

(Devon & Cornwall Record Society)

25 July 1434, to the archdeacon of Cornwall to enquire in full chapter into the vacancy etc. of the parish church of St. Felicitas (Phillack) in Cornwall to which master Ralph Hykys chaplain has been presented by Sir Thomas Arundell, knight, Renfred Arundell, esq., John Copleston, Nicholas Ayssheton and John Tressythy.

4 April 1447 Peyngton, to the archdeacon of Exeter to sir John Payn and sir William Jowett, chaplains, on the petition of master Thomas Copleston rector of Chaggeford to sequesterate the estate of his predecessor sir William Forde deceased, the bishop having been satisfied by documentary proof that dilapidations in the rectory houses, walls and fences were occasioned by his neglect.

27 April 1451, to master William Palmer precentor of the collegiate church of Holy Cross Cridditch, on the petition of master Thomas Copleston preb. of Woodland in that church, to enquire into dilapidations in the houses etc. of the prebend left by his predecessor master John Newcomb.

Nothing further has been discovered of this Thomas, 'son of unmarried parents' who was Junior (Southern) Proctor of Oxford University in 1445-6, Canon of Crediton in 1451 and Rector of Nymet Roland in 1457. He was Rector of Chagford from 28 March 1444 until his death in 1470. He was probably born in 1422, since the Papal Letters tell us he was in his 21st year in 1442. It would be interesting to know how much time he spent in Devon and how much at Oxford, for he was Principal of Peter Hall in 1451. He would not be the only Copleston of the Church to be chided for leaving one or other of his responsibilities unattended!

It will be an interesting task, some day, to list all the known members of the family who were priests or pastors, under their various denominations, Catholic, Anglican, Independent, Methodist, Baptist, et al.

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PATENT ROLLS, HENRY VI 1422-1429

24 November 1422, Westminster

Appointment, during pleasure, of John Copleston of the County of Devon, the younger, and Thomas Congreve, to be receivers-general of the Duchy of Cornwall in all counties of England, without the counties of Cornwall and Devon, receiving in that office £20 yearly.

The like within the said counties with the usual fees. The like of the same to be stewards of the said duchy within the county of Devon and wardens of the stannary in the said county, receiving in that office £20 yearly.

Some 230 years later the Parliamentary Survey of the Duchy of Cornwall was undertaken and this is the subject of the recent Devon & Cornwall Record Society publication - Part I (Austell Prior - Saltash). Part II will be on the Isles of Scilly - West Antony and manors in Devon.

Edited with an Introduction by Professor Norman J. G. Pounds, Part I is not only interesting in itself, but is a rich source of names and families and their holdings and tenancies. Relationships are shown in many cases, which will be of great help to family historians.

The only mention I have so far found to our family is under the Honour of the Castle of Launceston, where the freeholders include "Heirs of Christopher Copleston, $\frac{1}{2}$ fee in Penrose."

Christopher's son John (Sheriff of Devon 1597), it will be remembered, alienated the manor of Penrose-Burdon to William Billing in 1592. Whether the above 'Penrose' has any connection, I do not know, but doubtless I shall be told! Under Manor of Landreynne is mentioned a Walter Paplestone - could he be 'one of ours'?

RECENT SEARCH

2.

While looking in Wiltshire for a friend searching the unusual name of 'Collar' I came across two (I think) George Coplestons in Minutes of Proceedings in Sessions.

Epiphany Sessions 1584. Richard Burgis of Lurgesall, smith, bound in £10 and his sureties, Wm. Bele, shoemaker and Edmund Cooke, gent., both of the same, each in £5 for his appearance at that Sessions and for his keeping the peace, particularly towards George Coplestone, by certificate of Wm. Button esq. George Copleston of the same, yeoman and his sureties Wm. Ashton and George Copleston, both of Pewsey, husbandmen, similarly bound, and peace to be kept particularly towards Richard Burgis by certificate of the same Wm. Button.

Fines taxed by the court of 3s4d each - of Thos. Butcher of Bratton, husbandman, who pleads not guilty to an indictment and presentment for not repairing the queen's highway; and of George Copleston of Lurgesall, yeoman, who pleads not guilty to an indictment for battery.

