

THE COPLESTON FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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Mrs. M. Reson
73 Fleeming Road
London E17 5ET

SEASONAL GREETINGS AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL



ST. MARY'S CHURCH, TAMERTON FOLIOT

In this Church is the beautiful monument to John Copleston and his wife Susannah (Pollard) and their family. John was second son of Christopher, who killed Christopher Monnes by the Copleston Oak on the village green and was pardoned by Queen Elizabeth in 1562.

CAMERTON CHURCH, near BATH

When Eli Vincent, a kind reciprocal researcher in Bristol, sent me a note of a John Coplestone having been Rector of this Church in the 15th I was intrigued and wrote to the present Rector, Rev. R.E.S. Bennett, who sent me his list of Rectors between 1312 and 1463. Sure enough, John's name was in it, along with several others showing no dates. At the British Library I consulted "Archdeaconry of Wells - Somerset Incumbents" and found that in 1435 one Walter Baylyf was incumbent and John and others were Patrons - someone in the past had mistaken them for Rectors!

Further searches revealed two more Rectors who were not in the List of Rectors - John Lynleye in 1387 and John Carter some time before 1435. I found also that in 1445 Walter Baylyf was Prebendary of Stratford (Salisbury Diocese). Perhaps more of these Rectors will come to light.

Going through my records I found in Somerset Fines of 1380 the following: "At Westminster in the Octave of St. Hilary 3 Richard II between John Copleston and Walter Leverich querents and William Asthorp kt. and Margaret his wife deforciants; for the manor of Camerton (Camerton) and for a messuage and a caracute of land in Doultynge and the advowson of the church of the said manor (and for lands in Devon), William and Margaret acknowledged the right of John to hold to him and his heirs and they warranted."

So the John who had the advowson of Camerton Church is likely the John who married Alice Luccombe, which marriage is missing in the Copleston of Copleston Visitation. It explains why the later John was a patron, but the Somerset family is still much of a mystery - would that we had a cousin in or near Taunton who could do some more 'digging'! Thomas C. of Luccombe needs much investigation; probably son of John and Alice, he is given as son of Adam in the Visitation.

As you can see, the repair to my typewriter was not a success and if it cannot be carried out, will family members in the London area watch out for a secondhand, long carriage, small type machine - manual, not electric. I have runished this one beyond endurance! Do let me know if you see any likely candidates.

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Rose Byrne sent a clipping about the Conleston Centre in Peckham, so named in 1979, which is a thriving community centre. Doubtless it is in or near the road named for Edward Conleston, Bishop of Llandaff and Dean of St. Paul's.

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Nancy Glarner sent a newsy letter from Warren, Pa., which included the information that an 11 lb 8 oz boy, their 4th grandchild, was born to their eldest son Jack and wife Kathy, recently.

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An invitation to a Conlestone family party at Mick and Hilda's in Leytonstone on December 17th promises fun and games. On the 23rd I go to Exeter early in the day to spend a few hours in Westcountry Studies Library before being swept away by Mary to Road Farm for the Christmas holiday, in the Parish where our ancestors 700 years ago celebrated.

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Weather and other things being equal, Hermione may drive up from Exmouth and extract me from Westcountry Studies for lunch on the 23rd - I'll wager there will be more talking than eating done!

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A new member of Devon FHS in Napa, California, writes that he descends from Agnes, daughter of Adam C., who married Thomas Bamfield. He is Paul Nichols and has read that Alice, wife of Adam, was daughter of Sir John de Ferrers of Churston Ferrers (Torbay). This is a new one to me - the only suggestion I have read is that Alice was a le Grace. Oh, for some proof ...

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Extracts from Watkins' 'History of Totnes Priory'

1393 - Seisin delivered to John de Conleston and Thomas Raymond of lands in Exeter and Totnes left to them to sell in the will of William Pyl.

1457 - the manor of waysshebourne Bawson in the manor of Hurberton passed from John Hawley to Philip C.

1490 - Sir Radulphus Conleston presented (Chantry of the Blessed Mary, Wayshborn).

1492 - Ralph C. died leaving son John, 16, heir to property including Wayssheburn manor worth £14 held of Piers Eggecomb.

1502 - Sir John Conleston presented to the living of St. Mary de Wayssheburn Bawson.

1513 - Br. Oldham admitted Walterus Conleston to the perpetual chantry of the Blessed Mary of Waysburn on the presentation of Johannes Crokker esq. and Thomas Conleston, gent.

1520 - On resignation of Walterus C., Thomas C., clerk, is admitted to Blessed Mary, Washbourne.

1540 - The Bishop admitted George Conleston, clerk to chantry of the Blessed Mary of Washbourne vacant on the presentation of John C. de C. esq.

