

# Roots and Branches

The Official Journal of  
The Plant Family History Group

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From information given by members of the Group

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## AIMS OF THE JOURNAL

W K Plant

The Guild of One-Name Studies was formed in September 1979 to encourage the exchange of ideas and co-operative liaison between family historians who concentrate their research on all references to a single surname including variants.

The aims and objectives of the guild are:

- a) To advance the education of the public in the study of geneology and family history of persons with the same name and its variants.
- b) To promote the preservation and publication of the resultant data, and to maximise its assessibility to members of the public.

Having been a member of the Guild for 9 years and having over this period, cross referenced and indexed various records relating to the PLANT name, I felt it was time to formalise my own and others researches by the formation of The Plant Family History Group, and the Group was formed early 1989.

One of the aims of the Group is the exchange of information and one way to meet this requirement is the publication of a Journal on a fairly regular basis.

This then is the first issue of the Plant Journal entitled, for obvious reasons, Roots and Branches. It was extremely difficult deciding on what to include in order to reach a balance of interests to cover the newcomer with little research expertise and the more experienced researcher who knows their way around the pit falls and difficulties that we all experience along the way. I hope, therefore, that the Journal contains something of interest to everyone. You will notice that a list of Members Interests is included and if you feel that another member may be researching the same branch please make contact.

As this is the first issue I have included in the list of members both full members and associated members and for the first issue only, copies have been forwarded to all members both full and associate. It is intended for future issues to restrict circulation to full members only, in order to reduce costs and to charge a yearly membership fee of £4 to cover printing and postage costs of a twice yearly Journal. A membership form is enclosed and if you wish to be a full member of the Plant Family History Group, please complete and return, together with the membership fee to Mr W K Plant, 22 Chapel Croft, Chelford, Nr Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 9SU.

Comments on this first issue and suggestions, together with articles for the next issue are most welcome. The next issue is planned for distribution end July 1991 and articles for inclusion are requested before the end of May.

## ORIGIN OF THE NAME

W K Plant

According to the dictionary of British surnames, the name of Plant is a metonymic for a gardener or planter of various plants.

The name probably came into existence in the early period of the thirteenth century and the following are a number of references to the name of Plant in the thirteenth century together with the source of the information.

William Plant	1262 - Essex -	Pleas of the Forest P.R.O.
William Plant	1279 - Cambridge -	Rotuli hundred a rum 2 vols. 1812/18.
William Plantes	1275 - Norfolk -	Rotuli hundred o rum 2 vols. 1812/18.
Henry le Plaunter	1281 - Huntingdonshire	Ramsey contulary (Rolls ser) 3 vols 1884/93.
Ralph Plantbean	1199 - Norfolk -	Pipe Rolls.
Robert & Alice Plantrose	1221 - Warwickshire -	Assize Rolls.
Robert & Alice Plantrose	1272 - Cambridgeshire	Ramsey Contulary. (Court Rolls)

Homes of Family Names by Guppy published at the end of the 19th century states:

"The Plants are very numerous in the Eccleshall district. The name of Plant occurred in the 13th century in Huntingdonshire and Oxfordshire. There are also a few representatives of the name in Suffolk and Shropshire".

## OCCURRENCE OF NAME/DISTRIBUTION

W K Plant

There are various suggested ways of calculating the number of people in the UK with the same surname, some very complicated and some simple.

For what it is worth I have used one of the more simple methods to estimate the Plant population in the UK.

From the UK Telephone directories the following information was obtained:-

<u>Area</u>	<u>No. of Subscribers</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>No. of Subscribers</u>
London	121	C Scotland & Trossachs	9
SW Essex	19	Brighton	36
S Hertfordshire & N Middlesex	19	Guildford	29
W Middlesex	28	Portsmouth	29
NW Kent	24	Isle of Wight	7
NE Surrey	45	Reading	21
Bedford	28	Tunbridge Wells	25
Colchester	42	Bournemouth	22
Norwich	51	Exeter	23
Oxford	21	Gloucester	21
Southend-on-Sea	29	Plymouth, SW Devon & Cornwall	32
Derby & District	71	Southampton	28
Nottingham District	45	Taunton	12
Mansfield, Newark & District	26	Bristol & Northavon	16
Coventry	31	Bath & Wiltshire	17
Northampton & District	20	Weston-Super-Mare & Mendip	13
Peterborough	55	Cardiffe & SE Wales	19
Stoke-on-Trent	449	Shrewsbury & Hereford	
W'hampton, Dudley & Walsall	305	& Mid-Wales	110
Worcester	48	Swansea & SW Wales	12
Bradford	29	Highlands & Islands	4
Barnsley & Doncaster	40	Tayside & N Fife	2
Teesside	61	Fife & Kinrose	6
Hull	14	Edinburgh & Lothians	11
Chesterfield, Worksop &		Northumberland	7
Hope Valley	53	Tyneside	27
Sheffield, Rotherham &		Durham & Wearside	29
Hope Valley	157	High Wycombe & District	11
Northern Ireland	5	Aylesbury & District	18
S Humberside &		Oxford & District	14
N Lincolnshire	28	Banbury & District	18
Mid Lincolnshire	13	Luton, Dunstable &	
York & District	16	Leighton Buzzard	17
Harrogate & District	7	N Birmingham	126
Scarborough, Bridlington &		S Birmingham	138
Holderness	10	Canterbury	30
Blackburn	36	Medway Area	12
Cumbria & Lancashire	11	Bishops Stortford, Harlow	
Isle of Man	3	& District	16
Liverpool (including		Bury St Edmunds &	
Southport & Formby)	23	District	16
Wirral	34	Cambridge & District	13
Warrington & St Helens	43	King's Lynn & District	12
Central Manchester	12	Chester & NE Wales	36
NE Manchester	55	NW Wales	18
NW Manchester	62	Leicester & District	84
S Manchester	183	Burton upon Trent,	
Preston	60	Tamworth & District	39
S W Scotland	1	Leeds & District	22
Aberdeen & NE Scotland	4	Wakefield & District	20
Glasgow	5	Reading Area	14
Clyde Valley	8	Slough Area	13
Clyde Coast	5	Colchester & District	12
Ipswich & District	35		

When analysing the figures the highest concentration is in the following areas:

Stoke on Trent	=	12.0%
Wolverhampton, Dudley and Walsall	=	8.1%
South Manchester	=	4.9%
Sheffield, Rotherham & Hope Valley	=	4.2%
South Birmingham	=	3.7%
North Birmingham	=	3.4%
London	=	3.2%
Shrewsbury, Hereford and Mid Wales	=	2.9%

Further analysis shows

Total number of subscribers	=	3756
x proportion of subscribers to householders 1.32	=	4958
x number of persons per household 3.068 in UK.	=	15211 number of Plants

To give the ratio of occurrence divide into total UK population 1981 = 55,798,000

$$= \frac{55,798,000}{15,211} = 1 \text{ in every } 3668$$

- Historical population of Plants -

Year	Total UK Population x 1000	Plant Population	Year	Total UK Population x 1000	Plant Population
1086	1100	300	1600	4500	1226
1345	3800	1036	1630	5600	1526
1377	2350	640	1670	5773	1573
1400	2100	572	1700	6045	1648
1500	2250	613	1750	6517	1776
1570	4160	1134	1801	8893	2423
			1981	55798	15211

