

VISITS AND VISITORS

During the 'summer' months I have visited a number of the family, including Syd and Ivy Coplestone in Birmingham and after much exchange of information they drove me to Barford where at St. Peter's Church I took a picture of my maternal cousins in my paternally named village! They also took me to Stratford on Avon and it was altogether a most enjoyable day.

To Flamstead one Saturday, where I was royally entertained by Frank and Pauline Copleston and shown all the marvellous pictures they have taken in Devon. They took me into St. Albans where we saw the site of Samuel Copleston's efforts to introduce Methodism. We then visited with Frank's Father and Mother, with whom we took tea and spent a most pleasant time.

A trip to Seaford, which has strong paternal connections, to see John Coplestone and take some notes from his collection, including the St. Vedast 'tree' into which we are delving. Lunch in the open at Alfriston was most pleasant.

Olya and Jack Coplestone from New Zealand are now home and it was such a pleasure to spend a day in the City with them and exchange news.

To my home came David and Ettie Copleston from Australia on their 40th wedding anniversary and David and I did not stop talking all day - poor Ettie hardly got a word in! They are now with their son Peter and his family in Toronto until they go home around New Year's Day.

Meeting all these family members has been a wonderful experience and before the next Newsletter is out I hope to visit others and discover some more - they turn up in the oddest places!

THE COPLESTON FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1 No. 4
October 1979

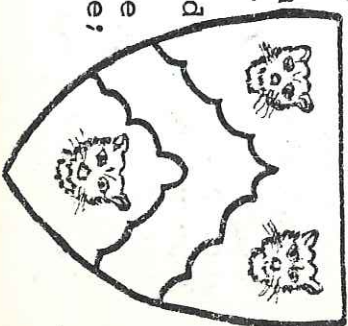
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THE TABERNACLE

("Quoddam Magnum Tabernaculum")

When Henry V was getting ready to invade France he was in need of money and some of his funds were loaned by a group of Devon gentlemen, one of whom was John Copleston, junior (his was the smallest contribution of 10 marks!). As pledge, they received a splendid tent of silver embroidered with gold and precious stones which had belonged to the Duke of Burgundy and may have been given by him to Henry's father. If Henry did not redeem within a year and a month, this pledge could be disposed of; the Mayor and Corporation of Plymouth also having contributed, it was in the safe keeping of the Dean and Chapter of Exeter.

The Issue Roll for Easter, 3 Henry V, says "To John Copelston, junior, and divers other persons coming from the county of Devon to London with a certain sum of 573/.6s.8d. borrowed from the Dean and Chapter of the cathedral church of Exeter, the Mayor and several Abbots and Priors. In money paid to the aforesaid John Copelston and his companions, for the safe conduct of certain of the King's jewellery valued at 800/ delivered to the aforesaid persons as security for the said sums borrowed of them under conditions contained in certain indentures made between our Lord the King and the said John and his companions, &c. By Writ, &c., - 10/." So the payment seems to have been made out of the King's Revenue; what happened to the tent?



13 Oct 1601: Lord Archbishop of Canterbury
Lord Keeper, Lord Treasurer,
Lord Admirall, Earl of Shrewsbury, Earl of Worcester,
Mr. Comptroller, Mr. Vice-Chamberlain, Mr. Secretary
Cecyll, Sir John Fortescue, Lord Chief Justice,
Mr. Secretary Herbert.

"A mynute of letters written to the severall gentlemen named in the severall courts of the realme as they are sett downe in the scedule following. You have before this tyme no doubt understood of the arryvall of the Spanish fleet and army in the Province of Mounster, lately come thether as the last helpe and hope to sustayne the broken strength and almost the desperate fortune of the rebells in Ireland," etc., etc.

The names of the 'gentlemen to whom their Lordships' letters were written to furnish lighthorses' includes under Devon: John Copleston - 1

Porte to embarque - Barnstable. Messenger R. Browne.

"The subscription under the letters of the sortinge and furnishing of every lighthorse: A good horse or gelding with a morocco saddle of buffe or some other good leather and a good furniture to yt, a sufficient man to serve on him furnished with a good curasse and a caske, a northren staffe, a good long pistol, a good sword and dagger and a horseman's coate of good cloathe."

On this list was also Amyas Bamfeilde. I have seen Bamfylde, Bamfield, Bamfield, Bamfyld and other variations in connection with this family which benefitted from the marriage into it of Gertrude Copleston, and earlier Adam Copleston's daughter Agnes married Thomas Bamfield of Poltmore.

