

THE L.D.S. MICROFICHE

The updating of the microfiche has solved quite a few mysteries, among them the birth of my gt-Grandfather Josiah. It seems that he was born in Nottingham and christened at the Wesleyan Chapel there on 12 May 1830. His sister Sarah was also christened there on 30 Dec 1831. It also gave the maiden name of their Mother, Harriet, which was Sharpe. The connection with Pentecost (see page 4 of July 1980) is also partly solved, for many of that family were christened at Nottingham Wesleyan and one of them married a Sharpe.

The baptism of Thomas, gt-Grandfather of Frank Copleston, St. Albans, shows at Greenwich, Maze Hill, formerly Bethel Independent, 8 Feb 1829.

A number of the children and grandchildren of Rev. Corio are shown as having been baptised and married at St. Mary's, Luton and there is a sister of Edwin, gt-Grandfather of David at Chester seen to be baptised at St. Mary's on 21 Feb 1836.

Rev. Coriolanus' son Lancelot, wool sorter at Hitchin who married Martha, had a Coriolanus bapt. 14.3.1801 and a Lancelot bapt. 21 Oct 1803 at Hitchin. Three more daughters of Lancelot, son of John and Elizabeth Jackson (also David's family) have been found - Ann, 1813: Emily, 1818 and Mary, 1819. Another son of Corio, Thomas, was an Excise Officer in Herts and married Sarah Barber of Haughley, Suffolk 4 Aug 1803.

Ann, daughter of John and Elizabeth Jackson is found to have married William Hinson 11 June 1816 at St. Mary's. Elizabeth, daughter of Rev. Corio, married James Durrant at Studham, Beds. on 4 Sept 1786.

John Alfred, son of George William Coplestone and Elizabeth Wylie was bapt. 10 Jan 1856 at Liverpool St. Peter, but his brother, Wm. John, grandfather of Stephen in Liverpool, does not show - we have his birth certificate in 1866, however, but cannot find the father of George Wm. - if anyone has knowledge of this family we will be most grateful to hear.

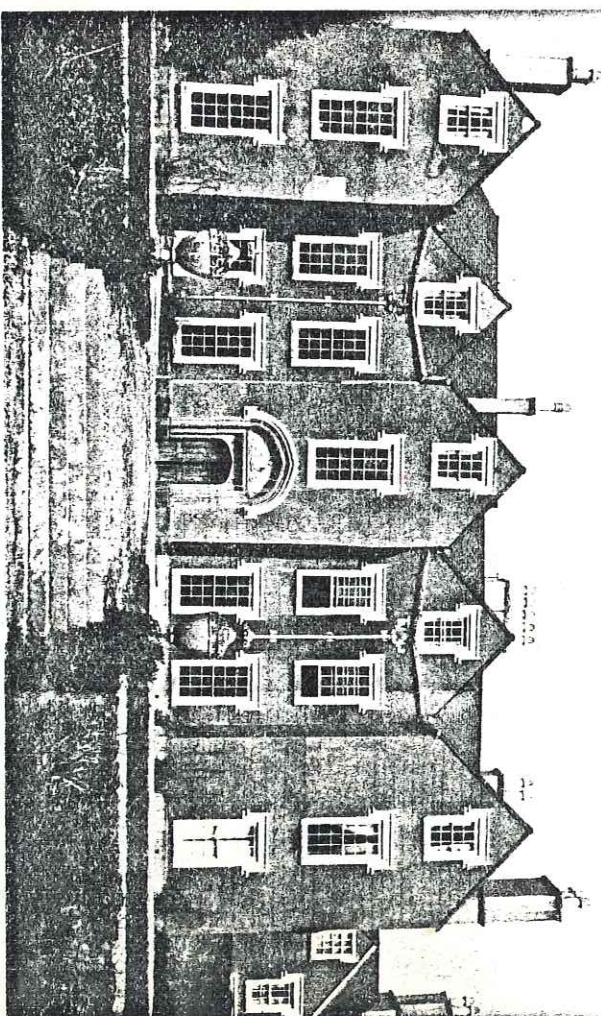
This new information helps us forward - or backward, as the case may be!

THE COPLESTON FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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SEASONAL GREETINGS!

