

Coppage-Coppedge Family Newsletter

Kynd Kynn Knawn Kepe

February 2026

Message from Your CCFA President

2025-2026

Donna K. Freeman

Happy New Year!

I am honored to serve as your CCFA President for 2025-2026. I would like to thank Sue Aylor for her tenure as our President from 2023-2025. Thank you Sue for your dedication and commitment to serve.

My mother was Jean Alice Coppage, who married Andy Aylor. Andy passed away recently, and his story appears at the end of this newsletter.

I have lived in Virginia my entire life and have been a longtime member of the CCFA. My husband, Chip Freeman, and I have been married for 30 years, and we have a daughter, Hannah, who is also a CCFA member. I am a surgical nurse and look forward to retirement after 47 years in the profession.

Chip and I truly enjoy the reunions and the opportunity to meet and reconnect with our Coppage-Coppedge cousins.

Thoughts on a 2026 Reunion

At the 2025 CCFA reunion, we discussed whether to hold reunions every year, every other year, or not at all. The general consensus was to continue holding annual meetings for as long as we are able. The challenge, as always, is deciding where.

Periodically, we receive emails suggesting that reunions be held in more distant locations, such as Florida or South Carolina. Over the last twenty years, reunions have been held in Kentucky, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and West Virginia. One thing has become clear: as our active membership has aged, many are less willing or able to travel long distances. For this reason, we try to keep reunions within a one-day drive of the greater Washington, D.C., metropolitan area.



Since COVID, finding reasonably priced lodging and banquet facilities has become increasingly difficult. Many businesses do not return calls or require sizable deposits before we can even determine attendance. These challenges led us to begin meeting at Graves Mountain Farm and Lodge in Syria, Virginia. It is a one-stop location at the upper limits of reasonable cost, and the staff has been flexible and easy to work with.

Please understand that we will likely meet again at Graves Mountain Farm and Lodge from July 31 through August 2, 2026. More information will be shared in April.

Copages in England

Coincidental with the time of our 2025 reunion, we were contacted by Nigel Copage from England. He is a descendant of the Warwickshire Copage/Coppages and, for the last 35 years, has traced his lineage back to John Cubbage (?-1695). You can read his "Four Centuries of the Copage Line" at the link below.

www.goodtimes.gr/CopageLine.pdf

Nigel also investigated the origin of this unusual surname and documented his thoughts at the link below.

www.goodtimes.gr/Copage-Coppage-Surname.pdf

Our Coppage-Coppedge database has a few entries for Copege, but none for Copage or Cubbage. I am looking for the point at which the two-family trees meet. So, it may take some time.

Most of us had parents/grandparents who served during World War II. Below is the story about Nigel's father.

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

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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, whom he had met in Gosport, where she was serving as a “Wren” (Women's Royal Navy). They bought an old caravan and took it to Mudeford on the south coast.

But 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 5 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. So, 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.

In Memoriam

Andrew “Andy” Davis Aylor (1933-2025)

Andrew “Andy” Davis Aylor, 92 of Etlan, Va., passed away on Tuesday, August 26, 2025, at UVA Culpeper Hospital. He was born on April 6, 1933, to the late Emmet Comer Aylor and Golda Mae Myers Aylor. He was also preceded in death by brothers, Emmett Junior Aylor and Thomas Nelson Aylor; sister, Ula Jean Beach; and granddaughter, Kaitlin Aylor.

Andy served in the Korean War in Germany. He was a veteran of the VFW and American Legion. Andy was the last surviving member of the original Madison Young Farmers. He was also a member of the Etlan United Methodist Church.

He is survived by his daughters, Wanda Aylor Harris and husband Alan, Donna Aylor Freeman and husband Chip, adopted daughter, Betty Weaver Leonard; sons, Andrew Davis Aylor, Jr. and wife Debbie, Robert Kent Aylor and wife, Sue, James Allen Aylor and wife Beth; brothers, Wilmer Leon Aylor and wife Arlene, James Lacy Aylor and wife Ethel; sister, Elizabeth Aylor Smith and husband Kenneth; grandchildren, Sarah Durham and husband Mike, Nathan Harris and wife Brittany, Brandon Harris, Hannah Freeman, Kristi Aylor, Emmet Aylor, Sid Aylor; great-grandchildren, Drew Durham and wife Lexy, Emily Durham, Lucas Durham, Jackson Durham, and Natalie Harris.



Please send comments, recommend topics, or submit stories for the newsletter to Mike Oaks at:

ccfagenealogy@gmail.com

We will share it with our cousins.

Remember to check the CCFA website to find a copy of the current newsletter and for periodic for updates:

ccfa.website