

THE COPLESTON FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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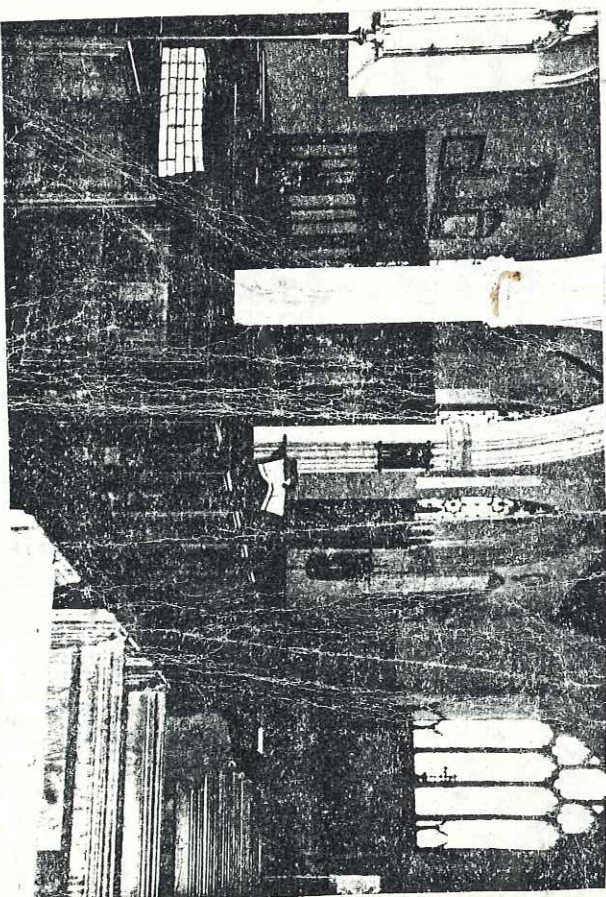
Since sending out the last Newsletter I have heard from 14 family members with subscriptions, for which I am most grateful. I am sending the Newsletter to everyone this month, but I am afraid that the January issue will only go to contributors. I know you didn't ask for it in the first place, but most of you seem to like receiving it and if I am to continue sending it I must have that little help towards printing costs, which I am sure you will understand in these hard times!

Now that I have time to study more at the British Library, the PRO and the Society of Genealogists I am finding so much of interest that I hope to be able to make the Newsletter really worth reading.

I am working on a slip index of all the baptisms, marriages and deaths/burials of the family from Parish Registers, the microfiche and bishops' transcripts and of course extracting the 'modern' ones from 1837 at the GRO. Also, I am taking all the Wills from Somerset House while continuing to gather in entries in the Patent Rolls, State Papers, etc. I'm still on the Committee of my local Family History Society and do some typing for The Guild of One-Name Studies. I don't look upon this as work for I enjoy it all, but I admit to enjoying immensely the freedom to visit friends and 'cousins' and to entertaining more now that I have time to prepare, using my knitting machine, sewing and even taking a 'Creative Writing' course! I figure this family is worth writing up in a more interesting way than merely presenting the facts 'cold', as it were.

I still await some written contributions from you. I'm sure there must be family anecdotes which would be of interest to the rest of us. Just having a pedigree is not enough - the more you know of your family the more it becomes 'family history' and surely we want to leave as much knowledge as possible for the Cop(p)leston(e)s to come, don't we? You don't have to be Bishop of Llandaff to leave your mark, so dig into your memories and see what you can find. Stephen's grandfather, the stonemason, left his mark and Benjamin and Coriolanus and even Josiah, who illustrated a book I can't find!

Two hundred years before the building of the chantry chapel shown below, Sir Walter de Baa or Bathe or Batonia, knight, Lord of Colbrok made a Grant of 60s of rent for making a chantry in honour of God, of the Blessed Virgin and of All Saints, at the 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 the kitchen and chamber; and of the mill immediately after the lord's wheat. The witnesses to this document included Henry of Champernoun (de Campo Ernulfi), Manger de sancto Albino, William de Fykelegh knight, Walter de Aure, Thomas de Wotton, William de Godiscote and Hugh de Coplestone. This document is in Exeter Cathedral archives and has been mentioned previously, but not given in full. No-one is sure where the Manor of Colbrooke stood, but it was probably on the site of the farm opposite the Church.



