



*Dear Family,*

No. 24 means that I have been doing this single sheet for twelve years and with eight years of 12-page Newsletters before that, I've been in contact with Cop(p)leston(e)s for twenty years - unbelievable! Now, thanks to Internet rather than recent searches, I am still meeting new family connections. Recently a letter from Margaret Taylor of Queensland informed me that she was given my name by an Ian Storey on the Internet as 'the doyenne of all Copplestone researchers'. I don't know Mr. Storey, but appreciate the compliment. Margaret descends from a Copplestone lady whose name has always fascinated me - Ann Lee Frost Copplestone who was born in 1828 and baptised at St. George in the East, Stepney. All I had known about her was that she descended from Tymothy, base son of Katherine Copleston of Morwenstow. Katherine was daughter of John Copleston and Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Arundell and was baptised 21.12.1579 in Morwenstow. From Tymothy descends a large Cornish branch going back to my 9-gts-grandfather, George Copleston of Ley in Morwenstow. I knew that Ann had married in 1849, but no more. It transpires that she first married a Thomas Leatham, 2nd Master in the Royal Navy when she was living in the Old Kent Road. They divorced in 1866 and she married Margaret's gt-grandfather, Dr. Henry Calvert Barnett, in 1867 in Poplar. They then migrated to Western Australia. Welcome to the family!

It was a great pleasure in February to see Art Copleston again, over here with friend Dennis on vacation from California. The last time I had seen Art was when Agnes held a gathering at her home in Charleston where Cops gathered from far and wide and had a wonderful time. I had the pleasure of showing the visitors the seat of Thomas Copleston of Bowden in the Henry VII Chapel in Westminster Abbey (and we all actually sat in it!), thence to the Houses of Commons and Lords - we only see our Government in action when visitors come from overseas. We also visited St. Paul's and saw the name of Edward Copleston, Bishop of Llandaff and Dean of St. Paul's. Art is now recovering after a knee replacement.

I spent a long weekend last month with Reg and Olive C. in Birchington which was very enjoyable, as always. We had the added pleasure of a visit from their daughter Lesley and husband Louis and it seems we have at last found someone to carry on the great work of Copplestonea, for Lesley is computing us and presented me with some most helpful lists she has compiled. I'm counting on her to carry on the good work - she doesn't know what she is letting herself in for, as they say!

Norma, widow of Larry Copleston, of Mississauga, Ontario, has written recently. She has had a nasty time with back troubles, but seems to be on the mend and I can imagine the frustration she suffered, as well as the pain, because she is such an energetic and enthusiastic lady. Norma and I went shopping in Charleston and I'd love to do that again - such a lovely City, not to mention seeing Agnes again, from whom I hear regularly.

Robert Jago, who has given so much help over the years, has sent some very useful information on Cornish marriages, burials and monumental inscriptions, also details of the 1871 Census. Moira Tangye, who started off the Cornwall tree for me years back, has also sent emigrant information on the Cops who went to Boston, one being John Richards Copplestone who had been a plumber and became a Methodist Minister. Myra Copleston in Penarth has sent the new address for Rev. Sid, our Baptist Minister who will be 96 in November and who has written another learned book - we have some amazing cousins! David and Ruth have been for another visit to Devon and sent a postcard with four pictures of Copplestone Village, the House and Colebrook Church and I've asked where they found it so that I can get some. Rose Copleston, Bill's widow, I hope to see this summer and hear more about her Australian visit last year - she hasn't been well, but tells me the younger members of our branch are organising a mini-gathering in October, to which I'm invited. I look forward to that. 1st Coz Ron and wife Anne are regularly in touch.

I shall shortly be spending a few days in Taunton and attending the County Record Office in hopes of finding more information on our Richard Copleston who was MP for Wareham in 1383 and for Dartmouth in 1384 and was Esquire to the Earl of Arundell. He married Alice Catecote but died soon after and it is believed that he was brother to John who was MP for various boroughs in Devon and a lawyer - sons of Adam de Copleston. I must also admit to planning on spending some time on the Dawbin family, whose cause I have helped over the past ten years or so.

At this point I can tell of John, son of the above mentioned - also a lawyer - who in June 1398 appears in the Patent Rolls as follows: 20 June 1398 Westminster. Commission to execute the statutes and straitening of mills, weirs, stanks, stakes and kiddles and to survey the weirs and redress offences in co. Devon. John Copleston and others. In January of that year John was attorned, with John Bathe, to attend the various affairs of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England and Wales during the absence of Walter Grendon, prior of the Hospital, abroad. I know more about the things our ancestors were doing 600 years ago than some of them in the 1800's!

One century later, on May 22nd 1498, at Westminster: Licence for 10 marks paid in the hanaper, for Thomas Tremayle, one of the justices of the King's Bench, to alienate the manor of Buketon (Bicton) except 1 acre of land and the advowson of the church there, and the keeping of the gaol of Exeter Castle, to Henry Copleston and the heirs of his body, with the remainder to the right heirs of John Sachevyle. On June 11 of that year: Licence of entry without proof for John Copleston son and heir of Ralph Copleston esquire on all the possessions of the said Ralph, as also on all lands which John Bonvyle deceased held for life by the law of England on the death of Joan his wife; the said John Copleston being kinsman and heir of the said Joan, to wit, son of Ralph the son of Ann daughter of the said Joan. (Phillip Copleston = Ann dau of John Bonville of Shute, Ralph being their son). What names we have to conjure with in our early history!

I hope you all enjoy a good summer. Now that I am more mobile I shall be able to indulge in more search and hopefully have some news to impart in the December Newsletter. With some eye trouble, I must do what I can while I'm able, armed with a good magnifier. Some of you will have heard your doctor say 'It is one of those things which come with age ...' how true! The spirit is willing, however and there is much yet to do. There's work to do in the garden, too, not to mention the living quarters which are submerged in papers waiting to be filed. Ho-hum, I'll have to resist the temptation to take '40 winks' in the afternoons, won't I? Hoping to hear from some of you when the mood strikes -

*Your Coz, Muriel.*