



Four Centuries of the Copage Line

From Warwickshire to London and Beyond



Nigel Copage

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Introduction

In the summer of 1993 I was at a family reunion at my brother's house in Basingstoke and at one point was chatting with my cousin, Sue. We began discussing where the Copage surname might have come from as none of our relatives seemed to know. There were various theories and one school of thought was that it might have French origins. There were also known to be some Coppages in existence so perhaps one branch of the family had preferred a different spelling and gone their own way.

Sue recalled talking about this to our grandfather, Reginald, and he had mentioned a village in Warwickshire called Tanworth. So we decided to track this place down and pay it a visit. A few days later I went with Sue and her parents to the picturesque village of Tanworth-in-Arden a few miles south of Birmingham. We met at the impressively large 13th-century parish church of St Mary of Magdalene.

At first we spent some time wandering round the churchyard examining gravestones in the hope of finding a Copage or two but for the most part they were very weather worn and the names were illegible. So we asked the vicar if it would be possible to take a look at the parish burial registers and he kindly obliged.

As we turned the dusty 18th- and 17th-century pages we soon began to find multiple instances of our surname and it felt as if we had hit pay dirt. This was an exciting moment because up to then the only Copages we knew were those within our direct family line, starting with Reginald who lived in London. In those pre-internet days we had no idea that there might be others out there or that we had links to this tiny Warwickshire village.

Sue went on to produce a conventional family tree which listed all the descendants of our grandfather as well as his more recent ancestors, but for my part I specifically wanted to research the origin of the surname. This was the start of a thirty-year quest to investigate the Copage line, starting with my grandfather and working backwards from son to father to find out how the name was handed down.

Whereas most family tree studies would include all forebears, I have focussed exclusively on the paternal line. If this seems sexist all I can say is that it is a reflection of the patrilineal (and yes, sexist) tradition in Britain of children taking the fathers' surnames rather than the mothers' or of both parents as is the case in some other countries.

An obvious advantage of this approach is that the number of relatives in the study is limited to just two in each generation whereas in a traditional family tree it doubles with each step back and rapidly becomes unmanageable. It has also helped that until the end of the 19th century the geographical spread of the family line was confined to a relatively small area which includes Birmingham and a number of Warwickshire villages surrounding Tanworth.

Variations in spelling of the Copage surname

Although this is an investigation into the origin of the Copage surname, it should be made clear that for several centuries the name was subject to numerous variations in spelling.

The simple reason for this is that until the late 19th century, the bearers of the surname would almost certainly have been illiterate. Whenever this rather unusual name was recorded at a baptism, marriage or burial its spelling would depend on whatever the officiating cleric thought he heard, be it Copage, Coppage, Cabbage, Cuppage, Cubbridge, Cobeg, Coppedge, Coppidge and so on.

For example, the earliest known forebear is one John Cabbage who in the late seventeenth century lived in the small Warwickshire parish of Packwood. However, when he died in 1695 he was buried there as John Cobbeg. And one of John's sons, William, was christened as Cabbage but was later recorded as Coppage when his own children were baptised. And when, in turn, one of William's children, John, got married his name was entered into the register as Copage.

So until more recent years when literacy became more universal, there are frequent alternative spellings even for the same individual or within the same family line. For the purpose of simplicity, the name Copage will be used here to include orthographical variants.

Furthermore, searches for the surname in genealogical databases such as Ancestry.com can be misleading due to transcription errors with the result that many of the listings are spurious.

The original records were digitised by an army of volunteers who went through parish registers and did their best to interpret the barely legible scripts. When coming across an uncommon or undecipherable name they just had to make the best guess they could and move on.

The only way to be sure of a spelling is to painstakingly scrutinise other entries written in the same hand to see what the writer intended.

Appendix 6 shows some examples of where entries in parish registers were wrongly transcribed as variants of the Copage surname.

The earliest Copages

The first known forbear in this particular line was John Cabbage who lived in Warwickshire in the second half of the 17th century. John and his family resided in the small hamlet of Packwood, a few miles from Tanworth, where in 1695 he was buried as John Cobbeg.

But there are multiple instances of the surname (or its variants) well before then. In the 16th century the name crops up in various parts of England with four occurrences in Norfolk, one each in Gloucestershire and Somerset, and two in London, one of which is the earliest confirmed record, that of the will of an Anthony Copage which dates as far back as 1537.

However, the greatest concentration of the surname is to be found in the Oxfordshire village of Aston Rowant with no fewer than fifteen events between 1557 and 1603 mentioning a Cubbidge.