Interior of St. Andrew's, Colebrooke, showing
THE COPLESTON AISLE

More visits have been made to family members; firstly a long weekend with David and Ruth Copleston at Guilden Sutton, near Chester. My reactions hover between honoured guest and one of the family! It was so interesting to be taken around Chester Cathedral and to see and take pictures of the memorial windows there, with our arms therein. On the Saturday evening Willis and May Copleston came down from Flint to visit (Wrexham family), so the talk flowed on and on, of course. On Sunday with David's parents we drove around the beautiful Horseshoe Pass to Llangollen - my first visit to Wales. To be given the translation of the Pardon as well made this a memorable visit.

I have also been to Worthing to visit Marjorie Copleston, who is of the family of Coriolanus the last, HMSO Bookseller. We found many interests in common apart from the family and the day sped along.

A day spent at Oxford in the company of Rev. Frederick C. Copleston, SJ was singularly enjoyable and I took the opportunity of asking him what he knew of the Grace Cup, since he is of the Offwell family, as was Dr. John C., Provost of King's College, Cambridge and J.P. in Cambridge, when King Charles presented him with the Cup. Father Copleston said he understood that King Charles II had dined at King's at the time of the conspiracy to murder him and the Duke of York. I therefore looked in the State Papers and found, indeed, that Dr. John had signed a warrant for the arrest of one of the conspirators and that he was shortly executed! The Cup is in Goldsmiths' Hall in the City of London.

There is sad news in this same family, of the death of John Copleston in Edinburgh on Friday, 5th September. Our sympathy is with his sister, Hermione and their Mother in Exmouth in this sudden and unexpected loss.

Hermione's Father, Rev. Frederick Elford Copleston, did an enormous amount of work on the family and I was glad to be able to confirm some of my searchings from his notes. The Bishop of Llandaff also worked upon the mystery of the Offwell Branch and I think one of his guesses that they descend from Ralph or Philip could be right. My earliest find is of John C. in Curry Mallett 1548.

The Copleston Chronicle Editorial The Church in India

On Dec. 29th last, Dr. Copleston of Calcutta, consecrated the first native of India who has ever been created a Bishop. It was not, however, without opposition that this epoch making step was taken and but for the fearless championship of the Metropolitan and the Bishop of Madras, Dr. Azariah would never have become Bishop of Dornakal. I think it would be as well to give you the substance of the Metropolitan's speech on the great day, in order that you may realise the importance of this step. He told them not to hope for more Indian Bishops but for more Indian Bishops. What he meant was that distinction of race would have to cease in the Church in India. I quote his own words: 'Let us not divide the office of a Bishop in India by any racial distinction. The time will come, even though it may not be in the immediate future, when the distinction between race and race, which has been so strongly marked, will be very much less perceptible than at present. I daresay the time may come when over a diocese where Englishmen preponderate an Indian Bishop will preside, whilst over a diocese where Indians preponderate and Englishman will preside, and thus they will enjoy equal rights and opportunities.' But he also frankly told the meeting that for six months he had had to fight in order that the new Indian Bishop might not merely be an assistant bishop, but that he might be a pukka bishop, with real jurisdiction in his own diocese, to whom the presentation of a pastoral staff might not be a sham. 'If the Bishops of India will be true to their words, and actively carry out the policy which they advocate, even though they too have to fight like the retiring Metropolitan, there is no fear that there will be caste churches in India, one for the European and one for the Indian.' (Church Times). Dr. Azariah will not wear garters and his "apron" will consist of a simple purple cassock; he will maintain the utmost simplicity in his house and it is remarkable that his wife and children attended his consecration barefooted in the usual Indian fashion.

Jan. 1915

The Editor

You see, I'm not the first to do a Copleston mag! The Offwell family were well before me and I thank Hermione Copleston for loaning me some "Chronicles". What an estimable man was Reginald Stephen Copleston.

