

This page is given over to soul-searching!

By the time this Newsletter reaches you, your Editor will be a Senior Citizen and as such will have to watch her pennies. If you would like to continue having a quarterly issue we shall have to start charging a subscription of, say, £2 per year and perhaps £1 for Seniors, to cover printing and mailing costs. We could, on the other hand, cut down to twice yearly and ask everyone for £1 per year. Those who have already made contributions could have the appropriate amount deducted yearly until used.

This is the crunch - it will reveal how much the Newsletter is desired by the family!

Let me have your views, please, for whatever is decided will have to come into force by October.

The other matter for consideration is whether or not we are going to have a family meeting next year - where, when and for how long. Only two or three people responded to the idea when last put and they are very keen, but if we are going to venture this (and I do recommend it, for I have met a number of you and am sure you would all have a marvellous time meeting each other) I must have more response and definite plans must be started, for these things take quite a bit of arranging.

The ideal place is Exeter; either people could come in enough cars to accommodate the pedestrians or we could hire a minibus in order to visit Colebrooke and Copplestone - here again, please send your ideas and comments so that something practical can 'get going'.

If the meeting takes place over a weekend it would be a great thing to attend a Sunday Service at St. Andrew's, Colebrooke, don't you think? I wonder exactly how long it is since Coppleston as a family attended?

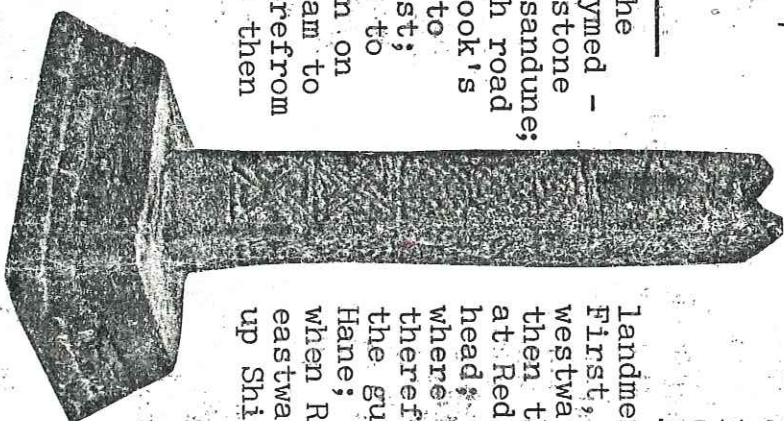
THE COPPLESTON FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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"This is the hydes at Nymed - from that stone road at Eisanadune; to the high road to Sedgbrook's Sedgbrook to strikes west; Heathfield to gutter down on along stream to Nymed; therefrom Shipbrook; then to

landmere of the three First, to Copelanstan; westwards on to the high then therefrom westward at Red Flood; therefrom head; therefrom down where the stream (lacu) therefrom out on the gutter-head; from the Hane; therefrom adown when Rushbrook strikes on eastward on Rushbrook to up Shipbrook, and so back up Copelanstan."



"Moreover, this aforesaid grant was made in the year of our Lord, DCCCCLXXIIII. In the second Indiction."

This is the description given in the Charter of Eadgar, A.D. 974 containing a grant of three hydes or mansas of land at Nymed to Eadgar's thegn, Aelfhere, "in perpetual inheritance". Later was written "If anyone therefore shall take it away from the aforesaid place, or in anywise diminish it, may he, stricken with a perpetual curse, perish everlastingly with the Devil; unless he strive by due reparation to make atonement." - Brictric had given it to the Minster of St. Mary in Crediton for the maintenance of the Canons serving God therein'.

I said that I would let you know if I met any ghosts in the Colebrooke area in May - I did not, but met some very nice folk. I cannot recommend too highly the hospitality and good food dispensed by Mrs. Mary Kitchen at Road Farm and any member of the family who would like to stay in the area could not do better than stay with this charming family. A car is needed, for it is two country miles from Colebrooke and four from Coplestone and on wheels it is so easy to get to Eggesford where those who have not, should see the memorials in the Church.

After being so used to walking the springy turf of my beloved South Downs in East Sussex, I find Devon heavy going, particularly since I had to walk the road most of the time or be bogged down in red clay.

