

In Vol III of the Virginia Magazine of History and Biography (1896) I found an article on abstracts of Virginia Land Patents which included the following entry: "William Spencer, 1,100 acres on Lanes Creek adjoining a parcel of land which said Spencer has already taken up - due for the transportation of 22 servants." Under 'Head Rights' the 22 servants are listed and one of them is Ananias Coplestone; the date is June 19, 1635. Never having found an Ananias I wondered if this might be an Amias. I wrote the Virginia Historical Society for more details and they kindly informed me that although they could locate no more information on this man, Head Rights were given to servants upon completion of their term of service (50 acres) and that Lanes Creek is in Surrey and Isle of Wight counties on the south side of the James River in eastern Virginia. I will, of course, pursue our early Colonist.

Many judges would not accept (as Gretina) marriages at The Fleet. Thomas Bamfield esq., Chelsea and Elizabeth Coplestone, Old Windsor B&S, marr there on 22 September 1743.

In a book of First World War deaths of railway employees is G. Coplestone, Pte., Welsh Regt., Porter, Traffic-Coaching Section, London, St. Pancras.

At the PRO at Kew I found in the list of Masters and Matres having certificates of competency (Merchant Navy), Reuben Copleston, William Beavis Coplestone & Philip Coplestone between 1857 and 1864. Are Reuben & Philip sons of Reuben and/or Philip, sons of George, butcher of Ide?

Tavistock Parish Records for 1566-7 show in the Church-wardens' Accounts: Item paid for a Galon of Wynne and a pound of sugar bestowed to Mr. S. f. Id and Mr. Copleston when they kept Cessyons ijs. (2/-) - must have been thirsty work!

A Charles Copleton was sentenced at Worcester to 7 yrs' transportation on 1 Jan 1861 and included in the embarkees to Gibraltar on the 'Adelaide' 20 May 1863. Must be 'one of ours' - did he stay in Australia, I wonder, and what was his crime? It might only have been the theft of a loaf of bread, but more likely a sheep. Who were you, Charles?

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THE COPLESTON FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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NEW YEAR GREETINGS!

THOMAS COPLESTON OF DARTMOUTH

In the Devonshire Association's Parochial Histories of Devonshire, No. 5 (Dartmouth Pre-Reformation) there is to be found yet one more Thomas to add to the others mentioned in this issue. He appears in the Proceedings of the Mayors' Courts between 1491 and 1507 and must have lived in Dartmouth, for he was Bailiff in 1496. It is difficult to see where he 'fits', since he seems too old to be Thomas, 3rd son of Ralph. Some of the entries are interesting.

In 1491: Thomas Copleston and Nicholas Langmede shall repair the street where Peter More and John Isseway live. 1494. There is much dung (Fimum) lying in the street between the tenements of William Cosby and Thomas C.

Thomas C. and Thomas Rowe are in mercy (his) because between the church and the church house are various gutters dangerous to the people.

1496: 'le pavient' near 'le peley' (pillory) is ruinous. Thomas Erle and Thomas C. each fined 10d again fined 11d 5 months later.

'le pavient' in Pynys Lane broken; Thomas C. among those fined 11d.

1499: a certain 'sege' namely 'a withdrangt' towards the gate of William Cosby, Thomas C. ought to mend.

1500: Thomas C. pulled down various walls which annoy John Rowe 'in le pole'.

1505: On the eve of St. Ursula in the 'Guibaldia' of Dartmouth Peter Courtenay, the mayor, bailiffs and late bailiffs (incl. Thomas C.) cancelled the freedom of Thomas Alyn on account of his deafness (Obstinancium).

1507: gutter between house of Thomas C. & house of St. Saviour of Dartmouth is a nuisance and Thos undertakes to make it & has until the festival of St. Michael the Archangel under penalty vid.

