

Because of his bad behaviour, we will relegate Phillip Copleston to the back page, for in 1463 18 of his servants broke into the premises of William Pollesland within the Manor of South Tawton and drove away 8 oxen. On 22nd April of that year Phillip sent John Copleston and forty other 'rytous and mysgouverned people' to the parish church of Spreyton, where they entered whilst the priest was saying mass and 'wyt streyngh and grete violence' took Wm. Polleslaunde out of church 'in grete fere and duresse unto the place of the sd Phillip at Copleston' and caused him to be sworn upon our Lord's body to Phillip to 'be his man'.

According to the Early Chancery Proceedings Phillip had for a long time 'grete malice' to the tenants of the Earl of Warwick at South Tawton and on one occasion persons riotous and 'evell disposed, harnessed and arraied in man. of Warre', assaulted the tenants and 'murdred & sloe' one John Synys, servant of Richard Wike. The King's Coroner, William Wolcomb, called for an enquiry summoning 12 men to enquire into the murder, but 'they noe none of them durst appere before hym for fere of deeth'.

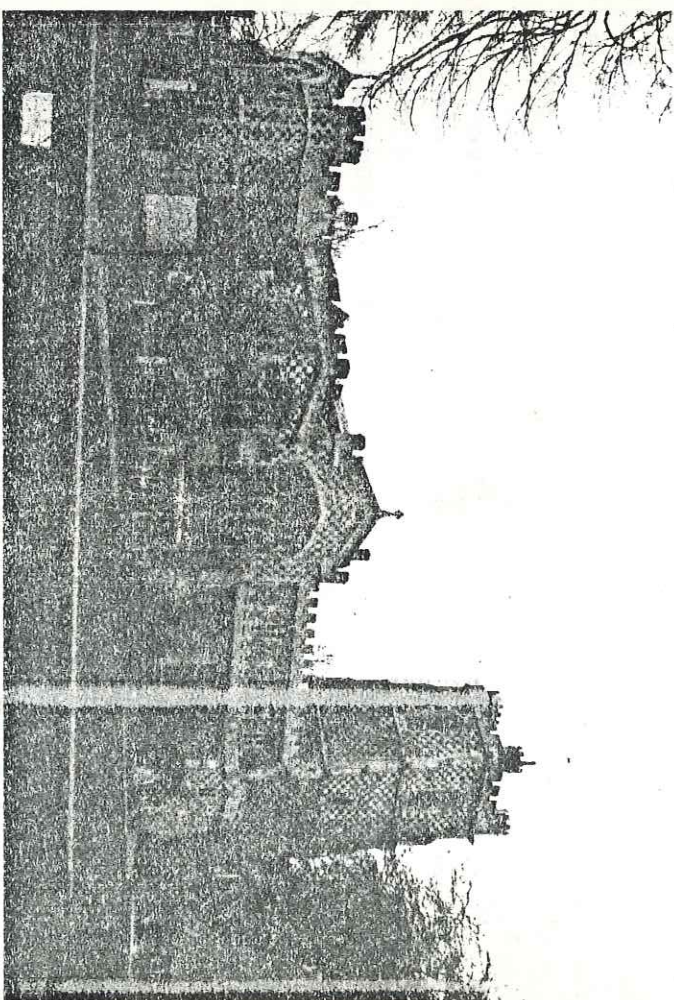
It is said that Phillip and his misgoverned fellowship 'neither fear the king nor his lawes' which is putting it mildly. I was wisely advised to place these happenings against the background of the Wars of the Roses and read a couple of books on the subject. It seems that everyone, from highest to lowest, was 'at it' and very few seemed to have respect for life and living. The Bonviles and the Courtenays were at daggers drawn, so the servants and followers (I almost said 'henchmen') of each of these families would fight each other on sight. I hope the tendency to vandalism these days doesn't develop!

THE COPLESTON FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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This issue should be out in time to give you all Easter greetings and to hope that you will all enjoy the long weekend. There were signs of spring in the Exeter area in the first half of March which were encouraging, but I gave myself no chance to enjoy them having almost set up house in the West Country Studies Library! We must all be grateful for this fine source of information and for the collection of the Devon and Cornwall Record Society housed there.