Easter Sessions 1584. George Copleston, mercer, bound in £40 and his surety, Richard Honeywell of Durrington, husbandman, in £20 for his appearance at the next Sessions. St. Thomas Sessions 1584. The fine of George Copleston for battery is taxed by the court at 5s and 6s8d for the fine for unlawful games.

Summer Assizes 1584. George Copleston of Lurgesall, barber, bound in £40 and his sureties, Thos. Morris and George Garnatt, both of Pewsey, yeomen, each in £20 for his appearance at the next Sessions.

It looks as though George of Pewsey, husbandman, was father or uncle of the other George who variously describes himself as yeoman, mercer and barber! Battery and unlawful games - quite a tearaway, wasn't he? I don't know who these Georges are, unless they were from the Coplestons of Wash in Dorset, but will try to find more about them.

I also found that Anthony Copleston, Richard Bamfylde and Anselm Lamb held, in the 1st year of Queen Mary, lands in various Wiltshire villages.

3.

Another George of whom more has been discovered is the brother of Rev. John Copleston of Bideford. Since finding the piece in State Papers about his being ordered to pay for fish received on board in Newfoundland in 1731 I have sought more information. The Dept. of History, Maritime History Group at Memorial University of Newfoundland informed me that they had information on Coplestons which would involve 3 hours search time at \$15.00 per hour. I sent \$15.00 (my limit!) and said I would put the results in this Newsletter and if the family wished to contribute the other two hours, I would contact them further. I may, however, be able to find more at the Public Record Office. This was the information sent:

1710 Capt. George Copleston sailing out of Bideford on the "Peace"

1720 Capt. George Copleston master of the "Frederick" between Bideford and Newfoundland

1731 Mr. George Copleston of Fermoise, Mfld., bought fish, etc. (as in the piece I sent them). ***

1732 Capt. George Copleston on "Sarah" out of Bideford for Newfoundland and Portugal

1733 Capt. George Copleston on "Sarah" out of Bideford for Portugal and Mediterranean

1734 Capt. George Copleston on "Sarah", Bideford, for Newfoundland and Portugal

1736 Capt. George Copleston, "Sarah", 70 tons, Bideford, for Newfoundland and Spain

1738 Capt. George Copleston, "Sarah", Bideford to Newfoundland

*** The Admirals' Court was at Fermoise, where the case was heard; I think they are in error - George was of Bideford.

The George in 1710 and 1720 was probably uncle of George of the "Sarah". I imagine he so named his ship because his wife was Sarah Prust, whom he married in Bideford on 16 January 1722. I have a baptism of their son Christopher 22 May 1728 "at home" by Rev. Nathaniel Cock, Pastor of The Great Meeting House before Rev. John Copleston.

George was buried in Bideford 27 June 1753 and Sarah on 19th April 1754.

EARLY 20TH CENTURY MARRIAGES

4.

It is helpful that during this period the GRO began to show the name of the spouse and if you recognise any of the names perhaps you will kindly send details:

Spell-ing	Spouse	Place	Chr. Year.
John	Summers	Bethnal Gn.	Dec 1913
Albert H.	Monck	Pancras	Jun 1914
Herbert	Gray	Belper	Sep 1914
Elsie	Redmond	Liskeard	Mar 1920
Henry H.	Hallett	Chesteron	Jun "
Elizabeth	Codling	Lincoln	Sep "
Alfred P.	Newton	Axminster	Mar 1921
Elsie L.M.	Avery	Hackney	Sep "
Stanley	Bali	Swansea	Dec "
Ronald	Gibson	Weardale	Mar 1936
Henry E.	Bryant	Wodwich	Jun "
Cyril	Parsons	Sheffield	Sep "
Edwin C.	Wootton	E. Ham	Jun 1937
Lois M.	Knight	New Forest	Sep "
Frederick S.	Putnam	Edmonton	" "
Blodwen	Evans	Bedwelty	Dec "
Clifford	Wakeham	Kingsbridge	" "

I should be very happy if some of you would send in articles for the Newsletter - anecdotes about your family; queries; information about occupations, particularly if several generations have followed the same one; in fact, anything which helps build up the general family picture. You may not think things interesting - the rest of the family probably will!

