

From 'MEMBERS RETURNED TO PARLIAMENT' (Public Record Office)

Copleston, Johannes	Launceston Borough	1364-5
Copleston, Johannes	Dartmouth Borough	1366
Copelston, Johannes	Dartmouth Borough	1368
Copylston, Johannes	Barnstaple Borough	1372
Copeliston, Johannes	Dartmouth Borough	1372
Copelstone, Johannes	Barnstaple Borough	1373
Copleston, Johannes	Barnstaple Borough	1376-7
Copleston, Johannes	Dartmouth Borough	1377
Copleston, Johannes	Barnstaple Borough	1379-80
Copleston, Ricardus	Wareham Borough	1383
Copleston, Ricardus	Dartmouth Borough	1384
Copleston, Johannes jr.	Devon County	1421
Copleston, Johannes	Devon County	1435
Copleston, Sir John	Barnstaple Borough	1435
Thomas Copleston Esq.	of Bowden, co. Devon,	1658-9
Callington Borough,	Cornwall, 1714-21, 1722-27,	
1727-34, 1734-41, 1741-47 and 1747-54		

STUDENTS AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY

Coblestone, Amias,	Broedgates Hall, matric. 1599
Copleston, Arthur,	Exeter Coll., matric. 1635
Copelstone, Christopher,	Oriel Coll., B.A. 1613
Copleston, Humphrey,	University Coll., B.A. 1591
Copleston, John, arm.	Exeter Coll., matric. 1628
Copleston, John,	Exeter Coll., matric. 1640
Copleston, John,	Merton Coll., matric. 1682
Copelstone, Lewis,	Oriel Coll., matric. 1607
Copleston, Richard,	Exeter Coll., matric. 1594
Copleston, Edward,	Exeter Coll., B.A. 1722
Copelstör, Edward,	Corpus Christi Coll., M.A. 1795,
D.D. 1815, Provost Oriel	1814-28. Bp. of Llandaff

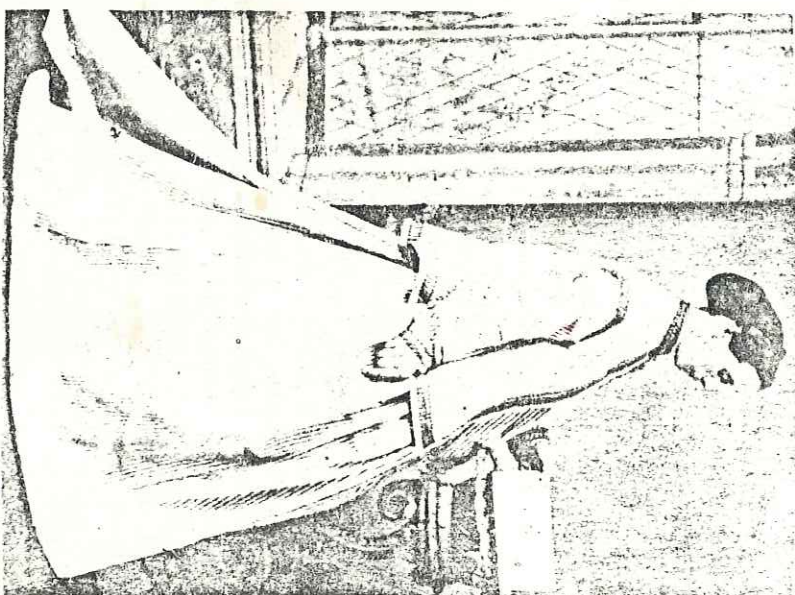
Several more of the Offwell branch were at Oxford, including Rev. Frederick C. Copleston, SJ who was made Hon. Fellow of his old College of St. John's, in 1975. Reginald Edward was Fellow of Exeter Coll. 1831-40; Reginald Stephen Fellow of St. John's 1870-75 and William James Fellow of Oriel 1826-40.

THE COPLESTON FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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HARRIET COPLESTON née Roberts, born 9 November, 1842, died 31 August, 1873. First wife of Benjamin Copleston of Wrexham. Married Watton on the Hill, Liverpool, 12 October, 1862. Mother of Henry Edward, Frederick, Olive Honey, Thomas and Willie. This picture was taken c1860.