MEMBERSHIP INTERESTS

<u>Membership No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Interest</u>
1	Miss Linda Lowrey	e19c Macclesfield Cheshire/ m19c - Hollingwood - Darwin Lancs/
2	John Plant	General/
3	Mr & Mrs Plant	Any period Market Harborough + Bristol/
4	Colin W Plant	19c North Staffordshire/
5	Mrs Mary Stone	m19c Altrincham Cheshire/
6	Michael Plant	Any period South Staffs/North Worcs.
7	Mrs Christine O'Donovan	e19c Gnosall Staffs/m19c Bloxwich Staffs
8	Mrs M Froggott	research being carried out by Member No 7.
9	Mrs Doris Nicholas	e19c Shropshire/e19c Cheadle Hulme Ches/
10	Mrs Pamela Plant	e19c Stockport Cheshire/
11	Mrs B Jones	L18c Clowne Derby/e19c Staveley Derby/m19c Halton Leeds Yorks/
12	Mrs Lois Webb	e19c Macclesfield Cheshire/m19c Hollinwood + Darwin Lancs/
13	Miss Helen Hill	e19c Ayrshire/m19c Rowley Regis Staffs/- L19c Cradley Staffs/
14	Rev D A Jackson	18c 19c Ashton Lancs/19c Dukinfield Lancs/e19c Mottram Cheshire/e19c Stockport Cheshire/18c Blakley Lancs/18c Manchester Lancs
15	Mrs Winifred Stuart	Any period Cheshire/
16	Mr & Mrs Reed	L18c e19c North Staffordshire/
17	Mrs Brenda Beaumont	L18c e19c East Suffolk/
18	Peter T Johnson	L19c Manchester Lancs/19c Mid Cheshire/
19		
20	David Plant	General/
21	Andrew Fowler	m19c Lichfield Staffs/Any period Liverpool/

22	John Plant	General/
23	Mrs J Wallace	18c Nottingham/m19c London/m19c New Zealand/20c Australia/
24	George Plant	19c Rushton Biddulph Norton Staffs/
25	Elvin U Plant	19c Holmes Chapel Cheshire/
26	Janis Kirby	m19c Willenhall Staffs/l.19c Manchester/e19c Wellington Shropshire
27	Mrs P E Ormerod	e19c Sandbach Cheshire/m19c Church Hulme Cheshire/
28	Susan Mackay	L19c Derbyshire/
29	Mrs Shirley Hughes	L17c + 18c Rowley Regis Worcs/19c Dudley Worcs/L19c Sydney Australia/
30	Mrs C L Plant	General/
31	John Plant Hartham	Any period Elworth Hall Cheshire/
32	Mrs Catherine Sproston	Any period Cheshire/
33	Miss Aileen Plant	17c 18c 19c Stockport Cheshire/
34	Mrs Sylvia Hough	e19c Biddulph Staffs/
35	Arnold Plant	General/
36	Graham Plant	m19c Sibsey Lincoln/ Any period Australia/
37	Patrick Pearson	Any period Stockport Cheshire/
38	Mrs Sián Plant	e19c Denton Lancs/19c Leicester/ 20c Rounds Northants/
39	Gordon Vick	19c Clowne Derby/19c Staveley Derby/ L19c Halifax Yorks/
40	Mrs Joan McDonald	m19c Wolverhampton Staffs/L17c + 18c Rowley Regis Worcs/ 19c Dudley Worcs/
41	Val Edmonds	m19c Stepney + Limehouse Middlesex/
42	John Roberts	Any period Cheadle Staffs/
43	J A Stebbing	m19c London/
44		
45	Mr David Johnson	19c Kidsgrove/



46	John H Plant	L18c 19c Longton Staffs/ Any period RH + SL Plant Ltd/
47	Mrs S Robson	General/
48	Mr S Allan	General/
49	Mrs Elizabeth Bass	General/
50	Mrs Jean Plant	General/
51	Gerald Plant	m19c Goostrey Cheshire/L19c e20c Salford Lancs/
52	Dr John S Plant	19c Sheffield Yorks/ e19c Clowne Derbyshire/
53	Mrs Pauline Pritchard	Any period Clowne Derbyshire/
54	W Plant	General/
55	Brian David Burton	e19c Cheadle Staffs/
56	Mrs Joyce Westwood	Any period Cheadle Staffs/
57	Mrs Shipley	Any period Kidsgrove/
58	B S Plant	General/
59	Nigel Burroughs	L18c 19c Burslem + Longton Staffs/
60	Mrs Rosemary Terry	19c Burslem + Longton Staffs/ Any period RH + SL Plant Ltd/
61	Mr G Plant	General/
62	Mrs M Upton	General/
63	Ian D Brindley	General/
64	Albert Edward Plant	General/
65	Mr D J Plant	Any period Cheadle Staffs/
66	Sandra Cumming	L19c Wandsworth London/ e19c Leicester/ 20c Australia/
67	Mr J Boston	m19c Astbury Cheshire/ m19c Biddulph Staffs/
68	Mr W Perry	18c Congleton + Prestbury Cheshire/
69	Andrew Plant	General/
70	Geoffrey W Plant	General/
71	G Brian Plant	Any period Cheshire/
72	William Plant	General/
73	Miss A Curtis	General/

PLANT CITY FLORIDA USA

W K Plant

From information provided by

G Brian Plant

Plant City is located in the heart of central Florida, 24 miles east of Tampa and 10 miles from Lakeland. It offers ready access to all parts of Florida including the west coast beach and major tourist attractions. The yearly average temperature is 72°F with on average only 6 days per year below freezing. For 120 days per year the temperature is near 90°F.

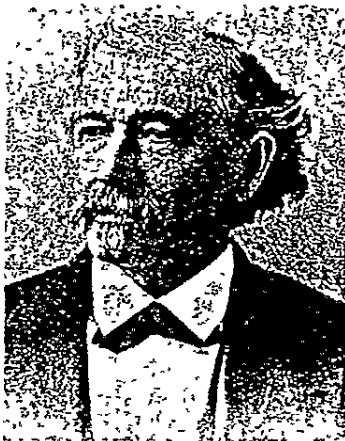
Plant City derives its name from Henry Bradley Plant who in 1883 completed a cross-state railroad from Sanford to Tampa, running through what is now the heart of the City. The Florida Railway and Navigational Company extended a north-south line through Plant City in 1889, establishing the City as a vital transportation centre.

In its original charter, Plant City encompassed one square mile of land. It has now grown to its present size of 21.6 square miles and population of 21600.

The City was at earlier times recognised as a cotton shipping centre, a little mill town, a phosphate centre, and a citrus shipping centre. It has now become the Winter Strawberry Capital of the World.

Henry Bradley Plant (the founder of the City) did not in fact live in the centre being from Branford, Connecticut.

He became familiar with Florida in 1852 when, on doctors advice, he began taking his wife, who was suffering with tuberculosis, to Jacksonville for the winters. During the years of his wife's illness and until her death in 1861 he established new express lines all through the south for Adams Express Company, for which he was the southern agent.



Henry Bradley Plant

Later, with war clouds gathering the Adams Express company sold all its holdings south of the Mason - Dixon line to Henry B Plant to prevent them from falling into the hands of the Confederacy. He then organised the Southern Express Company, setting up offices in Augusta Georgia.

During the Civil War he himself became ill and went to Europe where he remained until the war ended. He returned to America in April 1865. A shrewd businessman, he organised the Plant Investment Company which, among other things, bought distressed railroads.

In June 1883, he acquired a railroad charter which allowed less than seven months to construct a segment of railroad from Kissimmee to Tampa. To beat the deadline, he began constructions at both ends of the line and joined eastern and western segments just hours before the charter expired.