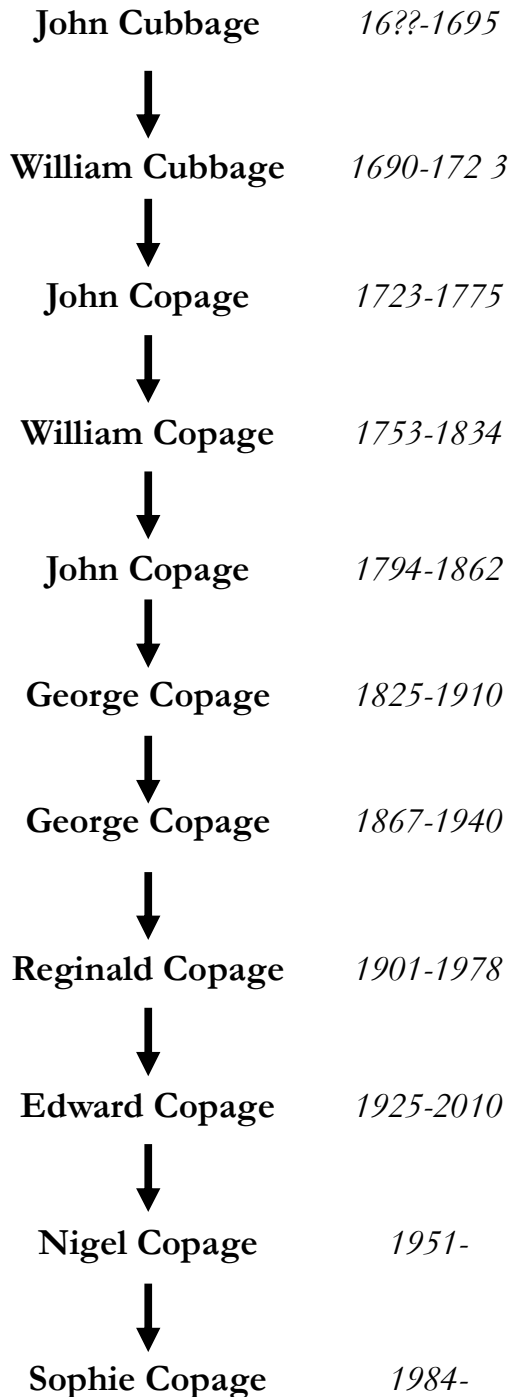
Although genealogy sites include several references to Coppages in Solihull in the sixteenth century, these are transcription errors. The surname recorded was actually Gossage as can be determined by a careful comparison with other names written in the same hand (app 6).

By the 17th century the focus had moved to Warwickshire where the greatest number of occurrences of the name can be found, particularly in the village of Tanworth and the nearby settlements of Packwood, Studley and Edgbaston (app 1). There are also several instances in Wiltshire, especially the village of Cricklade, with a few other records turning up in Norfolk, Yorkshire, London and Leighton, Buckinghamshire. The geographical distribution of the surname is shown in the maps in appendices 2 and 3.

Of the four mentions of the name in London one is of a French Protestant called Phillippe Copage who got married in Spitalfields in 1603. It turns out that numerous examples of the surname Copage can be found in France in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries (app 5). There are also many records of people in France with similar names such as Caupage, Coupage and Copaigne.

In modern times the surname is most common in the USA and is commemorated by the Coppage/Coppedge Family Association, members of which trace their origins to Edward and William Coppage who emigrated to Virginia in the mid-seventeenth century (app 4).

Eleven Generations of Copages





Ted with Elizabeth & Margaret



Pam as a Wren in the 1940s



Pam, Ted and their caravan



Reg, Susie & their children 1960s



At MEXE in the 1970s

Pam and Ted with
their four sons in 2007



Ted Copage 1925-2010

Edward (Ted) was born in Fulham in 1925, the first child of Reg and Susie Copage. He was later joined by three brothers, Don, Stan and Alan and finally by a sister Pamela. Ted must have done well at school as he won a scholarship to the prestigious Latymer private school. In later years his brother Alan attended the same school.

In 1941 he was commissioned as an officer in the Royal Navy and during the war served on motor torpedo boats (MTBs). He was in Ostend in February 1945 when a catastrophic fire resulted in the death of 62 sailors and the destruction of 12 MTBs moored alongside each other. Ted was lucky not to be on board his own MTB when the fire broke out but the experience stayed with him for the rest of his life.

The following year he was still in the navy and was asked to take Princess Elizabeth (the future queen) and her sister Margaret on a short MTB trip in the English Channel.

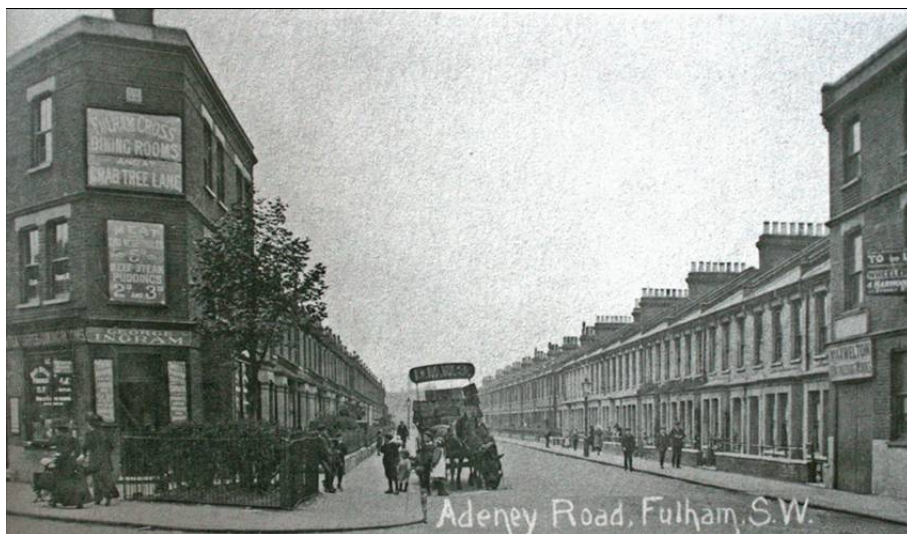
His first civilian job was with the Ordnance Survey in Bristol. By then he had married Pamela Hellewell who he had met in Gosport where she was serving as a Wren (Womens Royal Navy). They bought an old caravan and took it to Mudeford on the south coast.

After their first two sons, Nigel and Michael, were born the caravan became crowded, so they moved into a rented flat and then into a house where Russell and Richard were added to the family.

Towards the end of the 1940s Ted got a job as a labourer at MEXE, the military experimental establishment in Christchurch. After work he would cycle five miles to Bournemouth College, eventually qualifying as a chartered engineer which led to his promotion.

By the 1960s Ted was working on the design of a new stress test for freight containers and was asked to give a presentation at an international conference in New York where his proposals were accepted. To this day every shipping container is constructed to satisfy the stress test that he had helped to design.