At Exeter over Spring Bank Holiday will be gathered our cousins of Flamstead, St. Albans; Warstock, Birmingham; Hadleigh, Benfleet; Leyton, London; Guilden Sutton, Chester; a commuter from Exmouth and your kinswoman to serve you, from 'The Stow' - this isn't good enough, you know! If any more are coming, please do let me know right away and if you need a list of hotels and guest houses I will send them willingly. David and Ettie in Australia had hoped that we could have the meeting in the summer, so that they could stop over on their way to visit son Peter in Toronto, but with the holiday season in full swing there would have been even less of us able to gather - they are very disappointed and so am I - you would have loved meeting them, I know.

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I have received a letter from Angers, France, addressed to "Mrs. Muriel Helen Francis (Barford) Reson" containing an interesting handout (in French) on "Le Sang de Charlemagne" de Jacques Sallot. M. Sallot is Président de l'Association Généalogique de l'Anjou and my fading French allows me to gather that in six parts, M. Sallot is giving the descendants of Charlemagne for a mere 200 francs. Since he omitted my maternal family name, perhaps the Barfords (who seem to have been Norman de Berefords) appear in the publication. I shall not be ordering, but cannot help admitting that I am intrigued! I have a lot of family history literature through the post because of association with my local Family History Society and possibly because of the ISSN number on this Newsletter. Penguin Books sent their handout on "The History of Myddle" by Richard Gough, originally published in 1834, over a century after the author's death. He drew a seating plan of his Church and wrote the family histories of each person in turn - I shall certainly want to read this and perhaps Leonard Coplestone will, too, for Myddle was a Shropshire parish. So, you see, even when you don't write to me I have a variety of matter through the post by courtesy of my charming young Postie, Alan, of whom a well-deserved mention is long overdue. Thank you Alan - just don't tell me your name is Smith and you want it traced!

"TWO COPPLESTONS TO COPPLESTONE" by David Copleston, Chester

We have not taken a course in "Creative Writing", but we hope that a diary of our three days' pilgrimage to Devon will encourage others who have not yet been to see the roots of our Family Tree.

We arrived in Devon in darkness and pouring rain looking for a bed - not a good start! We found ourselves driving up a narrow single track country lane following elusive B & B direction signs and ended up in a muddy farmyard to be greeted by a friendly farmer and his dogs. Unfortunately they could not take us in, but he recommended and directed us to the Inn at Coleford. "The New Inn" turned out to be distinctly not so, being 13th century, but with all mod cons and great character. It was conveniently halfway between Coplestone Cross and Colebrooke and was originally a monks' retreat - we felt sure it had been known to early Coplestons.

The next morning we started by going to Coplestone Cross where it all began, 'way back in the mists of time. An important landmark since before 974AD, it looked forlorn and out of place alongside the village shop and surrounded by the thunder and reek of traffic passing by on all sides. From there we went up the hill to Colebrooke and into St. Andrew's Church. On entering we were immediately struck by the simplicity, indeed bareness, of the interior which accentuated its most striking feature, the intricately carved wood screen of the Copleston Aisle. As we approached it our attention focussed on the Copleston Desk, an ancient prie diu. The carving appeared almost primitive but our Coat of Arms and that of the Gorges family were easily recognisable. The oak screen is finely carved and separates the Aisle from the rest of the Church, giving it the appearance of a private chapel. The tiny door and fireplace are interesting, but it is a shame that this unusual fireplace is boarded up and the pews moved from their original position.

After lunch we drove through beautifully wooded countryside to Bideford, admiring the River Taw and its splendid many arched Bridge, but did not stop in the town as we hoped to see Alverdiscott before the light failed.

In the pouring rain we missed our way and it was too late to visit the Village Church where we had hoped to look for traces of the Coplestons of Kingdon. The Vicar was out when we called, but his wife mentioned that there was a Coplestone Farm at nearby Newton Tracey. We called there, but the owner had no idea why it was so named, even though the farm had been in his family for over a century. * Darkness fell and we made our way back to the log fires and good food of New Inn.

