

Admiralty Office, 10 July 1812. ~~General~~,  
having had under their consideration a Memorial of Mr. Thomas M. Copplestone, late  
Master of the Horatio, praying to be reinstated in H.M. Naval Service. I have received  
it in command to acquaint you that their Lordships see no objection to Mr. Copplestone  
being again employed as a Master standing Junior on the List. I am Gentlemen  
Your most obedient servant Jno. Croker.

Navy Board

Spring Garden Terrace, 15 August 1812. My dear Sir, Y.M. Copplestone, late Master of  
the Horatio, now on board the Childers at Portsmouth, understanding that I had great  
Interest with you, and that you had great Interest with the Navy Board, has applied to  
me, to request that I would ask you, to ask the Board, to get him appointed Master of  
a frigate - ~~an~~ which is humbly submitted to your judgement and direction by, Dear Sir,  
Yours faithfully, Chas Bicknell.

R.A. Nelson, Esq.

Childers - 1812, John Bedford, Commander. Thurs 6th Aug. Joined the ship as  
Master Mr. Tho. Mitchell Coppleston. At noon calm & clear. At midnight, Do.

.....  
My transcription of the back page of the Memorial photocopy: Bx.C. 57  
July 9.12 Has any formal application been made Impressed the  
Court Martial.

I think the petitioner might be restored to the Service. His crime is not one  
of very serious import as the punishment he has already had is pretty severe.  
What has it been usual to do in such cases. He must  
if it is intended to restore him to his rank on the list he must Memorial, but if  
he is only to be employed again as a Master, directions to the Navy Board will be  
sufficient.

July 10. I think he ought not to be restored to his rank on the List but he maybe  
be again employed as a Junior in the List.  
Mr. Copplestone that he will never depart in future from a proper line of conduct  
and take a hint from his former trial.

ADM 52 4443 (Masters' Logs)

Log of the proceedings of His Majesty's Ship Childers, John Bedford Esq., Commander.  
Between the 6th of August 1812 and the 31st of January 1813. Kept by Mr. Thomas  
M. Copplestone, Master. Thursday 6th August. Employed stowing the hold and fitting  
the rigging. Light breezes and variable. Joined the ship as Master Mr. Tho.  
Mitchell Copplestone. Spithead in Aug/Sept. At anchor in Yarmouth Roads 29 Sept.  
"Lands End 10 leagues" Oct 2nd. Scilly in Oct. From England to Halifax 5 Oct -  
Cape Clear - Porto Santo - Point Delgada - Burmuda - in convoy. Still at 'Burmuda'  
in December. Feb 1st 1813 signed 'T.W. Coppelstone'. Master.

Above log next three written entirely by T.M.C.  
1.2.1813 - 6.8.1813. 7.8.1813 - 30.1.1814. 1.2.1814 - 6.8.1814.

.....  
Pursuant to the Directions of Lieut. Edwards signified to us, we have, in his presence  
carefully and strictly surveyed the state of health of Mr. Tho<sup>s</sup> M. Copplestone late  
Master of H.M. Sloop the Childers brot to England in the Endymion and we are of the  
opinion that he is not at present incapable of Active Service and that the Examination

has been made with such Care and Attention that we are ready if required to make oath  
thereto. Given under our Hands at the Royal Hospital, Haslar, this 29th day of

March 1813. R. Wright Physician Geo Vance Surgeon  
Senior Lieut. on Leave

Admiral Sir R<sup>d</sup> Bickerton, Bart.

ADM102/72 Burmuda - Quarter Book for Lady 1815 (probably qtr to Lady Day)

Current No: 205. No. of Ship's Books: 13. Ship's Name: Childers. Person's Name:  
Tho<sup>s</sup> M. Coppelstone. Quality: Master. When received: February 14th. Quality of  
the disease or hurt: Hepatitis. Time when: March 4th. What ship returned to or  
how disposed of: Endymion for a passage to England. Number of days Victualled: 19.

ADM102/297 Haslar Hospital Master 1815. No mention of TMC - he was probably just  
surveyed and not kept overnight in the Hospital.

