

WE 'GET PRINT'

When Ann Chiswell of the Federation of Family History Societies sent me a clipping from the Western Evening Herald about Arthur Clapp's 'Tamerton Foliot', recently published, I noted that the 'legend' of Christopher Copleston and his 'gruesome' stabbing of his godson was mentioned. I wrote to the paper explaining that this was no legend, but the awful truth, enclosing a copy of the Pardon. I have not heard from the Western Evening Herald, but fortunately Ann's eagle eye spotted a further article, by Dick Benson-Gyles, in their issue of March 15th and she sent me a photocopy.

Much of my letter and chunks of the Pardon are quoted and there is a good picture of the Oak, so if you would like copies of this issue, the address is:

Western Evening Herald  
New George Street  
Plymouth.

I don't know the cost of the paper, but perhaps the circulation department will send them and bill you.

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VISITS

It was a pleasure recently to visit Rose and Bill Copleston, along with Bill's brother Dennis and his wife, Joyce, at their new home in Dagenham. In a countifried atmosphere and consuming numerous cups of 'char' we discussed the family and Rose produced interesting certificates and funeral cards of Clement and Martha from which I took details. I also went to Merthing to see Marjorie Copleston who showed me certs of her father's birth and marriage. If any of you have certificates I should be grateful for details. They show addresses, occupations, witnesses and ages, all of which are so valuable in building up not only our trees, but the whole family history picture - do let me have all possible information from certificates.

THE COPLESTON FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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SAINT MARY'S CHURCH, TAMERTON FOLIOT  
A History Guide by P.S. Bebbington

Some of you already have copies of this History and I am sure will join with me in recommending it to the rest of the family.

Some of us were privileged in being conducted around this lovely Church last year by Pip Bebbington and his knowledge of its history and love of its fabric are in this booklet along with many fine picture and line illustrations. The John and Susannah memorial is of course shown and there are a number of references to the family including 'the chauntrye there. Founded by John Copleston Esqur. To fynde a pryeste to praye for hym and the sowles of his parents and other his frynds in the parysh church of Tamerton Folyett. And he to have a pencon of £6 yerely going out of the lands and tenements in Warleghe and Tamerton Folyett belonging to the heires of the sayd Copleston."

The drawing on page 6 of the Church has a caption saying 'about 1900' which should be 1800 and a couple of other things bother the author, but will not detract from the enjoyment and possession of the history. Pip was hospitalised during the time of printing and unable to 'spot' things. If you wish to have a copy the price is £2 (which includes postage) from:

Mr. P.S. Bebbington  
"Denmark"  
Horsham Lane  
Tamerton Foliot  
PLYMOUTH  
Devon  
PL5 4NP



Often have I pondered over John Copleston's sermon preached in Bideford on Thursday March 17, 1719/20. The sermon itself is full of interest as John talks to the seamen of Bideford - "Is not the Load-stone another Work and Wonder of God? is not this one of the Aënigma's of Natural Philosophy? A Riddle to the Wisest, and most studious of the Learned? You don't carry it abroad with you indeed, but you have its conveyed Virtue and Power, or you cou'd not cut the Deep as you do, from one distant Shore to another." As interesting to me, however, is the mystery of the Sermon being found in The Rare Book and Manuscript Library of Yale U., when it couldn't be found in England.

This is now partly explained, thanks to Betty, wife of Dick Copleston, in Connecticut, who discovered that the Sermon was given to Yale by James Tanis, Director of Libraries at Bryn Mawr. Having written to him, she has sent me his reply. 'I purchased a bound volume of 18th century sermons because of a couple of American sermons which were of interest to me. I reviewed those sermons and gave to Yale the other sermons which they did not already have. I have no idea who owned the volume in earlier years and the inscription on the Bideford sermon did not appear on any of the other sermons.' This inscription is the written message: 'For Mr. Hardy's Father'. Someone in Bideford sent it to this gentleman, it seems and someone else took the trouble to have bound a collection of sermons which pleased him. I wonder will we ever discover more?

Dick and Betty, by the way, are coming to England in April and I look forward to lunching with them at the end of the month. Dick is of the Offwell family and now nice it would be to be able to present him with a sorted out family - at present I am ever deeper into the mire.