Henry Bradley Plant was descended from John Plant of Branford, Connecticut who was a soldier in the Narragannett War. The Connecticut General Assembly, in October 1696 bestowed on the 'English Volunteers' in this struggle a tract of territory six square miles, to be divided amongst them, this tract bearing the name of Voluntown. In the list of those receiving these grants John Plant was numbered 59 in the drawing of Cedar Swamp Lots.

The Narragansett War ended in 1676 and the name of John Plant appears on the records of the town of Branford, 21 January 1677, when a lot of two acres was granted to him on condition that he should build upon it within three years.

There was no reference of a John Plant on the list of Branford residents enrolled in January 1676 nor any reference to the Plant family prior to this date. Subsequently John Plant's name occurs a number of times in connection with grants of land. On 6 November 1677 his name appears as a witness on the record of payment and on 2 February 1688 he was given six acres on the way hill. He was sworn in as a freeman at Branford 8 April 1690.

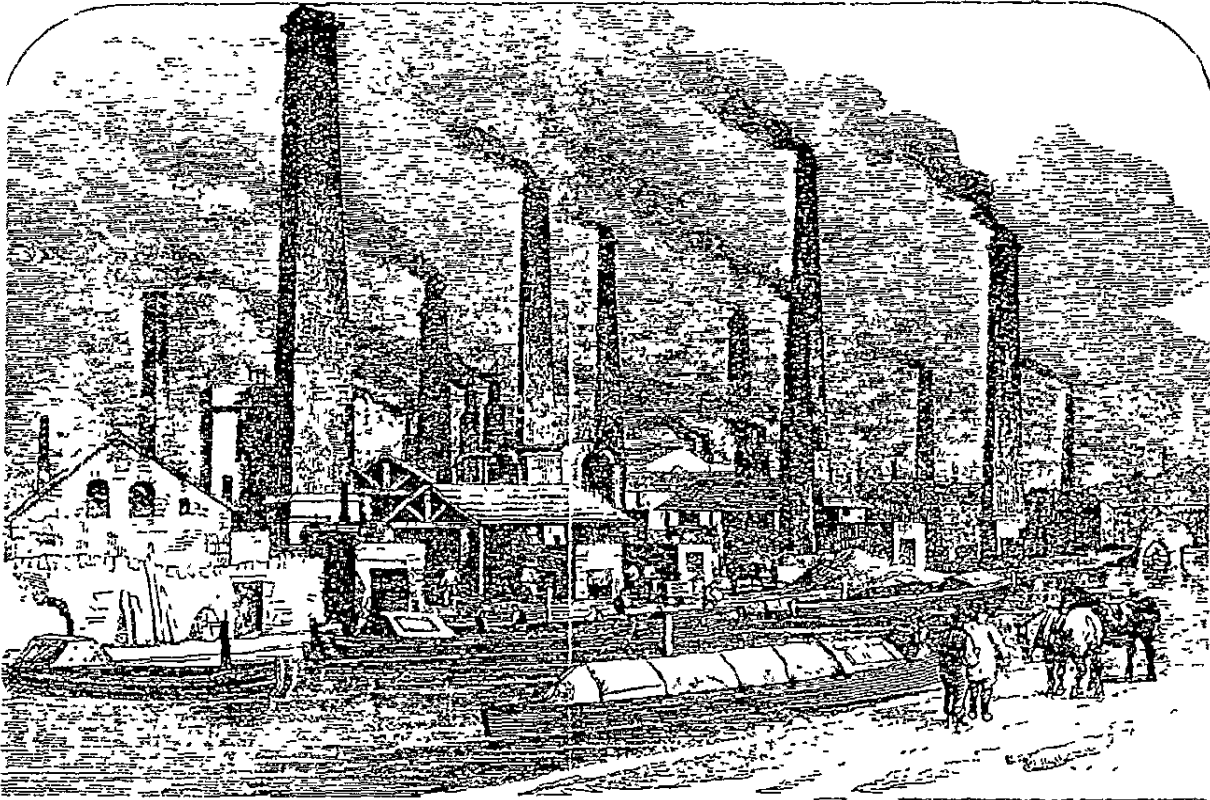
An inventory of the estate was taken 4 June 1691 giving a valuation of John Plant's property of £130.8.9d. Therefore, John Plant must have died early 1691.

The family of John Plant is not altogether clear. There was certainly a son, John, baptised 3 March 1678 and included as a member of the church in 1704 was a Martha Plant. Additionally an Elizabeth Plant married a John Coach of Branford on 23 July 1712. It is, therefore, possible that Martha and Elizabeth were also children of John Plant snr.

Considerable information is known relative to the family of John Plant jnr and this information will be included in a subsequent issue of the Journal.

PLANT AND FISHER'S DUDLEY PORT IRONWORKS

W K Plant



Plant and Fisher's Dudley Port Ironworks near Dudley 1860

Plant and Fisher had twenty puddling furnaces and four rolling mills. The firm rolled bars, hoop iron, strip, rivet iron, horseshoe iron, small sections and angles under the brands PF (separated by a drawing of an elephant) and PLANT'S (followed by the elephant drawing).

The firm was typical, having its own brand, as all the better class companies did, and specialising in a particular range of products, in this case bars and sections. Usually only the very large concerns rolled all types of profile.

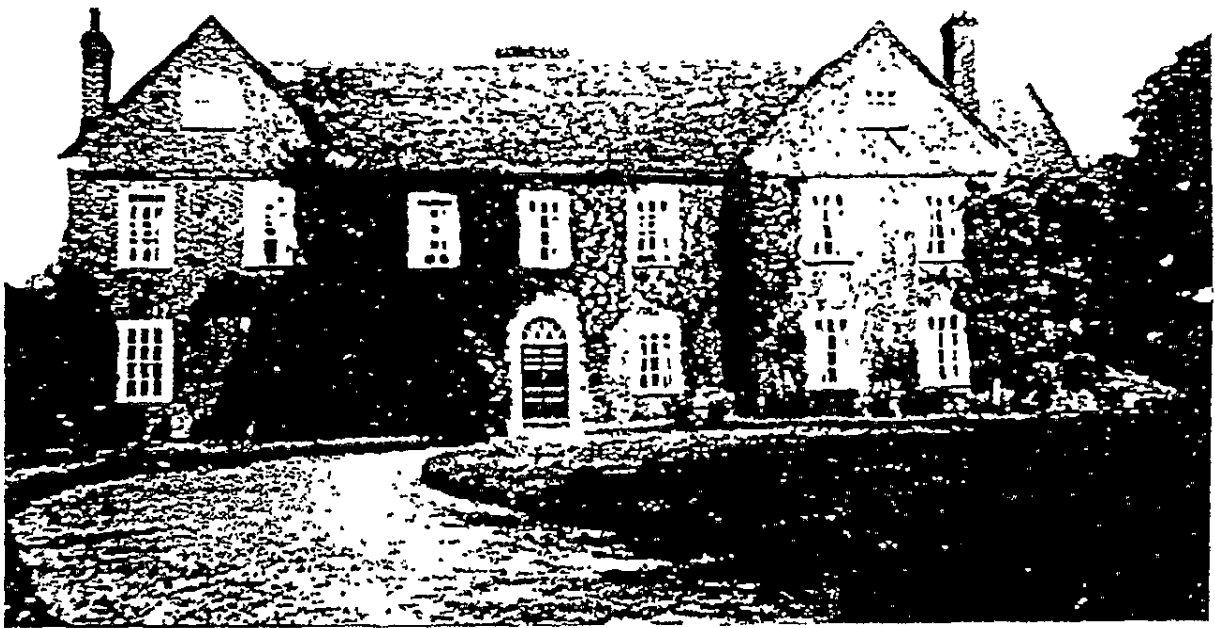
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WKP note - all information relating to the above company requested - please forward details to WKP.