SNIPPETS

The discovery, in a Somerset Record Society volume, of a Richard Copleston in the 1380's who was esquire to the Earl of Arundel and who married Alice Catecote brings another puzzle to solve. Who is he? Not being named in the Visitations, but being told he is 'brother to John C. of Devon' I conclude that this is John elder. A William is also mentioned at this time and I believe him to be the husband of Katherine Penhargard of Cornwall, but cannot place him as yet in the family. Around this time also I find 'John Copleston and Alice his wife' - could this be John elder in a previous marriage to that with Catherine Graas? I sometimes feel I am punching my way through a bag of cotton wool!

Mrs. Leonard Copplestone found mention of Coplestons in two books and kindly sent notes. One is Eric Linklater's 'The Art of Adventure' wherein an essay on Dr. McGrigor, Inspector General of Hospitals in Wellington's time tells us he read Tom Paine, but also read the criticisms his books provoked, one of which was by the Bishop of Llandaff - 'An Apology for the Bible!'. The other book was Arthur Bryant's 'Thomas Pepys - The Years of Peril' and it tells of Pepy's desire to become Provost of King's College, Cambridge. Col. Legge, the Duke of York's Agent in London, had already promised his influence to his old tutor Dr. Copplestone. Pepys withdrew. Dr. John did, of course, become Provost - and thereby hangs a tale. I visited Goldsmiths' Hall on 29th September, where Miss Rosemary Ransome-Wallis, the Curator, kindly showed me the Grace Cup (see page 2), which is a very beautiful and delicate object. She also had an entry on the Cup and a picture of it photocopied for me and I was presented with the stand on which the Cup had stood for many years - I am so proud to have this and it now sits on my mantel holding a little Wedgwood vase, looking very handsome. I gave Miss Ransome-Wallis information on Dr. John and on the conspiracy* and we saw the Goldsmiths' Librarian on the matter of the discrepancy between the date of manufacture (1616) and the presentation date of 1683. She had a logical explanation. Kings did not, unless on very special occasions, have these things made and it had probably been in use in the Royal Family since James I - it may even have been used by Charles II as his travelling cup. I was shown the Hall, which is quite breathtaking, and I thank Goldsmiths and Miss Ransome-Wallis and the Librarian for their kind help. (*The Rye-House Conspiracy, 1863)

4.

DANIEL LYSONS - Additional MSS at the British Library

There are five volumes of letters in this collection and they are replies to letters sent out by Daniel Lysons to Rectors and Landowners in Devon about the parishes and families when he was soliciting information for his mighty tome on Devon.

So far I have been through three of these volumes looking for mention of the family and for information, if any, on Tamerton Foliot for the kind gentleman who drew my attention to the existence of these writings. In the first book is a letter from the Bishop of Llandaff who had been trying to trace his family back from John of Curry Mallet and Crewkerne, with no more success than I have so far achieved.

Some of the letters afford amusement and I wish I had time to read through them all. One, from Robert Smirke who had been casting an eye over Lysons' manuscript, was sent from Brighton in 1822 and begins 'My dear Sir, I am preparing to return to town after a five weeks trial of the Vapour Bath. I have been boiled and shampoo'd thirty four times....' - I was glad to read 'my general health is greatly improved'!

Another letter from W.W. Bagnell of Colebrooke in 1818 states: 'Copplestone is now in the hands of Mr. Madge, an Opulent Yeoman of the dissenting persuasion who resides on it and who has desecrated the Chapel.' Also: '... the principal Landowner in Colebrooke except Mr. Coryton ... J. Stillfort, Landseid belongs to.'

In 1821 John Timpler wrote from Cullompton: 'Since I succeeded to this living I have thrown down the old Vicarage House and having altogether changed the site am now building a much more commodious one; in truth it will be a most excellent house - the widow now rest with me as Patron.'

From Barnstaple in 1821 William Spurway wrote the following: 'Broadnymet is a sinecure and notwithstanding the whole Parish is comprised within one estate... it is an independent Rectory and when I took possession of it I observed all the forms and ceremonies of reading myself in, which I should have done had the living been worth £500pa. There is a Chaple adjoining the Farm House but separate from it which is kept in repair and always made use of when a new Rector takes possession'. (Please amend page 2 of July Newsletter where I referred to this Chapel as being at Nymet Tracey - too many Nymets!)

5.