ST. MARY'S PARISH CHURCH, LUTON
Coriolanus Copleston was Curate-in-Charge from 1771 to 1800

Rev. Roger Granville MA, Rector of Bideford, wrote in 1883 'The History of Bideford' in which he tells how the Newfoundland fishery trade declined after France made pretensions to a partition. He says that proof of this is shown in the sermon preached at the Great Meeting House, Bridgeland Street on Thursday March 17, 1719 by John Copleston, "God's Works and Wonders in the Deep and the seafaring man's duty". This is the sermon, a copy of which I eventually located at Yale University Library, which I have distributed to various libraries and institutions in Devon and London and Rev. Granville quotes: "How much has the Newfoundland trade failed of late years! Han't you been almost able many times to say with Peter to our blessed Saviour, 'We have toiled all night and taken nothing'? How little fish have you catch'd for some voyages back! Is this not the rebuke of Providence, a call to repentance and reformation? Oh, try what prayer and praise and a good life will do. See whether you will not be able to say the reverse of that the wicket Jews said of old: 'It is vain to serve God, and what profit is it that we have kept His ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the Lord of hosts?' 'Tis likely to be peace now as to a certain nation (i.e. the French) with whom you are concerned; but if God deny fish, as He has of late, what becomes of your voyage?"

John had a powerful turn of phrase and threw in a good many Latin quotations. I have tried to find where it was 'near London' that he died 'at a great age' and am currently searching the Aylesbury area. After spending two year periods at several Devon and Somerset churches he, like the old soldier, fades away. In our branch of the family he is the beguining of the non-conformist fervour which continued for a number of generations. I think our only minister now is Rev. Sid in Swansea who has been working hard in his retirement in the Baptist Church.

WILLS AS A SOURCE OF INFORMATION

If parish registers are missing or do not provide the information required, wills are often helpful. George Copleston of Bideford, gent., whose will was proved in 1570 names 'my son Christopher, my daughters Mary, Grace and Frances, my Barton of Lee, my wife Agnes' - this shows where he lived, land he held and the names of his wife and children.

Coriolanus Coplestone of Bideford, will dated 29 Mar 1770, states Admon. of his estate (he was a bachelor) was granted to his mother and next of kin, Christian Coplestone, widow.

The will of Richard Copleston of Exon, gent, was proved 30 Sept 1715 by Joan Copleston. He leaves 'to Joseph Purchase, one half Anker of Brandy and my cane; to John Bouney of Kilkhampton in Cornwall, my mare; to my sisters Joan Shepard & Mary Greenway each 1/-; residue to my wife Joan whom I make my ex'x. (sgd.) Rich: Copleston. Seal, Bust of a man; witness Joseph Purchase, Cha. Mannington.' This shows his wife, his friends, the married names of his daughters and the interesting seal.

An abstract of the will of John Drew of "Assherberton" dated 2 July 1548 names Elnor Copstone daughter of Adam Copstone, Ada Copstone, etc. Strange there should be another Adam other than that at the head of the Visitation, who also had a daughter Elinor - the 'Ada' is probably Adam.

Lancelot Copleston of Nottingham, wine cooper, 'weak in body', will proved by relict Margaret and to her he leaves all his goods except 'the bond d/4 Jan 1749 for £420 given me by my brother Hungerford of St. Ann, Middx, drysalter, for payment of £210, which she is to deliver up to him on condition that he pay £30 within twelve months to my Aunt Elizabeth of Rotherhithe, spinster.' This will tells a great deal and ties him in with the Lancelots mentioned in Vol.1 No. 5.

MARRIAGES from the G.R.O.

(Unfortunately the indexes only give one party so that if you do not know the other you have to obtain a certificate)