THE PLANTS OF ELWORTH HALL SANDBACH

John P Harthan  
W Keith Plant

Episode 1 Early Years



The Elworth Estate was situated partly in the township of Sandbach and partly in Bradwell. It was given by Richard de Bradwell to his younger son Thomas de Helleworth by deed, about the time of Edward 1.

The Elworth's were succeeded by the Rowens and in 1534/5 Randell Rowne (Rowen) of Elworth is named as a witness to a grant involving Wm Rowne of Newbold Astbury referring to the estate of Bradwell.

There is little further evidence of any importance to be found relating to the property and the Rowans, continued in possession to the end of the 17th century, when Elworth Hall, with its demise passed with Mary, daughter of Wm Rowen of Elworth, Gent to Thomas Hulse.

Thomas Hulse was the son of Thomas Hulse of Clive who married Katherine, daughter of Thomas Molbon of Nantwich, relict of George Reynolds.

Thomas Hulse married Mary, daughter and heiress of Wm Rowen of Elworth, at Sandbach, 4 April 1679. Thomas and Mary were the parents of Thomas, son and heir, born 1681 and Ralph.

Thomas married Ann - c1705 and had issue John (clerk), Hugh, Thomas, William, Robert, Randle, Jane, and Ann. Thomas died 1753 aged 72 and Ann his wife died 1750 aged 63.

John Hulse, of Elworth (clerk) married Ann, daughter of Edward Hall of Hermitage, Gent and died issueless 13 December 1790 aged 82 years. He was born at Middlewich 15 March 1708 and was educated at the Grammar School, Congleton and in 1724, when 16 years of age, was entered at St. John's College, Cambridge, being taken thither on horseback by his grandfather then seventy eight years of age. Shortly after this, his grandfather died and his father succeeded to the estate, but not long after, he quarrelled with his father and never returned to his home, living, when not at college, with his grandmother.

At college, he obtained a prize for Latin ode and took his BA degree in 1728. He was ordained in 1732 and held the curacy of Yoxall, Co. Stafford. He married in 1733, Mary, the daughter of Edward Hall of the Hermitage in Holmes Chapel, by whom he had an only son, Edward Hulse, born at the Hermitage in 1734 but who died, unmarried in 1756. In 1735, he took the small curacy of Goosetrey, where he remained until the death of his father in 1753 when he took possession of the family estates, which had been strictly entailed on the eldest son at the time of his fathers marriage. He relinquished all clerical duty and lived very quietly at Elworth Hall till his death on 14 December 1790.

He is described as being of delicate frame of body, of a contemplative turn of mind, of diminutive stature and of an irritable temperament. He is also said to have been well versed in medicine and to have played on the violin, flute and other instruments. In one of his many codicils to his will, he leaves 'his fine organ' to Elizabeth Plant (one of his favourite servants) and disposed of his violins and flutes and all Corellias works and Percells Book of Songs with his Sonatas and all his solos and Sonatas and single songs for those instruments. In a subsequent codicil, he bequeathed 'his smaller organ and diagonal mirror or optical machine, with a large collection of fine coloured prints, to be viewed therein', to Thomas Plant by whom they were afterwards presented to the master of St. John's College, Cambridge.

His will is dated 21 July 1777. It is a document of very great length. It has nine codicils, the last bearing date 23 November 1789. He left his estates in Middlewich and Newton to his brothers and sisters (of whom seven were then living), for the term of ninety-nine years, if any of them should so long live (none of them having any children), with a proviso that his brothers, who were then abroad, should, if they did not return within seven years, be considered dead. Then to the University of Cambridge, on condition that clear yearly rents should be applied 'to the advancement and reward of religious learning' for which purposes he founded the office of Christian Advocate that of 'Hulsean Lecturer or Christian Preacher' a Hulsean Prize Essay and two Divinity Scholarships at St John's College.

By a codicil, the Hall of Elworth was devised for life to his servants, Thomas and Elizabeth Plant, the latter having been brought up by John Hulse from a child. It was said that she gratefully and zealously paid him every attention. He had been for many years afflicted with the stone and gravel. The violent anguish frequently subjected him to fainting fits which he recovered from by the attentions of his housekeeper, until at the close of his life, he was seized with one

of a long duration and when at length restored, he said to her "Why trouble one so? If it has not been for your twittle twattle, I should now have been in Heaven. Now observe what I say. I shall be seized by another fit in about this time twelve hours and be sure not to disturb me, but let me die in peace. If you cannot bear to stay in the room send somebody else to me."

The Hall was a very respectable mansion of a second class, situated within the township of Sandbach, but close to Bradwall, surrounded with fine trees and kept in neat order, according to the directions of John Hulse's will. The front was of brick, finished with gables, the rest more ancient and composed of timber or plaster.

The arms of the Hulse family and those of his grandmother, Rowen, were presented by Thomas Plant to the Library of St. John's College, Cambridge.

From information extracted from the Sandbach Parish Registers, Monumental Inscriptions, Will, and information provided by John Plant Harthan, the following family tree relating to the Elworth Hall Plants can be established.

Thomas  
 b. 22.2.1752  
 m. Eliz. Halford (1748-1804)  
 d. 22.7.1776

<sup>2</sup> m. Ann Cartier  
 b. 13.9.1814  
 d. 23.2.1828

d. 23.2.1828

Sarah  
 b. 19.12.1777

Alice  
 b. 5.11.1779  
 m. James Burgess  
 1798

Thomas  
 b. 19.8.1781  
 m. Hannah Hughes  
 29.1.1815  
 d. 16.2.1828  
 (Church Hulme  
 Lived Congleton)

Eliz  
 b. 17.11.1783  
 m. Ed. Westhead  
 6.4.1816  
 d. 19.10.1819

John  
 b. 13.6.1790  
 m. Sarah Wolfe (1798-1832)  
 m. Mary  
 d. 19.1.1849

Thomas  
 b. 12.12.1817  
 m. 1. Ann Dean  
 m. 2. = Ann  
 Whittingham  
 d. 2.7.1869

Mary  
 b. 29.8.1819  
 d. 25.2.1820

Samuel  
 b. 11.11.1820  
 m. Antionette  
 Sarah  
 Fourdriner  
 d. 1900

Ann  
 b. 10.6.1823  
 m. Joseph  
 Lea  
 d. 1.4.1857?

John  
 b. 25.11.1825

Joseph  
 b. 22.8.1827

Eliz.  
 b. 24.1.1829  
 d. 14.3.1831

Henry  
 b. 27.7.1830  
 d. 19.3.1831

Emilia  
 b. 5.4.1832  
 m. Ezra  
 Hartman  
 d. 3-1895

John  
 d. 5.8.1850

Wm. Dean  
 b. 1851  
 d. 19.10.1871

Mary  
 b. 14.8.1852  
 d. 17.3.1877

Arthur  
 b. 14.9.1853  
 m. Ann Elizabeth  
 d. 6.2.1927

Thomas  
 b. 30.11.1855  
 d. 24.7.1939

Charles  
 b. 19.3.1856  
 (was Surgeon)  
 d. 1886

Annie Esther  
 b. 1860

John Whittingham  
 b. 1861

Sarah Ellen  
 b. 1863

Edward Ashley  
 b. 3.3.1867  
 m. Marrel Whiston  
 (Town Clerk of  
 Congleton 1900)

Emily  
 b. 1868



The Plant family took over Elworth Hall in 1790, the descendants of which were still resident at the early part of the 20th Century. During this period, four generations lived in the hall.

To be continued in forthcoming issues of the Journal.