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October is sub-time for those of you who have not already remitted or who have joined us during the year. Costs still rise, unfortunately. I have kept them down by ceasing the copy-printing of the cover page, which means we can't have pictures - perhaps you will let me have your thoughts on this.

RELATED BY MARRIAGE

5.

The more I study family history in Devon and Cornwall, the more it becomes apparent that every prominent family of the past made marriages with all the others - the same is true of the 'lesser orders' of which the majority of our branches became part! A Will and an Indenture in the Croker family provide examples and also remind us of the old couplet that 'Croker, Cruwys and Copleston, when the Conqueror came were found at home'.

In his Will dated 16.1.1520 and proved 1.2.1520, John Croker of Lynham left 'To fader in law Sir Lewes Pollard, kt., a standing cup of silver and gilt to pray for my soul and V marcs if he shall be at my burying and help to carry out this will. To cosin Thomas Copleston V marcs and a black gown under similar conditions and to cousin John Copleston of Yalh'mpton a black gown....Residue of all goodes to Sir Lewes Pollard and sd Thomas Copleston, whom I ordeyn and make my ex'ors with Sir John Hunt, priest."

In the Indenture dated 5 August 1612 between Anthony Copleston of Pynes and George Croker of Lynham it is recited that George gave to Robert Yeo lands called Crocker's heale in the parish of Meeth and that Robert Yeo devised his interest 7 April, 8 Eliz., to John Shibburgh at Shebbear and sd John devised it to Anthony Copleston, since dec'd and Richd Westcombe and that Anthony Copleston (son of sd Anthony C.) is now rightfully possessed of sd lands. Anthony Copleston, in consideration of £50 given by said George Croker, grants to him his interest in the sd term in half the property, reserving all rights wch had been reserved in the original lease given by John Croker esq., dec'd.

There are dozens of these wills and deeds which, could we but read them all, would reveal a great deal more about the family, their relationships and transactions. Unfortunately not very many are in print and some are in the hands of private persons, but those available in the PRO and elsewhere I shall hope to be able to read after my paleography studies this fall.

THE COPLESTON CHANTRY

Not having been able to find documentation on the founding of the Chantry in St. Andrew's, Colebrooke, I was very pleased to discover in "The Chantry Certificates for Devon and the City of Exeter" by Lawrence Snell, published Exeter 1960, a Certificate on the 'Chantry of Colbroke' - 1545 - as follows:

The Chantrye called the chauntrye of Colbroke, ffoundyd by Walter Copleston ffor the fynding of A pryste to praye for his sowle, the sowles of Elizabethhe his wyfe, his parentes, and theire children. And expecyallye for the sowle of Edmund Stafforde some-tyme busshop of Exeter (note - he was consecrated 20 June 1395, died 3 Sept. 1419 at Clist Palace and buried at St. Mary Magdalen's Chapel in Exeter Cathedral) wt in the p'ishe churchs of Colbroke aforesayd ffor the contynuaunce whereof the sayd Walter Copleston enfeofed one Philipp Copleston his brother w^t dyv'se other in all those his messuages, lands and ten'tes lyeng and being in Shortecomb, Blacaller, Hemepeare, Combe, Torbryan and in those his towe messuages w^t theire app'tenances lying in Grydycon wch sometyme were in the tenure and occupacon of John Harper and John Oneme. To have and to hold all the p'myssees to thabovenamyd Philipp and other the feoffees Being put in trust on that behalf uppon condycion that they shulde fynde a pryste to celebrate masse, dirige and other dyvyne s'vyce for the sayd Walter w^t other as is before declared paying to the sayd pryste for his Annuall stipend or salarye vijl xijls iiijd yerelye to be taken out of the revenues and p'fyttes of the sayd landes. The sayd Colbroke is Borough towne and is pepled by est' w^t houselyng peple.