<u>1837</u>	Sept	Catherine Parsons(e)	Truro	9.307
		Christopher (ppe)	Crediton	10.89
		Maria	Exeter	10.139
<u>1838</u>	Jun	"	Stoke Damerell	9.528
<u>1839</u>	Dec	Richard	Honiton	10.203
	Jun	William James	St. Thomas	10.389
<u>1840</u>	Dec	John	Plymouth	9.451
<u>1840</u>	Mar	William	Redruth	9.284
	*Dec	Reginald Edward	Windsor	6.484
		Mary	St. Pancras	1.271
<u>1851</u>	Mar	Eliza (e)	St. Pancras	1.326
	Jun	Joseph "	Clifton	11.373
		Jonathan (ppe)	Liskeard	9.235
	Sep	Benjamin	Alverstoke	7.32
		Christopher	Crediton	10.98
<u>1852</u>	Jun	Ann	Plymouth	5b.505
	Dec	Amelia	do.	5b.457
		Elizabeth Ann (ppe)	Portsea	2b.587
		Esther	Alverstoke	2b.704
		Harriet	Marylebone	1a.659
<u>1853</u>	Mar	John(Copelstone)	Islington	1b.251
	Jun	Grace (e)	Bodmin	5c.174
	Sep	Reuben	Liverpool	8b.221
	Dec	John	Shoreditch	1c.517

* Rector of Barnes, marr. Anne-Elizabeth Sharpe, daughter of Thomas Sharpe.

From Stevenson's Letters and Papers illustrative of the Wars of the English in France during the reign of Henry VI:

27 Henry VI. 1449, 3rd April. By the King.

Trusty and welbeloved. For asmoche as oure trusty andwelbeloved squyer Robert Wynnyngtone of our counte of Devonshire, is withholde towards us by endenture made in this behalfe, to do us service in the see, for the clensing of the same and rebuyking of the robbeurs and pirates thereof, which dayly do alle the noysance thay canne, whos resistance and putting aside is, and shalbe, bothe to our worshipe, renome and fame, and to the good publique of us, this our lande and subgittes; we pray you therfore, as hertily as we can, that unto the saide Robert ye wol, in that may touche the good spede and furthrance of this his saide journey, shewunto him alle the faveure and helpe to you possible, tendryng this oure wiltyng as oure singular trust is on you. Wherein ye shall doo us ful grete plesire.

Yeven, etc. at Westminster, the iiij. day of Aprille.

To therle of Devonshire

To the lorde Fitzwarren

The lorde Boneville

To sir Philipe Courteney

To sir Johne of Dynham

To the bisshope of Excestre

To Johne Copstone, squyer

Item, vj. lettres in like fourme, with blank taylles.

Commissions were sent by Henry to John Pole, Thomas Giffard, Baldwyn Folford, John More, Nicholas Stybbyng, etc., names which one comes across many times in this time of Devon history.

For details see the above Letters and Papers, Vol. I p.489 and for the commissions the Patent Rolls Henry VI years 17, 24 and 27.

The week spent in Exeter with my kind friends the Wagstaffes was most rewarding and I freely admit to returning home in an exhausted condition! Half a book of notes and many photocopies testify.

On the first day I went to Exeter Cathedral Library, having written in advance. The good Asst. Librarian had passed my letter to the Archivist who kindly brought in the Grant of a chantry by Sir Walter de Baa to Colebrooke Church, witnessed by 'Hugone de Copleston' for me to see and she had it photocopied for me. This is believed to date from c1260 and I was quite awed to see it.

The West Country Studies Library (including the collection of the Devon & Cornwall Record Society) seems a mine of information which will never peter out, for apart from taking four pages of marriages I discovered more books containing mention of our family - for instance:

Reprint of the Barnstaple Records which in the a/cs for 1658 shows "Paid the Countess of Middlesex's man that brought Sir John Copleston's venison 10s." and "Paid for entertaining Sir John Copleston at a banquet of sweetmeats and wine £3.15s." which, considering "Paid expenses for the reception of the Duke of Albemarle £1.10s", was not half bad!

Mr. Leonard Coplestone asked if I had seen the stone in St. Mary Arches floor to Thomas C., so I duly visited and noted that his wife, Theodora (Banckes) was first buried there in 1723, then Thos in 1754 aged 80, also Robert Prowse in 1762 and Ann Trevelthig in 1779. I wondered why they were 'all in this together' and have my answer from the Will of Thomas which I found next day and my old records of apprenticeships in Exeter. It seems that Thomas was a grocer apprentice to Edward Crosse in 1698 and between the years 1720 and 1731 John Trevelthick, Hugh Mills and Robert Prowse were apprenticed to Thomas. His Will then reveals that Robert Prowse became his partner and Mrs. Ann Trevelthick was his cousin. He had tenements

and 'closes' in Dolton, Bridford, Bideford, Duryard and 'Dung Plot' on St. David's Hill, Exeter! He also had an estate in St. Ewall in Cornwall. Thomas left £50 to repair Flay's Almshouses, £100 to Devon & Exeter Hospital in St. Southernhay Lane and £100 upon trust for the 4 Charity Schools within the City of Exeter - but the most interesting item to me is the £10 each for mourning which he left to John, Christopher, Thomas, Coriolanus and George, sons of Coriolanus C. late of Bideford, dec'd, because it points to Thomas being closely connected with my own family. Quite a picture can be built up from various sources of information.

