

# Roots and Branches

The Official Journal of  
The Plant Family History Group

Issue N° 4 July 1992

Prepared by:

William Keith Plant  
22 Chapel Croft  
Chelford  
Cheshire SK11 9SO

Telephone No:

0625-860074

From information given by members of the Group

CONTENTS

	Page
Aims of the Group	1
Members Interests	2
Blacksmith Plants near Clowne	5
Lost Cousins	8
Cheshire Hearth Tax	9
Birmingham Directory 1870 - Plant References	9
The Staffordshire Burial Index - Hannah to James	10
Land Measurement	12
The Plant Family and the Goldfields of Queensland	13
Famine Immigrants	31
List of Articles in Issue No. 1	33
List of Articles in Issue No. 2	34
List of Articles in Issue No. 3	35
Members of the Group	36

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 accessibility to members of the public.

It was on this basis that 'The Plant Family History Group' was formed early 1989 and this publication is the fourth Journal of the Group.

Details of the articles included in the first three issues of the Journals are contained elsewhere in this Journal and copies of the previous issues can be obtained on request at a price of £2.00 per journal for UK members and £3.00 per Journal for overseas members.

You will see from the list of members that the Group has 60 members of which 23 are from overseas. It is nice to know that we are now becoming a true World Wide Group.

Since the issue of Journal No.3 I have obtained a copy of The Diary of John Plant of Leekforth 1849-53. John Plant was a farmer in North Staffordshire and the diary contains details of the day to day events between the period 1849 to 53. I intend to include passages from the Diary in future issues.

I have commenced a project listing all the Plant references in the P.O. Commercial Directory covering Staffordshire in 1860 and it is hoped to include this information in the next issue.

Thanks are due to Ranelle Sheilds (Member No.93) who has forwarded to me the micro-fiche of the Genealogical Supplement of the House of Plant of Macon Georgia, with a promise of the House of Plant of Macon Georgia itself, later. Once again details will be included in future issues.

Finally, thanks for all your assistance in the preparation of the Journals and I hope that the contents of Journal No. 4 will be of interest.

## MEMBERS INTERESTS

<u>Membership No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Interest</u>
1	Miss Linda Lowrey	e19c Macclesfield Cheshire/ m19c - Hollingwood - Darwen Lancs/
2	John Plant	General/
3	Mr John Patrick Plant	Any period Market Harborough + Bristol/
4	Colin W Plant	19c North Staffordshire/
6	Michael Plant	Any period South Staffs/North Worcs.
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 Stavelly Derby/m19c Halton Leeds Yorks/
12	Mrs Lois Webb	e19c Macclesfield Cheshire/m19c Hollinwood + Darwen Lancs/
13	Miss Helen Hill	e19c Ayrshire/m19c Rowley Regis Staffs/- L19c Cradley Staffs/
15	Mrs Winifred Stuart	Any period Cheshire/
16	Mrs C Reed	L18c e19c North Staffordshire/
18	Peter T Johnson	L19c Manchester Lancs/19c Mid Cheshire/
23	Mrs Judy Wallace	18c + 19c Nottingham/
29	Mrs Shirley Hughes	L17c + 18c Rowley Regis Worcs/19c Dudley Worcs/L19c Sydney Australia/
32	Mrs Catherine Sproston	Any period Cheshire/
33	Miss Aileen Plant	17c 18c 19c Stockport Cheshire/
35	Arnold Plant	General/
37	Patrick Pearson	Any period Stockport Cheshire/.
38	Mrs Sian Plant	e19c Denton Lancs/19c Leicester/ 20c Rounds Northants/.
40	Mrs Joan McDonald	m19c Wolverhampton Staffs/L17c + 18c Rowley Regis Worcs/ 19c Dudley Worcs/