In the late 1950s Ted and Pam bought a newly-built bungalow in Mudeford which was to be their home for the next 50 years. Pam died in August 2008 and Ted survived her for 18 months before passing away at the beginning of 2010.



Adeney Road circa 1910. No 18 is on the right near the lamppost



Reg and Susie Copage with their sons, daughter and spouses



Reg in the 1930s



Reg and Ted 1930s

Reginald Copage 1901-1978

Reginald (Reg) Copage was born in 1901 at 72 Laundry Road, Fulham, the second child of George and Elizabeth Copage. By 1911 the family had moved to 38 Adeney Road, just a few streets away. The census that year lists the occupants as:

- Reg (aged 10)
- his father, George (43) “storekeeper, decorators’ department”
- his mother, Elizabeth (38)
- his older brother Percy (11)
- his half-sister Sarah Maud (19) from his father’s first marriage
- a Dorothy Smith (14) who is recorded as having been adopted

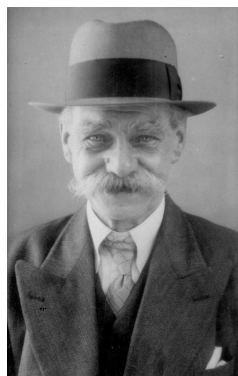
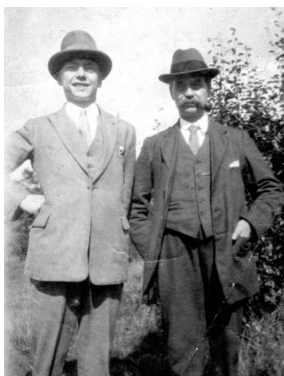
By the age of 16 Reg was employed in the machine workshops of a train-making company which was later absorbed into London Transport. His entire career was spent working as a machinist/toolmaker for this organisation.

In his younger days Reg was a keen rower and took part in competitions. He was also an active cyclist. As teenagers he and his brother Percy used to cycle all the way from Fulham to Tanworth-in-Arden to see their relatives where they would stay for a night or two before cycling back.

Reg and his father, George, took part in family outings organised by TOT (Train Omnibus and Tram, a benevolent fund for workers of transport companies). Reg also appeared in the TOT magazine as a member of the rowing team.

When he was 22 Reg married his next door neighbour, Susie Howard, who was the same age. The couple moved to number 18 where they spent the next 40 years. In 1960 Adeney Road was scheduled for demolition as part of a slum clearance programme, so in 1969 they were relocated to Langley, near Slough. Susie died of lung cancer the following year but Reg survived her for another 8 years before succumbing to a heart attack.

Reg was an ebullient, larger-than-life character and soon after moving to Langley became a fixture at the local pubs. Although only an occasional summer visitor to Mudeford, Dorset, where his son Ted lived, he was very well known at the working men’s club and warmly welcomed when he returned each year.



George Copage as a young man, with his son Reg, and in his later years.



George and Elizabeth Copage



Elizabeth



George and Reg are pictured 4th and 5th from the left. Reg worked for a transport company which may have made this charabanc. The event was organised by TOT (Train, Omnibus, Tram), a benevolent fund for transport workers.

George Copage 1867-1940

George Copage was born in the summer of 1867 in the hamlet of Aspley, near Tanworth in Warwickshire just South of Birmingham. His parents were George Copage, a bricklayer, and Mary (nee Jarvis).

The 1867 census listed the occupants of their house in Aspley as George (3), his brother John (6), his sister Selina (8), his mother Mary (34) and his father George (42).

By 1881, when George was aged just 13, he was employed as a servant at Park House in Snitterfield, a few miles from Tanworth. The census for that year included him as a resident along with the owners Samuel and Isabel Saunders.

George clearly had some 'get-up-and-go' because at some point in the next few years, he moved to London where aged just 19 he married Sarah Ann Golledge at Hackney. By 1891 they were living in Campden Steet in Kensington and George was working as a house painter.

George and Sarah had four children: George Frederick (1889), twin sisters Mary Alice and Sarah Maud (1891) and finally William James (1894). In late 1895 both Mary Alice aged three and her brother William aged one died, possibly of the same disease. Mary Alice and her sister Sarah Maud had only just been admitted to Fox school in Kensington, a charity school established in 1842 "for the education of children of the labouring, manufacturing and other poorer classes of Kensington". It still exists today as a state-run primary school.

The 1891 census shows that their first son, George Frederick, was actually born in Tanworth, perhaps at the house of his grandparents. As a young man he returned to Tanworth and worked as a gardener before serving in the First World War. He died in 1970 in Wolverhampton.

George's first wife, Sarah Ann, died in 1899 when she was just 37 and the following year he married Elizabeth Simpson in Fulham. They first lived at Laundry Road in Fulham but later moved to 38 Adeney Road a short distance away. George fathered two more children with Elizabeth: Percy Albert in 1900 and Reginald the following year.

According to the 1911 census George was by then working as a "storekeeper in the decorator's department". He died in early 1940, a few months after the outbreak of the Second World War.

5

City or Borough of Hamlet of Ullenhall
Parish or Township of Wootton Wawen Enumeration Schedule

PLACE	HOUSES		NAMES of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night.	AGE and SEX		PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS.	Where Born	
	Uninhabited or Buildings not used as Dwellings	Inhabited		Males	Females		Whether Born in same County	Whether Born in same Parish or Place
D ^o			Sarah Enys		50		Y	
			John Forrester	15			Y	
			Sarah D ^o		10		Y	
D ^o		1	John Copage	45		Mason	Y	
			Ann D ^o	45			Y	
			Mary D ^o		20		Y	
			William D ^o	17			Y	
			George D ^o	14			Y	
			Eliza D ^o		11		Y	
			John	8			Y	

1841 census showing George aged 14 with his parents and siblings in the parish of Wootton Wawen, Ullenhall near Tanworth-in-Arden

Page 43.

