

Corrections and Additions

Col. Swinnerton rightly pointed out my error in GRO births on page 9 of the last issue. The first entry should read '1838' - an aberration!

Page 2 of that issue. I suspected a 3rd marriage of Rev. Coriolanus, but since the Methodist Magazine tells us that when Corio younger was 12 his mother was taken dangerously ill, but recovered and my 3-gts. Grandfather William was born in 1772, it seems that he was the son of Sarah Bowler after all.

Apologies for not, as promised, being able to give news of Edwin, son of the last Corio, the HMSO bookseller. Time has not permitted the searching required, but I promise Christine some news next time.

We have not heard from Wrentham, Mass. about the Lancelot born there in 1859; another enquiry will be sent.

Some names have arrived from Charleston, S.C., and a letter sent to one of them. They are certainly descendants of the Samuel in the family of our Benfleet Coplestons.

Two or three more members of the 'Offwell' family have come to light, one in Edinburgh and two in Devon and there are copious notes on the family which I hope to see in September in Devon.

The surmising in the second paragraph of page 2 of the last issue is corrected in pages 6 and 7 of this, although Thomas is a mystery.

COPLESTON FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1 No. 3 Organiser: Mrs. Muriel Reson
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CHRISTOPHER'S PARDON

The Pardon for Christopher Copleston has been found in the Calendar of Patent Rolls 1560-63 1562 20 Aug Greenwich

'Pardon for Christopher Copleston late of Warleigh, co. Devon, indicted by an inquisition taken at Tamerton Follett, co. Devon, on 22 March, 4 Elizabeth, before Raymond Northley and John Marshall, coroners in the county on the body of Christopher Monns alias Monnes late of Wolston, co. Cornwall, yeoman, for the manslaughter of Monns in a quarrel at Tamerton Follett on 22 March aforesaid.'

A photocopy of the Pardon has been obtained from the Public Record Office and is being studied. Since it is in Latin and in 16th century script, this could take a while!

So Christopher was not, after all, a murderer, but a manslaughterer! It will be interesting to learn what information is given as to the forfeit and this, of course, will be in the next issue.

Other Pardons have been noted at various times; one wonders how many other quick-tempered Coplestons there were!

From "CATALOGUE OF BOOKS & DEEDS ON SALE BY
JAMES COLEMAN" viewed at The Society of
Genealogists.

Richard 253
142 Early Charter from John Gerrard and
Johanna, his wife, who by this Charter confirms
to William Champnour Esq. land and testaments
in the burgo of Dodbroke, testified by Richard
Coplestone and others, in fine state, with a
pretty seal of a Merchant's Mark, dated 4 May
in the 38th year of King Henry VI 1459. 21s.

Hugh 180
599 Family Deed between Christopher
Copleston of Copleston in co. Devon Esq. and Hugh
Copleston, Gent. and Rycharde Hore of Highweke in
the same County relates to land etc. Sopilhill
in the parish of Highweke, with signature of
Christopher Copleston dated 1568. 7.6d.

Lancelot 105
621 Wright, Coplestone and Scott. A
large Deed between Richard Wright of Rotherhithe
co. Surrey and William Wright his only son and
heir and Lancelot Coplestone of the same and
John Scott of Bishopsgate, Gent., this relates to
a large part of Rotherhithe, three large skins,
one of them a plan of the said Estates in Streets,
lanes and Houses, three feet by three feet six
inches, with all their Signatures and Seals, Very
important large Deed, 1723. 30s.

Where are they now, these documents - particu-
larly the last one which, at 30s, was a bargain
even in the 19th century!

OUR ONE AND ONLY KNIGHT

John Copleston of Nash lived at Upton Pyne, which
property he bought of Anthony Copleston, his
father-in-law, in 1640. His wife was Grace and
their son John married Mercy Hole in 1644 and their
son was named Desborough after, it would seem, the
Colonel famed in the Civil War. Desborough's grand-
father was Sheriff of Devon when he was knighted
by Cromwell at Whitehall in 1655, the only Sir
John or Sir Anything in the Copleston family. White
Spur, yes, (of this details in the next Newsletter),
but no other titles were given.

In the Calendar of State Papers, Venetian, we see
that on June 22nd 1655 Lorenzo Aulucci, the
Venetian Secretary in England, wrote to Fiovanni
Sagredo, Ambassador in France: "The Protector.....
To encourage others to serve him he has recently
knighted some who resisted the late conspiracy".