## PLANTS IN THE POTTERY INDUSTRY

Winifred Stuart

Over the last two hundred years various companies with Plant connections have been active in the Stoke-on-Trent areas and it is hoped to include more details in forthcoming Journals.

However, as an introduction, the following information, taken from GA. Godden's Encyclopaedia of British Pottery and Porcelain Marks, shows various Trade Marks containing the Plant name.

### PLANT

3053

*B Plant  
Lane End.*

**BENJAMIN PLANT**, Lane End, Longton. Staffordshire Potteries. c. 1780-1820. *Earthenwares.*

Rare incised signature marks, c. 1780-1820. These dates are approximate only. A rare signed and dated (1814) example will be found illustrated in *British Pottery and Porcelain: an illustrated Encyclopaedia of Marked Specimens.*

### PLANT

3054



**PLANT BROS.**, Crown Pottery, Burslem (c. 1889-98), then Stanley Works, Longton. Staffordshire Potteries. 1889-1906. *China.* Subsequently combined with R. H. & S. L. Plant, q.v.

Printed mark, 1898-1906. Note the initial L for Longton similar mark without L or with B may occur before 1898

### PLANT

3055



Printed or impressed crown mark, 1898-1905.  
N.B. Other manufacturers used this mark

### PLANT

3056



**J. PLANT & CO.**, Stoke Pottery, Stoke. Staffordshire Potteries. 1893-1900. *Earthenwares.* Formerly J. & R. Plant. Stoke Pottery taken over by Grimwade Bros, c. 1900.

Printed mark, 1893-1900. This mark may also have been used by predecessors, c. 1889-93.

PLANT

R. H. PLANT & CO., Carlisle Works, Longton. Staffordshire Potteries. 1881-98. *China*. Subsequently R. H. & S. L. Plant, q v.

3057



Printed mark, 1881-98.

PLANT

R. PLANT & SONS, Warwick Works, Longton. Staffordshire Potteries. 1895-1901. *Earthenwares*. Formerly Plant & Baggaley.

3058



Printed mark, 1895-1901.

PLANT

R. H. & S. L. PLANT (LTD.), Tuscan Works, Longton. Staffordshire Potteries. c. 1898-

\*

Several printed marks occur incorporating the initials R. H. & S. L. P, or the trade-name "Tuscan", c. 1898 onwards. Examples are reproduced below:

3059-62



c. 1898+



c. 1902+



c. 1907+



c. 1936+

3063-5



c. 1936+



c. 1947+



c. 1961+

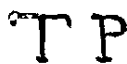
N.B. Year numerals occur in or below the later marks, i.e. 62 indicates 1962.

PLANT

THOMAS PLANT, Lane End. Staffordshire Potteries. 1825-50. *Earthenware figures, etc.*

Son of Benjamin Plant,

3066



Rare painted mark on earthenware figures, etc., c. 1825-50. A rare earthenware lion with these initials is illustrated in *British Pottery and Porcelain: an illustrated Encyclopaedia of Marked Specimens*.

\* This company was taken over by Josiah Wedgwood & Sons Limited sometime in the 1960's.

If any member is prepared to investigate, compile and write a History of any of the above companies or knows of one already written please contact W K Plant.

THE CONVERSION OF MONETARY VALUE TO 1985 FIGURES

It is always a fascination when reading old wills trying to imagine what status our ancestors enjoyed during the period of their life. One of the ways in 'transporting one's self back' is to make a comparison with the present day equivalent value of the monetary bequests made in wills.

In 1985 the North West Kent Family History Society published an article by one of their members, giving an indication of what a pound in each of the years would have been worth in September 1985.

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Year	£	Year	£	Year	£	Year	£
1450	268.9	1590	78.4	1730	45.4	1870	24.1
1460	268.9	1600	66.1	1740	45.4	1880	25.4
1470	251.0	1610	51.6	1750	44.8	1890	29.9
1480	235.3	1620	50.2	1760	39.2	1900	30.6
1490	251.0	1630	47.1	1770	33.3	1910	27.9
1500	251.0	1640	44.8	1780	33.0	1920	10.6
1510	251.0	1650	39.6	1790	29.4	1930	16.7
1520	251.0	1660	40.1	1800	16.9	1940	14.4
1530	198.2	1670	43.8	1810	15.8	1950	11.4
1540	171.1	1680	43.8	1820	19.5	1960	7.7
1550	163.7	1690	45.9	1830	23.1	1970	5.1
1560	104.6	1700	40.9	1840	20.6	1980	1.4
1570	89.6	1710	40.1	1850	27.3		
1580	91.8	1720	44.3	1860	24.6		

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PLANT'S BOXING BOOTH

G R TWEEDIE

"Shortly after the Second World War on my demob from the Royal Navy I became a licensed boxer and soon after became familiar with the Plants Boxing Booth.

The Plant Family were Joe (Nipper) Plant, Ernie Plant and young Joe Plant, now all deceased.

I travelled with them on the booth and most of the boxers were Ex-Service. Apart from other towns we visited with the booth, Macclesfield was about the best for the boxers, taking on all comers and making a few bob on a Friday and Saturday,

I am in my late sixties now but well remember the Plants who I think originated from Chesterton, Stoke-on-Trent, so perhaps some of your members may have some record of their Boxing Booth and of course the family".

W K Plant NOTE

The above letter was received from Mr G R Tweedie and if any member has any information about Plants Boxing Booth please forward details to me.  
Thanks

ROBERT PLANT OF CHEADLE, STAFFS.

John Roberts

The PLANT families of Cheadle stem from two families moving into the town from outlying areas. The "youngest" family, that of John & Hannah PLANT, moved into Cheadle in 1771. To date their place of origin, and marriage has not yet been found. The "older" family, that of Thomas & Margaret PLANT came to Cheadle in 1721. Again the origin, and place of marriage of Thomas & Margaret PLANT have not yet been found. There is only one other PLANT event recorded in the parish registers prior to 1721, that of Sevana PLANT, an illegitimate daughter of a Sarah-PLANT, who was baptised in 1714. No other record of either Sevana or Sarah have, as yet come to light. My branch of the Cheadle PLANT family can be traced to that of the "oldest" Cheadle PLANT's. This has led me to start a mini One Name Study for the PLANT family of Cheadle, and I would be happy to share my research or to hear from anyone who has any additional information they would like to pass on. I have all I.G.I. extracts for PLANT of Cheadle. many parish Register entries, and all Cheadle PLANT Census entries for 1851, 1861 and most of 1871. In addition I have been able to work out the possible inter-relationships of the various families. This work is still ongoing.

My interest in the PLANT family of Cheadle arose through my Grandmother, Ethel May PLANT, who married my Grandfather, Alfred George ROBERTS M.M. in January 1908. Ethel May's father, my Great-grandfather, was James PLANT who was born in Weston Road, Meir in 1858, and became an Iron Moulder. James lived all his life in the Meir, Normacot, and Dresden areas of Stoke upon Trent as it was then called. James was the son of William PLANT & Eliza LEESE, who was journeyman blacksmith at the little hamlet of Cookshill, near to Caverswall, Staffs. Eliza LEESE was the daughter of George LEESE & Olive EMERY, and William PLANT had been employed by his father-in law who was the village blacksmith.

William PLANT later set up a business of his own, as Blacksmith, in Stafford Street, Longton, where according to the 1881 Census, he employed 3 men. His place of birth was given as being Cheadle Staffs. and he was born there in November 1832. William was the second son of the large family of James PLANT & Hannah AUSTIN. James & Hannah had nine children, James 1831, William 1832, Francis 1834, George 1836, Jane 1838, Robert 1840, Thomas 1842, Septimus 1844, and Hannah 1846. The family lived in what appeared to be an obscure part of Cheadle known as "Back of the Town". My 3x Gt-grandfather, James was a collier.