Since suggesting a bookplate bearing Copleston Arms, I have been harkening to my betters on this subject and had correspondence with Col. Iaian Swinnerton, part of which I quote: "... the basic idea of arms, i.e., they are personal to one man and may not be used by anyone else. This is the whole concept of Heraldry - without it, the whole system would be pointless. Therefore, sons (whether they are eldest, 4th, etc.) must use a different mark during the holder's lifetime. (Crests and badges are not necessarily hereditary and can be changed at will.) In the instance of your main line dying out, descendants of the No.2 son can carry on using his arms but which would have been differenced from the main arms.

The net answer is that your men should not wear a tie or any other device bearing the Copleston arms unless they can prove that they are descended in the male line from the original grantee - and obviously only one of them can do this and be entitled to wear the undifferenced arms. They can do so, of course, and many clubs and societies bear unauthorised arms, I am merely saying that it isn't correct."

Col. Swinnerton's knowledge of the subject is such that as a family historian I respect it and am grateful for his advice. If family members wish to have bookplates or other articles, might I suggest one of the crests, the blue wolf and perhaps STUDIO FALENTE LABOREM? There is also the badge, a coil of rope, but since I am not at all sure of its origins and there is confusion with the Gorges whirlpool, this might not be advisable. Displaying arms, having a plaque on your wall, for instance, is quite in order, but you must not use them or say they are yours unless you have registered a descent at the College of Arms from the original grantee. We can all say "These are the arms of my ancestor", but not "These are my arms". Dennis Ivall, heraldic artist in Cornwall, has offered his services and if you are interested, please let me know if you are willing to contribute to the designing of a bookplate and I will ask for an estimate. D.I. is a member of Cornwall Family History Society.

KENN. DEVON. Beatrice F. Cresswell, Exon 1912

A slab at Tedburne St. Mary records: "William Coplestone of this parish gent of immovable loyalty to ye crown, of unalterable affection to ye church, of exemplary piety in all dealings, died February 25, 1705 aged 77 and lies buried here. Also here lyeth ye body of Anne ye wife of Edward Coplestone Rector of this parish obit June ye 7th 1753 aet 43. Also here lieth ye body of ye Rev. Mr. Edward Coplestone who after having been rector of this parish 37 years obit July ye 20 1767 aet 68.

Listo of Rectors: John Coplestone in March 1682. Patron Francis Basset Esq. of Heanton. After being Rector over 50 years he died in June 1731 and was buried under the chancel of this church. Edward Coplestone succeeded on 23 September 1731 on the presentation of Francis Manaton Esq. of Kelworthy and others. He died in July 1767 and was followed by William Davie....." (I would be interested to know whether the spelling on the slab is actually 'Coplestone' as above).

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On the Correspondence page of the October Newsletter (p.10) I mentioned that Mr. Clay of Wiveliscombe was at Lancing with a J.A. Coplestone. I asked if this 'struck a cord' - it should have struck mine, for of course this is John Coplestone of Seaford! I had an enjoyable visit with John and Elizabeth in November and we had a walk with their delightful dogs, Misty (Dalmation) and Star (Spaniel) through Friston Forest. We also went over our early generations again, trying to fathom the mysteries of names and dates which don't quite seem to fit.

The only other 'cousin' I've seen since the last Newsletter is Peter Coplestone, cousin of Mick and Colin. Peter's office is near my local station, so I 'pop in' to see him sometimes for a chat and to tell him that I still haven't found their gt-gt-gt g'father William's antecedents. Somewhere between Clerkenwell and Shoreditch lies the answer and hopefully the first marriage of William, when found, will provide it.

MORE HISTORICAL CONNECTIONS.

Permission granted by Humphrey Courtenay and Thomas Stowell, Milites; and John Copleston, Armiger; and Gwido Baldwyn; to John Storthwayte and others, exors of the Will of the late Bishop Bubwith to grant to the Dean and Chapter of Wells certain lands of which they are tenants in Ediston &c., the Statute of Mortmain non obstante. 8 Hen VI. (Wells Cath. MSS)

Patent Rolls 1448 Apr 9, West'r. Pardon to William Gamon of Tavystoke co. Devon 'marchaunt' of the king's suit for the felony and murder whereof he was indicted before John Copleston, Nicholas Radeford, Wm. Hyndeston & John Gyffard, justices of the peace and of oyer and terminer in Devon, by his enemies to wit, of having on Saturday the Epiphany last, at Tavystock slain Nicholas Martyn with a dagger, striking him in the breast.