42	John Roberts	Any period Cheadle Staffs/
43	J A Stebbing	m19c London/
45	Mr David Johnson	19c Kidsgrove/
47	Mrs S Robson	General/
49	Mrs Elizabeth Bass	m 19c North Staffs.
51	Gerald Plant	m19c Goostrey Cheshire/L19c e20c Salford Lancs/
52	Dr John S Plant	19c Sheffield Yorks/ e19c Clowne Derbyshire/.
56	Mrs Joyce Westwood	Any period Cheadle Staffs/.
59	Nigel Burroughs	L18c 19c Burslem + Longton Staffs/
60	Mrs Rosemary Terry	19c Burslem + Longton Staffs/ Any period RH + SL Plant Ltd/
65	Mr D J Plant	Any period Cheadle Staffs/.
66	Sandra Cuming	L19c Wandsworth London/m19c Leicester/.
71	G Brian Plant	Any period Cheshire/
72	William Plant	General/.
74	Mrs Alice Doreen Mercer	19c Leicester/L 19c Nottingham
75	Mr M J Plant	e 19c Shropshire/e 19c Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire/.
80	Miss J Nicholas	e 19c Shropshire/e 19c Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire/.
85	Mr John E Ransley	18c + 19c Staffordshire/
87	Mrs Esmae M Davies	Any period Staffordshire/RH + SL Plant Ltd/
89	Mrs Denise F Weston	Any period Fenton + Cheadle + Longton./
90	Mrs M R Lake	m18c Suffolk/
91	Mr Fred Faulkner	Any period Yarnfield + Stafford/
92	Mrs Kathleen Turner	Any period North Staffs/
93	Cordelia Ronelle Shields	17c Stafford/any period Connecticut USA/

94	Mr Ross Plant	m19c County Cavan Ireland./
95	Linda Shields Wheeler	17c Stafford/any period Connecticut USA/.
96	Mrs Yvonne May	19c Syston + Loughborough + Desford + Rotheby Leicester/.
97	Mrs Margaret Walker	19c Dudley + Rowley Regis Staffs/.
98	Deanna Richards	19c Eckington Derbyshire/
99	Brian Charles Plant	m19c Kent/.
101	Mrs P Handley	19c Gnosall Staffs/
103	Mrs Janine Oliver	L19c Shelton Staffs/
104	Mrs Liz Plant	17c + 18c + e19c Wolverhampton/.
105	Mr Wm John Plant	m19c Kent/.
106	Mrs Isobel McGuoid	L19c Leeds/.
107	Mrs Joan Peebles	18c + 19c Suffolk/.
108	Mrs Stella Kornfein	L19c Wisbech Combs/L19c Battersea London/.
109	Caryn Plant	General/.
110	Mrs Myrtle Reid	L19c + e20c Darlaston + Walsall + West Bromwich, Staffs/.

## BLACKSMITH PLANTS NEAR CLOWNE

by Dr John Stewart Plant

### A FAMILY OF BLACKSMITHS AROUND CLOWNE

Journal No 2. described the development of a large Plant family at Sutton-Cum-Duckmanton and at Clowne, between about 1730 and 1830. During this era, several roads around the area of Sheffield (which is 11 miles NW of Clowne) were 'turnpiked' and, by 1851, some of the Clowne Plants are found in Sheffield. By 1806 the blacksmith Benjamin Plant, who can be readily associated with the Clowne Plant family, had moved to the nearby parish of Harthill (3 miles N from Clowne).

### TRANSPORT AND TRADE (circa 1780)

The ancient craft of blacksmith predates the development of 'modern' transport systems, before which the only usual form of 'rapid' transport was by horse. In the 18th century, the significant improvement in roads much stimulated the development of trade and this was especially true around Sheffield since appreciable commercial activity would not have been possible had the town still been cut off by lack of roads over the ring of hills around Sheffield.