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**WARLEIGH HOUSE**, Tamerton Foliot. John Copleston, son and heir of Ralph, inherited Warleigh from his great-Grandfather John Bonville. Christopher Copleston, son of John, moved to Warleigh and it remained with the family until Gertrude Copleston married John Bamfylde in 1632. As heiress, she took Warleigh to the Bamfylde/Bamfylde family. From 1741 until 1970 Warleigh was the home of the Radcliffe family. A large portion of the House is now a nursing home, but the great hall and minstrel gallery and the dungeons are restored. Warleigh stands in grounds which go down to the south east bank of the River Tavy Estuary. There is a beautiful dovecote and also a boathouse in the grounds, from which can be seen the meeting of the Tavey with the Tamar Rivers. Sampson Foliot was the first owner, the second being Gorges, from whom ownership passed to Bonville.



FAMILY BIBLE

Oh, that there were more of these about! Rose, wife of Bill Copleston in Barking has sent a photocopy of the entries made by the last Coriolanus in the family in the Family Bible given him by his daughter, Eunice Ann. This lady was discovered by Christine Mulvaney's husband to be in the 1889 Nottingham Directory as a seamstress and her father died in Nottingham. He had previously had a bookshop and an HMSO franchise in Old Street in London.

One of the most outstanding things about this Bible is the fact that Eunice Ann and her mother had counted all the words in the Bible and Coriolanus lists them, Old and New Testaments and Apocrypha, with a total of 7,132,960 words - I wonder if this is correct? My son remarked on being shown this page that they didn't have television in those days and it does rather conjure up a picture of two heads bowed over the Bible in candlelight, ticking off the chapters as they counted.

The first page gives 'The Family Register of Coriolanus Copleston and Ann Hadaway married May 28th, 1843' and the next three pages list births, marriages and deaths, some of which are a mystery because the relationship is not given - for instance, 'John Copleston and Mary Ann Langlands 1853'. I wonder if he was the John who edited 'The Evening News' and according to W.H. Copleston in the 1930's, writing to Hermione Copleston's father, arranged Henry Irving's first trip to the U.S.?

The next pages tell us of Coriolanus (the Rev.) and of 'William Copleston (my Father) born April 19 1772 at Luton, Beds. Nancy Nichols born Aug 18 1779 at Barking, Essex married at Barking May 4 1800'. Also 'Henry was married at St. George's Church Hanover Square London April 12 1864'. This was his eldest son who went to the States and became a pharmaceutical salesman. In the 1861 Census at 44 Old Street Row, Henry is shown at age 15 'Medical Assistant' born Middx. Coriolanus is stated to be 50 and born in Maidstone.

This is a valuable addition to the family collection and if anyone has old documents which can be included, photocopies would be more than welcome.

REBECCA'S WILL

An interesting Will is that of 'Rebecca Copleston, of Piccadilly, in St. James, Westminster, spr.'

Dated 2 May, 1764, it was proved 10 May 1768 by Mary wife of James Veale.

'To be buried at Ealing near Mrs. Spicer if I die in London: my worthy friends the Honble. Mrs. Carteret and Mrs. Cavendish to see to my funeral in the absence of my exx. or her husband, who live at too remote a distance to give any directions, and I entreat those ladies acceptance of 20 guineas for rings.

To Mr. John Maule and my servant Sarah Long.

The sd. Mr. Maule in whose house I now live.

To my other servant.

To my niece Mrs. Gertrude Tucker the interest of £600 South Sea Annuities for life for her separate use and after her death to her two children.

To Mrs. Georgina Herbert my gold watch &c.

To the Honble. Mr. Nicholas Herbert the picture of Lady Katherine Morrice set in gold.

Residue to my niece Mrs. Mary Veale for separate use and I make her my exx.

Witness: William Maule, Edm: Byron

Codicil 20 Dec 1766. To my servant Sarah Long £200. To my servant Sarah Drinkwater.

Witness: A. Cavendish (P.C.C. 190 Secker)

I do not know from which branch Rebecca came and would be grateful for information. She certainly moved in exalted circles! The names Carteret, Cavendish and Herbert are prominent.

Most of the Will extracts I have placed, but there are some, like the above, which I am unable to fit. Help! Likewise many of the Wills of more recent date from Somerset House, some of which will appear in the April issue.



