

Vol. 2 No. 12  
October 1985

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600 YEARS AGO ....

Fine Rolls, 20th October, 1385: "Commitment of the County of Somerset and Dorset to John de Copleston, during pleasure, so that he answer at the Exchequer as Sheriff".

200 YEARS AGO ....

Rev. Coriolanus Copleston was halfway through his thirty years as Curate-in-Charge of St. Mary's Parish Church, Luton. Thanks to Ruth we at last know where and when Corio was ordained a priest in the Established Church. In Acts Books in Chester Record Office she discovered that on June 6th, 1762 at Whitehall, Edmund, Bishop of Chester ordained 12 deacons and 16 priests. Priest No. 3 was Coriolanus Copleston. A 'phone call one evening from David and Ruth gave me the news and I'm sure I would never have found this information myself.

Mr. Eric Hall, who provided the baptisms of Corio's children at Chobham, also gave me the name of Mr. Robert Schueller in Chobham, to whom I wrote asking for further information. He established that Corio's name was entered in the Church register there every year from 1761 to 1768. (This fits with his removal to St. Mary, Hinckley in 1769). Mr. Schueller says "However, in the visitation lists he is NOT shown as curate - but the situation in Chobham was rather odd insofar as the Vicar was non-resident but signed marriages both before and after Coriolanus Copleston had done so."

We know that Coriolanus junior was born in Chertsey, not far away, in 1761 but baptised at Chobham, as were the following sons, Lancelot, Samuel and Thomas and it is safe to assume that Corio and family moved into Chobham in 1761. His Anglican career is now - at last! - covered. We need to find now the places he preached as an Independent minister between Buckingham, 1742 and his conversion. Below is a Certificate of Burial in Woollen signed by Coriolanus in Luton in 1795, five years before his death.



To the Reverend the Minister of *Luton* *Susannah*

*Punter* of the Parish of *Luton* in the County of *Bedford* maketh Oath, That the Body of *Mary Hingham* of this Parish which was lately buried at the Burial Ground of the Baptist Meeting House was not wrapped up, when buried, in any Suit, Sheet, or Shroud, but what was made of *Sheep's Wool* only; nor put into any Coffin, lined, faced, or covered with any kind of Cloth, or Stuff, but what was made of *Sheep's Wool* only, according to the Direction of an Act of Parliament, intituled, *An Act for burying in Woollen.* Taken and Sworn this *second* Day of *December* 1795  
Before me *Coriolanus Copleston*  
*Curate*

N. B. Affidavits of Burial in Woollen must be delivered in to the Minister of the Parish where the Deceased was buried, in eight Days from the Time of Burial, on pain of the Penalty of Five Pounds for neglect thereof.

In the July issue I partly answered the frequent query 'Where did all the lands and money go?' This time I'll show how many of the holdings came to the family. In Vol.344 if the Transactions of the Devon Association is a pedigree forming part of McLean's 'Deanery of Trigg Minor', showing the families who held the Manor of Penrose-Burdon, Part of the pedigree is shown below and those who have copies should note the corrections I have made after checking Inquisitions Post Mortem of Leva Gorges, Thomas Bonville and John Wibbery.

John son of Sir Wm. bonville & Margaret Daumarle = Elizabeth Rodeney / Johanna, eldest dau. = of Hugh de St. John, Sheriff of Cornwall eldest son of Thos., 1435 d.7.2.1466 Lord St. John of Basing by Elizabeth dau. & hr. of Martin Ferrers / John Bonville = b. Basing 1413 d. 1494	John Gorges = ... / Leva Gorges = Hr. to her father d. 16.12.1461 / Johanna, dau. & hr. b. 1423 / Anne, dau. & hr. b. 1438 23 at death of her grandmother Leva, to whom she was heir	John Wibbery = ... / John Wibbery d. 1423 / Philip Copleston, Sheriff of Devon 1472 d. 16.10.1472
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To clarify: Leva married first John Wibbery, who died shortly before their daughter Joan (or Johanna) was born. She then married Thomas Bonville and after her death Thomas married Joan St. John. The son of Thomas and Joan married the daughter of Leva and John and their only child, Anne Bonville, married Philip Copleston, bringing to him Bonville, Gorges and Wibbery lands.

It is interesting to see in the Inq. PM of Thomas Bonville that he held 'the Manors of Northlegh and Penrosborden' from John Walshe as of his manor of Kylmanauton by fealty, worth &c. £10. In 1471 the IPM of Elizabeth Bonville, Lady Harington, shows 'Northlegh is held of the King as of his duchy of Lancaster by fealty and a rose, worth, &c 100s.' 'Northlegh' is Lee in Morwenstow, held in earlier times by the Wibbery family and eventually passing to George Copleston (9-gts-gr to so many of us), 2nd son of John 'The Great' Copleston.