Though late in embarking upon the turnpike venture, Sheffield made up in eagerness for lost time, and ten main roads were made in the area by 1821. In 1756 the road to Chesterfield, which went on to Duffield and Derby, was 'turnpiked'; in 1758 two Acts inaugurated the road to Wakefield and a double road which, dividing at Ringinglow, went to Chapel-en-le-Frith by one way to Buxton by another. The other new roads were Sheffield to Tinsley (1759), Attercliffe to Worksop (1764), Sheffield to Penistone (1777), Sheffield to Gander Lane near Eckington (1779), Sheffield to Baslow (1803), Wadsley to Langsett (1805), and Sheffield to Glossop (1821).

### THE BLACKSMITHS AT HARTHILL AND STAVELEY

Benjamin Plant and at least four of his sons were blacksmiths at Harthill, in Yorkshire, and at nearby Staveley, in Derbyshire. Harthill is 3 miles north of Clowne, which lies midway between Chesterfield in Derbyshire and Worksop in Nottinghamshire (at about 7 miles from each), and Staveley lies 5 miles SW of Harthill.

It seems most likely that the twice-married Benjamin of Harthill (see chart), who may even in fact have married thrice, is the same as the one baptised Benjamin in 1782 at Clowne, the son of Thomas and Ann. An alternative contender, a related Benjamin baptised in 1790 at Sutton-Cum-Duckmanton as a son of James and Ellen, seems less likely to have been the Benjamin of Harthill because of his substantially younger age.

The family chart on page 7 shows that Benjamin of Harthill married first Elizabeth (nee Bark) of the parish of Harthill in 1806 and all their children were baptised there. The baptism records show Benjamin Plant as a blacksmith and husband of Elizabeth in 1814; and as a blacksmith but husband of Hannah in 1819. In the 1841 Census for Harthill, Benjamin (blacksmith, aged 55 approx) and Ester Plant (aged 60 approx) are recorded with William (22) and James (14), who are undoubtedly sons of Benjamin and Hannah.

## THOMAS OF STAVELEY

According to the Census, Benjamin's eldest son Thomas Plant was still alive (aged 62) in 1871 in Staveley and was, like his father, a blacksmith; the Census shows that this Thomas of Staveley was born in Harthill and information from Chatsworth Estates records that he died at Staveley in 1887.

At the marriage of Thomas to Elizabeth (nee Webster) in 1833 at Old Brampton (Chesterfield), the witnesses were Thomas Elliot and Sarah Glossops; and the children of Thomas and Elizabeth, apart from the eldest son John (bap 1833), were baptised at Staveley (1834-45).

Their second child Mary appears to be the one who was named as the mother of three children when they were baptised at Staveley. Thus, in the 1861 Census for 109 Chesterfield Road, Staveley, widower Thomas is recorded as a Master Blacksmith employing 1 apprentice with unmarried daughter Mary (aged 26) and grandsons Jonathon (aged 8) and 'Benja' (aged 3). In the 1871 Census, for 139 Chesterfield Road, daughter Mary is still unmarried and there are grandchildren John T (assistant Blacksmith, aged 18), Benjamin (13) and Emma E (8) all born at Staveley.

It appears that Mary's sister, Barbara, was unmarried (aged 18) in 1861, and a servant (and barmaid) to a family at 108 Chesterfield Road, Staveley.

## JOHN OF HARTHILL

In the Harthill Directories of 1849 and 1852, there is a John Plant who is described as a blacksmith and it seems that this very likely would be the second son, John Bark Plant, of Benjamin and Elizabeth. In the 1851 Census for '30 Harthill' this blacksmith John (aged 39 and born in Harthill) is shown with his wife and family, and nephew Thomas Plant (aged 17) apprentice from Newbold Derbyshire, which is about a mile to the north of Chesterfield; this Thomas is tentatively included as a possible son of Benjamin's third son, Joseph. Indeed, this could be the Thomas baptised (19.2.1834) to the Joseph and Lucy recorded at Chesterfield.

