comparatively early retirement, so most missed the late arrival of Mick and his family after a terrible journey from East London.

Saturday morning dawned fresh and bright and the 8-car convoy successfully negotiated the narrow roads over the hill to Otterton. Here was discovered the grave of Henry Copplestone who had been mine host at the Canon Inn in Newton Poppleford (b.1800 d.1849). Our next port of call was East Budleigh where, suitably fortified with coffee 'by Sir Walter Raleigh', we then rediscovered the graves of John and Mary Copplestone Palmer and John and Mary Copplestone (1806-1853), listed as a farmer in the Census of 1841, his brother William Hill (1805-80) is buried beside him. Lunch was taken in the Village Hall, since we arrived on their annually organised (by the WI) fund-raising lunch - and so to Woodbury.

The search for evidence of ancestors here proved frustrating; the rest of the day at Woodbury and Woodbury Salterton failed to raise our hopes at all, but a colourful village wedding at Woodbury delighted the ladies at least; but of course the company and the countryside were very attractive too and a convivial evening was spent - cream teas and a full dinner contributed in no small way to some early nights - 'tomorrow is another day'.

Sunday - Today we visited Whitchurch Canonieorum over the border in Dorset, but our good fortune was still deserting us and little came to light; of course you cannot win all the time. Lunch was taken in Charmouth and Lady Luck became benevolent because as we made our separate ways to Nash Farm in Marshwood we were to unearth a treasure of treasures. Antiquity and antiques joined hands to thrill us all and to this was added the bonus that many a Copleston trod those flagstones in the 16th and 17th. Our hostess, Miss Ann Robertson,

daughter of the present owner of the house, added that many a Roman battle was fought on the nearby hills. All were thrilled with the visit and of that to Shute, a National Trust property, unfortunately closed, the residence of Anne Bonville who married Philip Copleston, her father being John Bonville of Shute. The excitement of the day meant that many had to be fortified with another cream tea - and so to dinner.

Monday - Oh dear, the last day for many, including your scribe, so something special was called for. Once again, then, Offwell made us well off (sorry) because we visited the Bishop's Tower and the adjoining Offwell House. The Bishop built the Tower as part of his charitable works in the area. We were welcomed by the present owners, Dr. and Mrs. Harvey who invited us into their home and even provided coffee for us all, a truly generous gesture - could you find cups for 30? It was much appreciated and I was staggered how fit this family is when the stairs to the top of the Tower were climbed enthusiastically. Thus to the Copleston-rich Church and village for a renewed glimpse of its splendour - and sadly bid farewell for friends old and new, indeed cousins all, for fresh contacts keep appearing and how welcome they are! Y'all come back, now - to Bideford in '88?

Ed.Note: I'd love to see a family gathering in Bideford in 1988, for that was the home of our 4- 5- and 6-gt-grandfathers, but if you are looking for physical evidence of Copleston presence you won't find much. The name of John Copleston is in Lavington UR Church, but The Great Meeting House has gone; Coriohanus the mercer's house still stands in Willet Street, but although our ancestors preached, traded and sailed their ships to Newfoundland in and from Bideford there are no signs to say 'Coplestons lived here' and you will just have to remember that they did live there and were well-known and respected people in the town. You can see the house in which George Copleston of Lee lived, between Morwenstow and Kilkhampton, but you may not be able to find Kingdon in Alverdiscott, although our forbears had their home there. If it is not enough to know that they were there - think twice!

AZEL AND BATHSHEBA - AGAIN!

Thanks to Vera Page I have been in touch with village antiquary of Thorverton, Ian Stoye, who has been most helpful with information. The fact that Azel was described as 'butcher' had given a wrong impression, for Mr. Stoye in his list of tenants and ratepayers has Azel as twice churchwarden in Thorverton, land tax assessor at least once and shown to be a leading yeoman farmer. He says '"Butcher" in this context meant cattle farmer, or even cattle baron'. Azel's father, John, farmed Lower Yellowford and Azel took over probably in the late 1780's.