I walked the five miles to Spreyton and went in the Church where our Philip had Wm. Powlesland dragged out from hearing Mass. Some good people in the Church polishing brass informed me that the Powleslands were still farming in the area after more than 600 years and I have since been in touch with the family, who are interested to know more of their history.

A very kind neighbour (who might wish to be nameless) drove me to Eggesford and on to Morwenstow where we went into the Church and had picnic lunch not far from the cliffs. We could not get to Lee, where George C (of 'Ley') lived, but I am determined to go there one day.

Mary took me to see a friend who has Tom Cobley's enormous Will - a most interesting document. We also climbed Bantor and went into the Church there and then visited the Chapel at Nymet Tracey, now used for storage and crumbling but with a roof so beautiful that it is a great pity it is not to be preserved.

My thanks to everyone in the area - they were so kind and friendly.

THE NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL DIRECTORY, which is subscribed, carries many names being searched by about 2,000 people and is most useful in the matter of reciprocal research. I sometimes send the names of Copleston marriage partners to people searching their names and in return not only receive interesting correspondence, but odd bits of Copleston information which they have gathered while looking for members of their families.

The names of Prideaux, Purchase, Squire, Mogg, Bond, Aish, Marker and Bowler come into our trees and the gentleman studying the latter name has sent me a great many Bowler entries to help me towards discovering the relationship of Rev. Coriolanus' two wives, Hannah and Sarah Bowler.

A Mr. Walter has also been a most interesting correspondent and recently sent a quote from "A History of Morwenstow After the Restoration", by Rev. F.C. Hamlyn, in which I read that 'at Lee, above Coombe Valley and near Stow there stood a mansion of John Wyberry on the site of a manor mentioned in the Domesday Survey.' Yet again I see 'this ancient and opulent family were esquires of the White Spur who sold most of their Cornish property in the reign of Queen Elizabeth'. Such persistence that they were Silver Spur Esquires from all directions comes to me and I resolve anew to read all I can to lead to more knowledge of this honour.

Writers tell of other names they search and if I can help them while doing my own searching, as they promise to send Copleston information they find, it is a very good working relationship. Members of my local Family History Society have also taken notes on the family for me whilst looking for their own forbears and I find genealogists the most amiable of people - we seem to be almost as pleased when we find a missing person for someone else as we do for ourselves, when discovering after months of searching an elusive bride or bridegroom whose records were burned in the Vicarage fire!

There are a Copleston Road and Copleston Passage in Southwark, London SE15 which I discovered were named for the Bishop of Llandaff and it was pointed out to me that in Ipswich were a road and a school bearing the name. Last year I wrote the Surveyor in Ipswich who kindly searched for origins, but could find none. Recently I contacted the Headmistress of Copleston High School and asked if she could help. She wrote me that her Head of History says the name derives from Mr. Thomas Copleston Winkworth, who was the architect responsible for some private houses built in the immediate vicinity of the School. Since that gentleman was born in or near Newbury, Berks., I found a Mr. Winkworth now living there and have written asking him if he knows which Copleston married a Winkworth.

I have been sent by a couple of family members the obit. from the Telegraph of Eric Lancelot Copleston Pentecost, who died in March in the vicinity of Nottingham. Obviously someone from the Alverdiscott family married into the Pentecost family, for we have many Lancelots in that branch and one of them was a wine cooper in Nottingham, in the early 19th. We shall try to discover this connection.

A news clipping about the former Lilly Coplestone has been sent me by Olga in New Zealand. There is no date on the clipping, but it tells that she was the first woman to attempt to swim Cook Strait. She was born in Christchurch in 1911 and won many Canterbury and New Zealand swimming championships. Lilly became Mrs. Mackellar and spent many years in Canada from 1933 and among other activities taught physical education at the University of Western Ontario and chaperoned the Canadian swimming team at the Empire Games in Auckland. She left Canada in 1952 and lived in Los Angeles; 'Billie', as she came to be known was in New Zealand to help prepare the N.Z. team for the Pan-Pacific championships.