Patent Rolls 1474 Aug 3, West'r. Appointment during pleasure of Richard Page as receiver of all lordships, manors and lands late of Philip Copleston esq., tenant in chief in the co. of Devon - in the king's hands by reason of the minority of Ralph Copleston his son and heir, with such fees as may be agreed upon between the said Richard and the treasurer of England before Christmas next.

Dorset Standing Committee 1646-50. Upon the petition of Grace Copleston, wife of John Copleston of Upton Pyne in the Countie of Devon Esq., it is so ordered that the said Mrs. Copleston shall from henceforth have and receive the fifts of all her husband's sequestered estate in this Countie for the maintenance of her selfe and children, according to the ordynance of pliamt, together with all the fifts of the rents and pifts thereof not yet collected, and the tenant that holdeth the same is required to pay the same accordingly. Dorchester Die Jovis, 6to die Aprilis 1648.

(John and Grace were, of course, the parents of Sir John Copleston, our Cromwellian knight. Grace was daughter of Anthony Coplestone of Pines.)

THOMAS COPILESTON & THE MANOR FARM OF WEST NEWTON

Along with the information about John & Margery of Crewkerne (see p.10), Mr. Bush, Asst. Archivist at Taunton very kindly sent an offprint of a paper on the history of the manor house of West Newton which he wrote in 1979 and which does a great deal to help our investigation into the generations following Adam de Copleston. Thomas is shown in the Visitations as 'of Luckcombe' and as son of Adam. Having references to 'John C and Alice his wife', we had not known who Alice was. The paper reveals that she was dau of Geoffrey de Lucombe and on looking at dates, it would seem far more likely that Thomas was son of John and Alice than of Adam. John and Alice sold out to John's brother Richard for £200 in 1385 and Mr. Bush thinks it possible that Richard died before his brother and that West Newton reverted to John.

Richard is, of course, one of the family not mentioned in the Visitations, but who was MP for Wareham in 1383 and who is said in the Hylle Cartulary to have married Alice Catecote and to have been esquire to the Earl of Arundel.

Leonard Coplestone suggests that there may have been two Thomases and asks "... are we sure that all these daughters are of the same Thomas?" (five are shown in the Visitation). Four daughters survived Thomas and the property was divided equally between them. The 2nd, Joan (given 'Jane' in the V's) married Edmund Gorges, kt and Simon Littlecote of Kent (the V's give Gilbert and Litilcot!) and I have found reference to an Inquisition PM for 'Domina Johana Gorges, wid., one of the dau's and heirs of Thomas C. esq.', Will 1518, died 1525, so it seems her last marriage was to Gorges.

Many disputes arose in later generations over the estate between the descendants of the daughters of Thomas, but the interest to us is in the dates of death of the daughters and their husbands, for some of them seem much too late for them to have been granddaughters of Adam de Copleston.

Most grateful thanks to Mr. Bush for his invaluable help, including pointers to further search.

THE COPLESTONES OF IDE

This is a summary of the Coplestones who lived in Ide from the first one who moved there just before 1800, until the 1871 Census. The 1881 Census should reveal more. An 1857 Gazetteer tells that Ide (3½ miles SW of Exeter) then contained 1,435 acres of very fertile land and a population of 634 in 1851, a decrease of 101 over 1841 (due to emigration). Voters were 33.