At this point in my research, because of the apparent obscurity of the family, I let matters stand for some time. I was a little intrigued by the place called "Back of the Town" and endeavoured with little success, to find something more about it's location, until one day I remembered a book that had been in my possession for some years called "Cheadle Coal Town, a detailed History of Coal Mining in the Cheadle District " written by Herbert A CHESTER, published privately in 1981. To my amazement the book literally fell open at Chapter 10 which was called the "Robert PLANT Story". within the first few lines it gave names and ages of each of the children of my family. Mr CHESTER had made only one error, he recorded Robert's father as Thomas PLANT, an understandable mistake as the record he was using was the 1851 Census, and the name was abbreviated & difficult to read. Needless to say I was excited at finding a "famous ancestor".

Robert PLANT, my 2x Great-uncle, was the sixth child and fifth son of James and Hannah PLANT, and was baptised at Cheadle Parish Church on 19th. July 1840. His parents lived in a street called "Back of the Town" which was situated by the Parish Church and was aptly named as the street ran exactly

as its name implies i.e. behind the town up to the top of the hill named Monkhouse and finishing at the far end of Cheadle on the Cheadle - Newcastle under Lyme Turnpike.

Robert's early years are somewhat obscure. The 1851 Census records most of the family (William, Francis & Jane were employed away from home) and indicates that Robert, now aged 10 was a scholar. His later accomplishments indicate that he, together with his elder brothers, must have had a fairly good education.

That Robert was an enterprising young man is undoubted since "Hunt's Mining Records" of 1856 listed it's collieries for Cheadle District and contained two collieries operating under the name of "Plant & Co.", one at Cheadle and the other at Ipstones. Robert, at this time was aged only 16 and appears to have been in partnership with his elder brother James. Just four years later a Trade Directory names the partners in the above enterprise as "PLANT, James and Robert, Coal Masters, Back Street" as "Back of the Town" was now called. The partnership was dissolved during the ensuing year as the 1861 Census records James as still living in Back Street, with his parents and employed as a Joiner, whilst Robert, now married to Martha MELLOR, was living in Ebenezer Cottage, Mill Lane. At the early age of 20, he seems to have been making quite a success of his business on his own since the Census records him as "Coal Proprietor, employing 19 men and 7 boys". Ebenezer Cottage was to be his home for the remainder of the years he spent in Cheadle.

The next 20 years were the most successful of the career of this remarkable man. By 1863 he had extended his colliery interests to include the Callow Hill Colliery, and in 1865 he became head of the Cheadle Colliery Company. A year later he had established the Cheadle New Colliery and he had obviously begun to make his mark on the town as the New Colliery inspired a short poem.

In 1866 at a place called the New Mine  
Three men did start a pair of Pits  
The Woodhead Coal to find  
Some say it's there, some say there's none  
But we will try and the world will see  
When we've got coal to draw away  
There's a bunch of PLANTS set in this field  
To see the business done  
etc. (by "Old Sod")

His interests in the Mining Companies began to spread and he was to own many of the Collieries in the Cheadle District. He intended to continue mining in Cheadle for many years. He found small pieces of land which had been purchased by other members of his family from as far back as 1836, and he also began leasing other coal under other land from 1869, until by 1878 he had control of a further 234 acres.

The Cheadle Coalfield, although only a comparatively small one, was geologically difficult, but was by now, playing an important part in the commercial life of Staffordshire. It's drawback was that it was rather isolated, being some 2½ miles, as the crow flies, from the nearest railway. Transport of it's output, to outlying Urban Districts such as Ashbourne, Uttoxeter, Derby and Burton on Trent had to be by road. Unsuccessful efforts had been made to get the North Staffordshire Railway Co. to construct a Branch Line into Cheadle, but by 1870 it became clear that this would only be done if the Coal Proprietors and other interested parties, provided the necessary funding. In the meantime Robert PLANT had been thinking of alternative means of transport for the Coal Masters. A Cheadle Carrying Company was formed in 1871 with Robert as the Manager. PLANT's idea was to use a Steam Traction

Engine. and this came into the town in the same year. It was a source of great wonder and some controversy. The engine towed two wagons loaded with coal and proved to be of inestimable value in the rural areas, but urban districts such as Leek were dismayed to find their cobbled streets being damaged and decided to ban it from their area. More local folk began to take notice of the attempts to bring a Railway into the town, their attitude to this prospect is summed up in this short verse:-

"Plant's traction engine goes ahead,  
It makes them fear that now instead  
An iron rail shall pierce the hill  
And join the town against their will  
With the Outer World."

(by Wakefield, Blythe Bridge).

The Traction Engine was to be only a stop-gap, Robert intended to renew efforts to provide a Railway into the town, as we shall see later.

Meantime Robert PLANT had started to build his Mansion, in the true Victorian style. Ebenezer Cottage was to remain as the rear entrance, trees were planted all around the grounds with a tree-lined drive from the Tean Road to the gardens, stables, coach-house and the magnificent Mansion. Oddly enough it appears that Robert and his family did not use the new Mansion much, preferring to live in the rear of the premises in Ebenezer Cottage, the front of the house being let out to private individuals or organisations for dances and drama groups.

A remarkable event took place in 1872, when Robert was still aged only 32, which took the form of a 'Testimonial and Dinner to Mr Robert PLANT at Cheadle. and was fully reported in the Staffordshire Advertiser on February 17th. when 40 eminent guests came to pay their respects to the merits of their remarkable townsman.

In May of the same year, Lord CHURSTON of Dilhorne decided to sell his manorial rights in the Cheadle Manor. Robert PLANT was there and succeeded in purchasing one of the 26 Lots for the sum of £1,575. This evidently remained in the family at least until the 1930's, when an Official Guide Book of Cheadle names a Mr Ernest PLANT (possibly Robert's Granson) as Lord of The Manor.

In October 1874, Robert PLANT opened his new Birches Colliery, it was hoped that this Colliery would prove to be of major benefit to the Company and the town. There was an ambitious "Opening Ceremony" held. Such was Robert's standing in the town, and so confident was he of the success of this new venture that Robert decided that the Ceremony would even surpass that of a Coronation day. The schools and shops were closed and the day declared a general holiday. The "Staffordshire Sentinel" reported the event in full, running to some four thousand words. " -- With a view to signalise, Mr. PLANT entertained the whole of his workpeople and a large number of the poorer inhabitants of the town, in all about 850 besides something like 450 guests invited from the town and neighbourhood, including the whole of the members of the North Staffordshire Institute Of Mining and Mechanical Engineers." These latter dignitaries travelled by special train, in saloon carriages, and travelled from there in seven open carriages to Cheadle the leading wagonette being drawn by four grey horse with Outriders dressed in scarlet. The Church bells were rung and the Tean Brass Band led the procession to the scene of the celebrations. The dignitaries were later taken to the Birches Colliery where Mr. HOMER, President of the North Staffs. Mining Engineers started the great engines which were a pumping engine of 50 horse power and 36 inch cylinders and two winding engines of 40 horse power with 18 inch cylinders. Afterwards the party visited the Roman Catholic Church and returned to a sumptuous spread

laid out in two special marquees. Despite the day being wet, many stayed for the firework display "which were on a large scale, not often witnessed in the town".

In 1876, interest was again being shown in the question of a Railway. Details of the Railway line were published in 1877 for a line said to be 5½ miles long. A new Company was formed, and by 1879 had gained Parliamentary sanction. Robert PLANT was one of the five Directors. This Company failed due to lack of financial support.