Some News and Views

Apologies to John C. of Seaford for giving another family member as source of the information regarding the M.I. of Thomas C. in St. Mary Arches Church, Exeter. Quite a story is being woven from information found on Thomas. John's son Hugh is father of 10-month-old James Andrew Drake Coplestone.

Even younger is the daughter of a recently discovered Coplestone, namely Stephen, of the Liverpool Cops. Laura was born on 10th February this year and from the picture sent me, seems to have inherited the good looks of her parents! Stephen's Grandfather worked for most of his life as a stonemason on the Lady Chapel of Liverpool Anglican Cathedral, so there is a living memorial to William. Great-Grandfather has been found to be George William, who lived and married in Portsea registration area - I have been wondering about all the entries in that district and shall now be able to find more about them.

The day after mailing the last Newsletter I received the sad news of the passing of Mrs. Arianwen Harries Copleston, who was wife to Rev. Sidney Copleston, on February 22nd, not very long after the celebration of their Golden Wedding. There was a service of tribute at Mumbles Baptist Church on February 26th.

Now that I shall be trying to compile a family history it will be important to have all possible dates and sources of information and if any of you take entries from parish registers or any other source I shall be grateful for the details. It will be an enormous task, but undertaken with loving care! If ever you remember incidents connected with your families which are of interest, do pass them on, for at the moment I know far more about the family in the 14th to 17th centuries than I do of the more recent generations. I still have not found gt. Grandfather Josiah's birth, nor his activities between 1850 and 1859. I do not know the occupation of his Grandfather William, youngest son of Rev. Coriolanus; I do not know the maiden name of William the printers (Josiah's Father) wife, Harriet, nor the name of his second wife. ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ?

EDWARD COPLESTON - BISHOP OF LLANDAFF AND

Edward was born on the 2nd February 1776 at Offwell, where his father was Rector. His education was received at home and at 15 he won a scholarship at Corpus Christi, Oxford. Two years later he took the Chancellor's prize for Latin hexameters on "Marius amid the ruins of Carthage". An epistle sent in Latin to a friend at the age of 17 has been compared with Gray and Milton.

After gaining his BA in 1795 he was invited by the Oriel authorities to fill a vacant fellowship and in 1796 his essay on the subject of agriculture won a prize. In 1797 he graduated MA and held a college tutorship for 15 years.

Edward at this time commanded a company in the Oxford Volunteers and was noted for his strength and activity. In January 1799 he was robbed by one of the last of the highwaymen between Beaconsfield and Uxbridge.

1800 saw Edward as one of the first examiners in the new schools and in that year he became Vicar of St. Mary's, Oxford.

Among his many letters were two published in 1819 to Sir Robert Peel on the currency and on pauperism. He had a notice in the Quarterly Review on the Latin history of the insurrection of 1745 written by a Scot and praised it as in parts being almost equal to Livy.

In 1814 Edward was appointed to the provostship of Oriel, after having been for some years dean.

He was a Tory of Pitt and Canning persuasion, not of Eldon and Perceval and he supported Lord Grenville in the contest for the Chancellorship in 1814 - he was elected by a small majority.

Lord Liverpool made Edward Dean of Chester in 1826 and in 1828 he was promoted to the bishopric of Llandaff and the Deanery of St. Paul's. He was more liberal than most Tories of his time

DEAN OF ST. PAUL'S

and among other things was in favour of the admission of dissenters to the universities.

Edward worked strenuously for church restoration in Wales and more than 20 new churches and 53 glebe houses were built in the diocese in his tenure of the see. Although he considered English as the language in which life was conducted, he saw the necessity of having a Welsh-speaking clergyman in every parish.

At the end of his seventy-third year Bishop Copleston died on October 14th, 1849 and was buried in the ruined Cathedral of Llandaff.

It is interesting to see from The Gentleman's Magazine of 1810 that the Ode for the Encaenia at Oxford performed in the Theatre on July 3rd by Edward Copleston, MA, Professor of Poetry, began "In mute amaze the tranced Roman lay..." and goes on for one and a half columns. Because there were so many people present on this day and insufficient arrangements had been made for them, we read that "Ladies fainted, lost hats, cloaks, etc. ... and hundreds were obliged to return home."