Not counting an isolated marriage of Richard C. of Exeter to Joan Brackway of Kilmanton 9.6.1691, the first C. to move into Ide was John of Spreyton, some 17 miles from Exeter. He presumably settled in Ide because he married a local girl, Christian Nicholes, by banns 29.6.1795. His tombstone (and my inspiration to write this article) is to be seen in Vol.1

No.11 of the Newsletter. He was buried 22.4.1819 aged 49 yrs - a young age for a Coplestone. John was the 2nd son and one of 11 children of John and Mary (nee Rowe) bapt. 25.6.1769. Most of the others stayed in Spreyton. John and Christian produced 8 or 9 children, most of whom remained in Ide, but not the offspring, the grandchildren. Their firstborn, William (15.11.1796) was an exception; he moved to Dunchideock, close to Ide and only four miles from Exeter. Census information indicates that he farmed 180 acres known as Idestone Farm for most of his life. He first married Mary of Paracombe and between 1851 and 1861 Mary Ann of Crediton. No children resulted from either marriage according to the Census. He was buried with his parents in 1871. Over the 30 yrs of Census information on him it would appear that 7-12 servants and labourers were normally employed, most living in.

John was born next (26.11.1797), a farrier all his working life. He is mentioned in all 4 Censuses and marr Frances who was bur 23.3.1854 aged 49. They had 2 children, William (c1831) and Mary (c1833). It looks as if William also became a farrier. Mary was an apprentice dressmaker in 1851. 1861 shows John's grandson Joseph E. aged 5, born Ide, in residence, but no parents shown. John appears as a 73 yr old farrier

Sent by Warner Saville, New Zealand

in 1871 along with a female servant. Son no.3 was Christopher (1.6.1800). In 1841 he is shown living with his mother Christian aged c.65 and younger brother James at Coombhead Farm on the outskirts of Ide. Christian (a) was bapt 25.12.1775 (dau of Thos Nicholes & Christian nee Kerridge). She is also on the tombstone and is listed as a farmer in that Census. 10 servants/labourers, most aged 15 were listed as residing at the farm, which was 122 acres. Did his father John have this farm when he lived at Ide? It seems likely. Chris marr Lydia, 5 yrs his junior, from Honiton. Mary Ann was b.c1832 and George in 1848, probably to another wife. Employees tended to decrease to 4 servants and 2 labourers in 1871. Samuel came next and he left for Chudleigh (p.11) to be a baker, before the 1841 Census. His descendants gave rise to a Hazael (named after a brother and a long line of Hazels) and to Sydney of Birmingham and Jack of Christchurch NZ. Hazael above was in Ide at 14 or 16 as a 'cowboy' for his Uncle James. James (25.12.1804) was 5th son of John and Christian. Another entry is in the Parish Register 12.4.1805 but there is no record about them of burial. James was also a farmer at Camm's Farm. He was with his mother and brother Christopher in 1841 and not mentioned in 1871. The farm was 110-120 acres and 7-8 labourers/servants were employed. (It should be noted that Christopher and James between them farmed 240 acres of Ide's 1,435 acres - William's Dunchideock farm was 180 acres). James marr Deborah who died before 1861 and the children were Christian, c.1843 and William, 1845. A servant, William C of Chagford b.c1837 was with them in 1851. James' son Wm appears in 1871 as a 26yr old inkeeper along with his Exminster born wife of 22 and son James, 1 yr, also born Exminster. My ancestor was the next son, George (15.5.1808), the most prolific Coplestone I know of (does anyone know of another having more than his 12 children?).

George was one of the two butchers in Ide and he marr Ann Hellyer by banns 26.9.1832. Their 1st child, Ann Hellyer C., was bapt exactly 3 mths later and d. aged 9. The other children followed in rapid succession. - Louisa (my gt-grandmother), George 1837, Caroline 1839, John 1841, Emma 1845, Philip 1846, Edward 1848, Frederick 1850,