In Knights of England Vol. II Dr. Shaw records only
two knights at this time, John on June 1st and John
Reynolds, commissioner-general in Ireland, on the
11th June.

John descended from Raphe Copleston of Copleston
via his second son, Nicholas.

In the Harleian Registers of St. James, Clerkenwell
is found: "May 16 1686 Sir John Copleston buried
fro' the Old Palace Yard in the Chancery". Why
from Old Palace Yard, Westminster? I must be off
on the trail again to discover why the journey to
Clerkenwell was necessary. On Nov 15 1678 "The
Lady Copleton buried from Westminster." appears
in the same volume and I presume this was Grace.
Why were they at Westminster when they had seemed
to be living in the City?

DIRECTORY ENTRIES (Kelly's unless otherwise stated)

Robson's 1832: Copplestone Coffe Rooms, 35 Wych Street, Strand, London WC
 1852 Edward Coppleston, Solr. (Meynell & Coppleston)
 3 St. Martin's Place, Trafalgar Square. Private add.
 4 Nottingham Place, Marylebone.

**1859 Coriolanus, general dealer, 44 Old Street Road E.C. (was HMSO bookseller also)

Copplestone Jacob, merchant 11 Mark Lane EC
 1863-4-5 J. Copplestone, 1 Camden Road Place N.

1866 Jacob Copplestone 383 Camden Road N.
 1868 Copplestone, Edwin, 21 Addington Road, Bow E.

*Josiah Coppleston, engraver, 6 Newcastle Street, Farringdon St., EC (no. 2 was Pauncefort Aylway, Engr., no. 4 John Leitch, stereotype founder, no. 5 John Smith, taylor; no. 7 Fox & Knott Sunday School). This was almost under Holborn Viaduct.

1880 J. Copplestone 26 Daneville Rd. Camberwell SE
 Wm. Joseph, "Six Bells", 33 Queen St. Hamersmith

Edward, 24 Oldfield Rd., Stoke Newington N.

1881 Mrs. Coppleston, 25 Alfred Place West, SW

1881-4 John Copplestone, Chandler's Shop, 50 King St. Lambeth, SE. 1895 Mrs. Copplestone, 39 Talbot Rd.

Baywater W. Mrs. Anna Copplestone, Coffee Rooms,

50 Dorset St. Portman Sq. W. John "Coffee Rooms,

37 High St., St. Giles WC. 1892 " Dining Rooms,

86 Long Acre WC. 1899 Coppleston & Rumsey, Accts.,

merc. agents, bankrupts reg'y. etc. 52 Queen St.,

Victoria St., EC. Arthur Copplestone, cab propr. 10

Gee St. Clarendon Sq. NW. 1912 Joseph Copplestone,

68 Frankfurt Rd. Herne Hill SE.

*From 1865 to 66 Josiah was at 1 Pickett Place WC, off the Strand and moved when the buildings were pulled down to make way for the Law Courts.

**Coriolanus was the progenitor of the large family of Bill Coppleston, Barking. If anyone knows anything about any of the others, please let me know.

G.R.O. ENTRIES - Deaths

Date	Name	Age	Place	Register
1837	(pp e)			
Sep	Elizabeth Mary		Portsea	VII.98
"	Mary (pp e)		Stoke Damerell	IX.224
Dec	Ellen (e)		Tynemouth	XXV.273

1838

Mar	Anne (Coppleton)	Newport Pagnell	VI.313
Sep	Catherine	Honiton	X.72
"	Mary (pp e)	Stoke Damerell	IX.244

1839

Mar	Thomas	Luton	VI.60
Jun	Thomas (pp e)	Torrington	I.136
Sep	Agnes	St. Thomas	X.126

1840

Jun	Jane (pp e)	Honiton	X.84
"	John Horatio (pp e)	Kensington	III.220
Sep	Azel (e)	Tiverton Yc.	X.170
"	Christian	St. Thomas	X.131
"	Sarah	St. Thomas	X.138

Births From Service Registers Vol. 1201 p. 51All Copplestone

Edmund W.	Futtyghur	1867	37th R.	1103	19
Eliza	Nynne Tal	1869	"	"	"
Joseph	Bengal	1850	70th R.	1054	32
Robert A.	Subathoo	1874	37th R.	1103	20
Samuel	Meen Meer	1872	"	"	19

Coppleton

John	Kingston, Upper Canada	1826	68th R.	81	3
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Army Returns (Chaplains') 1901-1905

Copplestone, Marguerite	Malta	1905	p.104
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The Thomas died Luton 1839 is possibly another of Rev. Coriolanus' sons and could be the one mentioned at the bottom of page 12, the mystery man! As much of a mystery is the youngest son William, b. 1772, my 3-ggs-Grandfather, of whose occupation I can discover nothing.

