

THE COPPLESTON FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2 No. 11  
July 1985

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CORNWALL COPPLESTONES

These are two of the pictures sent me by Mrs. Millicent Short, who descends from Henry, basket maker of Liskeard, born 1819 in Luxulyan and his wife Jane, who was a Bartlett born Monkleigh, Devon. She may relate to Mary, daughter of John Bartlett, an Independent Pastor at The Great Meeting House, Bideford, who married the first Coriolanus Copleston, mercer of Bideford, away back in 1680.

This picture of Jane looks as though it may have been taken on one of the birthdays in her 90's, since she holds a bouquet and wears her best bonnet!

The second picture was taken at the house in Cannon Hill in Liskeard where Henry made his baskets. It shows Elizabeth Jane (Tamblin) wife of Henry's son William Henry, also a basket maker, with her daughter Winifred Ada Ladysmith and an adopted son, Joseph Easterbrooke.



Another daughter was Millicent May (mother of Milly Short) who married Samuel Redmond. Robert Jago, fellow member of Cornwall FHS who has sent me much helpful information, gave me the inscription on the pink slate headstone of the grave of Henry and Jane in the old part of Liskeard churchyard :

"In Loving Memory of Henry Copplestone who entered into rest on the 23rd day of May 1882 aged 63 years. Also to the Memory of Jane Copplestone, Relict of the above who died at Tiverton, Devon on the 13th day of August 1912, aged 98 years."

Strangely, a cousin of Henry, Jonathan Eplett C., was a blacksmith working for Robert Jago's gt-grandfather, John Jago, in Pelynt in 1851.

Henry and Jane were for a time Master and Matron of Barnstaple Workhouse - perhaps Jane was homesick for Devon! We shall have to find out more about this. This branch is still spreading sideways, but not upwards beyond the 1730's, for the marriage of Richard and Susannah c1735 has still not come to light.

Thanks to "Family Tree Magazine" and one of its readers, new light has been thrown upon the whereabouts of Rev. Coriolanus after his second marriage to Sarah Bowler at St. Peter, Chertsey on 17 April 1756.

Mr. Eric Hall of Layer Breton, Colchester, saw a piece about the Coplestons in the Jan/Feb issue of "Family Tree Magazine" and very kindly wrote to tell me that some 15 years ago he had worked on a local history project at Chobham, Surrey and had made note of parish registers entries as being out of the ordinary. It seems that in 1763 'Lancelot Copleston, son of Rev. Mr. Copleston was baptised February 12th'. At the same time he had baptised Celia 'born the first day of December 1748 about 9 or 10 in the morning' and Eusebia, born November 28th, 1749.

Celia and Eusebia were daughters of his first marriage to Hannah Bowler who was buried 4th August, 1751 at Princes Risborough, Bucks and described as 'wife of Mr., a dissenting teacher'.

Also baptised at that time were John born June 30th 1756 (2½ months after the marriage to Sarah!), Elizabeth born 11 Oct 1757, Mary born 31 Dec 1758 and Coriolanus born 11 Aug 1761. Less than a month after these baptisms is a burial entry 'Rev. Copleston buried March 9th 1763'. This, of course, is Rev. Corio's father, John, who must have gone to live with him when he could no longer preach.

I consulted Chobham entries in the IGI and found that Samuel was baptised 8 Oct 1764 and Thomas on 14 Oct 1766. The last son, from whom so many of us descend, was William, born at Luton in 1772. Mr. Hall says that Rev. Copleston had no connection with Chobham so far as he knows and indeed, I can find none myself, but since he was married not far away in Chertsey, the family must have lived in the area and I wonder if his reason for having all the children baptised (or re-bapt.) in Chobham was that he had decided to conform to the Established Church and was making preparations so to do.

For several years I have been searching for the ordination of Coriolanus and the time is now narrowed down to the years between 1763 and 1769 when he became Curate at St. Mary, Hinckley. His ordination as an Independent was performed by Philip Doddridge at Buckingham in 1742 and at marriage to Sarah he was still dissenting. I wrote Surrey County Record Office who informed me that in the c18th Chobham was in the Diocese of Winchester and suggested I contact Hampshire CRO. This I did and they told me that Coriolanus does not appear in their clergy index and there is no record in the Bishops Registers 1742-64 of an induction of Copleston to Chobham incumbency, although since the registers are not indexed, he may have been inducted to another incumbency in the Diocese. So many 'brick walls'! I am grateful to both these Record Offices for their efforts, however. A search of available non-conformist records in the area seems to be in order; perhaps a visit to Winchester to examine the Bishops Registers, also.