The proprietors of Lower Yellowford were the Carews. Azel also had 'Hulks', which Mr. Stoye believes to be the meadows extending along the River. In 1800 Azel was owner and probably occupier of 'House etc. in Berry'. This was next to Pound, where father John was paying rent for a dwelling house in 1797. Azel seems to have left Yellowford after Bathsheba's death in 1828. On August 22nd 1840 an obit appeared in the Western Times: At Thorverton in the 84th year of his age, much respected by his relatives and acquaintances; Mr. Copplestone, formerly a respectable yeoman of that place, leaving 7 children, 42 grandchildren and 5 gt-grandchildren.

We visited Thorverton during the Gathering and saw again the gravestone, this time repaired and cleaned, yet the inscription in my photograph 'before' is clearer than that in the one I took 'after'!

The variations of the Azael name are increased by one since receiving a burial discovered by Robert Jago in Bere Ferrers: Azal Copplestone of New Passage Stoke Damerel 15 Sep 1815. This would make him born c1773 and I can't find one for that date.

All these Azaels, however spelled, probably belong in the Iddesleigh/Spreyton/Ide family, but I have three whom I can't fit anywhere. This is nothing, however, compared with the problem of all the Johns who married Mary Anns! Robert has unearthed many of them in Stoke Damerel/Plymouth and many an evening has been spent in trying to sort them all out, with varying success.

It is fitting, in this last Newsletter, to pay tribute. Apart from the great pleasure of gathering so many cousins from all over the world, one meets and corresponds with other family historians, archivists, librarians and people who have no connection with the business of searching, but happen to live in ancestral areas. Most of you know of the Kitchens of Road Farm in Colbrooke. I met them because I was interested in the Parish and we quickly became great friends and have visited back and forth ever since. (Gerry and Mary, by the way, have just sold the old farmhouse and are moving to a nice new house in Crediton - no more Christmases at the Farm! Gerry will in future commute to the farm.)

Ann Chiswell, former Secretary of The Fed'n. of Fam. Hist. Societies, lives in Plymouth and has been of enormous help to all of us in FHS's. Moira Tangye of Newquay, former Secretary of Cornwall FHS, began my Cornwall tree - Robert Jago of Liskeard has contributed much toward the same tree and to other branches with an amazing flow of information. Eileen Stage, who still works hard at Kew on the Coastguard Index, has provided a number of missing links. Mr. Bush of Taunton RO gave enormous help towards the Luccombe and Offwell problems; Peggy Moreton, Asst. Sec. of The Devon & Cornwall Record Society, has been most kind and Mrs. Audrey Erskine (an Hon. Editor of this Society) produced for us the Grant of the Chantry in Colebrooke Church (cl260) when I visited Exeter Cathedral Library. The Grant was witnessed by Hugh de Copleston.

Dorā Kneebone of Ipswich Group, Suffolk Genealogy Society is an ever-willing friend and helper, as is Anne Fewkes of Nottingham. Bill and Doris Legge in Totnes have provided help and many photographs of our ancestral holdings over the years. Robin Holmes of High Wycombe, fellow-member of Devon FHS and once a member of my local FHS before moving from London, has given much helpful information and indeed, reciprocal researchers too numerous to mention have eased the burden many a time. I thank you all, so much.

CORRESPONDENCE

Upon return from the Gathering I sent £20 to Barbara Bebbington on behalf of the family for the plaque at the Copleston Oak (or Fatal Oak, if you will) and I quote her reply:

"On behalf of the Society (Tamerton Foliot Village Conservation Society) I should like to thank the family very much for their generous contribution towards the plaque. You'll be glad to know that the oak has come out once more in its mantle of green and I hope will survive for another century or so!"

Nancy Glarner has written from Penna to say that they will be visiting Norway this year, not London as I had hoped. She says "Uncle Albert, still in his own house 207 Grosse Pointe Avenue, Indialantic, Fla., will be 91 August 17th. He is the gt-gt-grandson of Thomas Carter and Elizabeth Copplestone" (Woodland branch). I'm sure we all join to wish him a happy birthday.

Eileen Stage (who builds the Coastguard Index) gave me a clipping from The Richmond & Twickenham Informer when I lunched with her recently at the PRO, Kew. Ann Fraser was about to take part in the two-handed Transatlantic Race last month and her partner is named as Nancy Copplestone - does anyone know of her? -

After all the hard work Ruth and David did on bringing in new members to the family fold, most have been fitted into branches and much interesting correspondence has taken place. Three were at the Gathering and I look forward to visiting others this summer.