Gertrude's husband John was created a baronet in 1641.

PROGRESS REPORT

Happily, we have David Copleston in Chester as yet another descendant of Rev. Coriolanus through his son John. We also have a mystery surrounding Edwin in this line, who was a master tailor in Luton and ended his days in the comfort of The Charterhouse - Like Josiah, what happened which caused him to come to London?

The Edwin of Christine Mulvaney's family is also still shrouded in mystery. It has been believed that he died in Canada not long after emigrating there and this may be the case, but another Edwin is floating around the States at that time and marrying there and we wonder whether Josiah's generation followed a pattern! A further Edwin comes into the tree of both Dorothy Marie in California and Mr. Caulford in Utah (through his Mother). We await the birth certificate copy of his father, Lancelot, born in Massachusetts 1859, hoping it will give a clue as to the origins of this family and will Stop Press it if it arrives before this goes to print.

The finding of Syd Copplestone in Birmingham into the Instow family is a great reward for all his hard work. He therefore relates to John C. at Seaford and to Mrs. Joyce Copleston who was also a Copleston before her marriage.

Since typing the above a letter has arrived from our cousin Dorrie in London, Ontario which places the death of Christine's Edwin close to 1916, for Edwin's widow and daughters were seen in heavy black weeds about that time. His death would seem to have occurred in Toronto and it should now be quite easy to trace. My apologies for even thinking that Edwin might be anything other than a good and devoted husband!

In 1654/5 at Exeter John wrote on February 9th a most polite letter to Edward Seymour: "I shall desire that without any delay after sight hereof you would appear to me or Captain Crooke in Exeter. I would be as civil to you as possibly may, and do believe that this, my letter, will be as prevelant with you as any other way I might have used. Sir, I know you to be a person of worth and honour and do not doubt but you will prevent me from being herein farther troublesome unto you." Four years later Edward Seymour was given a Pass to go to his house at Berry 'about his lawful business and surrender himself again at Exeter on 6 July next, so that in the meantime he shall neither act nor speak anything prejudicial to this present Government.'

His treatment seems to have been kinder than that received by the husbands of the ladies who petitioned in 1660 against John and Colonel Croke. In particular Arundell Penruddock whose late husband in the year 1654 had 'taken up arms against Oliver Cromwell for the restitution of His Majesty to his right and kingdom' and was taken and imprisoned. He was tried at Exeter 'contrary to the articles made with Col. Croke who perfidiously denied them, found guilty of treason by a jury, maliciously packed by Sir John Copleston, the then Sheriff, condemned to death and afterwards beheaded.' A Capt. James Dewey had seized upon her husband's estate and she 'prays that the arbitrary and malicious judgment may be condemned and reversed, that Col. Croke and the Commissioners who tried her husband may be excepted out of the Act of General Pardon and Oblivion and that her husband's estate may be restored to her and her children.' Elizabeth Poulton and Jane Grove also petitioned similarly. This information was obtained from the Calendars of the Historical MSS Commission.

Some more entries from the G.R.O.

| <u>Marriages</u> | | <u>1851</u> |
|--|---------------|-------------|
| Eliza (e) | St. Pancras | Mar 1.326 |
| Joseph (e) | Clifton | Jun 11.373 |
| Jonathan (ppe) | Liskeard | " 9.235 |
| Benjamin " | Alverstoke | Sep 7.32 |
| Christopher " | Crediton | " 10.97 |
| <u>1852</u> | | |
| Ann (ppe) | Plymouth | Jun 5b.505 |
| Amelia " | " | Dec 5b.457 |
| Elizabeth Ann (gp) | Portsea | " 2b.587 |
| Esther " | Alverstoke | " 2b.704 |
| Harriet " | Marylebone | " 1a.659 |
| <u>1853</u> | | |
| John | Islington | Mar 1b.251 |
| <u>(Copelstone)</u> | | |
| Grace (e) | Bodmin | Jun 5c.174 |
| Reuben " | Liverpool | Sep 8b.221 |
| John | Shoreditch | Dec 1c.517 |
| Wm. Geo. (pp) | Pembroke | " 11a.1135 |
| Elizabeth Lee (ppe) | Bridgend | " 11a.681 |
| <u>1854</u> | | |
| Nathaniel (ppe) | Penzance | Jun 5c.608 |
| John (e) | St. Thomas | Sep 5b.83 |
| William ** | Leeds | Mar 9b.375 |
| Eliza (pp) | Stoke Damerel | " 5b.508 |
| William (ppe) | Newton Abbot | Dec 5b.217 |
| <u>1856</u> | | |
| Mary Ann (ppe) | Bridgend | Mar 11a.483 |
| Christopher (e) | Stepney | Jun 1c.856 |
| Henry | Newbury | Dec 2c.473 |
| Louisa (e) | St. Thomas | " 5b.87 |
| ** 2nd marr. of Josiah's father; 1st wife Harriet died 1853. | | |

NB If anyone wishes to obtain a certificate, I can oblige them. (They are £6.50 by post and £2.75 by personal application!)