Thanks to David Copleston in Chester we have a translation of the Pardon, made by Chester City Record Office. Since it contains a great deal of repetition it is here reproduced without the trimmings:

"The Queen to all to whom (these presents shall come) greeting. Whereas Christopher Copleston formerly of Warleighe in the County of Devon, esquire, was indicted at a certain inquest previously held at Tamerton Folgett in the County aforesaid on the 22nd day of May in the 4th year of our reign (1562) before Raymond Northley and John Marshall, our coroners in co. Devon, on the sight of the body of a certain Christopher Monns alias Monnes formerly of Wolston in the Co. of Cornwall, yeoman, lying dead at Tamerton Folgett, because the aforesaid Christopher Copleston on the 22nd day of March between the hours of 10 and 11 before noon of the same day was in a certain place there known as the Towne place alias Canne greyne, (when) an argument arose then and there between the aforesaid Christopher C. with abusive language and taunts between Christopher C. and Christopher M. At that moment Christopher C. violently, that is to say, with a certain small weapon known as a dagger, worth four shillings, which the same Christopher C. was carrying in his right hand, held it into the said Christopher M. who was standing there with a sword and shield in his hands. He (Christopher C.) insulted him and with this small weapon suddenly and feloniously struck the aforesaid Christopher M. below his left shoulder, giving him a certain fatal wound six inches (11t. thumbs) in depth and one inch wide, from which wound the same Christopher M. instantly died. And thus the aforesaid Christopher C. feloniously killed Christopher M. on the aforesaid day at the aforesaid place contrary to our peace, our crown and dignity. And because of that crime he fled suddenly and immediately without anybody's knowledge and in doing so withdrew himself just as it appeared more fully in the record at the inquest (held) before us.

Be it known that by our special grace and from our certain knowledge and of our own motion we have pardoned, released and discharged and by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, we do pardon, release and discharge the said Christopher C. formerly of Warleighe in the Co. of Devon esq. or by whatever other name the same Christopher C. is distinguished, known, called or named, from the aforesaid crime, homicide and killing of the same Christopher M. and from all

and all such murders, homicides and crimes and accessory acts touching or concerning the death and killing of Christopher M. in any way whatsoever; and (we have pardoned released and discharged) from the escape in respect thereof; and we pardon, etc. even if the said Christopher C. stands or does not stand indicted, accused, etc. of any one of the things mentioned before or in respect thereof. And also we pardon, etc. every judgement, execution, death sentence etc. because of the actions mentioned before. And also we pardon, etc. all actions, suits of court, plaints, impeachments, debts and claims that we held, are holding or in future shall hold against Christopher C. as a result of the actions mentioned before. And we pardon, etc. suit of our peace against the said Christopher C. as far as concerns us or will concern us in this business .. and we grant our firm peace to that Christopher C. so that it stands correctly in our court, if anybody wishes to speak against him regarding the aforesaid actions or any one of them. And accordingly the same Christopher C. provides good and sufficient security according to the form and effect of a certain Act of Parliament of the Lord Edward the third, our ancestor. And finally from our more bountiful grace we have pardoned, etc. and give and grant to Christopher C. all and all such manors, lands, tenements, hereditaments, liberties, advowsons, knights' fees, goods, chattels and dues plundered and forfeited to us. And also we pardon, etc. all and all such forfeits of manors, etc. and of all goods and chattels and debts forfeited plundered or owed to us because of the said actions in whatever or whatsoever hands or possession they now are... We grant and restore all and every one of these things to Christopher C. to have for the same Christopher C., his heirs and assigns by our gift, without rendering, paying or making account or anything else in respect thereof to us. And therefore, etc. In testimony of which etc. (given) at Greenwich the 20th day of August. By Writ of the Privy Seal etc."

A lot more questions are raised - the number of manors is not mentioned. Why were they all given back? Why was Christopher M. wearing his sword and shield? Who was Christopher M.? We shall now find out if the inquest held at Tamerton is on record - the information it could give would be of enormous help.

Christopher lived another 24 years - with remorse?