1855. Marriage solemnized in the Church in the Parish of Tanworth in the County of Warwick

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
85	October 2.	George Copage	47	Married	Labourer	Tanworth	John Copage	Labourer
		Mary Jarvis	19	Single		Tanworth	Thomas Jarvis	Labourer

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England by me, John Smith

This Marriage was solemnized between us, George Copage in the Presence of us, Thomas Jarvis & Esther Jarvis

The marriage of George Copage to Mary Jarvis in October 1855 witnessed by his sister Esther (Eliza) and her husband.

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The undersigned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON- DITON	AGE	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	Whether
16	Updely	1	Frederick Edmund	Son	Mar	35	Woolwright & Cooper	Warwick	Aspirant
16	do	1	Eliza Edmund	Wife	Mar	36	do	do	do
			George Copage	Son	Mar	32	Bricklayer	Warwick	do
			Mary	Wife	Mar	31	do	do	do
			Selina	do	do	8	Scholar	do	do
			John	do	do	6	do	do	do
			George	do	do	3	do	do	do

By 1871 George was working as a bricklayer. He and Mary had three children: Selina aged 8, John aged 6 and George aged 3.

George Copage 1825-1910

Reg Copage's grandfather, also called George was born near Tanworth in 1825, the third of five children.

The first British census to name individuals was held in 1841 and showed George to be living at Tanworthy Street in Wootton Waven along with his parents, John and Ann, and his brothers and sisters, Mary (20), William (17), Eliza (11) and Job (8). George's age was put down as 14 (although he was actually 15). In various later records his age was often recorded inaccurately; he gradually seemed to lose years!

By the time the next census was held ten years later his sister Esther had married a Thomas Waring. At that stage George and his younger brother, Job, were staying with them in their house in Aspley near Wootton Waven.

In 1855 George married Mary Jarvis in the church at Tanworth where she had grown up. George's age was listed as 27 (although by now he was actually 30) and Mary was just 19. His sister Esther (Eliza) and her husband Thomas Waring acted as witnesses.

At the time of his wedding George's occupation was listed as "courier" and in 1855 he was recorded as being a "market courier". The term courier then meant a deliveryman, so it seemed that George's work involved agricultural deliveries. In his later years he was described as an "agricultural labourer".

The following census (1861) showed George and Mary living at Aspley. By 1871 they had started their own family with Selina Gertrude being born in 1862 (probably named after his niece Selina who died earlier that year), John in 1865 and George in 1867.

By 1881 George, still in Aspley, was living with his children Selena and John although his son George had moved out and was working as a servant. Also resident was another son, Frederick William, born in 1872 and his sister Esther who by now was a widow.

George's wife Mary was not listed as staying at the house in 1881 and may have been in Solihull hospital where she appears to have spent several years. At the time of the 1911 census she was a patient at the hospital and the records show she died there five years later. George himself died in 1910 at the grand old age of 85 also at Solihull hospital.

20. Hannah Houghton & Sarah Ann & Mary Copage
 21. John son of William & Mary Copage
 22. Mary daughter of John & Hannah Houghton

The baptism of John, son of William and Mary Copage, 26 June 1794

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MARRIAGES solemnized in the Parish of St Philips Birmingham
 in the County of Warwick in the Year 1817

John Copage of this Parish
Bachelor
 and Ann Huse of this Parish
Spinster
 were married in this Church by Banner with Consent of
 this Thirtieth Day of
December in the Year One thousand eight hundred and Nineteen
 By me W Chapman Lecturer

This Marriage was solemnized between us { John Copage
Ann Huse } Mark

In the Presence of { Michael Brooke
Benjamin Baylis }

No. 220

John's marriage to Anne Huse at St Philips Birmingham 31st Dec 1817

Sh of Annlet & Whithall
 ship of Another mawer

HOUSES Uninhabited or Building Inhabited	NAMES of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night.	AGE and SEX		PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS.
		Males	Females	
	<u>Sarah Exepts</u>		<u>50</u>	
	<u>John Forster</u>		<u>15</u>	
	<u>Sarah D.</u>		<u>10</u>	
	<u>John Copage</u>		<u>45</u>	<u>Mason</u>
	<u>Ann D.</u>		<u>45</u>	
	<u>Mary D.</u>		<u>20</u>	
	<u>William D.</u>		<u>17</u>	
	<u>George D.</u>		<u>14</u>	
	<u>Eliza D.</u>		<u>11</u>	
	<u>Job</u>		<u>8</u>	
	<u>George Hughes</u>		<u>74</u>	<u>Labourer</u>

The 1841 census lists John and his wife Ann along with their children Mary, William, George, Eliza and Job.

BURIALS in the Parish of Tamworth
 in the County of Warwick in the Year 1842

Name.	Abode.	When buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
<u>Eliza Copage</u> No. 626	<u>Tamworth</u> " " <u>Wooten</u>	<u>Jan. 15</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>Mrs. Hunt</u> <u>Pear</u>
<u>Mary Ann Taylor</u> No. 627	<u>Harris</u> <u>Green</u>	<u>Jan. 17</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>Mrs. Hunt</u> <u>Pear</u>
<u>Mrs. Manton</u> No. 628	<u>Tamworth</u> " " <u>Wooten</u>	<u>Jan. 20</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>Mrs. Hunt</u> <u>Pear</u>
<u>John Copage</u> No. 629	<u>Tamworth</u> " " <u>Wooten</u>	<u>Feb. 9</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>Mrs. Hunt</u> <u>Pear</u>
<u>Sarah Rose</u> No. 630	<u>Salisbury</u> <u>Wickham</u>	<u>Feb. 22</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>Mrs. Hunt</u> <u>Pear</u>
<u>Selina Copage</u> No. 631	<u>Tamworth</u> " " <u>Wooten</u>	<u>Feb. 23</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>Mrs. Hunt</u> <u>Pear</u>

John, his daughter Eliza and her daughter Selina were all buried within a few weeks of each other.