I spent the first week of September in Exeter and firstly would like to thank the Devon FHS members who housed me, The West Country Studies Library and The North Devon Athanaeum for their kind help.

There is such a wealth of material in the above mentioned Libraries and I came home with a load of photocopies and a book full of notes. From Devon Notes & Queries I took all the entries on the family which I had not previously been able to copy. I copied Tuckett's Pedigrees, the Woodland family, some of Acland, a few Wills and a number of Devon & Cornwall Record Society notes, to name but a few.

At Coplestone I photographed our Stone from all four sides, then walked to Colbrooke and took pictures both inside and outside the Church. It was quite an experience to see the Copleston Aisle for the first time - such a beautiful screen - and the Desk and the framed description of the Aisle for which Mrs. Alice Copleston Smith is responsible. This is beautifully done and my picture of it came out well except for one light reflection from the glass. When I walked almost to Crediton after leaving Colebrooke I saw the Church from Yeoford, between two trees in the distance and photographed it from there. I will be remembered in Yeoford, since I stopped at the Mare and Foal for a very good ham sandwich and had the unmitigated nerve to ask for tea instead of the coffee they serve. They kindly made it for me! A kind young lady drove me the last 1½ miles to Crediton as I was about to collapse!

In Crediton I visited the beautiful Holy Cross Church where in November the celebrations begin for the thirteen-hundred anniversary of St. Boniface.

One day was spent in Exmouth where I lunched with Hermione Copleston and her Mother, who was a Copleston before as well as after her marriage. Hermione's Father was the last of the long line of Rectors of Offwell and I was privileged to see the copious notes he made as he studied the family. I do thank them both for their kind hospitality.

At Barnstaple I was helped at the North Devon Athanaeum to information new to me and must go back, for I was limited in time and there is so much to see. A brief visit to Bideford where I again saw Rev. Frank Hewis and took a picture of the interior of Lavington Church because the one I took in April had been a dud!

Exeter Cathedral of course defies description, but I cannot help but think it should not be necessary to have a notice outside asking visitors to give 'at least 20P' when they enter! I imagine most people who see the Cathedral would wish to contribute to its upkeep.

On the train to Barnstaple I eyed Eggesford with longing, but had no time to visit. From the pictures showed me by Frank Copleston at Flamstead the memorials in the Church look outstanding and certainly the countryside around the area is quite lovely. Next spring, perchance, I may get there.

Other places I had wanted to visit were Ottery St. Mary and Ide, both of which have strong family connections, but they, too, will have to wait until next time.

Meanwhile, I am still typing up the notes I made and studying all my photocopies. The more I gather, the more pieces of the jigsaw fit and it has become almost obsessive - I think I should spend some time with my knitting machine and clear my mind and start afresh!

I had to suggest that my first cousin Ron and his wife Anne make a contribution, didn't I? Well, I have received one, as follows:

'A Copleston's Lament'

My life was all calm and peaceful, until that fateful day

I married a fella named Copleston and Muriel

came my way.

Now she is our 'No. 1' cousin and I really love her no end

But she has me looking for ancestors 'til I think I'll go round the bend.

We started our search down in Devon and a lovely time we had;

I am very intrigued by old Coriolanus and think William's a bit of a lad.

My husband's gone all 'hoity-toity' now he knows a grandsire was White Spur.

Whatever that means I haven't a clue, but I'm blowned if I'll call him "Sir".

Tho to tell you the truth I just love it;

I am proud to be one of the folk who take their name back to the Normans an' such

And link with the Copleston Oak. It gives me great pleasure to know I can call on

so many Coplestons, long, short and tall
And even tho' sometimes I go 'up the wall' --
I'm glad I'm a Copleston!

Thank you, Anne. I promise to delve into this 'White Spur' business - for instance, which King granted the honour? To whom?? And why???

Another curiosity is that there were no knights in those early days - perhaps they didn't want the onerous responsibilities which went with the honour.