'Lastly', says John 'How great will be your Reward in an After-state, if you live a sober, religious, exemplary shining Life? . . . . .'

There has been very little family correspondence since the last issue of the Newsletter - perhaps everyone is as busy as I am! I would have liked some response to the bookplate message on p.2 of the January Newsletter - it seems our men-folk wear ties, but don't read books!

I have heard from Mrs. Valerie Parker of Woodlands Farm, Little Torrington, Torrington, Devon EX38 8JS that they will be ready to receive paying guests from Whitsun onwards. This is of course the former home of Copleston of Woodland and has been lovingly restored by Mr. and Mrs. Parker. It would be the ideal place from which to visit our North Devon and Morwenstow/Lee/Kilhampton ancestral places of interest.

A letter arrived from Nancy Glarner (descended from Elizabeth Coplestone=Thomas Carter) expressing delight at revealing information I had sent on from Wm. Legge of Devon FHS on the Lovelace family, also connected to Carter/Turpin/Coplestone. Mr. Legge's wife also descends from Elizb.

T. Forman, Printers of Nottingham, wrote informing me that their archives had no mention of Edwin Copleston who worked for them in the late c19th/early c20th before going to Canada. He is most elusive and I hope his career can be more fully discovered.

Moir, Tangey of Cornwall FHS sent a Census reading taken by Dennis Ivall of Thomas Coplestone, born Fowey, working in St. Just in Penwith Mines, 1851. Thomas was grandson of John, cordwainer, ancestor of Leonard Coplestone and Dorothy Martin, whose father we are unable to discover. Fowey par. records do not show his birth and we look in ever-widening circles.

Olga wrote from New Zealand that they are thrilled with the Copleston Grace Cup, as are most of us fortunate enough to have one.

Mrs. Elsie Filby recently sent me a pack of notelets with pictures of the doorway of 2 Copleston Road, London SE15 - sorry, they are not commercially available!



DEVON PROTESTATION RETURNS 1641

Beaford Parish, Hundred of Shebbear:  
Copleston, Humphrey sen Copleston, Humphrey jun  
Bideford Parish, Hundred of Shebbear:  
Copleston, John  
Thomas Coplestone, gent., Overseer  
East Down Parish, Hundred of Braunton:  
Copleston, Julian  
Yealington Parish, Hundred of Plympton:  
Copleston, Arthur, gent.  
Copleston, Henry, Esq.  
Copleston, Henry, Overseer  
Alverdiscott Parish, Hundred of Fremington:  
Copleston, Lancelot, gent. (father of Corio, mercer)  
Great Torrington Parish, Hundred of Fremington:  
Coplestone, Anthony, gent.  
Coplestone, John, gent.  
Coplestone, John, gent.  
Instow Parish, Hundred of Fremington:  
Copleston, Humphrey, gent.  
St. Mary Major Parish, Exeter  
Coplestone, Humphrey  
Chagford Parish, Hundred of Wonford:  
Coplestone, John, gent.  
Upton Pyne Parish, Hundred of Wonford:  
Coplestone, Anthony  
Coplestone, John  
Coplestone, Henry

In Cornwall, Liskeard Parish, Hundred of West, are given  
Thomas Popelstone and Amos Coplestone. (Amias?)  
Kilhampton, Hundred of Stratton, has Timothy Coplestone.  
This is possibly Timothy Copleston, base son of Katherine,  
daughter of John Copleston and Elizabeth nee Arundell, who  
married Alice Warmington at Kilhampton in 1627.

Coriolanus, son of Lancelot of Alverdiscott, above, was  
the first dissenting member of this branch and his house  
in Bideford was certified for dissenting worship. Most  
of this branch has dissented ever since!

LONGEVITY AND INFANT MORTALITY

5.

When taking births, marriages and deaths from the GRO  
it is sad to note how many babies did not reach one  
year of age and many more died under 10 years. At the  
same time a lot of our family members lived to a good  
old age.