John Copage 1794-1862

John was baptised in Tanworth in June 1794 and was presumably born earlier that year. He was the son of a William and Mary Copage.

On the last day of 1817 he married Ann Huse at the church of St Philip in Birmingham, about 10 miles north of Tanworth. This was probably the same Ann Huse who was born in Somerset in 1795, so she would have been aged 22 at the time of her wedding. John was a year older.

John and Ann had six children, all of whom were baptised at the church in Tanworth in Arden:

- Mary, baptised in 1818. At the age of 29 she married a Charles Busby at the church of St Philip in Birmingham (where her father was christened). She died in Birmingham in 1884 at the age of 65.
- Esther, born in 1820. She married a Thomas Waring in 1847 and had two sons, John and Arthur. Her husband died in 1864 and by 1881 she was supporting herself as a house servant in Kenilworth. She died in 1887 at the age of 67.
- William, baptised in 1823. He died a few months later.
- George, baptised in 1826. His life is described on previous pages.
- Eliza, baptised in 1828. She never married and lived with her parents all her life. In the 1851 census she was described as a house servant and in 1860 had a daughter, Selina. Eliza died in 1862 within a few weeks of her daughter and father.
- Job, baptised 1833. In 1855 he married Elizabeth Brassington and they lived in Wootton Wawen with their two children, Fred and Elizabeth. Job worked as a mason/bricklayer and died in 1922 at the age of 90.

Throughout his life John Copage worked as a bricklayer or mason (on the census records it seems the terms were used interchangeably).

John died in February 1862. His daughter, Eliza, had died the previous month and his granddaughter Selina died just a couple of weeks after him. They were all living at the same house so it is likely that they succumbed to the same disease, perhaps smallpox or influenza which were common causes of death at the time.

His Daughter of John & Mary Smalwood Bapt. --- Dec. 27th
 William Son of John & Mary Copage Bapt. --- Dec. 30th
 William Son of Thomas & Elizabeth Miller Bapt. --- Dec. 18th
 Wimpsey --- Dec. 20th

William son of John and Mary Copage baptised at Tanworth 18-12-1753

Banus of Marriage
 N^o 30 William Copage of this (Parish) Bachelor
 and Mary Martin of this
 Parish Spinsters were
 Married in this Church by Banns
 this third Day of February in the Year One Thousand Seven
 Hundred and Ninety by me Nobell Robertson Curate
 This Marriage was solemnized between Us { William Copage
Mary Martin & Martin
 In the Prefence of Christopher Martin
John Tullis

William's marriage to Mary Martin 3 February 1790 at Harborne

Burials in 1801.
 Thomas West --- Jan. 10th
 James Talbot --- Jan. 14th
 Mary Freeman --- Jan. 14th
 Elizabeth Hages Widow --- Jan. 25th
 Thomas Mears --- Jan. 26th
 Mary Wife of William Copage --- Feb. 15th
 Edward Garfield --- Feb. 17th
 The Right Honourable Sarah Baroness Archer Widow of the --- Feb. 27th
 The Right Honourable Andrew Lord Archer --- Mar. 17th
 Mary Daughter of William Copage & Mary his wife lately deceased --- Mar. 18th

The burials in 1801 of William's first wife, Mary and their baby Mary.

28. Elizabeth daughter of John & Mary Copage
 baptised 4 Jan. son of William Copage
 29. Joseph son of Robert Skinner
 30. Mary son of Mr. Marshall Gresham

John son of William Coppage baptised 4 January 1723 Solihull

Married 1745	Baptized 1745	Bur
2 ^d Sep. John Coppage and Mary Skinner	1 st Jan. Dau. of John & Mary Baghps 11 Mary Daug. of Jo. & Sarah Collins 15 Will. Son of William & Powell 20 Thomas Son of Henry Herby	29. Sep. 1745

John's marriage to Mary Skinner 2 September 1745 at Solihull

William Copage 1753-1834

William was born in late 1753 and baptised a week before Christmas that year at the church in Tanworth in Arden. At the age of 36 he married Mary Martin who was 28. Their wedding took place in Tanworth in March 1790.

They had four children. Sarah was born in August of 1790 (so Mary would have been a few months pregnant at the time of her marriage). John (whose life was described earlier) was born in 1794 and Elizabeth born in 1798. Sadly, Mary died while giving birth to their fourth child, also called Mary, and the baby survived for just two weeks. The register at Tanworth records the burial of mother Mary in mid-February 1801 and then on the first day of March that of the baby Mary “daughter of William Copage and Mary his wife lately deceased”.

The following year William married another Mary (nee Hinckley) and they had two children: William in 1805 and Jemima in 1813. Mary, his second wife, died in 1823 at the age of 62 but William lived on for another 11 years before dying in 1834 at the age of 80. They were both buried at the church of St Mary Magdalene in Tanworth.

John Copage 1722-1775

William’s father, John, was born in late 1722 and he was baptised in the manor of Solihull on 4 January the following year.

At the age of 23 he married Mary Skinner. Their wedding took place on 2 September 1745, also in Solihull.