GENERAL NOTES

Since typing the 'Visits and Visitors' page I have had the pleasure at last of meeting Leonard Coplestone and his wife at Shrewsbury. These visits are all too brief, for there is always so much to say! Apart from the tremendous help he has given, I must thank him for reminding me not to let my enthusiasm run away with me! I was shown some of the lovely countryside around the area and sent home with houseplants and fruit, the latter delicious, the former constantly to remind me of these kind Coplestones.

I must recommend a publication by the Devonshire County Council which sells for one pound and is entitled 'Doorway to Devon', which was first brought to my notice by Syd Coplestone. It gives a very good potted history and is generally most informative. In the centre pages is a fine picture of 'our' Stone.

Reading in the Books of the Court of Augmentations; Enrolments of Grants by the Crown I noted 16 Feb. 1539 'Surrender by Eliza Fowell (Abbess) of the monastery and all its possessions in Devon, Cornwall, Dorset and elsewhere and the marches thereof (Lagh or Canonleghe Abbey) Henry VIII.' One of the nuns here was Sabina Copleston, sister of Raphe and of Edward of Instow. I would dearly like to know what happened to her at this time - where she went and the kind of life she lived, if indeed she did live for long after. Most of my researches seem to have (naturally enough I suppose) been concentrated on the men of the family and while I do not want to go too far away from the main stream, I should like to know more about the ladies of the family, but there is very little in print about them except of their marriages; their only importance seems to have been in whether they took fortunes out of the family or brought them in!

10th October - Just received with deep disappointment a note from the Registry of Vital Records, Commonwealth of Massachusetts stating that they have searched the birth of Lancelot 1856/1865 throughout the Commonwealth and not found him. They kindly returned my \$2.00, so I shall return it and ask for his son, Edwin's, birth certificate, which may help.

Received in the same post a letter from The Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University Library saying that a copy of John Copleston's sermon "God's Works and Wonders in the Deep and the Seafaring Man's Duty" will arrive shortly. At last! Copies (with permission) will be deposited at The British Library, The Society of Genealogists and Lavington Church, Bideford; I will loan a copy to anyone who wishes to make a copy for their own use, but cannot, because of its length, make more than the above mentioned copies myself.

Syd Coplestone has raised the question of ties with our arms for the gentlemen of the family. My enquiries to a very good firm produced the following information: for embroidered ties, the minimum order must be 6 dozen, so that is out of the question. For terylene/barathea ties screen-printed a minimum order of 3 dozen is required and they would work out at £1.60 + 15% VAT each. If enough people are interested I should be glad to make an order. Delivery is 8 weeks and I make the total cost to be approximately £1.85. Let me hear if you would like to partake in an order. They would make useful gifts, too, so we may be able to manage 36 - how about it?

SOME MARRIAGES OF COPLESTON DAUGHTERS (Culled from the Vivian Visitations)

Susanna, dau of John Copleston of Warleigh 1st wife, mar. lic. 21.11.1615 Exeter to Edward Calmady of Wembury, 6th son, named in the Wills of his father and uncle Richard.

Tryphena, dau of Thomas Coplestone of Bowden marr. Samuel Wise of Plymouth, 3rd son (d.23.4.1730 MI at Totnes) on 24.2.1716-17. She was bur. 30.11.1730 at Yealmlton. (Wise of Sidenham family)

Bastard of Gerston. Sir Wm. Bastard, son & heir, knighted at Whitehall, MP for Beeralston Borough 1678-9, bur. 2.7.1690 at West Alvington, Will 1688 proved 22.9.1690 Prin. Reg. Exeter married Grace dau of Coplestone.

Hillerson of Memland. Andrew, eldest s. & h. aged 40 years at death of his father married Barbara dau John Copleston of Copleston, named in Inquisition taken on death of her father in law. (Their son, Christopher, marr. Jone dau Sir Richard Chudleigh of Broadclist).

Ball of Mamhead. Egidius Ball de Mamhead in Hundred de Exminster bap. 14.5.1573 at Mamhead sole executor of his father's Will marr. Urith fil. de Humphredi Copleston of Instow 26.5.1596, bur. 28.3.1644 at Mamhead.

Just for fun let's add Maud Hilda Copleston who marr Frank Barford at Salmon Arm, B.C., Canada in 1919 and produced your friend and kinsman to serve you, Muriel! Maud is alive and well and living in Walthamstow and, when you come to think of it, the cause of all this searching. At 83 she has taken a lively interest in our history and receives a verbal report weekly.