Reuben 1852, William 1854 & Ellen 1857. George's wife Ann was bapt. Ide 27.4.1814 and both were alive in 1871. They had a 'male and female servant' in all Censuses except 1871. By this date all male children had moved out of Ide except Edward, butcher and Frederick, printer. Frederick, CBE, went on to become Editor of the Chester Chronicle; his obit appears 26.11.1932 according to a cutting passed on through our family. His brother John in 1857 is to be found visiting a farm at the neighbouring parish of Alington, aged 29, a butcher. Frederick was grandfather of John at Seaford. Twins were the last born of John and Christian, Hazael and Christian, bapt. 1.1.1810. Christian married her aunt Ann's brother Phillip Hellyer, agric. labourer 12.7.1836 and brother Hazael remained in Ide and became a tailor. He marr Susannah Halse of Dunchideock 9.2.1831. She d. 1855 aged 51. Hazael is not mentioned in 1871 Census. Their children were Elizabeth 1832, Christina 1834, Charlotte 1836, James 1838, Henry 1841, John 1843 and Christopher 1844. Christina was at her Uncle Wm's Idestone at Dunchideock in 1851 as an assistant - her cousin John son of Samuel of Chudleigh was staying there at the time. In 1861 she is 'unmarried servant' out-of-service, living at home. Christopher is a millers' apprentice and Elizabeth, 19 in 1851, a child's maid on a farm near Alington. Hazael remarr Anna Maria Nicholes, 9 yrs his junior - yes, you guessed it, she is related to Hazael's mother Christian(Nicholes). I know nothing more of the Ide Coplestones and any other information that could flesh out this rather bare skeleton would be appreciated.

Ed. notes: +This John is Alan's gt-grandfather. John & Wm. his son, farriers, are described in John's Will as 'Vet. Surgeons', Wm. being in Dawlish in 1879. Christopher is given in Kelly's 1873 at Coombshead Farm. In 1871 Census Sarah Cornish shows as dom. serv. to John, farrier. George, butcher's, admon is granted to Louisa Scanes (w. of John S.) dau. and one of next of kin, 1874. Warner has done wonders to piece this all together from W.Z. and we owe it to him to complete the picture - I wish there were more Wills! I will get to see the 1881 Census as soon as the long queues become shorter.

Willis Copleston in Flint has been attending family history classes and seems to have enjoyed them. He send a news clipping with a picture taken during the course, which has encouraged some of them to join Clwyd FHS. Willis also sent items from the 1871 Census in Wrexham which includes Charles C., 37 yrs, tailor, born Deptford and wife Elizabeth 25, born Llangadwen, Montgomery - perhaps a nephew of Thomas (and Olive Honey C.) who were 67 and 63 at this time. Directory entries were also sent and a lovely picture of Willis with his gt-grandson Adam, born 9th July 1981.

Hermione tells me, a propos of the West Newton matter, that in the 1950's her cousin (on her Mother's side, also Copleston) lived at Combe Sydenham Manor. One of Thomas C's daughters, Catherine, marr James Sydenham, so this was a case of some of the family returning to earlier pastures! Congratulations to Eric and Christine Mulvaney on the birth of Nicholas, 2nd October; 5 lbs 13 ozs. Many thanks to all of you who sent Christmas cards and notes. I'll get around to answering all when things settle down. They were heartwarming.

It was good to hear from Christopher C. in Colchester that after 6 weeks in hospital he was home and recovering. He sent information from his father's notes on John, who was the last son of William and Nanny and on Edwin of Nottingham, which are being investigated - report in the next Newsletter.

I was very sorry to hear from Elsie Forrest that her brother Alex of Abbotkerswell died in October after a short illness. Our sympathy will also go to his widow.

Rose and Bill have moved from Barking to Dagenham and I hope to visit them soon.

Vera Caulford writes from Layton, Utah, that she will send some pictures of family members from Luton, to which I look forward. We still haven't sorted out her Edwin, either!

CONTINUING ALONG THE OFFWELL TRAIL.