# A MERVYN CONNECTION

On a flying visit to Exeter I discovered a very interesting book on the Mervyn family in which is quoted a letter from Dorothy Mervyn, who died in 1835 aged 93. At 85 she wrote the following to Dr. Edward Copleston on his preferment:

My dear Lord, As the oldest living member of your good mother's family (Margaret Gay), permit me to offer my most sincere congratulations on your Lordship's justly merited preferment. May your valuable life be long preserved a faithful follower of your blessed Master, and a firm supporter of his holy Church. I hope all your family (to whom I beg my kindest regards) are well, as, through great mercy, I am, at the advanced age of 85 years and 6 months, and like your excellent aunt, my dear cousin Mrs. Gay, blessed with cheerful spirits. None of my family are with me, or know of my writing to you, or I am certain they would have offered their respectful regards and congratulations. I am, my dear Sir, with real esteem, your Lordship's sincerely obliged relation,  
Dorothy Mervyn.

- to which the Bishop replied:  
Oriol College, 6th January 1828. My dear Madam,  
There is not one among the many letters of congratulation I have received which has given me more pleasure, or for which I consider myself more obliged to the writer, than yours. Having been always accustomed to associate feelings of respect and esteem with the mention of your name, it is particularly gratifying to be so remembered by you. My excellent and most valued aunt, Mrs. Gay, has conveyed to me the same kind sentiments although the use of the pen is with her, nearly, I believe superseded. The channel however which she chose for this communication was most acceptable; that of a near relation. In return for your prayers, that I may be enabled adequately to discharge the sacred duties involved in this appointment, in which I heartily join, I have only to offer mine, that the blessings of health and cheerfulness may continue to brighten your days and enable you, as you

have hitherto done, to diffuse happiness amongst all your friends. I am, my dear Madam, gratefully and sincerely yours, (sgd.) E. Llandaff, Elect.

.....  
Recently it occurred to me, whilst in the City, that I had never seen the Bishop's name in St. Paul's Cathedral and I went in to look for it. A very kind gentleman, Mr. Maurice Sills, who gives voluntary service to St. Paul's, showed me the list of Deans and we found "1827 Edward Copleston". Mr. Sills then took me outside and showed me the Dean's Door, through which Edward would have come and gone on his way to and from the Dean's house - this Mr. Sills also showed me across the street next door to the old Choir School. Since it is a listed building the outside will remain unchanged, but workmen are repairing the inside of the building. In all my years of working in the City I had never seen it before - proving the point that one often does not see what is almost on one's own doorstep!

.....  
The Bishop's father was John Bradford Copleston who was Vicar of Offwell 1773-1800 and Vicar of St. Thomas's, Exeter from 1800 until his death in 1839. John Bradford was son of Edward Copleston and Anne Bradford. Edward was Rector of Tedburn St. Mary from 1731 until 1767 when he died and was buried in that Church.

Edward's father, John was married to Judith Maraton and was also Rector of Tedburn St. Mary from 1687-1731 and was buried in the Chancel there. William Copleston, the father of John, was son of Edward Copleston and Elizabeth Norris - Edward was the second son of John of Curry Mallet and Crewkerne, who still remains a mystery and I am searching Somerset and Dorset for his origins as have a number of people before me, one of them being the Bishop himself. The Will of Margery, widow of John, is not the aid I thought it might be and I am still trying to find the site of the "Coplestone Croft" she mentions. Could it be the Coplestone near Davidstow in Cornwall, since it was bought from Cornish gentlemen?



ARMS IN GRANITE

A question was asked recently about the history of the granite block, with the family's ancient coat of arms carved on it, which is to be seen in the Copleston Aisle or Chapel in Colebrooke Church.

John Coplestone of Seaford, Sussex is able to supply the answer:

"Let me say at once that this particular portrayal in granite of the coat of arms is of no great age. Its somewhat short history is, however, perhaps not altogether without interest.

The stone was the centrepiece of a fine fireplace, in local granite, that my father, Dr. W.D. Coplestone, put in the reception hall of an attractive house that he and my mother bought in Jersey in the mid 1930's, several years after he had retired.

However, in summer 1940 my parents decided that they would have to leave their home so as to be able to keep in touch with my brother and sister and me. They caught the last boat but one to England and for five years the three leopards held the fort, scowling balefully at the hated intruders.

In 1946 my parents returned to Jersey where my father died three years later. In 1954 my mother sold the house, which she loved but which was much too big for her needs. The new owners removed the coat of arms for her and she sent it to me in England, where I enjoyed having it in my study for many years.