Eusebia was apprenticed to Elizabeth Clarke of Staines, mantle-maker, 1765/6. She married Henry Warland in 1774 at Haddenham, Bucks.

John was apprenticed to John Ward, tallow chandler at Hinckley 1769/70 and appears in the Militia List 1777 at Northampton. Married Elizabeth Jackson 1784 and buried Luton 1791.

Lancelot apprenticed to John Raymond, woolstapler, Potton, Beds 1776/7. Married Martha ..... at Hitchin c1795.

Coriolanus apprenticed to Wm. Prudden, baker at Harpenden, Herts 1776/7. Married Ann Olney - she and baby Samuel both died 1784 and Corio died young.

Samuel apprenticed to brother John 1778/9. Took Methodism to St. Albans and Leighton Buzzard. Unmarried. Died 1835 Leighton Buzzard.

Thomas apprenticed to brother John 1780/1. Married Sarah Barber, Woolpit, Suffolk. Became Excise Officer in Herts.

William rumoured to be an Excise Officer, but is elusive! Married Nanny Nicholls at Barking, Essex in 1800, the year his father Coriolanus died.

Anyone with access to a local history library in any of the above places and time to use it is implored to search for clues, also to look in early directories which may list information as to occupations, addresses - take name and year of directory and list every last detail - thank you!



### Historical Revision - QUODDAM MAGNUM TABERNACULUM

The Patent Rolls of 1415 tell of a Provisional Licence for the disposal of a great tabernacle of silver gilt, garnished with gold, late of the Duke of Burgundy, and with 20 rubies, 22 sapphires and 137 pearls, delivered as security for the repayment of 860 marks lent to the king's use, viz, 100 mks by the Mayor and Commonalty of Exeter, 100 mks by the dean and chapter of the cathedral church of Exeter, 100 mks by John abbot of Tavystock, 100 mks by John, prior of Plympton, 100 mks by John prior of Launceston, 100 mks by Willial abbot of Buckfast, 100 mks from Robert Cary, esq., 60 mks from Alexr. Chambernoun, esq., 60 mks from John Beville, esq., 10 mks from John Copleston, esq. and 30 mks from the mayor and commonalty of Plymouth.

John Copleston the younger had ridden to London with the 860 marks for Henry V, who had asked loans for his French war and the tent was given to John as a pledge for repayment of the loan. The Dean and Chapter of Exeter had the tent in safe keeping and although the Provisional Licence was given for disposal, a Writ was sent to the Sheriff of Devon in 1423 'requiring the Dean and Chapter to answer at the Exchequer for the Great Tabernacle'. Whether it was eventually redeemed or whether the Dean & Chapter disposed of it remains to be discovered - so many of these historical events end in mystery.

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By 1421 John Copleston the younger had become MP for Devon County with Henry Fortescue and twice more MP for the County in 1435 and 1439. John the elder, his father, had nine times been MP for Launceston, Dartmouth, Totnes and Barnstaple, while his (John elder's) brother sat for Wareham in 1383 and for Dartmouth in 1384. (Richard, Esquire to the Earl of Arundell.)

Only two other family members were Members; Sir John Copleston (knighted by Oliver Cromwell) for Barnstaple Boro' in 1658-9 and Thomas Copleston of Bowden for Callington in Cornwall from 1719 to 1754.

No ambition in that direction since!

CORRESPONDENCE

David and Ettie Copleston in Australia hope to be at the Gathering in May 1986 - super news! They ask me to give warmest greetings and good wishes to all members of the Copleston clan. They passed on an obituary sent them by son Peter in Toronto of Margaret Budge Copleston, widow of Thomas. Children and grandchildren are named and this may be the family we tried to contact long ago.

I have exchanged Newsletters with a fellow member of the Guild in Regina, Sask., in my native land. Kenneth Aitken is Librarian of the Prairie History Room of Regina Public Library and is interested that my father, Frank Barford, was in Regina when the tornado of June 30, 1912, struck the City.

Cards were received from Hermione, visiting friends in Indiana and from Nancy Copplestone in Bali - she had talked on the 'phone with Warner Saville in New Zealand, while visiting several countries.

Mike Copleston at Plymtree sent an interesting history of Woodbeer Court. The list of holders begins with Winemar the Saxon in 1065!

Willis, who has done another article for 'Hel Achau' on Sabina Copleston; the nun of Canonsleigh Abbey, sent a set of maps showing where the various monks and nuns had their abbeys, priories and monasteries. Canonsleigh was close to Dunkeswell, much connected to the family, but there seem to be no remains of the former.