Thomas Bonville's eldest brother was Sir Wm. Bonville of Shute whose son William married Elizabeth, dau & hr of William, Lord Harington. Their son William became Lord Harington through his mother and married Catherine, daughter of Richard Nevill, Earl of Salisbury and they were the gt-gt-grandparents of Lady Jane Grey, for their daughter Cecily married Thomas Grey, Marquis of Dorset.

Other connections in this large family tree are Berkeley, Fleming, Huiw (Huish) and Blanchminster, all of which names are quartered in the Arms of Copleston allowed at the 1623 Visitation. Copies can be sent on receipt of 2 x 13p stamps.

Warleigh House in Tamerton Foliot, to which the main family moved from Copleston, came to the family with Leva's marriage to Philip and is the largest of all the houses in which Coplestons lived.

Elizabeth, Lady Harington's IPM mentions that John Lutterell, John Fortescue, Richard Dunscombe, clk., Thomas Nevill, John Copleston sen. and Richard Denshill were seised of the manor of Brendon and by Charter of 13 Henry IV granted it to John de Haryngton, chivaler, lord of Haryngton, with reversion to Cecily. I see that Brendon Barton is named on Ordnance Survey Sheet 180, south-east of Lynton and Lymouth. Catching up on all their land deals would take a lifetime!

Here endeth the lesson - any queries will be dealt with to the best of my wavering ability. Perhaps it won't be wavering so much when I return from Ullapool .....

Two new members are welcomed - Mrs. Vera Page and her sister, Mrs. Winifred MacPhail. Their father was Frederick Wm. Coplestone, son of John and Elizabeth Frances (Aldridge) and grandson of John and Sarah (Bond) of Thorverton. They have been sent the 'B' pedigree, since they descend from Edward Copleston of Instow. Vera has been to Thorverton from her home in Dulverton to see the grave of her gt-gt-grandparents Azael and Bathsheba.

Only recently having seen the 1984 National Genealogical Directory I discovered that Miss Joanna Payne of Eastbourne was seeking Coplestones and wrote her offering assistance. Her gt-grandmother was Charlotte Coplestone, daughter of John and Maria of Otterton and she married Charles Payne in 1865. This is one of my 'mystery families', but I am sure they go into the Instow branch, also.

Dora Kneebone sent a photocopy of an article in the August Coin & Medal News, 'The Affair at Nery' which gives a list of those members of 'L' Battery, RHA in 1914 who were killed. One was Gunner W.E. Coplestone 55306 and I should be grateful to hear whether any family member knows about him.

A letter from Agnes, mother of Peter in Charleston, S. Carolina, informed me that she would be in London for a few days in November and I look forward very much to meeting her. Reg and family relate and hope to see her, too.

Roy and Kath of Andover offered to meet and show me Winchester when I thought I needed a visit to the Record Office there in search of Corio's ordination. I no longer need the RO, but will still take advantage of the offer - thank you!

June Ross wrote from California asking information on the family of Edward Malpas who married Elizabeth Coplestone in Portsea St. Mary on Jan 15th 1803. If anyone knows of descendants, please contact me.

Moira Tangye sent a copy of the August 'Cornish Life' with an article on the 7-mile walk from St. Winnow to Lerryn, including pictures of the Church and Barton Farm at St. Winnow, having previously sent the reading from the grave of Richard Coplestone who spent all his working life at the Barton Farm.

Reg and Olive made a 'recco' of the Sidmouth area in June and I received a report in early July. They found it 'a charming area' and wondered why they hadn't been there before!

In view of parking problems if people were scattered in various guest houses, Reg wondered if it might not be a better idea to go into a family type hotel and found one such, overlooking the sea. Although it might be a bit more expensive than previous gatherings, reduced rates for a family booking are possible. The prices for next season should be available early in January and interested parties should send requirements and a stamped and addressed envelope to Reg by the middle of January.

Reg and Olive rightly think that it will solve a lot of problems to have breakfast and evening meal at the hotel and then lunches will be the only meals to arrange.

Since there will be a deposit to be made, Reg will let you know what is needed when sending the other information, so contact him within the first two weeks of Jan.

Mr. R. Copleston

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For those holding the 'A' pedigree, Reg points out that in A.11 the addition should be noted of Lee, born in Chatham 17.11.1982 to Andrew and Pauline Copleston. A brother for Joanne. He also mentions that his daughter Lesley Ann had a son, Simon, born 2.3.1966 - but I have to keep reminding family members that children of female Coplestons do not go in the pedigree! Simon goes in the Cleave pedigree of his father. If anyone wants to make a 'family tree' of all their lines, they can, but the pedigree is strictly in the male line and only marriages of daughters may be shown, not their children. Sorry about that! As I have said before, I only sneaked myself in the 'A' pedigree as compiler - I have no right to be there really. My excuse is that (with the help of the family) I did the work - and I did bracket my name as extraneous matter! My son can't be in my Barford pedigree - he belongs with the Von Friesens.