## CHILDREN OF BENJAMIN AND HANNAH

There is a blacksmith William Plant from Harthill (stated age 45) in the 1861 Census, at '19 Springwell Coll' Staveley and his wife, Elizabeth, from County Roscommon (Ireland); this William could be the first child of Benjamin and Hannah.

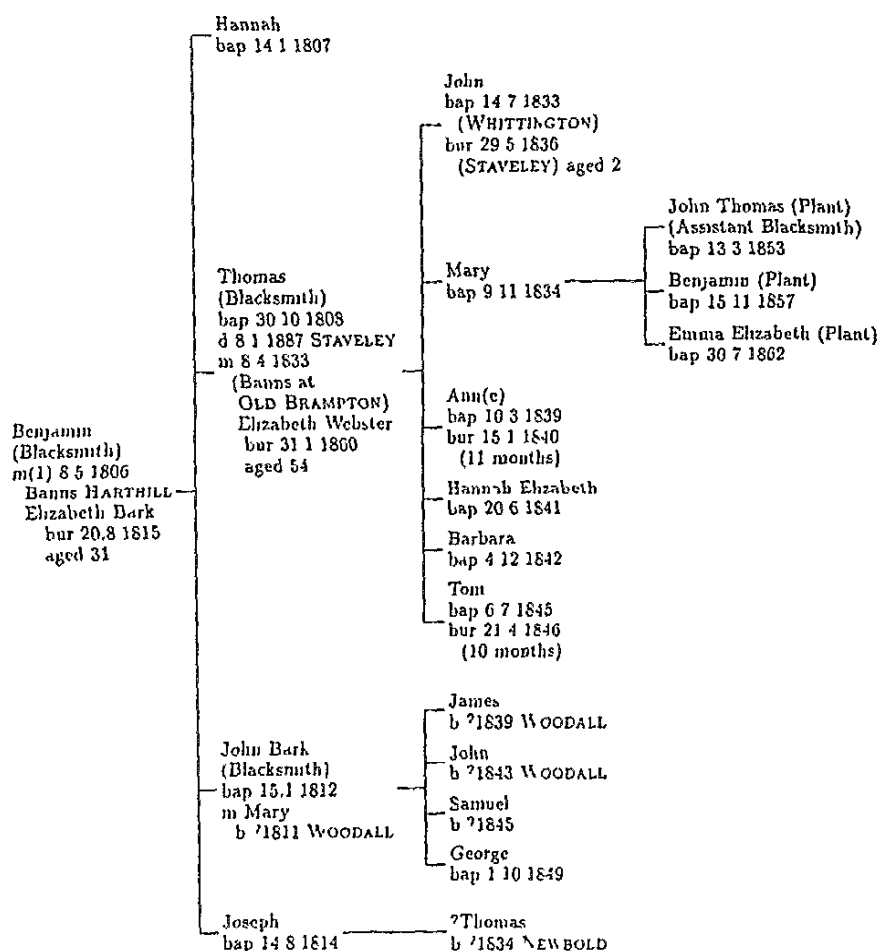
It is possible that the second child of Benjamin and Hannah is the Samuel recorded in the 1841 Census (aged 20) as being in the household of William Leonard (physician) at Fence Cottage, Aston-Cum-Aughton (parish to the north of Harthill).

In the 1881 Mosbrough Census (near Sheffield) there is a general labourer at Hill Side called Edward Plant (stated age 54) from Harthill and wife Hannah from Eckington (two parishes west of Harthill and the one north of Staveley). This would presumably be the fourth child of Benjamin and Hannah; children are recorded in the IGI as baptised to Edward and Hannah at Eckington (1852-64). There are records of a land conveyance at Birley (2 miles north