Dora Kneebone of Kesgrave, Ipswich, has given me yet another source of letters of Edward C., Bp. of Llandaff, to Thomas Mayo. I gave a talk about the Coplestons at Ipswich in April and stayed overnight with Dora and family and saw Copleston Road and School and met the former Headmistress, Miss Beeson.

A letter of thanks from The Genealogical Society of Utah for the pedigrees which are being microfilmed arrived recently. Deposit of a set at the Society of Genealogists is mentioned in the current Genealogists' Magazine.

Myra C. in Penarth also hopes to be with us next May. (Another busy retiree!)



THE COPLESTONE EXPEDITION 1931 - 1985

Patrick Davidson-Houston is grandson of John and Elizabeth Coplestone at Seaford and with three fellow-students at Exeter University he will take off in July on an over-land journey to Nairobi, doing the reverse journey of that which John made in 1931. They will make an account of their journey and compile a guide to the planning of such expeditions. In East Africa they will be donating a utility vehicle to a charity. Fund-raising events have been held in Exeter to help towards expenses and they must have worked very hard to get things under way. Good luck on your travels!

JOHN COPPERSTONE

Bailey's Western & Midland Directory of 1783 shows a John Copperstone, ironmonger, living in Torrington. One wonders what pronunciation produced this variation of the name which crops up from time to time. He may have been the John Coplestone who married Frances Lillicrop at Merton in 1759 and it is names like hers which make me understand why people search all the marriage lines in their families. I find it a temptation, but my dedication to the discovery of the Cop history disciplines me. I'd like to know if the Popplestones were originally Coplestons, for I don't see their name in early records. Other intriguing connections include Bartlett and Bowler, Cat(e)cote and Chollocombe, Eplett and Fortescue, Garnsey, Judd, Kellaway, Loveridge, Mallett, Olney, Prideaux, Rowse, Smallbrook, Specott, Tyeth, Wollacombe - and lots more.

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FRED FILBY has resigned as Registrar of the Guild of One-Name Studies and at the AGM held at the May Conference was elected our first President by acclamation. Also giving up his duties with the East of London FHS, he hopes to concentrate now on his Filby searches - he calls it 'minding my own business!' Fred has done so much for family historians over the years and we all wish him - and Elsie - a happy 2nd retirement.

It has been mentioned previously that there are a few early Copleston families, members of which have been found in various sources, who cannot be linked to the Visitation pedigree. It seems obvious that Adam de Copleston had brothers not shown in the Visitations and the family concerned in this article may well descend from one of them.

In 'Ancient Petitions' is an item telling of an assault on one Robert Story by Richard Geoffrey 'in John Cobblestone's house in Ashburton' in 1481-2. This John is named several times in Ashburton Churchwarden's Accounts (Devon & Cornwall Record Society) and it is interesting to note the various spellings of his name. Copston, Colpstone, Copelston and even the correct 'Copleston'!

There was a fracas in the Church at Ashburton in 1482 to which 'John Copleston, freeman, aged 60' was a witness, thus establishing his date of birth as c1422. He was therefore living at the same time as John Copleston of Copleston (the elder) and his son John (the younger).

From the Churchwarden's Accounts we see other members living in Ashburton, but it is impossible to establish relationships. 1482-3 'And 2ls5d collected among the parishioners for Wexsylvyr' by Roger Copston and John Olysbrome'. 1484-5 shows John Colpstone paying 8d for a seat in the Church. In 1487-8 20s11d was received from Roger Colpstone and John Ferys for le play ale. (?) 'And the wardens elected for the next year are Wm. White, Richard Knollyng, John Colpstone and John Harell.'

#### THE STANNARY TOWNS IN 1588

The Council wrote to Sir Walter Raleigh on July 21st, 1588 for delivery of muster-rolls of the tinnners. The colonels in the Courts of the Stannaries were:

Flympton	William Stroode Esq.	100 men
Tavistock	John Copleston Esq.	100 men
Chagford and Ashburton	Adrian Gilbert Esq.	(each)100 men



Under Gifts and Rents in 1495-6 John Colpstone's gift is 20s4d and that of Roger Colpstone 2d. (Sounds like a poor relation.)

Probably another John - maybe son of the first - is John Copleston who paid 3d 'for browying in the church house' in 1508-9. No, I don't yet know what 'browying' is!

Under Gifts in 1523-4 (Cross and Burial) John Copleston pays 8d and in 1543-4 Adam Copleston paid 5s for seats in the Church. Ashburton men were paid 4d each in 1564-5 for riding to Plympton to an Inquisition enquiring into concealed lands, held before Wm. Strode and John Copleston (of Copleston).