I keep feeling that the answer is just around the corner and it probably is - but which corner?! Mr. Bush (see p.5) tells me that the will of Agnes Chichester left "to John Chichester of Widworthy 20s due to me at Michaelmas for the quarter's rent" and to "my brother Peirce all such debts as he oweth me". (Will proved 1548)

This led me to examine the Visitations of Devon, Chichester of Raleigh and of Widworthy. John Chichester of Widworthy, 4th son of John Ch. of Rawleigh and Joanne Bright, marr the dau of John Rowe of Staverton; their son John Ch. of Widworthy marr Dorithie, dau of Giles Daubenev of Wayford, Som. at Shute on 24 Feb 1570. This John had a sister, Agnes, but the only brothers are Nicholas and Richard - there is no Peirce mentioned. Perhaps Dorithie, sister-in-law of Agnes, had a brother so named - I must look at the Daubenev family.

Since Agnes made John and Margery C. of Crewkerne her exors, there must have been a close connection, but at the moment I haven't a clue as to what that might be. Amias C., son of John C & Susan Pollard, marr Gertrude, dau of Sir John Chichester and sister of Sir Robert and it was their dau Gertrude who marr Sir John Bampfild of Poltimore. Anne Copleston, dau John C. and Dorothy nee Beeston, marr Edward Chichester, afterwards Viscount Chichester. Neither of these happenings seem to open any avenues.

I even wonder, when casting about for possibilities, whether our mysterious Thomas Copleston 'son of unmarried parents' who received two Papal dispensations and was Junior(Southern)Proctor of Oxford U in 1445-6, has any connection, but a thought like this only comes of desperation! His death in 1470 closed a chapter which will probably never be written fully. He isn't in the Visitations, of course, but one wonders if there were three Thomases in existence at this time. He had been Rector of Chagford, Nymet Roland and Drewsteignton, Canon of Crediton, prebendary of Woodland and of Cutton in St. Mary's Chapel in Exeter Castle. Born about 1421 he must have had someone of influence to help him.

PEDIGREES FOR TWO FAMILIES

Alan John Coplestone of Ensbury Park, Bournemouth, has been brought into the family of John at Seaford, Syd in Birmingham and Warner and Jack in N.Z. Since Alan was able to tell me that his gt-grandfather, John George, was in the Commissariat Staff Corps and marr in Aldershot in 1867 and that his gt-gt-grandfather's name was Samuel, I went to the PRO at Kew to see John's Army papers. Sure enough, John was born in Chudleigh and his father, Samuel, was a baker. So Syd's gt-grandfather and Alan's gt-gt-grandfather are one and the same and George, brother of Samuel, is gt-gt of John, Seaford. The Army papers produce a wealth of information. John was 5'4" with fair complexion, 'hazle' eyes and brown hair. He spent 3 years in Bermuda, 1877-80 and had enlisted in the Royal Artillery in Exeter in 1859, but transferred to the Commissariat Staff Corps (later Army Service Corps) in 1865. We even know that his pulse was 72 beats and respiration 18 inspirations! He marr Jane Freeman.

The other family to be enriched with a number of members is that of Thomas, painter and Olive Honey. We have descendants of their sons Thomas, printer; John, smith and Benjamin of Wrexham and now we have descendants of their brother Samuel, born Maidstone 1837. Samuel was in Woolwich after having spent some years in the Army in India, where he married and had Edmund Wm. 1867 at Puttighur; Elizabeth 1869 at Nynne Tal; Samuel 1872 at Meen Meer and Robert 1874 at Subathoo. It is from Samuel that Kenneth in Perth, W. Australia descends, also Bernard at Ashford, Mrs.A.Byrne(Rose), a daughter of Samuel son of Samuel above, who has provided much helpful information which enabled me to trace this 'twig', together with a number of others. Mrs.Pearl Copleston, widow of Edmund John, has also been most kind in supplying information and I have spoken with Edmund's brother George in Eritrea.

I think when I have all the members of this family tabulated I will put their 'tree' in the next Newsletter - to describe them all in narrative is too confusing! This family are, therefore, close kin to the Wrexham family, to Frank in St.Albans; Bill, Leytonstone; Reg & Harold, Essex.