This issue is being prepared early in September, since I have the local FHS journal to type and three talks to give locally (none of which have yet been prepared!) and hope to take off at last for Ullapool on the night of the 25th.

This is the first Newsletter of the last year of publication - unless someone wants to carry on? The last issue will therefore be that of July 1986. With a backlog of correspondence after my visitors have gone, I shan't have time for reminder notes, so will the early members, most of whose subs are due in October, please remit after looking at last year's cheque stubs?!

It has been a very great pleasure to do the Newsletter and there is never a lack of material, but I really must get on with the writing up of the family history and spend more time on research. I shall still welcome correspondence of course and will duplicate the odd report to send out on receipt of s.a.e. bringing you up to date on new discoveries in January and June from 1987.

Meeting so many cousins has been a wonderful experience and I don't want to lose touch. Any gatherings organised after next May I shall be glad to join - but those will be in the lap of the gods and yourselves!

We have an extraordinary family, one of the few which has been proved back 675 years and of which we have members over 100 years prior to 1310 whose exact relationship has yet to be established. We know that they were in Copleston in Colebrooke in the late 1100's since Richard de Copleston was adult in the year 1200. Perhaps one of your children will eventually prove that he was the father of William de Copleston; it is already proven that William was father of Hugh and there is the shadowy Richard between him and Adam, first in the Visitations. Somewhere in the PRO are documents awaiting transcription by a dedicated family historian, which will solve mysteries.

Thank you all for your interest and co-operation. Don't forget to send me the additions to your families!

MYSTERY FAMILIES - 2

John Copleston married Ansticea Madice at Bovey Tracey 21.5.1576. Their children were Andreas bapt 16.1.1578 (died young), William bapt. 12.5.1580 and Andreas bapt. 1.5.1584, all at Bovey Tracey. I have no idea who this John could be, nor have I come across mention of William or Andrew at the appropriate time.

Another John Copleston married Alice Woode 19.5.1577 at St. Helen's, Bishopsgate in the City of London. A daughter, Anne, was baptised 21.10.1583 at St. Botolph, Bishopsgate. There are more Johns in the family than you can shake a stick at, which doesn't help! Both of these Johns were probably born in the early 1550's, but where - and to whom??

In 1584 two George Coplestons were in Wiltshire; one in Pewsey, a husbandman. The other was of Lurgesall, variously described as yeoman, mercer and barber in the Sessions, when he was accused of battery and unlawful games. They are the only Coplestons in Wiltshire in these times and may have been of the family at Marshwood in Dorset, related to the Nash Coplestons. I would particularly like to place these because it is delightful to find a rogue to add colour to a family. (Hoping, of course, that the battery was not too nasty).

Stephani Copleston, armiger, shows in the Ancient Documents of Buckfast Abbey in a Latin Inquisition on Brent/Brentmore in Dartmoor in 1554. No other Stephens appear in the earlier family and I can't think where to look for him.

Gabriel Copleston, a cutler, lived in Southampton in the early 1600's. Of his sons John, Christopher and Nicholas, the last two were apprenticed to him. John was baptised 13.5.1621 at Southampton St. Michael, but baptisms for the others have not been found. Nicholas and Christopher are familiar family names, but no other Gabriel before or since is known. Christopher married and was Parish Clerk at St. Michael and buried there in 1672. Nicholas married (1) Ann ... , by whom he had Gabriel (the one exception to the above) and

Bartholomew, both bapt 25.9.1669. Ann possibly died at their birth, for she was buried Southampton Holy Rood on 7.10.1669. Nicholas then married Susan Vallett in 1685 and she was buried Southampton St. Michael in 1689. No children of this marriage have been found, nor any descendants of Gabriel and Bartholomew, possibly twins.

The Thomas Copleston who received papal dispensations as the son of unmarried parents in 1442 and 1456 is still very much a mystery. He was a well educated cleric and had been Junior (Southern) Proctor of Oxford University. Thomas tutored at St. Peter's Hall and his Churches included Chagford, Drewsteignton and Nymet Rowland. I wonder could he have been son of John elder and Catherine Grace (Graas) before they married? She was divorced by her first husband, John de Affeton, so may have had a liaison with John which brought about the divorce.