John and Mary lived in the village of Tanworth in Arden and the parish records show that they had eight children all of whom were baptised in the church of St Mary Magdalene: John Copage, baptised and buried in 1747, Sarah Copage, baptised in 1749 but buried a few days later, Elizabeth and Mary, both baptised in 1750, William in 1753, Mary in 1754, Joseph and Edward in 1759.

The fact that two of the children were baptised with the name Mary suggests that the first one died very young; in those days it was quite common to christen a child with the same name as a deceased sibling.

John was buried at Tanworth in July 1775 having died at the age of 52.

John the son of John Lea & Eliz: his wife Bapt: January the 6. 1690.
 William son of John Cabbage & Katherine his wife Bapt: Feb. 22. 1690.
 Eliz: daughter of Henry Bullam & Alice his wife Bapt: Feb. 27. 1690.
 Thomas son of John Hollis Baptized April the 15. 1690.
 Mary daughter of Sarah Gritten Baptized April the 15. 1690.

William, son of John and Katherine Cabbage
 baptised at the church of St Giles in Packwood 22 February 1690

Baptized 1723		Buried 1723.	
Dec. 16	Thomas s. of Thomas Whitmore	Feb. 9	Mary Greswold
17	William s. of William Veal	13	Susanna Smith
27	Martha d. of Samuel Fowler	14	Henry Hampton
27	William s. of John Eborall	14	Thomas Fentom
Jan. 1	William s. of Thomas Blunt	14	Edward Cole
1	John s. of John Ryley	27	Mary Bach of Tanworth
18	Mary d. of Henry Greswold	March 4	Elizabeth Collins
19	William s. of George Bannister	10	Mary Roe of
30	Mary d. of John Buck		Tanworth
Feb. 16	Ann d. of Henry Jeffcott	18	Eleanor Cole
16	Mary d. of Robert Palmer	23	William Cotterell
21	Susanna d. of Thomas Doley	25	William Cobbige

William Cubbige buried 25 March 1723 at St Giles church Packwood

John hill and Elizabeth Taylor married
 the 7th of April 1695
 Robert Dry and Isobel Tyrost
 married April the 1st 1695
 John Cobbe of Lanthbury died April 21 1695
 Thomas the son of George Bolton and Mary his

John Cobbeg buried 21 April 1695 at Packwood

William Cabbage 1690-1723

William was baptised in Packwood, about 5 miles from Tanworth, in February 1690. His parents were John and Katherine Cabbage.

There is no record of a marriage for William but he is recorded as the father of three children all of whom were baptised at Solihull (it was common in the early 18th century to only record the name of the father).

William's three children were:

- William, baptised 26 October 1716
- George, baptised 7 October 1719
- John, baptised 4 January 1723

William himself was buried in March 1723 dying in his early thirties.

John Cabbage/Cobbeg 16??-1695

The earliest known ancestor is John Cabbage who lived in the parish of Packwood. John was married to Katherine who was from nearby Tanworth and they had four sons, although only the last, William, survived into adulthood. All these burials and christenings took place at the 13th-century church of St Giles.

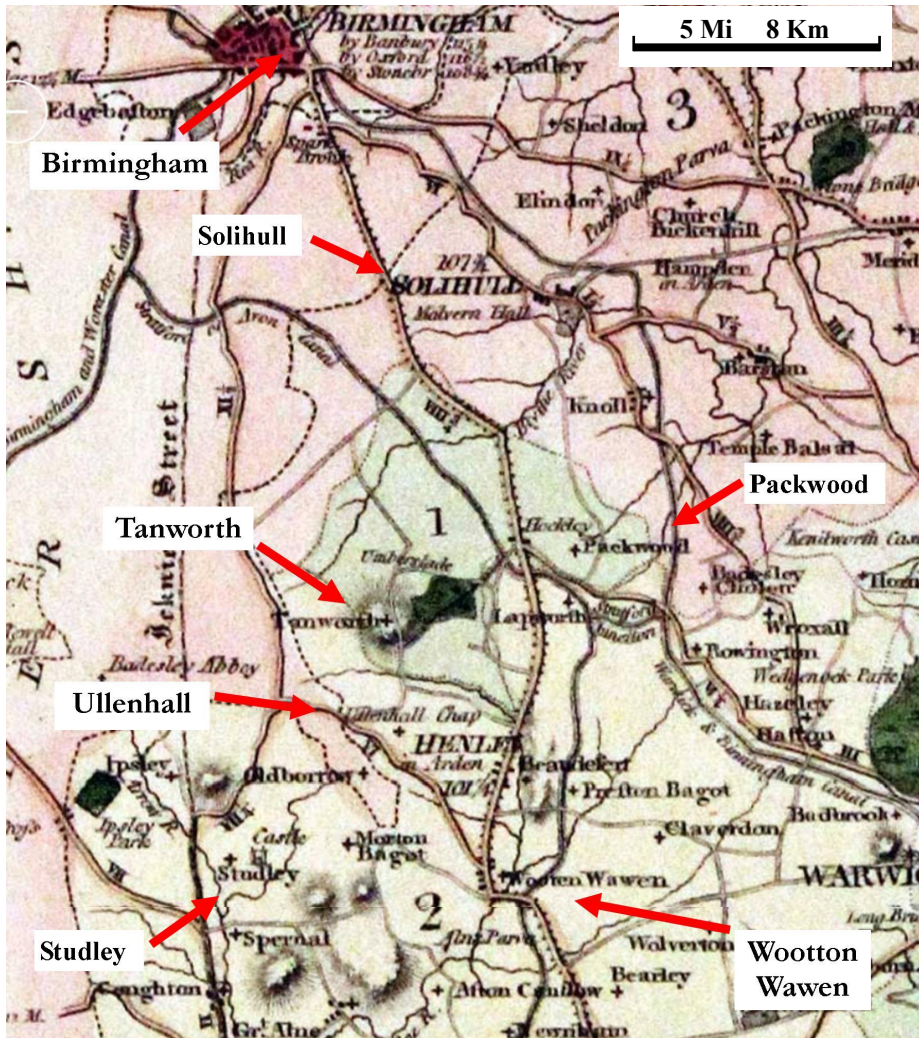
- Robert Cabbage, buried at Packwood 17 April 1682
- John Cabbage, buried at Packwood 5 May 1686
- Edward Cabbage, buried at Packwood 26 April 1687
- William Cabbage, christened at Packwood 22 February 1690

John Cabbage senior died in 1695 and was buried at Packwood (as Cobbeg). His wife, Katherine survived him for over 30 years and in 1728 was buried in the neighbouring village of Lapworth.