When my wife and I moved to our present abode late in 1976, I felt it was perhaps a little pointless setting it up again in these changing times and at my age - 'pushing' 70. But what to do with it? One couldn't really throw it away. And it's well-nigh indestructible! Finally it seemed to me that my father would approve were it to go to some centre historical to the whole 'clan' and the chapel in Colebrooke Church sprang to mind at once. So, after

certain enquiries, I delivered it there in March 1978.

A little later I heard that the Parish Council had thought further about it and decided (quite rightly, actually) that they should consult the Diocesan Council in Exeter. The Council came back with "No" - on what grounds I don't know, but very likely because the stone was not originally part of the Chapel or at least of interest as an antique. Maybe I'm wrong. Anyway, I was told it should be removed, but living as far away as I do, opportunities do not come easily and the stone has now been there for over 2½ years.

It is not in anybody's way or doing anyone harm; and so though it most certainly was not his actual stone, it does portray the coat of arms of Philip Copleston, High Sheriff of Devon, who added the Chapel to Colebrooke Church in the mid-fifteenth century, partly, I guess, in furtherance of his and his family's comfort, but mainly, one hopes, ad maiorem gloriam Dei."

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It was interesting to read in the Transactions of the Devon Association, Sixth Report on the Parliamentary Representation of Devon: "We can only refer briefly to prominent Devonians who may have sat in the parliaments whose returns have not been recovered. We notice that among the Devon surnames those of Carew, Chichester and Champenowne are not found, though Carew occurs in other counties. John Coplestone is named for Devon in 1439, but his son Philip, also a prominent man and the great-grandson of the famous John Hawley, only occurs as the sheriff who in 1472 presided over the return of 7 Yorkist 'carpet-baggers' and was therefore presumably a strong Yorkist."

A different picture from the incident of which we know in 1463 when the Powlesland matter showed him as presumably a strong Lancastrian! (See Vol.1 No. 6, page 12)

"... by the commandment of the sd Philip made a grete affray and assaute upon the sd tenants and tham sore bete wounded and ewell entreted..." This same Philip and his brother Walter built the Copleston Aisle.



FAMILY MEETING

How does Whitsun weekend appeal to you for a gathering of the Clan in Exeter? Bargain Break weekends are available at the Exeter Mercury Motor Inn at Kennford, Exeter, or of course there are hotels in Exeter itself. It is suggested that people travel to Exeter on the Friday and get acquainted over dinner.

Saturday we could visit Tamerton Foliot Church and Warleigh House - thence to Bideford-Alverdiscott-Instow-Exeter.

Sunday we will hope to attend St. Andrew's, in Colebrooke, then lunch perhaps in Coleford and tour Nymet Tracy/Bow/Spreyton.

On Monday we could visit Ottery St. Mary, Offwell and Bicton.

The above is a suggested itinerary and if anyone has alternative ideas, by all means send them to me. When letting me know (as soon as possible, please) whether you will be able to attend, please state whether you are travelling by car or train, so that we know whether there is enough transport for the various visits.

Do let us have a good attendance - I'm sure you will all enjoy meeting each other and swapping family tales. If it is only possible to come for two days, we shall still want you there!

Please do write as soon as you can to let me know if this time is suitable - if too many of you cannot attend at Whitsun we shall arrange an alternative time.

FROM MY NOTES

In the Patent Rolls, Richard II, 1396 is a Commission of oyer and terminer to John Copleston and others in respect of withdrawal of their customs and services for their tenures by bond men and bond tenants of the abbot of Buckfast's manor of Sutton, co. Devon and their conspiring together to resist him and his ministers. (Oyer and terminer was to hear and determine).

A large book on the Kingdon family says: 1622. The advowson of Nymet, alias Nymet Rowland co. Devon was formerly in the fee of Amyas Coplestone of Copleston, Devon, Esq., deceased. Six years ago Amyas Coplestone granted the advowson to Elizabeth Payne and a year later, for some consideration, by another deed he granted the manor and advowson to Christopher Kingdon of Rewe, co. Devon.

The Hertford County Sessions Record Books inform us in the Midsummer Session, Quarter Sessions Book 15 July 1793, that Thomas Thurgood and Thomas Copleston took oaths as officers of excise. (This could be the son of Rev. Coriolanus who married Sarah Barber at Haughley, Suffolk in 1803.)

In the Will of Pascoe Rison of Winscott, proved London 1647, she gives to 'my servant Grace Copleston (if she be with me at the time of my death) my best old woollen and linen apparel and my rideing shute!'