On our second day it was a lovely drive over Lartmoor to Tamerton Foliot. Although a dormitory area for the City of Plymouth it is relatively unspoilt and the Village is conscious of its historic past, a large part being a Conservation Area. The Church is on the hillside adjacent to what remains of Towne Place, alias Canne Greyné. Here on the little green of the gnarled old Copleston Oak still grows after centuries of history. Apprehensive that it might not survive much longer, its trunk being but a shell, we collected some of its fallen acorns and hopefully "great oaks from little acorns grow"! The Village Church is not just an ancient monument, but an active and integral part of the local community life. The interior is full of interest and history and reminders of the Copleston family abound.

Outstanding is the memorial to John and Susanna Copleston, not just for its craftsmanship but for the wording of the memorial. We cannot do better than quote from the translation of the original Latin: "To John Copleston, Gentleman, Lord of this Manor, a man rendered famous not only by the glory of ancient descent but also by that of true virtue: who having attained the 59th year of his age fell sweetly asleep in Christ at Warleigh on November 9 1608. Susanna, his most loving wife who bore 5 sons and as many daughters, in the hope of Resurrection, affectionately erected this monument to one who well deserves it. September 4th 1617." John, Susanna and their family dressed in Tudor finery gave us some idea of the lifestyle of these our Copleston ancestors when they were Lords of this Manor.

(To be concluded in the July issue)

* There were 3 Kingdoms in Alverdiscott and this is probably the one lived in by Christopher, son of George of Ley (Lee). Joint author of this article is David's wife, Ruth.

WRITING UP THE COPLESTON FAMILY HISTORY

When I wrote on page 12 of the October 1980 issue of this Newsletter "I figure this family is worth writing up in a more interesting way than merely presenting the facts 'cold', I referred to my own efforts in this direction and they are confined to a narrative linking all the information I find from various printed sources, which will eventually be deposited with interested libraries.

Some of you know that a detailed and comprehensive work is being written by Leonard Coplestone in Shrewsbury, but I have not given publicity to the fact until now because what he is doing is a labour of love and he has never sought publicity. I have his permission, however, to quote part of his letter to me after reading my above remarks in the Newsletter.

"I could hardly do otherwise than agree, having spent many years of my spare time in doing this - at least I hope it will prove to be as interesting as is consistent with being as complete a record as one can make it. From the commencement I decided that one could only do justice to the family story if it were put in the context of the locations and their history, the stone, the charters and the like. My writing is substantially advanced but after all these centuries, there is little justification for hurried publication until an attempt has been made to use all available information."

I would add to this that his patience with me and my questions is phenomenal! I hop like an ungainly butterfly from one century to another, from the mysteries of the early Johns and Williams to the problems of trying to fit in present day family members to their branches - including Leonard's own family, stuck in Fowey in the mid-18th - I put forward theories which must give him near-apoplexy and he complains not a whit! I hope that I can help with the extraction of available information, of which there is so much from so many sources and that in order to do my part properly I can learn to discipline myself. When I look around the shelves of the British Library, the PRO and SOG I want to look at everything at once; from here on in I will try to behave!

If you read this Newsletter from front to back you will see the correction before you find the mistake! On page 9, typed yesterday, I guessed at the parentage of Elizabeth Coplestone, gt-gt-gt-Grandmother of Nancy Lewis Glarner. Last night I suddenly thought to look at the Coplestone of Woodland Visitation and found the marriage of Elizabeth to Thomas Carter, but descending from the first marriage of Joseph Coplestone and Elizabeth Moore and not the second marriage to Grace Welsh, from which descended the Elizabeth I had picked as likely candidate. Educated guesses are good, for they give a basis from which to work, but the work must be done for the proof to be found. So, Nancy has the pedigree and is 'home and dry'. Would that more of the family could be slotted in with such ease!

I feel sure that Leonard Coplestone, Shrewsbury and Mrs. Dorothy Martin of Versailles (her paternal Grandmother was a Coplestone) go into this Woodland Visitation, but we are 'stuck' at John, cordwainer of Fowey who married first Elizabeth Gerrans in 1754 and then Anne. The names Richard and Joseph occur so frequently in this family as they do in the Woodland Visitation back to the first Richard of Woodland, 3rd son of John, "The Great Copleston". This Richard married firstly into the ancient Kelly family, to Alice, daughter and heir of Henry Kelly and widow of Richard Honychurch; he then married another widow, Thomasine Stowell, daughter of John Floyer.