Inevitably Robert had his setbacks. About 1879, the Carrying Company ran into difficulties and was dissolved. The Traction Engine, until now only rented, was taken over by Robert but shortly afterwards was returned to the owners at Leeds.

In 1881 his Birches Colliery ran into serious geological difficulties which caused it's closure and also led to Robert filing a petition of bankruptcy. It was claimed that his debts totalled £70,000. He had borrowed large sums of money from the Blackburn Building Society. In 1883 the Building Society foreclosed on Robert and as result was itself wrecked. However by 1889 Robert had bounced back, and was again involved in his Mining and Railway ventures.

It was just before this setback, in the late 1870's that Robert set out on a new venture. He had by now become Fellow of The Geological Society, and he now set out to write a book entitled "History Of Cheadle" This work was the result of much scholarly effort, and was published in 1881 at a price of 10/6d bound in cloth and 15/0d in half calf. These prices put the book out of the reach of most people as this was the equivalent of a week's wages.

A little subdued by his bankruptcy in 1881, but undeterred by his setback, Robert set up The Cheadle Railway, Minerals & Land Co. in 1887. The object of this Company was to try again to bring the Railway into Cheadle. The Company was floated with a capital of a quarter of a million pounds, and on the 22nd March 1888 a very large company of railway enthusiasts gathered to see Edward J. R. PLANT cut the first sod followed by his father Robert, and Mr C J BLAGG the local Solicitor. The ceremony was followed by a procession through the town to the sound of church bells, and a celebratory cold meal washed down with a number of toasts to the success of the Railway. Robert assured all, that the Railway would be open within fifteen months. This promise however was to remain unfulfilled for some time as difficulties were encountered in driving the tunnel through the intervening hillside.

In 1889 more failures followed and a little bitterness began to creep into Robert's writings. He decided somewhere around this time to move to London, and still only in his early fifties he began to play a much lesser roll in the affairs of his home town. The Railway, which, for thirty years, had been his most cherished dream, opened on the first day of the 20th century and Robert was not present at the opening ceremony, probably due to illness. He died in Fulham Road, London on the 19th. January 1902 aged 62. He probably achieved a yet another *First*. His coffin was brought to Cheadle on the Railway for which he had fought so long and hard, for his funeral at the Wesleyan Chapel on Saturday 27th. January. Robert's wife Martha, did not survive him by many months. She died in September of the same year aged 63. She too made her last journey on the Cheadle Railway and was laid to rest alongside her husband in the family vault.

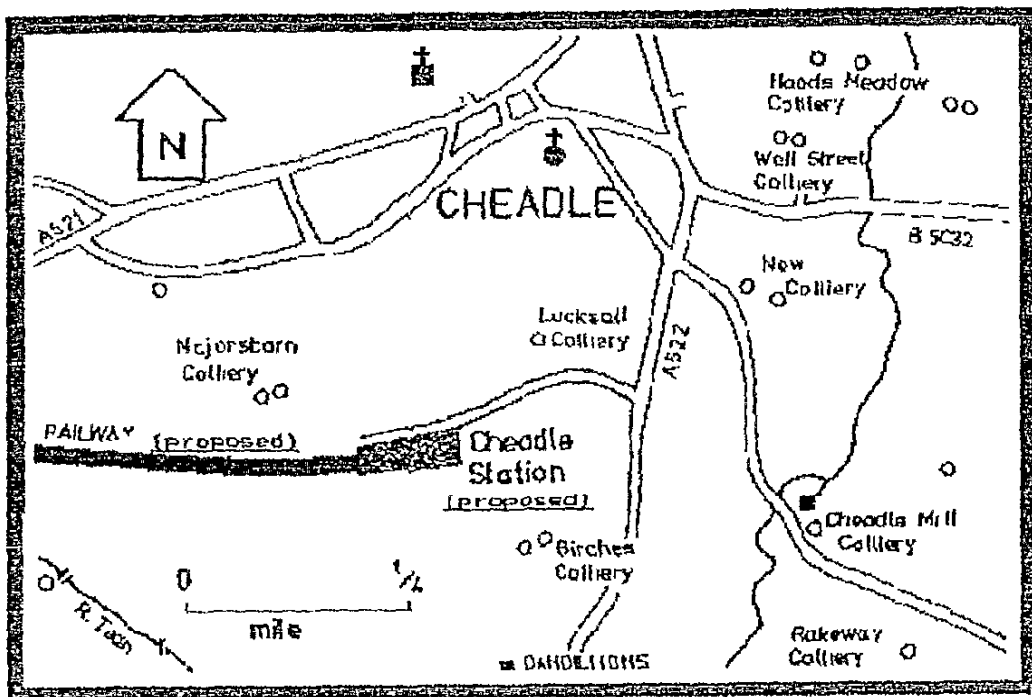
Robert PLANT was a remarkably energetic and enterprising character who rose from very humble beginnings, to become one of the leading citizens of Cheadle. It is likely that his brothers were helped along their path in life by him, as curiously they all seem to have set up in business on their own

account all at about the same period. Of his elder brothers, James apparently left Cheadle for a time and married a girl from Yorkshire, returning to Cheadle to become a Farmer; William became a Blacksmith in his own right; and George became a Joiner. Septimus, his younger brother, also became a Farmer. It seems likely that Robert helped them reach a much improved status in life.

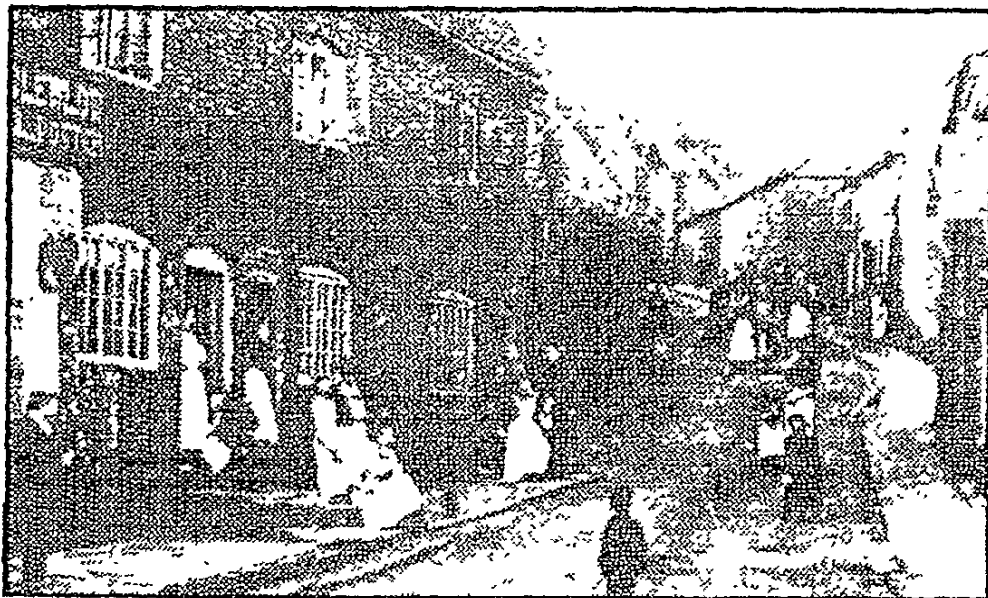
Robert's splendid Mansion was taken over by his brother Thomas and his wife Winifred. They celebrated their Golden Wedding at The Mansion in 1910. This magnificent house was the finest piece of Victorian domestic architecture in the town and it was through the lack of foresight of the local Authorities that it was demolished in 1980/1.