April 1st 1815

Honor'd Sir,

Having been invalided from the Romulus Hospital Ship at the Island of Bermuda I beg leave respectfully to inclose the Report of Survey and again on my arrival at Haslar Hospital-re-surveyed I therefore beg you to be pleased to move their Lordships to place me on the Half pay list. I remain

Honor'd Sir

Your most Obedient Humble Servant

Thos Mitchell Coppelstone

Late Master of His Majesty's Schoop Childers

John Wilson Croker, Esq.

Admiralty Office (On Volcano 21.6.1815)

Received April 4. 'Usual gra(nt?)' JWC

Harkwell Cottage near East Grinstead, 21 May 1816

Gentlemen, In answer to your letter of the 8th May relative to the professional abilities and acquirements of Mr. Thomas Mitchell Copplestone who formerly served in H.M. Ship Ariadne under my command. I beg to acquaint you that at this lapse of time it is not in my power to give you any minute information as to his qualifications. Whilst Mr. Copplestone was in the Ariadne he was constantly employed in the North Seas and conducted himself to my satisfaction. I found him an active officer and attentive to his duty. The practical part of navigation he appeared to understand but how far his knowledge extended to the theory I cannot say. I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, your

Obedient Humble Servant

A.M. Farquhar.

The Principal Officers & Commissioners  
of H.M. Navy

ADM 11/5 Analysis of Masters' Half Pay

\*(PCC Admon 13 Dec. 1820

p.85 Sloop 6. Thos. M. Coppelstone 16 April 1806

"late of Guernsey")

"Horatio" 29 November 1809 (see p. 174)

Dismissed His Majesty's Service for neglect of duty and disobedience in the Horatio. First sentence of Court Martial 10 September 1810. Re-instated 22 July 1812 - see Admiralty order with qualification.

p.174 HP Childers. 6 July 1812. Thom. M. Coppelstone 22 July 1812 - from p.85.

Childers 1 August 1812

Volcano

DD 19 August 1820\*

March 1815

21 June 1815

Widow's letter

Aug.1815 arrested  
for debt

ADM1/4459 ProC 233

Stonehouse near Plymouth May 17 1819

Sir,

I this morning received a letter from your office respecting a Tender for supplying the Marine Infirmary with (Fryers?) &c. I beg to inform you it was directed to me by mistake but I have forwarded it to the proper person And I sincerely acknowledge the Intended favour. I also most humbly beg the favour of you to inform me how I may apply for my being restored to the Rank I formerly held as a Master in the Royal Navy from my 1st appointment April 1806. As their Lordships was pleased to reappoint me as a Master in July 1812 after my Court Martial but not with my Rank since that time I have the honor to inform you my services have merited their Lordships' approbation by good Testimonials of my Conduct from my different Captains. I was the whole of the American War on that and the West India Station till as last I was invalided unfit for active service having been nearly 30 years in H.M. Naval Service and always employed in active ships that I am now almost worn out and Could I recover my lost time it will be of great service to me in case of being superannuated. I hope you will excuse this liberty as you have befriended me on several other former occasions and I trust you will do me this favour.

I have the honor to be

Most respectfully and Obediently Servant

T.M. Coppelstone

Master S.S.

John Wilson Croker, Esq.