"So prodigious a throng" it says "had not been known in Oxford since the famous trial of Miss Blandy in the Divinity School". (Never having heard of Miss Blandy, the writer feels compelled to investigate!)

On the old Waterloo Bridge, I understand, there was a plaque with a dedication in Latin by the Bishop and his name is commemorated in various places.

The Dictionary of National Biography, to which I am indebted for much of this article, says that he was a high churchman who at the same time was opposed to the tractarians. He could see no logical distinction between the sacerdotal theory which they inculcated and the Roman doctrine of the priesthood. Still he had a strong aversion to dissent.

For further information see (if you can find one) a copy of W.J. Copleston's "Memoirs of Edward Copleston, Bishop of Llandaff".

More Marriages from the G.R.O.

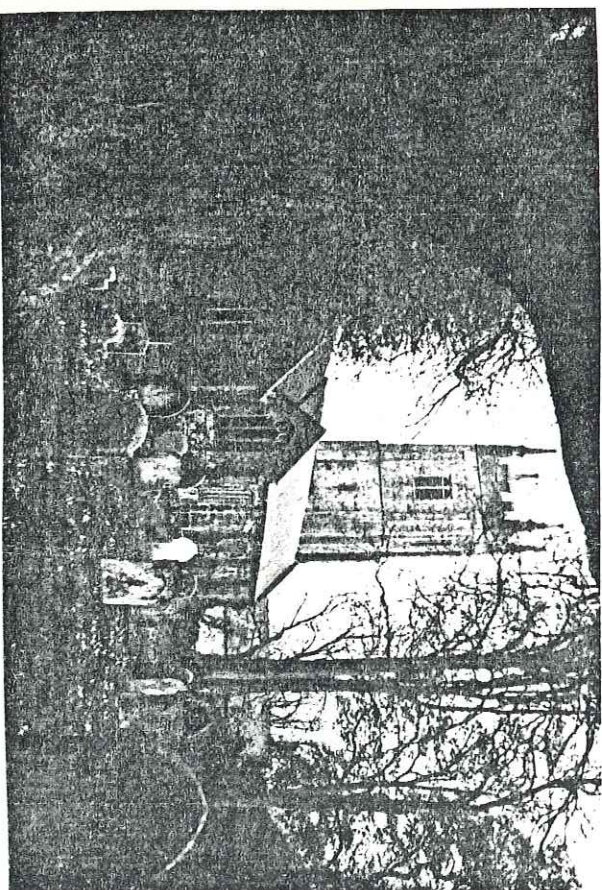
<u>1853</u> Dec	William George (pp) Elizabeth Lee (ppe)	Pembroke Bridgend	11a.1135 11a.681
<u>1854</u> Jun	Nathaniel	Penzance	5c.608
<u>1855</u> * Mar	William Eliza	Leeds S.Damerell N.Abbot	9b.375 5b.508 5b.217
Dec	William	(pp) S.Damerell (ppe) N.Abbot	
<u>1856</u> Mar	Mary Ann	"	
Jun	Christopher	(e)	
Dec	Henry Louisa	Bridgend Stepney Newbury St.Thomas	11a.483 1c.856 2c.473 5b.87
<u>1857</u> Jun	Charlotte Chester	Honiton	5b.51
Dec	John Mary Ann	(ppe) Portsea (e) Cardiff	2b.587 11a.403 1b.729
<u>1858</u> Mar	John	W. London	1c.126
Jun	Mary Ann Walter	St.Thomas Bristol	5b.86 6a.131
Dec	Mary Ann Beavis Wm. Eliza	(pp) St.M.in the F. (ppe) St.Thomas " Okehampton	1a.515 5b.130 5b.657 8d.734
<u>1859</u> Mar	Copleton, William	** Ashton	
<u>1859</u> Mar	Josiah William	Greenwich St.Thomas	1d.693 5b.91
Jun	Ann	(e) (ppe) Truro	5c.263
Sep	George Wm. Louisa Catherine Jane	" (e) (ppe) S.Damerell	2b.558 5b.158 5b.542
	Matthews Susanna	" " St.James Okehampton	1a.645 5b.659

* Ron & Muriel's gt-gt-Grandfather's 2nd marriage
 do. gt-Grandfather's do.
 ** either Callington or Helston, Cornwall.