Many of the present day residents of Cheadle still know of, and talk about Robert PLANT and his achievements. Sadly, there is no monument to him now left, except for his book the "History of Cheadle". This book did not sell well at the time of it's publication, today it commands a high price. In addition to his book which is much sought after by collectors, he retained his name in style for there is still a Plant Street in Cheadle today.

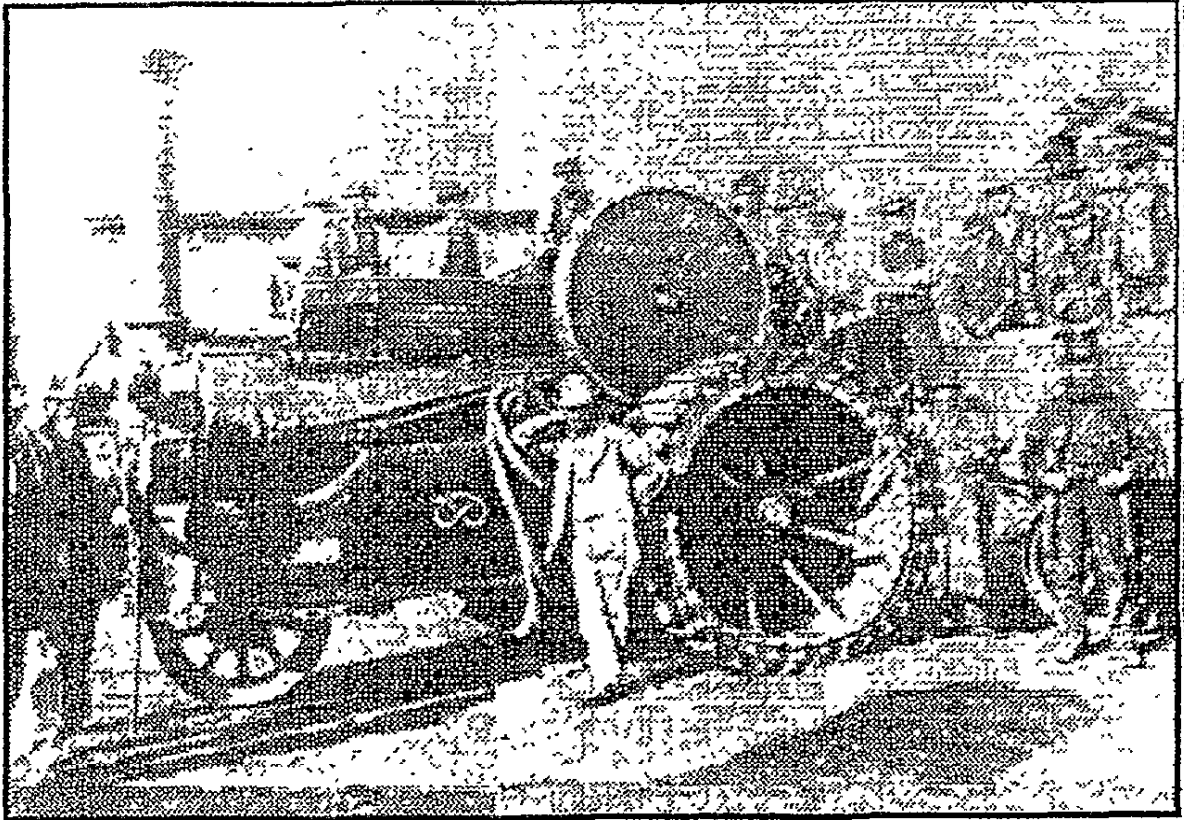




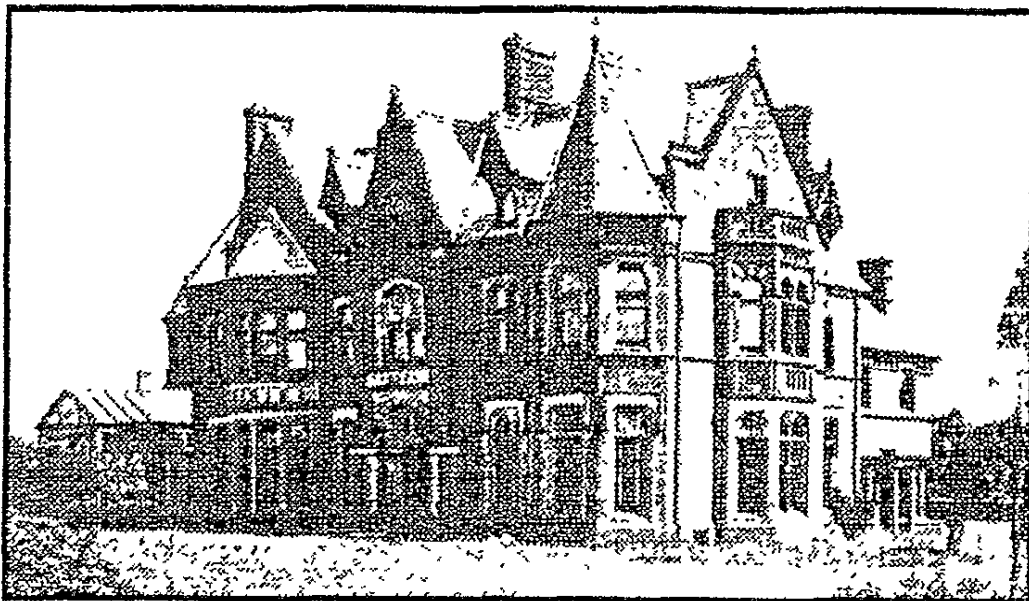
Plant's Collieries 1874-1875.



Back Street, Cheadle. c1900.



TRACTION ENGINE at Cheadle Mill Colliery 1872. ROBERT PLANT centre.



THE MANSION. Built by Robert PLANT.

## LIST OF INDEXED PARISH REGISTERS

It may be of interest to some members to know that a list of Indexed parish Registers for Lancashire and Cheshire together with their location is in existence. Further information can be obtained from:

Mr J E Lloyd  
1 Royston Road  
Manchester M16 0EU

FREDERICK PLANT (13TH SEPTEMBER 1903 - 2ND OCTOBER 1972)

by Gerald Plant

He was a typical example of those men who helped bring the Potteries into the modern age. He began as an old style apprentice at the age of thirteen in the oil-engine industry in his native Manchester. Educating himself at night school in the old Northern way he gained the practical qualifications of a first class mechanical engineer. In the early 1930's he gained experience in the commercial side of the industry at a time when, especially in the W. Midlands and Wales, electricity had to be provided for many purposes by gas and oil engines. This brought him into contact for the first time with every aspect of the people and the industries of the Potteries where he lived the rest of his life.

In those days the Pottery Industry was still at the artisan stage and as an outsider from the world of mass production he saw the possibilities of converting the Pottery Industry to modern industrial methods. At a day when engineers as such were hardly known in the Potter Industry he was appointed by Col Harry Johnson as chief engineer to what was then H & R Johnson. The extraordinary changes in the tile manufacturing and so indirectly the equally extraordinary improvements in the social life of Potteries people, owed not a little to his ability to marry the science of mechanical engineering to the art and craft of potting. In subsequent years he was to travel the world from N. America to India and S. Africa opening factories which still bear the authentic Potteries stamp. Despite his interest in machines and mass production he never forgot that these were made by men for men. This deep sense of human purpose of modern industry together with that quality needed in a leader which Lawrence Of Arabia called "strength over daily things" accounts for the enthusiasm and affection that he aroused in those that worked with him.





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F = Full  
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