In 1899 Olive died in Wrexham aged 92; Sophia in Luton  
aged 87; Anna Coplestone in Marylebone at 83; Mary Ann  
Coplestone in Plymouth at 81 and Coriolanus the HMSO  
bookseller in Nottingham at 90 (the latter three in 1900).

In 1898 Margaret Copleston died under 1 year, also Leonard  
at Woolwich. (Margaret at Edmonton). In 1899 Wm. Harold  
Coplestone died aged 1 at Taunton and Ivor Coplestone at  
Swansea aged 1 in 1898. Henry George Coplestone died  
under 1 year at Farnham in 1900 as did Albert E. Coplestone  
at Taunton, also Grace Violet Coplestone at Portsmouth.

These early deaths account for some of the gaps in some  
of our branches where there are up to five years between  
births, showing that I have heretofore only found those  
who lived, married and had families. Until the GRO ex-  
tractions are finished, none of these will be complete.

In the same year Grace Violet died, Fanny Coplestone of  
Portsmouth died aged 80, possibly her gt-grandmother.

Going back to the 1860's and 70's, I have found a Walter  
Josiah who died under 1 year at Pancras in 1868 and think  
he may have been a son of my gt-grandfather Josiah. In  
the same year died Jonevane Coplestone, under 1, in St.  
Thomas (Exeter). In 1879 twins Edwin and James Copleston  
died under 1 at Cheltenham and at St. Thomas John Cople-  
stone died aged 82. My gt-gt-grandfather  
William, printer, died in Leeds aged 75 in 1877 and Alice  
Amy died in Islington that year aged 5. Two Wrexham  
children died under 1 year - James in 1876 and Jessie Maud  
in 1878. It is amazing in these times that there were  
some families of 12 or 13 children all of whom lived to  
be adult and raise families of their own. The women of a  
century ago have my sincere sympathy!



CENSUS READINGS OF 1881 from Ruthin, Clwyd  
Contributed by Willis Copleston, Flint

6.

7 St. Marks Terrace, Wrexham (then Denbighshire)

Name	Age	Occupation	Place Birth
Benjamin Copleston	Head 42	Painter (Master)	Maidstone
	6 men 2 boys		
Mary A.	Wife 34		Cheshire
Henry E.	Son 17	Painter	Lancs
Frank **	" 15	Bookseller App.	Wrexham
Olive H.	Dau 13	Scholar	"
Thomas	Son 10	"	"
Willie	" 9	"	"
Edith	Dau 4	"	"
Benjamin P.	Son 1	"	"

\*\* s/b Frederick. The first 5 children are of the first marriage to Harriet Roberts, the last 2 of the second, to Mary Ann Bott. There were also James, born and died 1875 and 4 born after the Census: Gertrude Annie 1881, Frank Herbert 1882, Gilbert Bott 1885 and Daisy Eleanor 1887.

4 Trafalgar Road, Wrexham

Name	Age	Occupation	Place Birth
Henry Copleston	Head 27	Cpl. Royal Welsh Fusiliers	Grantham
Ellen	Wife 23		Portsmouth
Henry Ed.	Son 4		Wandsworth
Ellen May	Dau 2		Penge
Chas. Arthur	Son 8 mths		Wrexham

There were also two lodgers. If anyone knows of this family, please let me know - Henry's birth does not appear at the GRO.

12 King Street, Wrexham

Name	Age	Occupation	Place Birth
Charles Coplestone	Head 47	Tailor	Deptford
Elizabeth	Wife 34		Llandegwen, Mont.

Two lodgers, one a jeweller, the other Curate of Wrexham. Charles shows as lodger with Thomas, printer at Alma Terr. in the 1861 Census. Chas. marr. 1868 Llanfyllin. Does anyone know of his family?

7.

7 Penybryn

Name	Age	Occupation	Place Birth
Benjamin Owen	Head 39	Builders Merch.	Wrexham
Catherine	Wife 39		Maidstone
Thomas	Father-in-law 77	Retired Painter	Aylesford
Olive	Mother-in-law 73		Maidstone

As Willis says, it looks as though Thomas and Olive ended their days with daughter Catherine.

Willis also notes that at 13 King Street lived Will. H. Bott, whom he believes to be younger brother of Mary Ann Bott, with wife Mary and son Maurice aged 9 months.