The last item in these accounts concerning Coplestons is in 1565-6 showing 3s4d paid to Mr. Copleston for his fee paid in the house of Laurence Ellys and 5s8d paid to Laurence Elys for a dinner for Mr. Copleston, Christopher Warren, Laurence Wydecomb, Wm. whytwaye and Henry Ayscott.

The Subsidy Roll of 1525 in Ashburton notes a Philip Copylston, widower. Philip is not mentioned in the Churchwarden's accounts and may have lived outside the stannary town.

Use of the names John, Adam and Philip denotes close relationship to the main line Coplestons, but why did they go to Ashburton? Life in the town in those years was never without incident, for the tinners were a law unto themselves and there were frequent clashes between them and the non-tinning community.

♦ Wax silver - probably a collection for candlesticks and other church silver.

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Sir Walter replied: "I have appointed four captains to every the aforesaid colonels to bring all the able tanners and trained bards within their several Courts, to their said colonels at any place they command, and have given in charge and taken order with every the said colonels that their trained soldiers being in all 400, which is 100 to every Court shall be, upon any invasion, at your Lordship's commandment anywhere within the county of Devon or to any other place according to the Council's directions."

(Historical MSS Commission 15th Report, Appendix Pt. VII)

THE SHIP'S MASTER by David and Ruth Copleston

On the front page of the October 1984 Newsletter we had a very interesting account of the life and times of Thomas Mitchell Copplestone who served in the Royal Navy and for nearly 20 years was Master of a number of R.N. ships.

In the merchant service the position of Master was that of ship's commander, but in the Royal Navy it was formerly the special rank of Navigator and Sailing Master of a ship-of-war. In Nicholas ('The Cruel Sea') Monsarrat's later novel 'The Master Mariner' he describes the work and responsibilities of the ship's Master in the context of describing the duties and skills of one such, James Cook, who was later celebrated for his navigation and voyages around the world as Captain of the "Resolution".

Before this, James Cook was Master of the "Pembroke", which was a ship of the line of 64 guns, 1,250 tons, under its Captain, John Simcoe. "Aboard such warships the Master bore the sole burden of navigation, pilotage, and any surveys required in uncharted waters. Under the Captain he set the course and handled the ship; he was also concerned with the stores, with masts and spars, sails and rigging; with the working of the ship and the management of the crew. A good Master was thus beyond price. Being without commission, he wore no uniform. Always he was surrounded by glittering officers of superior rank and class; lieutenants, mates, even midshipmen. But he was the trained man among all of them, with parchment to testify to his competence and responsibility by day and by night to prove it. His quarters showed his true rank, placed just forward of the captain's great cabin in the coach of the quarter deck. There, he was at the captain's right hand; there, in truth, he was that right hand, and fortunate was the captain who could put all his trust in it."

The story of Thomas' life as Master of the "Childers" and other ships of war would probably make a most interesting biography, since we do have his log books preserved at the PRO at Kew. From his enlistment at the age of 12 or 13 (he was unlikely to have been a victim



of the dreaded press-gangs since he was at such a tender age - more probably a volunteer), he seems to have served in many ships. To have been promoted to the rank of full Master at the age of 29 his career so far matches that of Captain Cook who was promoted Master at that same age.

He took part in the battle of Cape St. Vincent in 1797 in which Nelson was inspired to leave the English line of battle and cut the Spanish squadron into two confused halves and then lead a boarding party to capture two Spanish warships. It was in this battle that Nelson lost the sight of his right eye.

They were stirring times for England and our Thomas was part of them. So who of us will be Thomas' biographer?

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Ed. Note: I promise that the 10 pages of closely typed notes garnered from Kew, plus all further discoveries, will be passed to Thomas' 4-gts-grandson, Stephen Copplestone of Crosby, who may like to take on the task at his retirement in 30-odd years' time!

May I appeal to anyone who reads this to watch for the marriage of Thomas Mitchell Copplestone and Sarah ..... possibly in the London/Middx area c1800-4. Also for the marriage of their son George Horatio (naturally!) to Maria Barker about 1824 in London or Guernsey and G.H.'s. birth in London/Middx 1804-5 and that of a sister or brother, name unknown. To know so much about the lives of a family and not be able to find these vital dates and places is most frustrating. T.M. was born in Stoke Damerel in 1777 and joined the Navy in Fowey. His Administration in 1820 gives him as 'late of Guernsey' and is dated June 1820, yet Sarah told the Admiralty that he died on August 19th of that year. Did he die in Guernsey? Did Sarah add a couple of months to his life because she needed the Half Pay so desperately for herself and her children? Perhaps the answers are at the PRO, Kew and I have yet to find them.

H - E - E - E - L - P !!!