Admiralty Office London

Enclosed: The 1st. 2nd. 3rd. 4th. 5th. 6th. 7th. 8th. 9th. 10th. 11th. 12th. 13th. 14th. 15th. 16th. 17th. 18th. 19th. 20th. 21st. 22nd. 23rd. 24th. 25th. 26th. 27th. 28th. 29th. 30th. 31st. 32nd. 33rd. 34th. 35th. 36th. 37th. 38th. 39th. 40th. 41st. 42nd. 43rd. 44th. 45th. 46th. 47th. 48th. 49th. 50th. 51st. 52nd. 53rd. 54th. 55th. 56th. 57th. 58th. 59th. 60th. 61st. 62nd. 63rd. 64th. 65th. 66th. 67th. 68th. 69th. 70th. 71st. 72nd. 73rd. 74th. 75th. 76th. 77th. 78th. 79th. 80th. 81st. 82nd. 83rd. 84th. 85th. 86th. 87th. 88th. 89th. 90th. 91st. 92nd. 93rd. 94th. 95th. 96th. 97th. 98th. 99th. 100th. 101st. 102nd. 103rd. 104th. 105th. 106th. 107th. 108th. 109th. 110th. 111th. 112th. 113th. 114th. 115th. 116th. 117th. 118th. 119th. 120th. 121st. 122nd. 123rd. 124th. 125th. 126th. 127th. 128th. 129th. 130th. 131st. 132nd. 133rd. 134th. 135th. 136th. 137th. 138th. 139th. 140th. 141st. 142nd. 143rd. 144th. 145th. 146th. 147th. 148th. 149th. 150th. 151st. 152nd. 153rd. 154th. 155th. 156th. 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10 December 1801. Joined as Master p. order of the Rt. Hon. Lord Keith Mr. Tho<sup>s</sup>. Copplestone.

6 June 1802 at Alexandria "Punished Wm. Taylor/M/ with 24 lashes for disobedience of orders at noon".

17 June 1802 at Malta

End page : "The Log of H.M. Sloop La Mutine. The Right Honble Lord Wm Fitzroy Commander. Ending September 22nd 1802. Paid off at Chatham. T.M. Coppelstone, Master." (Moored at Chatham 17-22 Sept.)

12 Jan 1803 two certificates of Wm. Fitzroy and the Admiralty that Thos complied with instructions, was not absent 6 weeks at any one time and that there was no objection to his wages being paid.

Utrecht Capt's Log ADM51/1539

No mention of TM's arrival on board, but on Tues 17 Dec 1805 "Arrived (other ships and) the Victory with the Body of the late Lord Nelson struck the Colours half Mast down ..." (in the Downs).

Master's Log the Zebra ADM 52/3721 TM Master 13.9.1804-29.9.1805. Boulogne. Fri 26.10.1804. Saw several Enemy Gun Vessels at anchor in the Ineroads. Dungeness in Nov - 3rd "saw HM Gun Ship Adder on shore near Tomney but could give them no assistance ..." Sat.19 Jan 1805 "... fired salute of 19 guns in honour of Queen Charlotte's Birth Day."

28.9.1805. discharged Mr. T.M. Copplestone the former Master into the Utrecht by order of Vice Holloway. (ending this date and signed by TMC Acting Master).

5 Nov 1805. Admiralty Office Cert. that Mr. C. Master of Zebra ... no objection to wages due on account of his not giving 'such Observations to this Office' - bottom of the cert. is written "Mrs. Sarah Copplestone, 25 East Street, Lambeth". X (Does this mean his wages were to be paid to her?)

There is also a Journal in his hand for the same period - Logs 11 and 14.

ADM106/2918

The Honble the Principal Officers and Commissioners of H.M.Navy. The Petition of Mr. Thomas Copplestone Acting Master of H.M.'s. Bomb Explosion (!)

MCST HUMBLY SHEWETH That your Honors Petitioner has served in H.M. Navy upwards of twelve years, five of which as an Acting Master and now belonging to the Explosion. Your Petitioner having passed lately at the Trinity House for a Master of a sixth rate, humbly hopes the Honble Board, taking into consideration his long Service will give him an appointment equal thereto and place him back upon the Masters' List from the date of his first acting Order the 11th Decem 1801 having been refused since to be made a Lieutenant in consequence of his being an Acting Master and your Petitioner as in duty bound will for ever pray.

(signed) T.M. Coppelstone

3 Lyons Inn, Strand  
12 April 1806

Trinity House London, 12 April 1806

Gentlemen: Pursuant to yours of the 2nd instant we have examined Mr. Thos M. Coppelston and find him qualified to take Charge as Master of any of H.M. Ships of the 6th Rate from the Downs thru the Channel to the Westward and Pilot into Spithead, thro' the Needles and Plymouth Sound.

We are your affectionate friends

Joseph Cotton, Dep Master

Thos. Brown Fran. Easterby.