In Lysons Magna Britannia, Cornwall, 1814 occurs a passage worth reproducing: "Coplestone of Lametton in St. Kaine and of Warlegh in Devonshire, an ancient and opulent family. They sold most of their Cornish property in the early part of Queen Elizabeth's reign and have since become extinct. (As our American cousins might say, 'How do you like them apples?') This family was distinguished by being esquires of the White Spur. One of the Coplestones married an heiress of Bonville. Another brother of the Coplestones was for some time resident in Lee in Morwenstow."

Here is yet another reference to the White (or Silver) Spurs and I still think there is no smoke without fire. There must be a reference somewhere which will give us a clue to the conviction of so many early writers that the Coplestons received the Silver Spurs.

Below is a picture taken in May of Spreyton Church where Phillip C. sent his men to take William Pollesland from hearing Mass in 1463 and make him swear to be Phillip's man. Powlesland Farm is not far south of the Church. This area is also well-known as Tom Cobley country.



An obituary of July 16th of the above year tells us: "At Leighton-Buzzard, in the 71st year of his age, Mr. Samuel Copleston, who, for upwards of fifty years, was a member of the Methodist society, and more than forty an acceptable and useful Local Preacher. His father was Curate at Luton for several years; and in his Church Mr. John Wesley preached. He was favoured in early life with the instructions and example of a pious father, and when about 18 years of age he received his first ticket as a member of the Methodist society from the Rev. Joseph Harper. Speaking of his conversion to God he says, 'At Easter I went as far as Barnet to meet my brother (Coriolanus who marr. Ann Olney) who was very unwell. I found him so weak that he could scarcely walk across the room but he was rejoicing in the Comforter and not being willing to enjoy the Saviour alone he called upon me to expect a present salvation...." Having experienced the renewing grace of God he became concerned that others should be made the partakers of similar blessedness with himself and at the request of his Christian friends he frequently in the public means of grace, read portions of sacred write and delivered exhortations. He was afterwards employed as a Local Preacher and at Luton, Harden, Leagrave, Eaton-Bray and other places was well received.... About the year 1800 he came to reside in this town and soon after a Methodist society was formed of which he was the leader and the class met at his own house... at his death he left in the town and Circuit upwards of one thousand members. His last affliction was of about three months' continuance. To a friend who visited him he said he was glad he made the choice of the one thing needful and embraced the doctrine of general redemption. Nearly his last words were "I have sweet peace". His funeral was attended by about five hundred people.

Note: Lancelot was another brother who carried forth the Methodist message.

While in Coplestone in May I went into Coplestone Stores and was shown the Crediton Country Courier for May 7th, which pictures the glass model of the 'Cross' which was made at Dartington Glass at Torrington and taken over to St. Cyr du Ronceray the previous week. Coplestone fell victim to the twinning fever and representatives from St. Cyr will be in Coplestone in early autumn to sign the English part of the Charter twinning the two places. On the model is a greeting in English on one side and in French on the other. I did not discover the reason for Coplestone being twinned with St. Cyr du Ronceray, but if there is a connection I will discover and report.

Whilst in the Stores I saw the notice by the Post Office made by Mr. Owen Coplestone Lewis of Pittsburg a few years ago asking for news of his forbears. I found the marriage of Elizabeth Coplestone and Thomas Carter, both of Ottery St. Mary, in 1787 and have sent this to Mr. Lewis. Elizabeth seems to have been his gt.gt. Grandmother.

Elsie Forrest of Clarkston, Glasgow, kindly sent the translation of 'Studio Fallente Laborem', which is: 'Enthusiasm (or zeal) beguiles (makes a pleasure of) toil'. How true! Elsie is of the Wrexham family.

During a marvellous day with Reg and Olive Copleston at Hadleigh (Benfleet) I was loaned this picture, believed to be two of the sons of John & Emma of Woolwich and brothers of Arthur John from whom Reg descends. The two were ship's captains and one died at sea - they may have been twins. If any of you know ought of them, do let me know. Their brother Samuel went to the States. This was the time a number of the family emigrated, in the 1880's and 1890's.