Three Conlestons here are named as Clerks in Holy Orders; Walter, Thomas and George. Who were they? The Thomas of Paral Dispensations (because of his illegitimacy) died by 1470. The only Walter of whom I know is the brother of Philip who heads the Conleston of Bowden Visitation and as for George, I haven't a clue! These names make it all the more necessary to sort out the John/Richard/William mysteries of the 14th century. At least one of them must have had sons. Adam de Conleston surely had brothers - was Richard one of them? If only the family member who supplied the Heralds with the Visitation information had known more of his ancestors, our task would have been made so much easier.

NO BEGINNING - NO END !

From Wills, and other sources have been built 'trees' of several generations. They go back to the c17th and c18th and come down to the 1920's to 1940's. I have, for instance, a Matthews W. Coolestone who married a lady named Engels in Hammersmith in 1928. His father was Matthews Walton C., born Southamton; grandfather Matthews was son of Jacob C. and Ann Frost Matthews (Ann b. Bideford). Jacob and siblings were born in the Plymouth area and their father, Richard, was born Stoke Dameral in 1777. Richard's father Jacob, born 1750 in Morval, Cornwall was a staymaker who married Mary Ellis in B. Stonehouse. His father, another Jacob, b. 1723 St. Cleer married a Mary and I think that his father was Richard, also married to a Mary, who was born in St. Cleer in 1688. A Richard married a Margaret Stevens in St. Cleer in 1682 and is probably the father of Jacob.

Another family is that of Albert Edward Coolestone b. Greenwich 1865, brother Henry John 1867 and sister Ethel Amelia. The father was Wm. George, Lloyd's Surveyor b. Pembroke Dock 1830, twice married (1) Rees (2) Rhoda Jenkins, widow. He died in Garth, Bangor in 1897. He was one of 8 children of William and Anne and according to a newspaper report Wm. and Anne took some children from Fowey to Pembroke Dock early in the c19th. The family was also in Sheffield for a time around 1883. It is known that Albert Edward married Ida ... in 1890, Carmarthen and that they were both buried in Uthill, Avon in the 1940's. Henry John in 1897 was living at 18 Albert Drive, Low Fell, nr. Gateshead.

If any of you recognise names, do let me hear from you. From time to time I shall give these sections of family in the hope that you can help me fit them into their branches. More important, for the sake of our pedigree, is the sorting out of the relationships in the 13th and 14th centuries to which much time and study must be given. There are Johns and Richards and Williams who must be placed to correct and/or amend the Visitations.

OUR ILLUSTRIOUS FORBEARS (Once removed!)

by David and Ruth Coleston, Guilden Sutton

In the late 1500's Thomasyn, daughter of John Coleston of Eggesford, Devon, became the bride of Hugh, elder son of Sir George Beeston of Beeston Castle, near Chester. It may be a story in itself how she became betrothed to someone living so far from her family background of Devonshire and yet another story, too, how her brother John Coleston came to marry her sister-in-law Dorothy Beeston, when remembering that the only means of travel was by packhorse over rough tracks that linked those hundreds of miles.

Thomasyn's father-in-law Sir George was, it seems, quite a fellow. Born in 1501, at the ripe old age of 87 he found himself fighting the Spanish Armada. According to a chronicler: "and within a short time Sir John Hawkins in the 'Victory' accompanied with Mr. Edward Fenton in the 'Mary Rose', Sir George Beeston in the 'Dreadnought', Mr. Richard Hawkyns in the 'Swallow' and the rest of the ships appointed to his squadron, bare with the midst of the Spanish Army, and there continued an hot assault all that forenoon. Sir George behaved himself valiantly ... and for his valour he was knighted at sea on the 'Ark' by the Lord High Admiral, Lord Howard of Effingham. Sir Lionel Tollymache was found dead in his tent at Tilbury Camp where he went with others to oppose the Armada." (Lord Tollymache was Sir George's father-in-law).

The rigours of the battle did little to diminish his vigour, for he lived on another 13 years to the age of 100. A great age even today, but in Tudor times almost unheard of.

Queen Elizabeth had been godmother to young Hugh who perhaps did not have a very successful marriage to Thomasyn, who died childless, although according to the Visitations of Cheshire 1613 he fathered a child recorded as 'Richard Beeston, a bastard'.

When Hugh died a contemporary account of his funeral described: "Thither he was borne to his last rest on 25 May 1608, first tow yeomen in black cotes with staves

black for conductors for the poore, then the poore 2 and 2 with pennells + in their hands then 2 yeomen more with black staves then the yeomen in (black) cotes 2 and 2, the pennon carried by Mr. Wick in a black cloak then the gent'men and Esquires in black clokes 2 and 2 The helm and crest borne by Mr. Peter Bresseley The cote of armes borne by Mr. Whitmore

the preacher
the corpse

the head mourner alone (Sir Hugh Beeston's brother)
Assistants 2, vi'l'zt Mr. Wilbraham Mr. Egerton

others of blood in black

Knights, Esquires and Get' and others not in black."