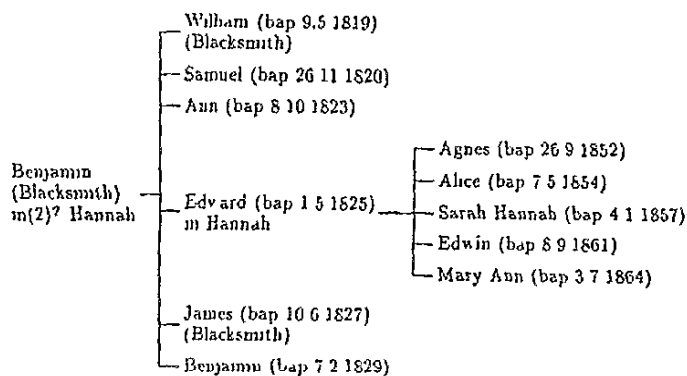


of Eckington) in 1852 that involved labourer Edward Plant from Mosbrough (in the parish of Eckington) and his wife Hannah.

From the 1851 Census, it would seem that the fifth child James (then aged 23) of Benjamin and Hannah was staying at '89 Staveley' as a blacksmith with his blacksmith step-brother Thomas (aged 42) and family.



First marriage of Benjamin



Second marriage of Benjamin

## LOST COUSINS

by Doreen Mercer

I grew up in a small town in Derbyshire. My mother's maiden name was Plant; she had two brothers, Benjamine and Alfred. Ben was the elder brother, he lived in Oxford with his wife and seven children and worked there also as a jeweller. I knew my Uncle and Aunt lived in Oxford and had a lot of children who were cousins I had never met. I only remember meeting Uncle Ben once when he came up to Derbyshire for my grandfather's (his father's) funeral. I remember thinking how much he looked like my grandfather.

My Uncle Alfred was a gents hair dresser; he had a barbers shop in town and only one daughter who was born the same day and year as myself.

I thought a lot about my unknown cousins in Oxford as I was rather short on cousins, having only two on my father's side of the family.

I started my research in 1980 after a visit to England to see my sick father. I started to think about these unknown cousins. On my return to Australia I wrote to my Aunty as I knew Uncle Ben died some years ago. Over the years Aunty told me bits about her children and their families. She also told me I had a cousin, Linda, living in Australia but she never told me her address or phone number. I had no idea where to find her, I did not even know her married name.

Then on 11 December 1991 I had a surprise letter that changed all that. It was from a lady in Canberra who said she was trying to find out more about her father's family, her father's name was Benjamine Plant and mothers name was Louie. I know at once she was Linda. She had given me her address and phone number so I phoned her at once. We had a long talk and now I am looking forward to meeting my cousin for the first time in the New Year and catching up on family news about the rest of her brothers and sisters and their families and, yes, Aunty Louie is still living in Oxford. I'm not sure of her age but it must be around 90 by now.

CHESHIRE HEARTH TAX

W Keith Plant

The Hearth Tax operated from 1662 to 1689 and give an indication of the size of houses at that time. Those in receipt of poor relief or in houses worth less than 20 shillings per annum not paying parish rates were exempt. Other residents were required to pay 2 shillings per hearth.

The parish constable was responsible for compiling lists of house-holders and the number of hearths. These lists were then given to the Justices of the Peace in Quarter Sessions. The tax was collected twice a year at Michaelmas and Lady Day.

The list of Habitants in Cheshire 1663 and Hearth Tax 1664 included the following references to the Plant name:

Bosley	John Plant
Gawsworth	Widdow Plant
	Robert Plant
	John Plant was Constable
Butley	Edward Plant
Sutton	John Plant
	Henry Plant
Alderley	Ralph Plant
Prestbury	Lawrence Plant
Tytherington	Edward Plant
Congleton	James Plant
Newbold Astbury	Thomas Plant (husbandman)
	Mgt Plant (widdow)
Odd Rode	Thomas Plant (husbandman)
Lawton	Edward Plant

BIRMINGHAM DIRECTORY 1870 PLANT REFERENCES

W Keith Plant

Included in the Birmingham Directory of 1870 are the following references to the Plant name.