The hamlet of Packwood had been settled since the medieval period. It was located in the ancient woodland known as the Forest of Arden (its name is thought to derive from the Anglo Saxon 'Pacca's wood'). Packwood was abolished as a parish in 1932 when it became part of Lapworth and Solihull Urban.

Appendices

Appendix 1
1810 Map of West Warwickshire



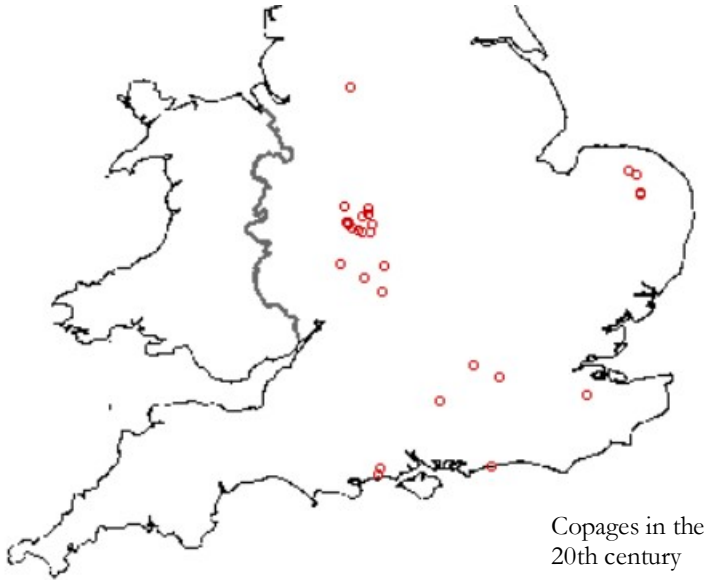
Appendix 2

The Copage surname in England in the 16th and 17th centuries

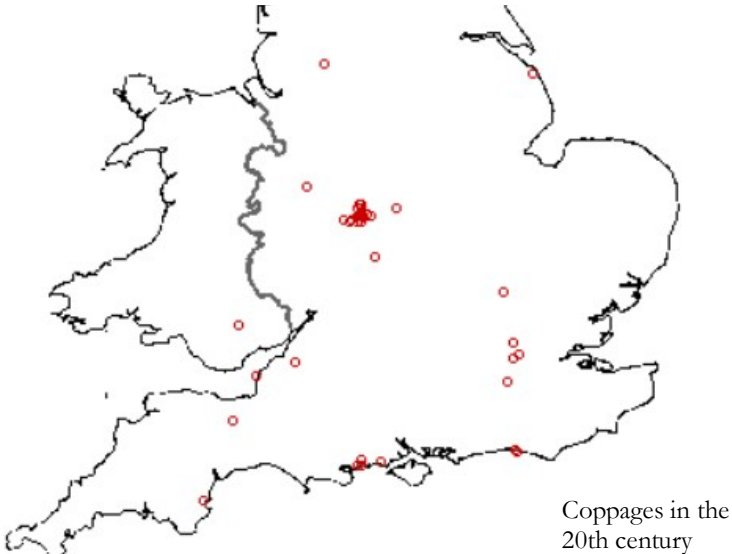


Appendix 3

The Copage and Coppage surnames in England in the 20th century



These two maps, based on registered landline telephones, indicate the approximate distribution of the surnames Copage and Coppage in England in the twentieth century (the name is not found in the rest of the UK). The descendants of Reginald Copage can be clearly seen in southern and eastern England (above) but the highest concentration of both surnames is still to be found in the Birmingham area.



Source: www.surnamemap.eu

Appendix 4

The Copage and Coppage name in the USA

In modern times the surname is far more common in America than in Britain although the Coppage and Coppedge variations greatly outnumber the instances of Copage. This can be seen by a comparison of search results on Ancestry.com for the twentieth century.

	Copage	Coppage	Coppedge
US	1,666	64,018	66,197
UK	92	1,136	40

Number of records on the Ancestry database for the twentieth century

The Copage name is most commonly found in California while Coppage and Coppedge occur most frequently in Texas, North Carolina, Virginia and Kentucky.

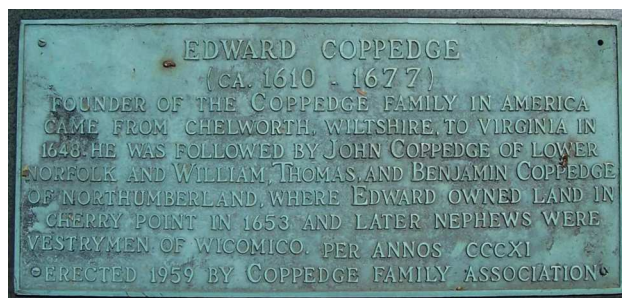
Perhaps the most famous American Copage is Marc Copage born in 1962 and who as a child actor starred in the sitcom *Julia* for all three seasons beginning in 1968.



The actor Marc Copage

One possibility is that Marc is descended from a slave who took the surname of his owner.