The yerelye value of all the landes and possessyons belonging or app'tayning to the sayd Chantrye called the Chantrye of Colbroke As by p'tic'l'r bookes thereof made and redye to be shewed more playnlye apperythe:

(No value given for lands or for ornaments, jewels, etc.) The sayd Chantrye ffoundyd w^t in the p'yshe church of Colbroke aforesayd by thabovenamyd Walter Copleston and

so called by that name Copleston's Chantrye was dissolved by John Copleston of Copleston Esquyer and Wyll'm Snellyng wyth in this half yere or thereabowtes w^t out the kynge's maiesties lycence by them first obteyned or hadd. The certayn value of the landes and possessyons belonging to the Chantrye we knowe not.

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We have always been given to understand that the Chantry was founded by Philip and Walter in memory of their father, John, but it would seem that Walter was the actual founder and there was not quite so much filial piety as we believed! Walter's 'sowle' and that of his wife come first and Bishop Stafford is also included. It would be interesting to learn of the 'dyv'se others' enfeofed along with Philip in the messuages, lands and tenements.

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Nearly 200 years before the founding of 'Copleston's Chantrye' the grant was made by Sir Walter de Baa, Lord of Colbrok, of 60s of rent for making a chantry in honour of God, of the Blessed Virgin in the church of Colbrok; altar of the Blessed Virgin in the church of Colbrok; also of a tenement for the chaplain to inhabit, with common pasture in the lord's demesne of Colbrok throughout the year and the use of wood for kitchen and chamber and of the mill immediately after the lord's wheat.

This grant was witnessed, among others, by Hugh de Copleston who was possibly 4-gts-Grandfather to Philip and Walter. It is undated, but believed to have been made c1260. Hugh was named in the Return of the Hundred Jury in 1275 as 'Hugh de Copleston (of Coplestone in Colebrook)', in the Manor and Hundred of Crediton.

Where, I wonder, was the tenement which the chaplain inhabited and who, indeed, was the chaplain? These will be among the growing number of unanswerable questions in our family history, although when I have taken my paleogeography class I should be able to dig a little more deeply into the past.

How many of you, I wonder, saw the programme about Cardinal Newman a few Sundays back? When the scene moved to Oriel College, the portrait in the Senior Common Room of Edward Copleston, Bishop of Llandaff and Dean of St. Paul's was shown. I took a picture of the portrait on my visit there and remember reading in the collection of letters written by the Bishop, in the College Library, concerned remarks about 'Newman and his disciples'!

In the Foreign Office card index at the PRO, New, I found a couple of interesting entries (up to 1919): Reginald D. Copleston, Commdr. Legion of Honour; Japanese Order of the Sacred Treasure - and - Lieut. F.L. Coplestone RN: Offered his services in connection with a Road Guard Scheme in S. Persia.

Does any member of the family know of Coplestones with the middle name of Kennard or Kinnaird?

Recently while giving a little help to our friend Pip Bebbington on his current project, I had occasion to visit two more Libraries for the first time: The Commonwealth Institute Library (University of London) and Westminster Abbey Library. At both places I was given kind and courteous assistance and would like once more to record my appreciation of the help given by Librarians and staff everywhere.

I did ask in the last Newsletter (there is a short reminder on p.10 of this issue also, but not displayed with enough prominence) for details of your recent generations. It is really important to have all this information and no-one has yet responded. To some of you I am sending 'roughouts' to be filled in with dates and places; will the rest of you give me your own dates and places of birth, parents, children, marriages - everything you know of your own family. To put 'John Coplestone born 1915' on a 'tree' is just not enough and eventually they will all be deposited - please co-operate in this task.

I am still unable to draw up the branch from Samuel, born 1837 Maidstone and married in India while serving with the 37th Regiment, since I await further particulars of descendants - of whom there are many. However, while speaking with Roy Copleston in Pudsey, belonging to this family, he mentioned a strange coincidence. A friend of his since childhood married a Marilyn Copleston, who is daughter of Richard Copleston, brother of Reg and Harold, who descend from John, brother of the above Samuel. I cannot work out all the 'removals', but Roy and Marilyn are certainly cousins.

Mrs. Rose Byrne, nee Copleston of this family, in Wallasey, corresponds regularly and enjoys the Newsletter - her father was Samuel, son of Samuel above, born at Meen Meer in 1872.