THE FIRST METHODISTS

The esteem in which Rev. Coriolanus, Curate of St. Mary's, Luton, held John Wesley was shared by three of his sons, Coriolanus the younger, Lancelot and Samuel. All three became devout Methodists and through the courtesy of the Connexional Archivist of The Methodist Church Archives and History Committee in Manchester I have obtained copies of articles from The Methodist Magazine concerning these Coplestons.

The first article was written by Samuel in 1791 after the death of his brother Coriolanus younger and tells us that Coriolanus was born in Chertsey Surrey on August 22nd 1761. "The Lord drew him by the cords of love when he was about eleven years old." At 15 he was apprenticed to a baker in Hertfordshire for 3 years, after which time his master quit his business and Coriolanus was sent to St. Albans, but after a few months removed to Potton, Beds., where his brother Lancelot lived and they both attended Mr. Berridge's ministry. He later came to London and having no friends there stayed with 'a vile youth' who had been a fellow apprentice. He 'followed him in vice which broke his delicate constitution and soon brought upon him symptoms of a consumption.'

When he returned to good health he met a young woman whom he married (Ann Olney) and he converted her 'although they had many difficulties'. She 'fell into a consumption after her first lying-in but died shouting the praises of Redeeming love'. After a life of trial and tribulation Coriolanus found in his last illness 'I find free access to a throne of grace, by the blood of Jesus and trust that all things shall work together for my good'. Samuel was with him on Tuesday 24th November 1789 when he said he was 'in peace' and died between five and six in the morning.

In 1793 the dwelling house of David Kidd, baker, was certified by T. Tattershall, L. Copleston and David Kidd and Samuel Copleston. The next year an outhouse nearby was certified by John Hickling, Joseph Walker and Samuel Copleston; this was in Romeland in St. Albans, where Samuel and Lancelot worked very hard to build up a following. The Bedford Circuit Book 1793 says 'St. Albans: Samuel Coplestone, weaver - Three new members: David Kidd, baker, Frances White, Mary Kirby. Signed, Thos. Tattershall'. Next year the register contained 12 names. 'In the face of indifference, abuse, persecution, Samuel Copleston pursued his work and the tyranny of statistics would write failure across it all. In 1799 there were only 19 names on the list. Six years of prayer, preaching witnessing and this the result!'. The above is from an article written in 1908 by Rev. J. George Greaves.

In the Magazine in 1835 is an obituary to Samuel which begins 'July 16th. At Leighton Buzzard, in the seventy-first year of his age, Mr. Samuel Copleston, who, for upwards of fifty years was a member of the Methodist society and more than 40 an acceptable and useful Local Preacher.' It seems he was much more successful at Leighton, for there was no Methodist society there when he arrived in 1800 and when he died there were 'upwards of one thousand members'. Five hundred attended his funeral and 'nearly the last words he was heard to utter were "I have sweet peace"'.

Rev. Greaves went to Charterhouse in London where he met the grandson of Coriolanus the younger who was 'down on his luck' and was 'housed for life in the splendid charity of the Charterhouse'. The kind Registrar of Charterhouse has since informed me that his name was Edwin - of him more anon.

Does anyone know anything of the numerous Methodist family members who were later in Maidstone?

ITEMS OF PRESENT DAY FAMILY NEWS

8.

In June I had the pleasure of meeting Olga and Jack Coplestone, visiting from New Zealand. After a pub lunch in the City I showed them the Guildhall and then we talked our heads off over the inevitable cups of tea! They went to Birmingham later to see Cousin Syd and Ivy and are currently on the Continent. I hope to see this cheerful pair again before they go home.

David Copleston and his wife Ettie will be here on a visit from Australia in late August and I shall have the pleasure of dining with them on their 40th Wedding Anniversary. They are of the Wrexham family and David descends from Benjamin and Mary Ann Bott, the second wife.

David and Ettie's daughter, Doris Thompson, had a baby girl, Edwina, on 30th March - congratulations! Edwin has been used several times as a name in the family and it is nice to have a female version.

Rev. F. S. Copleston and his wife, the former Arianwen Harries Davies, celebrated their Golden Wedding on June 18th, which brings forth all our good wishes. Rev. Sid is retired, but seems to me to work a great deal harder than many of us who are full-time workers!