Sherman, Duck and Goodall are three other families into which Coplestones married and the temptation to discover more of these well-known families is great

- I'm sure I could spend at least a year on this Woodland branch alone - but I will keep to my promise on page 5 and perhaps in my eighties I can lieisurely chase loose ends. Hopefully, by then, I shall have managed to get a few more of you doing your own searching!

SOEMBODY'S MISSING LINKS

Dick Copleston in Connecticut discovered a William Coplestone, Clockmaker's apprentice. At Guildhall Library I found that he was apprenticed for 7 years on 3rd August 1685 to William Robinson of the Clockmakers' Company. He can be seen in Britten's "Old Clocks and Watches". Does anyone have memory of a clockmaking tradition in the family, because I can't place him -?

In the PRO at Kew recently I found the death in 1812 of James W. Copleston, Royal Regiment of Artillery. He was 17 years 7 months old when commissioned, made a Gentleman Cadet on 6th February 1805 and 1st Lieutenant on 23rd January 1809. James was drowned on passage to Gibraltar in November 1812. Can any of you place him?

More old directories have been perused and in 1826-7 I found Jacob Coplestone, Grocer, Tea-Dealer, etc. at 127 Ratcliff Highway (Stepney). I wonder if this is the same Jacob, grocer, of Plymouth in 1822-3?

Is the William Joseph Coplestone who had the "Six Bells" in Queen Street, Hammersmith in 1880-1888 and the "Crown & Sceptre" at 34 Holland Road, Kensington in 1891, the same Wm. Jos. who died in 1906 and whose widow, Esther, had the "Cross Keys" at 2 Lawrence Street, Chelsea in 1913?? Also, could he be the missing forbear of my local Walthamstow and Leyton Coplestones?

Who was the Copleston of "Copleston & Co. Piano Player Makers" of 94 Regent Street, W. trading as "Stercopian" in 1913? (There was a Copleston in Barnstaple many years before selling pianos)

Here's one which will especially intrigue Syd and Warner: Azeail Copleston, Grocer, 4 Earl Street, Lisson Grove NW in 1877. Any suggestions?

William Coplestone, beer retailer, 19 Vanstone Place, Fulham SW 1903-6. Could he be son of Wm. Joseph? Please think on't,

Having found a "Coplestone" on the Ordnance Survey map in Lesnewth Parish, Cornwall, I wrote a member of the Cornwall FHS who lives in Boscastle who sent a most interesting account of this Coplestone Farm, its owners and tenant and I have written to the tenant and await a reply - I am wondering if this may be the "Coplestone Croft" referred to in the will of Margery of Crewkerne. The Chairman of Cornwall FHS has also written a kind letter with names of members in the Bude area who may be willing to do reciprocal research so that we may gather more information on the Morwenstow/Kilkhampton people.

There is also a "Coplestone" marked on the map between Taverton and Halberton and I've written a member of Devon FHS who farms in the area to see what he knows.

Having tried both the 1861 and 1871 Censuses at the addresses we had for the family of Stephen in Liverpool, we find that his George William had moved just prior to or after the Census and so have, again, drawn a blank. Much the same happens with my local Coplestones and I hope to find something on them at County Hall when I visit.

This year's Devon & Cornwall Record Society volume has recently arrived and is the fascinating first part of "The Accounts of the Fabric of Exeter Cathedral". (1279-1353). The second part, with index, comes next year. Audrey M. Erskine edited and translated and is the lady who obtained for me the copy of the Grant witnessed by Hugh de Copleston c1250 which is in Exeter Cathedral Archives. In the year 1312-13 we see "in wages of Master Thomas de Winton being at Norton and Chudleigh for the purpose of looking over timber for one week 3s. In wages of William de Membiri carpenter for 3 days 13d. And Richard de Brugges 10d. And J. de la Wichie 9d. And R. Prodrome 9d. And 2 sawyers 8d. and Robert Grospari and John Loch 3s8d. And Richard de Briggs Walter Unfrey and Alexander de Holecomb 5s3d, 21d each." As I went through the weeks and months I could see them all at work, even feeding the horses "to each horse half a bushel."