Ashburton Churchwarden's Accounts for 1542-3 shows 5s. for seats in church from Adam Coplestone and others.

1543 Rentals and Surveys - Yealmlton. Rental there renewed in the law court of the Lady Katherine Queen Dowager of her manor of Yealmlton holden 21 March 2 Edw. VI, viz John Copleston for lands in Dolland Bowden and Stone 36/-.

The Patent Rolls 1548 on February 9th give Commission to John Copleston of Yealmlton and John Senticler esqurs. to make inquisition in the co. of Devon whether John Broke of Halbeton is an idiot unfit to rule his property, whether he has alienated any lands since he came into that state, what is his age and what lands he holds.



## BITS AND PIECES

10.

Research in silver spurs and collar of SS has led to an article in the Gentlemen's Magazine, 1842 with a picture of the Duke of Lancaster's collar. It seems that John returned from Spain in 1389 wearing on his neck a collar of his livery, which was also worn in compliment to him by his nephew, King Richard. As Steward of England in 1361 on the death of Henry, Duke of Lancaster, John might have given collars to his adherents and friends, the device of which was significant of their allegiance to the Steward of England. This article, by 'J.G.N.' conjectures that the S was adopted as the initial of the Seneschallus or Steward. Interesting theory?

Archaeologica Cantiana Vol.I. has an article by Edward Foss FSA (1858) about the Collar of SS and he says "I may add that at one time esquires were created by the investiture of a silver collar of SS". Mr. L.G. Pine also says this in his "Story of Titles" but no-one can give me even a century to work on - if it is known that these esquires were created, why is it not known when and by whom?

Cromwell made 36 knights between 1653 and 1658, of whom Sir John Copleston was the fourth. After Oliver, Richard Cromwell knighted two more.

In the Calendar of Treasury Books 1677 is a note that in the presence of the Lord Treasurer and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir John Copleston and Heartmoney Farmers are called in. They complain against Mr. Nanfan, a J.P. in Worcestershire and against justices in Yorkshire regarding judgments on smiths, forges, etc. What a delightful name is 'Heartmoney'!

The Committee of Safety in 1659 nominated for Colonel Alured's Horse Regiment, among others, Captain Sir John Copleston.

11.

The time has come again to say some "Thank you's" to the many people who give help. To Mr. Christopher Morris, of King's College, who has given much information and advice on Dr. John Copleston (he of the Grace Cup) and who gave me a much appreciated conducted tour of King's College Chapel and arranged for me to make a rubbing of the tombstone of Dr. John.

To the Records Assistant at Portsmouth City Record Office who sent me the full entry on the marriage of one of the two George Williams living in the mid-17th. I give it here because it shows three Coplestones, the occupations of two of them and other useful information: 'Married 8 May 1859 by Banns. George William Coplestone, age 21, bachelor, Petty Officer R.N., H.M.S. Hannibal. Father: Joseph Coplestone, Shipwright, Dockyard. Charlotte Threadingham, age 18, spinster Waltham Street. Father: Richard Threadingham, Smith, Dockyard. Witnesses: Elizabeth Ann Moulton, John Coplestone. George W. Coplestone signed his name but Charlotte Threadingham and the two witnesses signed by making a mark.'

A leaflet describing the facilities at Portsmouth R.O. was enclosed and I am very impressed with the scope and availability of records - I shall certainly make a visit. Here I must repeat that archivists and librarians invariably will answer one query upon receipt of s.a.e., but if you have more than one problem to solve you should make a personal visit, preferably notifying in advance and stating which records you wish to examine.

A former member of my Waltham Forest FHS, now in Bucks., sent some Copleston Census entries he found while searching Devon. One is particularly interesting - at 11 Louisa Terrace, Exmouth in the 1851 Census is a School run by John and Fanny Penrose and a pupil aged 9 years was John Copleston, born Crediton.

Mr. Hunt, Area Librarian, North Devon, informs me that the Lyons Add.MSS mentioned in the last Newsletter was micro-filmed about 25 years ago and is at Westcountry Studies Library.

Last, but by no means least, Mr. Cecil Humphery-Smith has written helpfully on the heraldic queries in the last issue and is trying to find an answer to the SSS problem for us. The lesson seems to be 'don't take Victorian opinions and statements as gospel'. My thanks, too, to Col. Swinnerton for enlisting the aid of Mr. Humphery-Smith.