Plant + Green	- button manufacturers	16 Vittoria St.
Plant Bros	- merchants	166 Bromsgrove St.
Plant David	- wool card maker	1½ Darwin St.
Plant Eliz	- shopkeeper	72 King Edwards Rd.
Plant Robert	- newsagent	85 Bardesley St.
Plant Thomas	- brushmaker	89 Aston St.
Plant William	- haberdasher	45 Vauxhall Rd.
Plante George Hodson	- carver + gilder	35½ Parade

I am at present researching the P.O. Commercial Directory for 1860 covering the whole of Staffordshire, listing all references to the Plant name. Details will be included in one of the forthcoming Journals.

THE STAFFORDSHIRE BURIAL INDEX

W K Plant

Continued - Aaron to George listed in journal No. 3.

Listed below are references Hannah to James

1708	Jan 25	Hannah dau of Mary		Hanbury
1755	Jul 23	Hannah		Dilhome
1793	Oct 3	Hannah pauper		Bucknall cum Bagnall
1799	Jul 31	Hannah of Shelton	infant	Hanley
1803	Dec 15	Hannah wife of William		Burslem
1805	Feb 26	Hannah illeg Dau of Mary		High Offley
1807	Mar 25	Hannah	4	Brierley Hill
1807	Nov 4	Hannah	4 months	Newcastle under Lyme
1809	Mar 27	Hannah	34	do
1810	Apr 17	Hannah	80	Burslem
1813	Jan 31	Hannah	63	Uttoxeter
1813	Apr 22	Hannah of West Bromwich	infant	Brierley Hill
1815	Jul 11	Hannah of Leek Moor	infant	Leeek
1816	Feb 14	Hannah	7 months	Longton
1816	Dec 15	Hannah of back of the town	8	Cheadle
1817	Feb 11	Hannah of Oldcot	10 months	Newchapel
1817	Apr 3	Hannah of Lawton Law	38	Rushton Spencer
1818	Jan 2	Hannah of Leekmoor	38	Leek
1822	Jan 10	Hannah of back of the town	59	Cheadle
1822	Feb 8	Hannah	71	Uttoxeter
1823	May 11	Hannah of Spout St	62	Leek
1823	May 18	Hannah	34 Hanley	Norton in the Moors
1823	Oct 15	Hannah	32	Longton
1824	Nov 1	Hannah of Lane Delph	8 days	do
1826	Aug 31	Hannah of Pershall Green	69	Eccleshall
1830	Jun 26	Hannah of Newport	28	High Offley
1830	Jul 16	Hannah of West St	15	Leek
1832	Jan 8	Hannah	37	Betley
1832	Feb 3	Hannah of Thorncliffe	32	Rushton Spencer
1832	Nov 16	Hannah of Penkhull Poorhouse	77	Stoke on Trent
1833	Apr 11	Hannah of Easing	64	Leek
1834	Aug 2	Hannah of Market Place	20	Stoke on Trent
1834	Dec 1	Hannah of Oulton	75	Stone
1836	Apr 1	Hannah of Mill St	16	Leek
1836	May 16	Hannah	82	Warslow
1837	May 22	Hannah of Majors Barn	88	Cheadle
1815	Jan 22	Harriet	infant	Burslem
1819	Jan 29	Harriet of Majors Barn	2 weeks	Cheadle
1819	Feb 17	Harriett	18 months	Newcastle under Lyme
1821	Jun 22	Harriott	2 mths	do
1830	Jul 5	Harriet of Gresley Row	2	Lichfield St Michael
1830	Dec 12	Harriet	infant	Burslem
1831	Jul 23	Harriet of Weston Jones	11	Norbury
1833	Oct 4	Harriet	27	Wednesbury
1837	Feb 8	Harriet of Great Bridge	29	West Bromwich Christ Ch.
1837	Mar 29	Harriet of Pickwood Road	infant	Leek