Lancelot of Alverdiscott left to his son Caesar (my Corio's brother) 'my gold rings with my seal of arms' and in Caesar's Will he leaves 'to my brother Coriolanus C and his heirs all my tenements &c (excepting those to wife Hannah and dau. Panthea)', also my signet ring engraven with my coat of arms. He must have given one ring away - what happened to the remaining one? In 1683 Coriolanus made a renunciation and desired that admon. be granted to 'Hannah C., the relict'.

I was excited at finding in the Assize Roll, co. Devon 1359 the name of Ada Copelston pledging 6/8d - no doubt Adam de Copleston, first on the Visitations. This is the only reference I have found to him.

In the Barnstaple Records is a paper dated 27.2.1655 'Sir John Copleston, knight Sheriff of Devon, is elected and chosen for Recorder of the borough and parish of Barnestaple'. That man most surely got around and I picture him as an opportunist of the first water - he seemed to be in favour at the Restoration and I long to know how he managed this! Also in Barnstaple Records under 'Expenses Forinsic' and to John Coplestone for his pension, 26s8d - I must investigate this, for it is dated 1389-90. Return of the Possessions of the Inhabitants of St. Tudy 1521-1523 shows 'Johannes Coplestone - ijlli' under 'Valencia terrarum et tenementorum ibidem.' (Deanery of Trigg Minor Vol.3)

'THE HAZEAL COPPLESTONES'

The name Hazeal appears with regularity through the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. How did this unusual name arise? Why was it passed down through several lines?

Various spellings of the name occur: Azel (most common variant), Azeal, Asahel, Argeal, etc. The earliest one I have found is Hazeal Copplestone bapt. 28.8.1658 at Dolton, 2nd son of Anthony & Joanna. Anthony was at Little Torrington, of the Wear Gifford and Instow lines. This Hazeal married Mary Northcott at Dolton, Winkleigh, Exeter in 1681 and named their first son Hazeal, bapt. Mar 1682 at Merton, nr. Dolton. I know nothing more of him but his brother Christopher bapt. 12.3.1683 Merton marr. Joan and they named their eldest Hazeal. He was bapt. 24.2.1708 at Iddesleigh. Nothing more is known of him either, but his brother Christopher bapt. 25.4.1711, Iddesleigh, had 3 children, one of whom (William) named his son Asahel, bapt. 1771 Spreyton. Bear with me as things become even more disjointed: William's brother John bapt. 6.2.1737 Spreyton had 10 children, none of them named Hazeal. One of the children, John bapt. 25.6.1769 Spreyton (who gave rise to the Cops of Ide) named his last son Hazeal, bapt. 1.1.1810 Ide. This Hazeal (a tailor of Ide) married Susanna Halse 9.2.1831 again having many children, but no Hazeals. However, the obscure naming pattern is picked up yet again by this Hazeal's brother Samuel (a baker who moved to Chudleigh). Samuel and Ann named one of their sons Hazeal bapt. 8.9.1848 at Chudleigh. (Another son was progenitor of Syd Cop. of Birmingham's line). He, too, became a baker; marr. Elizabeth Yaxley in Middx 22.10.1874 and emigrated to Christchurch, N.Z. the next year, forerunners of the present Christchurch Cops, but not the writer, who descends from Hazeal & Samuel's brother George! Other odd Hazeals are at Stoke Damarel, Exeter, Tiverton, Thorverton - can anyone throw light on the 'strays'???

John the Aulnager

In the Transactions of the Devon Association we find that John Coppleston was appointed aulnager and collector of the subsidy in the co. of Devon, excepting the City of Exeter, under patent dated 20 July 1394, although there is no record of this in the Patent Rolls. The author says he was 'a man of good position, the representative of an armigerous family, J.P. for Devon in 1392 and escheator in 1395.