Several of you will have seen the notice in the Post Office in Coplestone left some years ago by Mr. Owen Coplestone Lewis. I wrote him last year, having found the marriage of his Elizabeth to Thomas Carter in Ottery St. Mary in 1787. Unfortunately Mr. Lewis had died in 1978 and I was informed of this by his son, Mr. David Owen Lewis of Pittsburgh. Imagine my pleasure in February to receive a letter from Nancy Lewis Glarner, daughter of Owen Coplestone Lewis, enclosing a tree made by her Father and a beautifully produced sheet with a picture of the Stone and the words from Arthur Mee's "Devon" - "A thousand years old is Coplestone" etc. I believe that Elizabeth was the daughter of Anthony Coplestone and Betty Salter, bapt. O.S.M. 7 Jan 1767. Anthony and Betty were married at Pancrasweek in 1760. I add them to the list of those waiting to be traced!

Syd Coplestone of Warstock has asked in which way he can help in the gathering of information and I have suggested that he search all the old Directories in Birmingham Reference or Local History Library for Cop(p)leston(e)s. May I ask that all of you do this when you have an hour spare? You may think there have been no Cops in your County, but it is amazing where they turn up and there are local directories going back into the 1700's. It would be very helpful even to know that there are no Cops there and note will be made of all results of searching. Look in both 'commercial' and 'court' sections of the directories and carefully note year, full name, address, occupation, etc. The years especially useful are 1841, 51, 61 and 71, because they are Census years and armed with addresses I can find much information at the Census Office - places of birth, ages of children and occupations.

Hermione Copleston has sent me a coupon entitling one person to £3 off the listed price of a Winter Treat Weekend which is available to June 2nd. Anyone coming to Exeter May 22nd or 23rd and staying at Countess Wear Lodge, please let me know and I will send it. Thanks, Hermione!

For all letters, thanks - keep them coming!

FAMILY AND NATIONAL HISTORY FROM THE PATENT ROLLS

1491 Feb 22, Westminster: Commission to William Hody, kt., Henry Ferrers, kt., Charles Denham, William Foorey and John Copulston and the sheriff of Devon to enquire of the wards and marriages which ought to belong to the king (Hen VII) in that county and which have been concealed; and of all wrecks upon the coasts there lately happening and to return such inquisitions into the chancery.

1491 Apr 26, Westminster: Commission to William Fortescue, Walter Copleston, Richard Lake and John Wheeler to impress sailors and soldiers for the ships of armament which is being prepared for the defence of England and the safe custody of the sea and in resistance of the king's enemies there congregating.

1552 25 Nov. Whereas Katharine Copleston widow by deed dated 30 Sept 6 Edw VI granted to the King the next advowson to the parish church of Newton Ferreys, Devon upon its voidance by death or otherwise of Simon Haynes, King's chaplain, dean of Exeter: Presentation of John Pollarde, King's chaplain to the said church; void by the death of the said Haynes. Addressed to Miles bishop of Exeter.

1551 12 May. Licence to Christopher Copleston Esquire to enter upon his inheritance as son and heir of John Copleston Esquire, deceased, who held of the King in chief by knight's service, with issues since the death of the said John.

1564 1 June. Commission of the Peace in the County of Devon. Knights, Sheriffs and Justices of the Peace, two of the latter being Christopher and John Copleston.

1567 4 Nov. Licence for William, Bishop of Exeter, to lease by indenture lands, late held by John Bodley of Dunscombe for life by indenture, parcel of the Manor of Crediton alias Kirton co. Devon to Anthony Copleston of Wake co. Devon and Mary Copleston and Anthony Copleston his children for life in survivorship, reserving to the Bishop the accustomed yearly rent of 62s and accustomed services.

This 13th century Font of Purbeck marble is in the Parish Church of St. Mary, Luton and must have been many times used by Rev. Coriolanus Copleston between 1771 and 1800. It is but one of the beauties of a Church well worth a visit, but do not expect to see any memorial to Coriolanus; although he is buried in the Nave "opposite the pulpit of Luton Church which he had so long satisfactorily filled and where the writer of this article, not many months before his death heard him preach an excellent discourse on the days of man being but three score years and ten. No memorial of him is yet placed over the grave." This is from an article in the Gentleman's Magazine of 1801 and there is still no memorial, 180 years later. He will none the less be remembered, not only for his own work, but for the sons who carried Methodism to Leighton Buzzard, Potton and St. Albans, having been 'won over' by John Wesley.