One of our newly discovered cousins in Seaford, East Sussex, has a pedigree from the Windsor Herald dating prior to the 1st World War, over which I hope shortly to cast my envying eyes.

Mr. John C. goes into the Visitations at Edward, brother of Ralph (mistakenly called 'the Great' - should be John, Ralph's 1st son). Another error, incidentally, is in Arthur Mee's "Devon" under Tamaraton Foliot, where the 'dreadful deed' is said to have been performed by John and should, of course, be attributed to Christopher.

STOP PRESS PAGE

9.

Another Peter Coplestone has entered the family picture, whose Gt.-Uncle Edward was living in Neate Street SE5 in 1930 and whose Grandfather was Chas. Wm. Marr. Faith Petty 1901 All Saints Leyton. Will anyone with knowledge of this family contact me, please?

A letter has been received from Rev. F. S. in Swansea telling of a wonderful Golden Wedding Day and expressing their pleasure in receiving a card signed by a number of the family.

Mrs. Agnes Crosbie in Australia, sister of David who is visiting next month, has sent pictures of Benjamin (Wrexham) with 2nd wife Mary Ann Bott. Her kindness is deeply appreciated.

Syd Coplestone in Birmingham seems to have found his niche and it appears that he goes to the Instow family. Details soon.

You will note the International Standard Serial Number on page 1, which has been allocated to this Newsletter by the British Library UK National Serials Data Centre. With world-wide circulation of the number, who knows what other Coplestons may come to light?!

May I use this last piece of space to ask once more for articles of interest for the next Newsletter? You don't need literary prowess - I don't have that, just enthusiasm - come on you Coplestons, you must have some interesting anecdotes to tell. How about my only cousin Ron and his Anne in Great Bookham? (Only 1st coz, that is, I've happily gathered dozens of removed ones and still look for more!)

Deadline for October issue 30th September.

SOME ITEMS FROM THE CALENDAR OF PATENT ROLLS

1379 Nov 16 Westminster (3 Richard II) Pardon, at the request of Robert Rouse, knight, to William Copleston otherwise called William Copleston for the death of Ralph Wythel, son of Thomas Wythel.

1498 May 22 West'r. Licence for 10 marks paid in the hanaper, for Thomas Tremayle, one of the Justices of the King's Bench, to alienate the manor of Buketon, except 1 acre of land and the advowson of the church there and the keeping of the gaol of Exeter Castle, to Henry Copleston and the heirs of John Sachevyle.

1498 June 11 West'r. Licence of entry without proof for John Copleston son and heir of Ralph Copleston esquire on all the possessions of the said Ralph, as also on all lands which John Bonvyle deceased held for life by the law of England on the death of Joan his wife; the said John Copleston being kinsman and heir of the said Joan, to wit, son of Ralph the son of Ann daughter of the said Joan.

1504 Dec 11 Croydon. Grant to Thomas Copleston of Yalhampton 'gentilman' of the keeping of the lands in co. Devon of Richard Wodde, tenant in chief by knight's service, during the minority of John Wodde his son and heir and so from heir to heir.

Mention is made in the Historical MSS Commission Reports of Hugh de Coplestone and others witnessing a Grant by Sir Walter de Bae, Lord of Colbrok of 60s of rent for making a chantry. This is the earliest mention I have so far found of the family, although there are earlier records which I shall come to in time - time, aye, there's the rub!

THE COPLESTONE/COPPLESTONE CROSS

This stone is mentioned in a charter of 974 AD in which King Eadgar granted to Aelfhere his thegn three hydes of land at Nymed. Exactly where Nymed was is not known, but since the Copleston/e estate seems to have been named after the stone, the 'Copelanstan', and the family are reputed to have taken their name from it, we can imagine Coplestone village is a part.

The interlaced designs on the stone have a Celtic appearance but may have been carved by other peoples under Celtic influence. The origin of the Stone may never be known, but will doubtless be discussed for centuries yet.

It is said (and believed by most Cop(p)leston(e) correspondents) that the family was allowed to keep its lands after the Conqueror came, indicating that they were already established at that time. Perhaps they were Normans who came before the Conqueror, but I cannot help hoping that their origin in Devon was long before this.

It is not known whether the Copelanstan was a cross originally or merely a stone and if the latter, for what purpose it was raised.

The 974 Charter says "This is the Landmere of the three hydes at Nymed - First to Copelanstan, from that stone westwards on to the high road at Eisanune"

There is also a theory that the stone was named after a man called "Copela"???

Any thoughts on this?