Robert Jago has sent yet more information including detailed MI's from Liskeard - now David and Ruth have found a Jago gravestone in Chudleigh to tell him about! Nice for other Coplestons to express our gratitude to him as well.

Warner Saville in NZ has kindly helped very promptly with a problem I've had searching the Dawbin family for a lady in Plymouth who is delighted to have found some Dawbins in NZ and Australia when we couldn't find any at all in England!

A 276868

CERTIFIED COPY of an
PURSUANT to the Marriage

ENTRY OF MARRIAGE,
ACTS, 1836 TO 1898.

[Printed by authority of the Registrar General.]

Registration District

1418

Marriage Solemnized at the Church of St. Andrew in the City of London

No. 1 When Married. 2 Name and Surname. 3 Age. 4 Condition. 5 Rank or Profession. 6 Date of Marriage. 7 Father's Name and Surname. 8 Rank or Profession of Father.

558 April 23 Frederick Alfred Copleston 23 Bachelor Scotchman Broomfield Avenue Croydon Surrey

1918 Toge Copleston 18 Spinster .. 20 Palace St. Charles Edward Copleston Manufacturer

Married in the Parish church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England in or after 1300 only in.

This Marriage was solemnized between us: Frederick Alfred Copleston in the presence of C. E. Coplestone H. E. Coplestone R. J. Copleston R. C. Copleston Toge Copleston

I, Maurice Henry Westwood, of the Registry of Marriages at the City of London, do hereby certify that this is a true copy of the Entry No. 358 in the Register Book of Marriages of the City of London, and that such Register Book is now legally in my custody.

WITNESS MY HAND this 23rd day of April, 1918.

The Act 3 & 4 Geo. V., cap. 27, section 3, enacts that "FORGETTING of the foregoing enactments, if committed with intent to defraud or deceive, shall be felony and punishable with Penal Servitude for any term not exceeding twelve years: any register or record of Births, Deaths, Marriages, Births, Deaths, Burials, or any part of any such Register, or any Certified Copy of any such Register, or of any part thereof."



State "Bachelor," "Widow," or "Divorced."

NINE COP(P)LESTON(E)S
ON ONE CERTIFICATE

How many families, I wonder, can produce a marriage certificate whereon the bride, groom, parents, officiating clergy and witnesses all descend from the same stock and bear the same name, albeit with spelling variations?

Hermione Copleston kindly provided this copy of her parents' marriage cert. Her Father was later to become last of the 170 years of Copleston Rectors of Offwell and her Mother was descended from Edward Copleston of Instow - from whence the 'B' pedigree.

Therefore Hermione on her maternal side can trace back to the 13th, but on her paternal side she lingers in Crewkerne in 1548 with a John Copleston whose father cannot be found - yet! (We still work on it by delving into various related families).

This remarkable family is connected somehow with the Chichesters, for Agnes of that name left to John and Margery Copleston of Crewkerne the Free Chapel of St. James at Curry Mallet and made them her Executors.

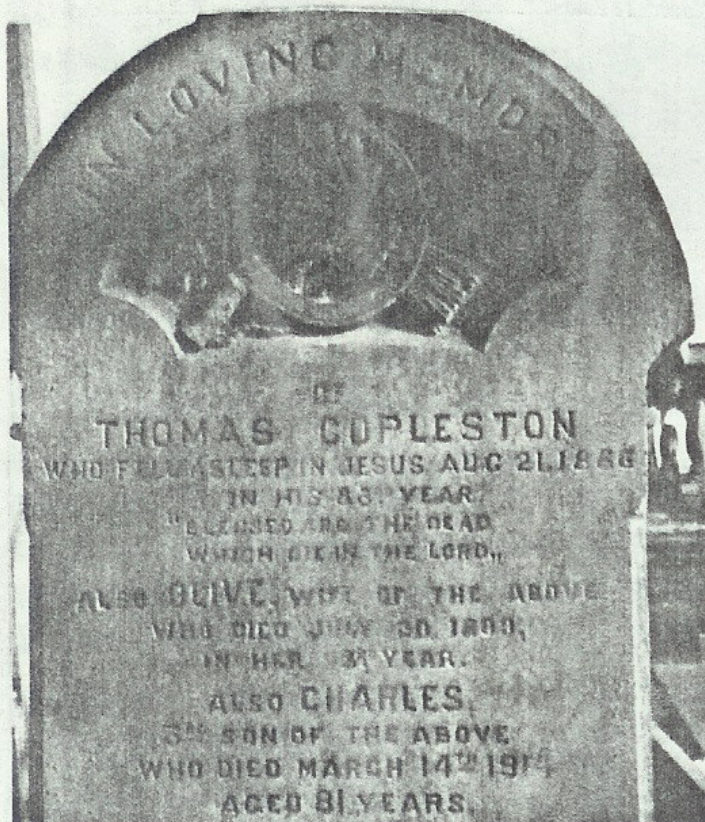
The manor and advowson of Widworthy, next to Offwell, was in possession of the Chichesters in the 15th-17th and before that had been with the Wottons of the same family who held Wotton in Colebrooke in the 13th. The Northcotes, Affetons and Hawksworths are other families with links who are under investigation - any results will be in the December news-sheet