Samuel b.1872 had a brother Edmund William born Puttighur 1867. E.W.'s son, Ronald, lived in Pinner, Middx in 1965, but I am unable to trace him and if anyone knows of him or of his children I shall be glad to hear.

I've not for a long time mentioned my gt-Grandfather Josiah and am still trying to trace his whereabouts between his short-lived marriage to Ellen King in Leeds in 1850 and his marriage to my gt-Grandmother, Elizabeth Sarah Galloway in Greenwich in 1859. During such a period he could have been transported for some misdemeanor or imprisoned here, emigrated, or even been working quietly in some county into which I have not put my inquisitive nose! If anyone ever finds mention of him during these years please inform me. There is little doubt that the second marriage was bigamous - which was not unusual at that time - but did he and Ellen part by mutual consent or did he deliberately keep a low profile during those nine years?

Regarding the branches of Leonard Coplestone in Shrewsbury, Stephen in Liverpool and Peter, Michael and Colin in London, I've still had no breakthrough, although I believe Stephen and P. M. and C. are from the same branch, probably that of Instow, Ide, etc.

In the Bideford Parish Registers some time ago I found that Richard Copleston drowned on The Factor 5 October 1709. I have not been able to place this Richard, but recently found in the Treasury Books an item which is a help towards that end:

June 6, 1710. Warrant by Treasurer Godolphin to the Customs Commissioners to pay £39 to the widows and children as follows of three late tidesmen of Bideford who were unfortunately drowned on duty; to be as charitable relief and support as was granted to widows and children of several officers of Bristol who fell under the like calamity upwards of 5 years since, viz. a bounty to the widow of one quarter of their husbands salary and 30s for each child, viz.

Anne Carter £7.10s and £3 for two children
Deborah Lake £7.10s and £1.10s for one child
Mary Copleston £7.10s and £12 for eight children.

Poor Mary! She is obviously the widow of Richard and must have had a hard life raising those children, one of whom was only one year old when her father drowned. I have not found the marriage of Richard and Mary, but three of the children at least were born in Bideford: Samuel, 1705 (he became a mariner); Elizabeth, 1708 and John, 1703.

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COINCIDENCE

While taking births from the GRO I found these two, both in the March quarter of 1946 - does anyone know them? Jennifer A. Coplestone, mother Evans, b. Croydon
Jennifer A. Coplestone, mother Chapman,

b. Redruth

It would be interesting to know whether the second names were the same, also.

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May I please have names, dates and places from all of you who have not yet provided them, for the compilation of branch 'trees' - send details as soon as possible.

VISITS

In early May I visited Colchester and had great pleasure in meeting Christopher Copleston, his wife Viviane and Christopher's Mother, Ada, who is 97! Having seen the results of the searches of her late husband 'W.H.' in various publications it was very interesting to hear her memories and to be shown pictures of the family. I much enjoyed the hospitality extended to me.

At the end of April I met Dick and Betty Copleston of Cheshire, Connecticut, here on vacation, and once again went over the mystery of the origins of the Offwell family. Dick's father was Waters Edward Copleston who served in the Indian Woods and Forests Department and was Chief Conservator, Bombay, in 1920. Dick's Grandfather, John Henry C., was a Rector of Offwell. One of Dick's two sisters sent me an Offwell 'tree' which looks as though it may have been drawn by Edward Llandaff, with later additions.

Most recent meeting, in this month of June, was with Nancy Glarner of Warren, Penna., over here with her husband for a holiday. Over tea at Fortnum's, we attempted to press four hours of chat into one - thanks for the maple syrup, Nancy (how did she know of my secret vice?). Nancy, of course, descends from Elizabeth C. of Woodland who married Thomas Carter.

A visit was made to David and Ruth, up Chester way, in which I did not participate, but since I was apparently toasted, one could say I was there 'in spirit'. The visitors were Willis, from Flint, with his daughter Joan; Reg and Olive from Hadleigh and Reg's brother Robert with his wife, Joan, who now live near Stockport. From Willis' enthusiastic report I gather that a great time was had by all.

Several family members have suggested another gathering; perhaps in North Devon, so that other places of interest could be visited. Would anyone like to be organiser for, say, next spring? I now find my time so full that if it were left to me I would have a breakdown, for sure!