He has also looked at the Non-Conformist records for 1856-1975 and says there are no records for the family, which seems surprising, considering the Methodist leanings in this family.

For interest, I append the reading for 1861 of 3 Alma Terrace, Wrexham:

Name	Age	Occupation	Place Birth
Thomas A. Copleston	32	Printer Compositor	Greenwich
Emily	32	Wife	Maidstone
Elizabeth F.	9	Dau	"
Edward T.	7	Son	"
Charles R.	2	"	Wrexham
William H.	2 mths	"	"
Charles Copleston	28	Lodger, Tailor	Deptford

They were not at this address in the 1871 Census.

It seems Charles must have been a relative, but we can't trace him. His wife died 1885 aged 39 and I have found no children of the marriage.

It would be helpful if any of you could look for Cops in your County in Kelly's Directories and then look at the Census in your Record Office or Central Library - look for addresses in the Census years 1841-1881. I shall never be able to do all this myself and a leaf from Willis' book could be taken!



Since typing the previous page the family have kept Alan busy dropping letters through my door - Christopher writes from Colchester that his convalescence is over and he is back to work - I hope to visit him and his wife between Easter and my holiday in Ullapool in mid-May.

I shall be in the ancestral acres at Easter, having been invited to Road Farm by the Kitchens - Mary and young Simon participated in the singing of The Messiah at Bow Church recently, I'm told. Having corresponded with Vera Toetcher about Washbourne (anciently Waysshburne) recently, where the family were patrons of the perpetual chantry of the Blessed Mary of Waischborn (so spelled in the 15th), I wonder if Mary can be persuaded to drive Totnes way to see the area and meet Vera and her husband there? (Note - copy of this to Mary Kitchen!)

Willis in Flint, now properly bitten by the family history bug, has sent me Census readings taken at Ruthin R.O. which I have reproduced in the centre pages. The tree I promised for this Newsletter of Samuel b. 1637 (p.11 January) will have to wait until I have all the names and dates completed, so the Census takes its place. While on the subject of 'trees' may I ask for dates of birth and marriage and of children, from the family? Frank of Flamstead, St. Albans, is kindly 'doing' some trees and we find he will have to leave a number of gaps to be filled in later - he is off to Malta shortly for a well-earned rest and taking some pedigree information to work on whilst there.

Leonard Coplestone writes from Shrewsbury with some helpful advice on problems and suggestions to keep me busy at the PRO! My heart sank when he agreed with me on the possibility of there being three sets of Johns and Margerites connected with the Offwell Family!

Having taken time out to do some searching for Rev. Bill Bulley of Chagford, I have him back to his 3-gts grandfather, another William, married to Susannah Palk at Staverton in 1802. Two Wms were born there in 1776 and 1780, so one is possibly his 4-gts.

THE WILL OF RICHARD COPIESTONE OF WOODLAND, Gent.

Date of Will 13 Sept 1617. Proved 29 Nov 1617.

Towards repair of church of Little Torrington 13s4d and to poor of same parish 20s.

To Richard Coplestone my son and heir my gold ring wherein my arms are engraven and a great silver cup gilt with his cover.

To Elianor my wife all my tenement known as Maynerdes Tenement for 40 years if she so long live and after her death my son Thomas shall have the tenement.

To my wife my best half dozen of silver spoons and all her jewels and rings.

To each of my two daughters half a dozen silver spoons and to my son Thomas one other dozen of silver spoons.

To my son Dudley Coplestone best silver salt and cover.

To my sons Tristram and Henry a silver goblet each and to my son Francis a stone cup covered with silver.

My godson Richard Herte: my goddaun, Henry Blanchards dau. Residue to Elianor my wife executrix.

Overseers: my brother in law Richard Bellewe esq., my cousin William Philipps, gent. and John Allyn of Little Torrington, gent.

Witnesses: John Allen, Jonas Pylman, John Reyne and David Grellies.

Commiss. to Will. Tooker cleric vicar of Monckleigh and Simon Hart rector of Little Torrington to take the oath of Helimore Copleston, relict and executrix of Richard Copleston esq. late of Little Torrington.