Richard Copleston of Otterham, Cornwall. Is he the Richard of Early Chancery Proceedings in St. Breock with wife Jane 'late the wife of William Roche' 1538-1544? Did they have children who could be forbears of the Cornwall family 'stuck' in the 1730's?

William who married Katherine Penhargard in the 2nd half of the 14th appears in a number of land disputes with John elder and his wife, Alice Luccombe (whom he married after the demise of Catherine Grace). Could be John's brother, not shown in the Visitations, or son of a brother of Adam de Copleston, wot we know not of!

Then there is the most important mystery of all - the John and Margery Copleston of Crewkerne, ancestors of the Offwell family. More time has been spent on this one than any other - as yet to no avail. In 1548 they were executors of the Will of Agnes Chichester, who left them the Free Chapel of St. James, Curry Mallet. I can't even find who Agnes was! A Chichester widow, I think, for she doesn't show in the Visitations as a Chichester born.

Will someone, somewhere, help me?!

THE WILL OF CAESAR COPLESTON, 1682

Admon. cum Test. 3 Nov 1683 to Hannah Copleston.

To my wife Hannah Copleston my household goods, also 2 tenements in Horwood in tenure of John Downe and John Harris during my estate therein on the life of my sister Panthea Hall: also for life the reversion of all my tenements &c in West Putford now in possession of William Hill, yeoman, but subject to release of her right of dower.

To my brother Coriolanus Copleston & his heirs all my tenements &c except the above, also my signet ring engraved with my coat of arms.

To my wife Hannah all my plate & apparel.

Residue to my sd. brother Coriolanus C. whom I make my executor.

sgd. Cesar Copleston (Seal) Wits. Elizabeth Caddy, Christo: Prust. Inventory 2 Nov 1683 by Ben Dunscombe & Christo: Prust - £59/7/. (Apparel £5, Furniture etc. 3 silver spoons & silver cup, one small gold ring £1/0/6d. Debts desperate £40). Renunciation 3 Nov 1683 by Coriolanus Copleston of Bideford, gent. who desires that admon. should be granted to Hannah C. the relict. sgd. Coriolanus Copleston. Wit. Christo: Prust, Edwd. Doddridge. Bond 3 Nov 1683 by Hannah Copleston, widow, Christopher Prust, gent and Samuel Parrett, gent all of Bideford in £200. Signed by all three. Plain seals. Wits. Edward Doddridge, Nich. Gingar. (Exeter Barum. Archdeaconry).

Hannah's maiden name was Caddy. Sarah Prust was married to Corio's son George, fisherman in the Newfoundland Trade. Would Edwd. Doddridge be related to Philip Doddridge who ordained Coriolanus' grandson and namesake in Buckingham in 1742? What happened to that signet ring?

According to one early writer Caesar died a bankrupt. I repeat - don't believe all you read unless based on official reports. He was a mercer in Bideford and Panthea was his sister who married Andrew Hall of Tavistock. Brother Abdolominus had died in 1671 in Barnstaple and sister Wilmot married Thomas Rugg of Otterton, in 1680. Coriolanus' house in Willet St., Bideford was registered for dissenting worship.



NOTES FROM PLYMTREE

Our cousin Mike Copleston sent some interesting notes on Canonsleigh. Seems the early nuns had added the name of St. Etheldreda to their dedication - often called St. Audrey - the first abbess of a monastery she founded at Ely in 672. The word 'tawdry' emanates from the cheap and nasty goods sold at St. Audrey's Fair, say the notes; I love these little gems of information.

Mike also sent a copy of material gathered for the local history project in the Village. 'I have unashamedly used the information you sent me which has triggered a lot of response', he says. That's what information gathering is all about, Mike - to be passed on! I had found Census and Directory information on Plymtree with many names in the last century and there are still some of the same names in the area. He also mentioned the hamlet of Prescott, a few miles from Canonsleigh, whose ladies had a reputation for sewing in the 1500's and wondered whether they might be retired nuns. Entirely possible - I've often wondered whether our nun, Sabina, went home to the family after the Dissolution or moved elsewhere.

PUBLICITY

'Family Tree Magazine' for September/October includes as Guest One-Name Group the Copleston Family Society, with a picture of your Editor taken by friend and fellow-searcher Jenny Collier. I think I'll blame Jenny for the result! The magazine is available in many W.H. Smith stores and local newsagents and I am most grateful to publisher Michael Armstrong for giving me this page. Who knows which stray Cop(p)lestone(s) may be led into the fold by sight of the article?

I have noticed how Family History Society numbers are growing by leaps and bounds over past months and am sure this is partly due to the publication of a magazine devoted to the subject which is on public sale.

The journals I receive from Devon, Cornwall and Hants Societies are eagerly devoured on arrival and are such a help in putting searchers in touch with each other. Why not join your local Family History Society?