* pennon cells - little flags painted with crests, badges, etc.

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Ruth has been ill for some time and I am sure all the family will join with me in wishing her a good recovery.

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A NEW COUSIN, Irene Coleston, has been found in North London, passed on to me by Rose in Dagenham. It transpires that our gt-gt-grandfathers were brothers and Irene descends via Thomas and Olive Honey. Thomas' elder brother William was my gt-gt and his younger brother Coriolanus was Bill's (Rose's husband). Irene's grandfather was Edward Thomas Ballenger Coleston and we would like to know from whence comes the Ballenger - somebody's mother, no doubt! Irene has been to family history classes and joined North Middx FHS.

Family History Society memberships are still growing by leaps and bounds and the Guild of One-Name Studies now has over 500 names on its register, indicating that family history is now one of the most followed interests in the country. It cannot be called a hobby - it is so much more than that to those who indulge and I am not the only one who looked forward to retirement in order to give more time to discovering more about our always interesting forbears.

BIRTH BRIEFS

For the uninitiated, your birth brief is the taking of your family out to the 16 gt-gt-grandparents and I have been working on mine, on and off, for five years. On the maternal side, my Barfords include Trinlow, Hill, Bono, Dickerson, Witney and Wagstaff - I have yet to find James Wagstaff's wife Martha ..., for although James was baptised in Gamlingay, Cambs at age 19, he was born in Everton, Beds and I cannot find his marriage to Martha.

The maternal Corlestons include Sharpe, Galloway, Woodcock, Rush, Croome and Wise. Gt-Grandfather Edward David Rush married Esther Wise and since Esther was born in Ireland I have problems! However, the Census for 1881 showed that Esther's Mother, Mary, a widow, lived with them and was born St. Pancras in Middx., so I may with great luck find a marriage in that area of a ... Wise to a Mary ... and it may be that Wise was a soldier in Ireland, accounting for Esther's birth there.

Before I deposit my birth brief at the Society of Genealogists I would like to have it complete - many members have deposited with blanks here and there and I can understand their having to 'give up' on some of the names. Our forbears moved around a great deal, although some villages show families (my Barfords, for instance) 'staying put' for centuries.

In the course of chasing these gt-gts I have found removed cousins looking for the same elusive members including another descendant of James Wagstaff and a descendant from gt-Grandmama Elizabeth Sarah Galloway's sister Jane. The Galloways go into Southwark. Gt-gt-Grandfather Edward Rush's wife, Ann Elizabeth Groome, was related to Thurlow Groome, a Sergeant at Mace in King's Lynn. My Grandmother, Hellen Rush, shows in the 1881 Census as "artificial florist" at age 19 in Islington,

How many gt-gt-grandparents can you find? You never know with what interesting families you may find yourself involved.

SOME CENSUS READINGS

57.

1881 Stoke Damerel 27a Market Street

Born

Paul Conlestone	48	Warehouseman	Landrake
Rhoda "	wife 40		Barnstarle
Emily "	dau 10		Plymouth
Frances "	" 8		"
Paul "	son 2		"

Paul the father could be son of George C. and Cath. Beavis, but is given bant. Exeter, St. Mary Stens.

Devonport 1851 11 Pembroke Street

James Conlestone. Unmarr. 32 Baker's Jnyman. Devonport

20 Mount Street

Jane "	unmarr. 62	Retired Victualler	"
Thomas "	brother. unmarr. 52	Carver & Turner	"

7 Morrice Street

Mary Ann Conlestone	Wid. 47	Chair caner	Exeter
John "	Son 7	Scholar	Morris Town
Mary J. "	Dau 5	"	" "

2 Navy Row

John Conlestone	46	Tailor	Pillaton, Cwll.
Mary A. "	wife 33		Devonport

117 Fore Street

Eliza " unmarr. 24 House Servant. Callington, Cwll.

Tormohun (Torquay) 1851

Richard Conlestone	41	Carpenter	St. winnow, Cwll.
Ann "	wife 39		Cornwood, Devon
Natilda "	dau 7		Plymton St. Mary
Mary "	" 5		Handhous
Betsy Ann "	" 2		Torquay

The above are the three girls who went to the U.S., see m. 40 & 41 of October Newsletter.

Newton Abbot Commercial Hotel, Queen Street 1881

Bettie Conlestone 21 Barmaid Tavistock

An Elizabeth was born Holston, Cornwall in 1861 and died Plymouth 1897, but there are no other Elizabeths Bettys or Betties in my GRO index who fit - I wonder who she was?