Executed 29 Nov 1617 by Simon Herte.

Invent. by John Judd and John Rewe of Little Torrington, 7 Nov 1617.

Plate, rings and Jewells £31.3s4d.  
Sum £370.14s.2d.

(Archd. of Barum)

This extract is from the collection at Westcountry Studies Library - original Wills were lost in the bombing during W.W.II. What happened to all the 'gold rings wherein my arms are engraven' which appear in several of the Copleston Wills??



Births	Deaths	Age
Frederick C. Nottingham	Lilly (ppe) 0	Portsea
John Robert(e) Lambeth	Maria " 38	Portsea
Lilly (ppe) Portsea	Laura	
Marion " Totnes	Caroline 72	St. Thos
Alfred Toogood, Honiton	Henry (ppe) 63	Liskeard
Henry (ppe) Bodmin	Nelley	
Frank Herbert Wrexham	Eliza (ppe) 1	Portsea
Christina (ppe) Fulham	Henry (e)	
Harry Percy " Alverstoke	Herbert 29	N. Abbot
Clara Charl. Cheltenham	Ellen 47	Marylebone
Leonard Oliver, Nottingham	Elizabeth	
Albert Henry(e) Beth. Green	(ppe) 58	Portsea
Eddy Elizb. " Westminster	Emma (ppe) 32	W. Ham
Fredk. Lewis " Chester		
Blanche (ppe) St. Austell	(e) = Coplestone	
Geo. Albert " Portsea	(ppe) = Coplestone	
Henry " Liskeard	All others = Copleston	

Marriages

Herbert Wm. (e) N. Abbot  
 Elizabeth (ppe) Portsea  
 Sarah Jane " Liskeard  
 Benj. John H. " Portsea

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The Will of Henry cf Liskeard was proved at Bodmin by his son John Bartlett C., then of Barnstaple. The Will of Henry Herbert was proved Exeter by his parents, Herbert (baker of Middx) and Ann. The Will of Laura Caroline was proved Exeter by Rev. Edward George C., nephew and Charlotte Chester Fox-Strangways (wife of Rev. Henry F-S) of Silvertown, niece. There are no other Wills or Admons. for this year at Somerset House. I had hoped to see some for the enormous Coplestone family in the Portsea area, to help in discovering their origins. As early as 1642 Nicholas Coplestone of 'Southton' was apprenticed to his father Gabriel, Cutler. Nicholas' sons Gabriel & Bartholomew were bapt 1669 at Southampton Holy Rood.

RECENT SEARCH

On p.9 of the January Newsletter I said that I would report on John and Edwin after receiving notes on them from Christopher in Colchester. I contacted Player's, for whom Edwin was said to have designed the famous sailor, but they gave me the names of designers who actually drew the trademark and Edwin's was not among them. They referred me to the printers in Nottingham for whom Edwin worked, but they had few records and could not help, although both were very kind letters.

John was said to have been drama critic of the Daily Telegraph and arranger of Sir Henry Irving's first tour of the U.S. The Telegraph know not of him and he was not concerned with any of Sir Henry's tours, so we must look elsewhere! One wonders how these stories originate. Edwin certainly worked for Forman, the printers in Nottingham at one time, but until he went to Canada we know little of him. He was, of course son of Coriolanus, bookseller and John was a brother of this Coriolanus.

Most recent research has been the routine stuff of extracting names from the GRO, doing some work on the 'missing generation' and the Offwells and gathering a few more Patent Rolls, but latterly I have had an R and R time, sewing some new clothes because, to quote the old female phrase "I haven't a thing to wear"! One does need to get away from it all once in a while to prevent the head bursting with facts and figures.

I did find some interesting little pieces like notes of proceedings in Parliament on the Act for disannulling the pretended title of Charles Stuart in September 1656. Among the names of those appointed to the Committee to sit on the bill was that of Sir John Coplestone. In 1657 he was paid the money he had disbursed for the charge of maintaining Spanish prisoners. In the year he died, 1686, he was writing letters to the Duke of Albemarle with news of the Court and of Parliament. There are in fact dozens of references to him in the State Papers, of which one day I hope to make a collection.