I am no heraldry expert - far from it - and I hesitate to criticise the experts, but having recently looked at "General Armory Two" - additions and corrections to Burke's General Armory, I am sure the three entries under our name would bear further examination. The first is "Coplestone Eggsford, co. Devon. Arg a chev Gu betw 3 leopards' heads az. VD 1620." Firstly, the place is Eggesford and secondly, should it not be a chev engrailed Gu? The memorial at Eggesford shown on page 11 of this issue reveals the chevrons to be engrailed. "VD 1620" means the Visitations of Devon and Colby quotes for that Visitation "Argent, a chevron engrailed gules between three leopards' faces azure"

The second states: "Coplestone, Bordon, co. Devon. Same arms with a mullet for difference. (VD 1629)." There is not any place in Devon called 'Bordon' nor, to my knowledge has there ever been. I suspect Bowden is correct, for the branch of the family there has a Visitation.

The third entry is "Coplestone, co. Devon. Arg a chev between three griffins' heads erased sa. V. " Griffins? This I have never seen in any of the numerous sources I have examined and I venture to think there are arms somewhere in which the leopards look like griffins!

The first part of the Copleston of Copleston Visitation of Vivian he states to be from VD 1564, Harl. MSS 1080 and 3288 and College of Arms and he also gives the arms as "Arg., a chevron engrailed Gu, between three leopards' faces Az." In Vivian there are 8 Visitations, the first being Copleston of Copleston, the others the branches of Bowden, Instow, Kingdon (Alverdiscott), Upton Pyne, Wear Gifford, Eggesford and Woodland. These branches all go back to Copleston of Copleston and while I can understand differences, I do not understand a completely different arms, particularly when none of the prominent writers on Devon families mention griffins. Colby gives a crest "A demi-griffin, salient gules, armed or without wings" but I am not so much concerned with crests as with the arms - any heraldry students care to comment? (Fairbairns Crests gives three other crests - wolf, leopard and lion, the azure wolf being most popular with the present day family).

FAMILY MEETING

A newly-discovered family member suggests ascertaining whether accommodation could be obtained at Exeter University next summer, since many Universities provide this facility at a reasonable rate. I shall enquire about this while at Colebrooke this month. Meantime, would all family members who are interested and or able to attend, write suggesting their most convenient times - with alternatives if possible, so that we may sift them and try to find a mutually convenient time. It takes quite a bit of arranging to manage such a meeting and Frank Copleston of St. Albans and I will be meeting in November to discuss, among other things, this family meeting. Those of you who have already written on the subject are noted and in the January issue of the Newsletter we shall hope to have a concrete proposition for the get-together.

OUR UTAH FAMILY

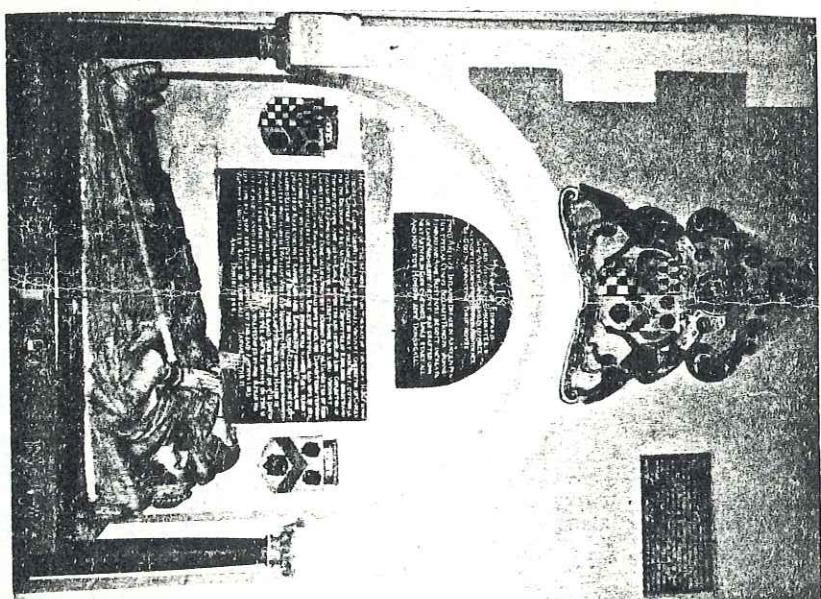
Vera Caulford, nee Copleston and her son Edwin have their line back to Edwin Copleston, whose second marriage to Eliza At(t)wood, produced Lancelot Copleston born Wrentham, Mass., in 1859. The Town Clerk at Wrentham tells me that the birth certificate gives the parents' place of origin as "Sutton, England". This should, of course, be Luton, for Edwin operated a hat factory in Nyack, N.Y., as Vera has informed me and Lancelot came back to England in the early 1900's, visiting his relatives in Luton. Edwin's first marriage I have not traced, neither have I yet found the second, but I am sure they connect with the family of David C., Chester. Possibly Edwin was a brother of David's gt-gt-Grandfather, John. I shall of course go on looking, but if anyone has any knowledge of this Edwin I will be most grateful to hear. We cannot have our American cousins out on a limb of the tree without knowing which one it is! The children of the first marriage emigrated to Australia - perhaps our cousins there can help?