In the US, the Coppage-Coppedge Family Association was formed in 1948 and now has several hundred members throughout North America. The association traces the origins of the surname to Edward and William Coppage who migrated from England to America between 1648 and 1652 where they settled in Virginia. Over the years, family reunions have been regularly held in various locations on the east coast of the US and the association has helped to distribute the Coppage-Coppedge Family Chronicles, a book which has been revised several times since it was first published in 1955. The association can be found online at ccfa.website



Bronze marker in Virginia commemorating Edward Coppedge

Appendix 5

The French connection

There are numerous instances of Copages in France and even more for variants such as Caupage or Capage. Below are some examples for each of which the original record has been checked to confirm the spelling.

Year	Name	Event	Place
1671	Anthoine Copage	baptism	Troyes, Saint-Jean, Aube
1679	Philippe Copage	baptism	Braine, Souissons, Aisne
1682	Louis Copage	baptism	Cappy, Somme
1683	Marguerite Copage	baptism	Fesmy-le-Sart, Vervins, Aisne
1683	Vincent Copage	baptism	Vienne
1684	Francoise Copage	marriage	Châtillon-sur-Indre, Indre
1701	Marie Copage	baptism	Aisne
1711	Adrien Copage	burial	Courtemanche, Somme
1715	Jean Baptiste Copage	baptism	Mohon, Ardennes
1724	Marguerite Copage	marriage	Meuse
1770	Philippe Copage	marriage	Châtellerault, Vienne
1795	Anne Eugenie Copage	burial	Caen, Calvados
1816	Joseph Copage	birth	Suzanne, Ardennes
1816	Nicolas Joseph Copage	baptism	Suzanne, Ardennes
1816	Nicolas Joseph Copage	birth	Sommerance-Termes, Ardennes
1862	Marie Césarine Copage	baptism	14e arrondissement, Paris
1895	Marie Madeleine Copage	marriage	Gentilly, Paris

*Anthoine Copage baptisé le 29-1-1671
Troyes, Saint-Jean, Aube, France*

Anthoine Copage baptised 29-1-1671
Troyes, Saint-Jean, Aube, France

*Adrien Copage inhumé le 6-1-1711
45 Courtemanche, Somme, France*

Adrien Copage buried 6-1-1711 aged
45 Courtemanche, Somme, France

*Marguerite Copage baptisée le 8-1-1683
Fesmy-le-Sart, Vervins, Aisne, France*

Marguerite Copage baptised 8-1-1683
Fesmy-le-Sart, Vervins, Aisne, France

*Philippe Copage marié le 1770
Vienne*

Philippe Copage married to
Marguerite Duno 1770 Vienne

*Joseph Copage né le 6-7-1816
Suzanne, Ardennes, France*

Joseph Copage born 6-7-1816
Suzanne, Ardennes, France

*Marie Madeleine Copage
1895
Paris*

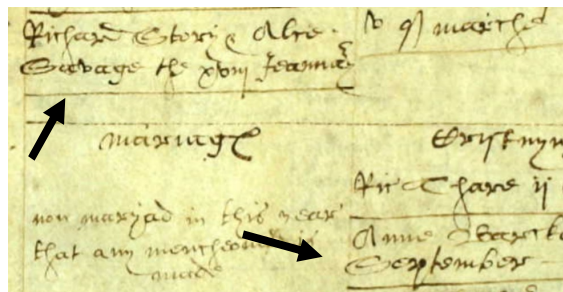
Marie Madeleine Copage 1895
marriage banns Gentilly, Paris

Appendix 6

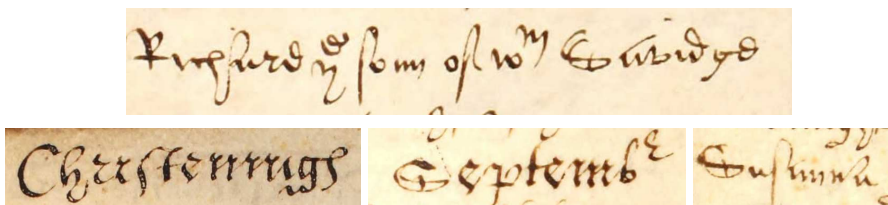
Examples of transcription errors



Genealogical records list several instances of Coppage in the 16th-century records for Solihull including the five on the left. However a careful examination of the handwriting in the original register shows that these are transcription errors as the initial letter clearly matches the 'G' in George and not the 'C' in Christian. Moreover the symbol interpreted as 'pp' is actually 'ss' as in Jane Moss. So these records are of individuals with the name Gossage, a common surname in the area at the time.



An Alice Cabage is listed as being married in London in 1539. But the first letter of her surname matches the 'S' in 'September' so she was actually Alice Sabage.



The above record of a christening in Taunton in 1590 was transcribed as "Richard son of William Cubidge". But a comparison with 'Christenings', 'September' and 'Susannah' (all written in the same hand) shows that it should be 'Subidge'.

Georgina Cabbidge filius Thomas baptizatus 9 die Januarij.
 Janeta Gottsfilia Gualterii baptizata 17 die Martij.
 Agnes Zepher filia Roberti baptizata 31 die Martij.
 Anno Domini 1603.

William Coppidge was buried 10 Aug. 1609

mon corps d'adrien l'oyage j'admirer du force belle age
 d'environ 48. ans. en son vequay j'ay signe l'original
 J. Bournois

127) Shollworth pos Enisklade
 15. Oct. 1684
 Test Willi Coppidge wd Jmwd

John Cooeg of Lanceth buryed April 21 1695

William y son of George was buried April 24. 1687
 Edward Cabbage was buried April the 24. 1687
 William Cabbage was buried April the 24. 1687