Principal Officers & Commissioners  
H.M.'s. Navy.

To be put in the List 12 April

16 April 1806 Ariadne 5 May 1809 Vestal 6 Dec 1807 Horatic Reinst. 22 July 1812  
1 Aug 1811 Childers 21 June 1815 Volcano 7 Mar 1817 Harrier (not joined)  
11 Apr 1808 Clinker

13 March  
Sen George Horatio born 1806 and baptised 16 Sept 1810  
at St. George the Martyr, Southwark. (Bore' High Street).

Utrecht in the Downes, 15th April 1806

Gentlemen,

I beg leave to acquaint you that I have appointed Mr. Tho<sup>s</sup> Mitchell Copplestone acting Master of the Explosion and who has just passed for a 6th Rate to act as Master of the Ariadne; The Right Hon Captain Lord Viscount Falkland having informed me that the Master of that Ship is at Deal Hospital in a state not likely to return to his duty. I have the honour to be Gentlemen Your most obedient humble servant. J. Holloway.

The Ariadne is ordered off the Elga and Weser

The Principal Officers & Commissioners of H.M.'s. Navy

Endorsed: W. Smith - If Mr. Copplestone has passed, let him be confirmed in the Ariadne

Ariadne Master 26/16945. Entry 15.4.06 Act. Warr. 15.4.06. no place of birth

ADM52/3733 (Part II only for TMC) Ariadne Master's Log

15.4.1806 - 31.12.1806 Two letters certifying Thomas Mitchell Copplestone complied with General Printed Instructions and was not absent six weeks at any one time. 31.5.1806.

31.12.1806 Capt. Farquhar. Admiralty Office - between 15 April and 31 December, certifying the said ship was not in any place where Thomas M. Copplestone, Master, had the opportunity of making any useful observations on Coasts, Roads, etc. and their Lordships have no objection to the Payment of Wages to him for the said time on account of his not having given in such observations to this office.

April, moored in the River Elbe. December, anchored in Elsenburgh. 1st Jan 1807 to 30 June 1807 (Capt. Farquhar) Log kept by T.M.C. Also 1.7.1807 - 31.12.1807 and 1 Jan 1808 - 30 June 1808.

ADM51/4501 Captain's Log - 'Snipe'. (Log starts Feb 19th 1807; probably the day after TMC said he had saved the ship and part of the crew - previous log must have been lost in the disaster.)

February 19th 1807. Strong winds and clear employed clearing the Hold of Dead Bodies and conveying them to Marmth Hospital for Burial - found remaining alive 25 in number. (Kept by T. Shute (?), Sub-Lt.)

ADM 6/132 Seniority List

16 April 1806 Ariadne

Vestal 5 May 1809

Horatio 29 Nov 1809 (writing after this looks like 'Mr R Curtis')

Gravesend June 14 1810

Gentlemen, In reply to your letter of the 8th of May concerning the Qualifications of Mr. Thomas M. Copplestone (Master. 174) late of H.M. Brig under my command, as a Seaman he appears pretty good, is but indifferently acquainted with Lunaris (?) or Timekeeper and did not appear acquainted with the Coast of Bahamas and Mexican Gulf the time he served with me. I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, Your obedient Servant, J. Umfreville.

ADM 51/2456 Captain's Log, "Horatio"

Friday 1st December 1809. AM - Fresh Breezes and Cloudy. Joined the Ship Mr. Thos. Michail Copplestone Master at Daylight unmoored ship and ..... made sail down to St. (something unreadable, but around Spithead). 10.40 Answered Recale signal, etc.

G. Scott, Esq., Captain. Between the 8th of July 1810 and 25th day of October 1810. August 9th 1810. Moderate and cloudy Convoy in Company. Daylight, Do. made and shortened sail occasionally. Mr. T.M. Copplestone Master order under confinement for neglect of duty. At noon ditto weather.

August 18. Fined Dan'l Ford & Wm. Reley with 36 lashes each for Contempt, and Thos. Jones with 46 for quarrelling.

(There is nothing between Sept 4th at sea and 22nd moored at Spithead, so he didn't log the Court Martial.)