PATENT ROLLS

If any of you have spare time and would like to do some search, I wonder if you would like to help with the extractions from the Patent Rolls, of which there are so many? If you are near a large library which contains them and you will let me know, I can tell you which years are awaiting search and would be very glad indeed to have help on this enormous task. Likewise information from other sources, but please check with me first so that we do not duplicate, for I have an enormous collection of information and can let you know what I have or have not.

Instead of GRO entries in this issue, here are some older marriages from the microfiche, parish registers and the indexes of Boyd and Phillimore:

John Coplestone Esq. and Elizabeth Arundel, Morwenstow, Cornwall 29 May 1570
 John Copleston and Alice Woode, St. Helen, Bishopsgate (City of London) 19 May 1577
 Jane Coplestone and Thomas Rayment, Whitchurch Canoncorum, Dorset 1579
 Susan Coplestone and William Grosse, gent. Kilhampton, Cornwall 28 July 1612
 Ambrose Copleston, citizen haberdasher & Elizabeth Rogers St. Magnus (London) 26 Dec 1633 (Ambrose bur. St. Margaret's, Westminster 1657)
 Margaret's, Westminster 1657)
 Arthur Copleston of Yalinton & Elizabeth Davy, dau. of Baronett Davy of Sandford, Exeter 6 April 1641
 Richard Coplestone & Mary Chollocomb, Kilhampton, Cornwall 21 October 1658
 Lancelot Copleston of St. Brides, London, mercer, bach. about 24 & Elizabeth Millett, spr. dau. Humphrey Millett of St. Saviour's, Southwark, saddler, who consents, at St. Bennett's Paul's Wharf or St. Stephens, Walbrook, London. (Lancelot was father of Lancelot, chirurgeon and $\frac{1}{2}$ brother of Coriolanus, mercer of Bideford)
 Thomas Coplestone & Grace Fortescue of Buckland Filleigh; Exeter, 25 April 1665
 Azeal Coplestone of Dolton & Mary Northcott of same, spr. 29 April 1681 - Exeter Marr. Licences.
 Dame Rebecca Copleston & Lewis Wescombe June 1688 (Faculty Office Marr. Licences)
 Richard Copleston of Ottery St. Mary, gent. & Elizabeth Goodall of same, spr. 9 September 1706
 John Copleston & Grace Oliver, Scilly Islands Parish 9 July 1710 (Children were born in St. Cleer)
 George Copleston & Sarah Prust both of Bideford 16.1.1722
 Christopher Copleston of Abbotsham & Christian Shebeare of same 1 March 1728
 Edward Copleston of Tedburn St. Mary, clerk & Ann Bradford of Newton St. Cires, spr. 10 April 1732. Exeter Marr. Lic's.
 Mary Copleston, spr. & Robert Clark, sailor, both of Kenton 22 May 1732. Exeter Marr. Licences



"IN Memory of Edward Lord Viscount Chichester and Dame Anne his Wife and in Humble Acknowledgement of the Good Providence of God in Advancing Their House"

Anne was the only daughter and heir of John Copleston of Eggesford and Dorothy his wife, daughter of Sir George Beeston of Beeston Castle, co. Chester. She was 18 years old at her father's death, 11th November 1606.

The Copleston arms appear three times on this ornate memorial. Anne's great-grandfather married the daughter and heir of Reigny of Egford - another Anne - and he, Charles, was grandson of the John Copleston who married Johanna, daughter and co-heir of John Sachville.

The above picture was taken in May of this year - I must return and take another in colour, for colourful it most certainly is!