'He had to account for all cloths sold, with full particulars as to the names of the vendors and the quantities sold' and there are three accounts of his covering the period of the date of patent until Michaelmas 1397. He seems to have been appointed under the Statute of 1393 under which no cloth should be sold before it was measured and sealed by the aulnager "with the seals to that ordained" and no deceit should be used in kerseys, on pain of forfeiture. John's first a/c gives a list of the vendors, the number of cloths sold and amounts of subsidy and aulnage paid by each, but it does not give locations. The second gives names under the chief market towns and the third arranges them in 8 large districts formed by grouping of the Hundreds.

The first period is from 20 July 1394 to Michaelmas 1395 in which 75 vendors paid subsidy of £28.1.6d and aulnage of one eighth of that on 6,738 'dozens' of narrow cloth (12 yards x 1). "Cloth of assize" were 24 yards x 2.

John continued as aulnager until the end of Richard II.

16 seals of office were given by John to Thomas Wandry, of which 3 were delivered to the Treasurer and Barons of the Exchequer and the remaining 13 sold by the Barons at 2s.6d each, presumably after cancellation.

What a pleasure it was to be taken by Hermione Copleston and her Mother to meet Mrs. Alice Copleston Smith in Exeter, who is sister of Hermione's late Father, last of the long line of Rectors of Offwell. I saw pictures of many of that family and had a most interesting talk.

Another connection of that family recently heard from: (Offwell) Mr. and Mrs. Dick Copleston in Connecticut who had learned of my branch of the family through members of it in South Carolina. We are all gradually getting to know each other! I would like more opinions on the possibility of a meeting - some cousins have expressed great interest in the idea, but I would like to hear from more of you on this - time of year, venue, etc. Exeter has been suggested, since there is easy access to Coplestone and Colebrooke.

I shall be spending a week on a farm in Colebrooke Parish which is mentioned in Domesday and intend to try and walk some of the 'three hydes' - will let you know if I meet any ghosts!

If any of you know ought of the Boucher family, Mrs. Mamie Walker is interested, in the Kingdom of Fife - she loaned me a beautiful picture of her Elizabeth (Bessie) Boucher at her marriage in 1898 to Rev. J.H.H. Copleston.

Attended the Conference of The Guild of One-Name Studies at Leicester in February and met other one-namers obviously as madly dedicated as I! Col. Iain Swinnerton's talk on 'Heraldry Can Be Fun' not only amused but educated me - at last I think that perhaps with a little application I might learn to understand the subject. We still don't know when our arms were granted and the Col. thinks our Silver Spurs smack of 'my ancestor carried Wm's. pottie at Hastings' - now we have to show him! Everybody bother every historian in sight until discovery!

CALENDAR OF STATE PAPERS DOMESTIC, EDW.IV, MARY,
ELIZ., JAMES I. Vol.5. 1598-1601

3 Aug 1598, Plymouth Fort
Sir Ferdinando Gorges to Secretary Cecil:

"I have received confirmation of the intelligence brought by so many ways. I think the galleys will presently go for the Low Countries and then a portion of the best ships, with the rest of the fleet, will seek to put the land forces ashore here. The greatest attempt will be upon the Thames as that is short work, and without great difficulty. It ought to be prevented by lodging a well furnished fleet or army upon the river, with a bridge made to pass to either side, as also to stop their passage; for when things are done upon a sudden, and especially amongst people unenured to the business, they are amazed and discouraged; besides there must be time to settle things in order for so great a business.

Let some course be taken to content the honest men already come here for the defence of this place, and willing to adventure body and goods, so that they may not be disabled against another time, or discouraged at present. The gentry hereabouts zealously desire to perform their duties, and show their affection, especially Sir William Strode, Mr. Coplestone, my cousin Gorges and Mr. Crymes, who have engaged to give satisfaction to their companies, if otherwise it is not to be had."

Sir Ferdinando, of course, afterwards became the first Governor of Maine in 'the New World'.

This was the great age of adventure and we wonder if any of the Copleston family crossed the Atlantic in these years or whether they were all too busy marrying heiresses and acquiring lands at home.