1816	Jul 23	Henry	2		Longton
1818	Aug 21	Henry R of Booth	3 weeks		Stoke on Trent
1821	Sep 2	Henry	8 months		Burslem
1828	Jan 20	Henry of Mill St	infant		Leek
1829	Nov 19	Henry	infant		Wednesbury
1826	Mar 16	Heywood of Brockmoor	56		Brierley Hill
1837	Apr 2	Honour of Gosty Hill (?Mill)	3		Rowley Regis
1718	Mar 1	Isaac			Great Barr
1827	Oct 25	Isaac of Black Lane	14 months		Cheadle
1835	Mar 1	Isaac of Meir Green	1		Caverswall
1824	Jun 29	Isabella of Blackberry Town	10		Rowley Regis
1822	Apr 14	Isaiah of Brierley	9 weeks		Sedgley
1831	Oct 21	Isaiah	infant		Brierley Hill
1742	Dec 22	James			Dilhorne
1826	Jul 16	Jacob of Hobs Lane	5 days		Cheadle
1686	Feb 11	James son of John			Uttoxeter
1730	May 12	James son of Richard & Anne			Dilhorne
1744	Nov 8	James			Kingswinford
1759	Apr 10	James			do
1775	Nov 26	James	63		Brierley Hill
1776	Feb 5	James from Leek			Newcastle under Lyme
1776	Dec 15	James son of William & Mary of Wolseley			Colwich
1779	Nov 14	James			Weston on Trent
1783	Jul 18	James	34		Brierley Hill
1783	Dec 17	James son of William & Mary			Whitmore
1783	Dec 26	James			Bramshall
1785	May 21	James			Burslem
1785	Jul 28	James			Betley
1785	Dec 25	James	Blacksmith		Burslem
1787	Dec 16	James	child		do
1795	May 1	James of Beamhurst	infant		Checkley
1801	Jul 7	widow (no name given)			Hanley
1811	Oct 22	James son of James & Sarah	1		Brierley Hill
1791	Jul 17	James son of William & Jane			Longton
1794	Dec 25	James	1		Hanley
1798	Mar 6	James			Longton
1809	Feb 9	James	52		Hanley
1812	Dec 17	James			Tipton
1817	May 22	James of Town End	63		Cheadle
1817	Dec 21	James of Bird St	infant		Lichfield St Michael
1818	Mar 17	Jas of Mear Green Stone	5 yr 10 mths		Longton
1818	Sep 13	James of Black Brook	68		Maer
1819	Aug 29	James	40		Brierley Hill
1821	Feb 12	James	1		Warslow
1821	Aug 23	James of Mill St	infant		Leek
1822	Apr 12	James of Upper Broadleigh	4		Meerbrook
1823	Oct 8	James of Tipton	1		Brierley Hill
1824	Oct 9	James	81		Burslem
1825	Dec 5	James of Croxton	69		Eccleshall
1826	Sep 9	James of Burslem	51		Wolstanton
1826	Nov 27	James	46		Cheadle
1826	Oct 5	James of Lane Delph			Longton
1828	Jul 21	James of Leekmoor	28		Leek
1828	Sep 30	James	10 days		Wolstanton
1830	Jan 20	James of Rowley Gate	81		Leek
1830	Jun 13	James of the Delph	38		Brierley Hill
1830	Jul 2	James of Leekmoor	89		Leek
1832	Nov 6	James of Grindon	48		Meerbrook
1832	Dec 10	James of Buterhill	25		Stone

1833	Feb 24	James of Park Lane	12	Endon
1834	May 12	James of Old Fowker Cottage	1	Leek
1834	Oct 2	James of Cornhill Cross	67	Leek
1835	Apr 15	James of Bradnop	90	do
1835	Jun 28	James B	3 months	Longton
1837	Apr 16	James of Oldcot	15 months	Newchapel
1837	May 18	James of the Guild	39	Forton
1837	Nov 22	James of Harts Hill	51	Stoke on Trent