"THE WREXHAM LOT"

The second instalment of the Wrexham family story has been contributed by Joan Hough, daughter of Willis Copleston of Flint. Joan has also made (and sent me a copy) a wonderful chronological list of findings on their family, columned Year, Information, Address, Source, Reference and Where Found - she puts me to shame!

We can now reasonably assume that the first Copleston in Wrexham was Thomas Augustine, the eldest son of Thomas and Olive, cl855. He was a printer, but left Wrexham in 1866 with his young family. However, I can imagine that during those first years he could have sent a message "Come to Wrexham Dad, there is work and the natives are friendly", so in 1861 we find Thomas, Olive, sons Benjamin and Joseph and daughter Amy, living at 28 Chester Street and this narrow three storey house still stands. The business of house decorators and signwriters was established in that year of 1861, a fact which appeared in advertisements. Thomas' other son Charles, who was a tailor, lived with Thomas Augustine. Then he married Elizabeth, but she died aged 39; Charles lived on to 1914 aged 81 and in his obituary was described as a 'jovial and well liked fellow'. He was buried with his mother and father, Thomas and Olive. Catherine, their only other daughter, was living with her second cousin Ann Hinson, who was sister to Lancelot the carpenter (David in Chester's 3-gts grandfather). She, like Charles, left no children, so it was Benjamin who was to perpetuate the name of Copleston in North Wales. He married Harriet Roberts in 1862 and had five children; three sons, Henry Edward (grandfather of Michael at Plymtree), Thomas and Willie, all of whom joined him in the decorating business which he had taken over when his father retired circa 1876. Harriet died at the age of 31 leaving Benjamin with children from the ages of 6 months to nine years, so not surprisingly 15 months later he married Mary Ann Bott, who only lived around the corner from him and

could possibly have helped him to care for his young family. They then proceeded to have 8 children none of whom, incidentally, followed into the decorating business. Benjamin, apart from being a successful businessman, took a lively interest in the political and social life of the town; he was a keen musician and taught tonic-sol-fah. He retired in favour of his first son Henry Edward. Benjamin died in 1922 aged 83. Henry E. kept the business flourishing until his death in 1938. As late as 1950 we found an H.E. Copleston listed as a decorator. Could it have been Henry Elliot, Willie's son? - or possibly a Trade Directory entry that had not been removed? Apart from Printers, Painters, Glaziers and a Tailor, we did find a Copleston E., draper in 1909, maybe Ernest Henry Edward's first son? The last evidence



of Coplestons in Wrexham was the death of H.E's. daughter Doris who died in 1967. All we are left with are the graves which in themselves are interesting. A cold but sunny day in February saw Willis with brushes, cloths and camera taking photographs of the graves of Thomas, Olive and Charles; Benjamin, Mary Ann and brother Thomas, Henry Edward, wife Harriet, two 3-year-old boys Reg and Leonard; Cyril and the cremated remains of Doris. Looking over the information found over the last few months we couldn't help but notice the number of infant deaths. If they got past the age of 5, the Coplestons lived to a ripe old age, despite lack of medical knowledge and two world wars - long may it continue!