LAND MEASUREMENT

by W K Plant

Old English Measurement varied from place to place but in General the relationship was

1 Hide, Carvcate or Ploughland	=	4 Virgates or Yardlands
1 Virgate or Yardland	=	2 Bovates or Oygongs
1 Bovate or Oygang	=	2 Farthingdales
1 Farthingdale	=	10 Acres
1 Acre	=	4 Rods wide x 40 Rods long

- Acre - The amount of land that could be ploughed by a yoke of oxen in a day.
- Bescia - The amount of land that could be dug by one man with a spade between 1 May and 1 August each year.
- Furlong - A measurement of length - one eighth of a mile - 220 yards.
- Hide - The amount of land which could be ploughed in a year using one plough.
- League - Generally 3 miles (15,840 feet) but could vary between 7,500 feet and 10,000 feet.
- Librate - The amount of land worth £1.00. Its area therefore depended on the value of the pound and on the soil quality.
- Markland - An area varying between 1 and 3 acres.
- Math - Approximately 1 acre or the amount of land that one man could mow in a day.
- Mile - Before Standardisation it varied between 4,854 feet and 6,600 feet. The old Scottish Mile was usually 5,928 feet and the Irish Mile 6,720 feet.
- Pace - Approximately 5 feet or 2 steps.
- Perch - Variable between 9 and 26 feet but later standardised at  $16\frac{1}{2}$  feet.
- Stadium - A measurement of length equal to a Furlong.
- Verge - A variable area of land between 15 and 30 acres.

THE PLANT FAMILY AND THE GOLDFIELDS OF QUEENSLAND

by W Keith Plant  
from information principally provided  
by Esmee Davies (Member No.

The name of Plant features prominently in the development of the goldfields of Queensland Australia, principally two brothers, Edmund Harris Thornburgh Plant and Charles Frederick Plant.

The brothers were considered typical of the fine colonizing class who have been the Empires best builders and Edmund's efforts, from the outset of his career in Australia being for many years directed towards the development of its mineral resources. His initial experience was gained in a very hard school, for he was one of the earliest prospectors on the site of Ravenswood. In fact, in company with others, he found this field with which he was identified until the discovery of gold at Charters Towers in 1872, which saw him among the ten prospectors who started the rush to what was soon after to become a large flourishing town. With the fortunes of Charters Towers, Edmund's own rose and in time his name became well known as one of Australia's prominent mining men.


Charles Frederick Plant was born January 1843 and Edmund on 10 December 1844 at Nottingham, England, the sons of Charles Frederick and Maria Plant (nee Nevill).

CERTIFIED COPY of an ENTRY OF BIRTH  
Pursuant to the Births and Deaths Registration Act 1953

CJ 2-1-20  
b 100  
SK

1844 Birth in the district of Park		in the Town of Nottingham	
10th of December 1844 48 St James, Edmund Street Parish of St Nicholas	Boy Frederic PLANT	Maria PLANT Formerly Merina NEVILL Spinner	Frederic Plant Father St James's Street Fourth of W M Kidd January 1845

Certified to be a true copy as it is in the register in my custody

  
 1918 February 1992

CAUTION - It is an offence to falsify a certificate or to make or to obtain a false certificate or a copy of a false certificate (knowing it to be accepted as genuine, to the prejudice of any person) or to possess a certificate knowing it to be false without lawful authority.

Birth certificate of Edmund Harris Plant

The Children appear to have grown up in comparatively affluent surroundings receiving a reasonable education. In 1857, when aged twelve Edmund was sent to the United States of America. Whether his brother or any other members of the family accompanied him is not known. In any event he returned to the UK in 1860 when the USA was teetering on the brink of Civil War. At about this time his father's business collapsed and his father became bankrupt.

Therefore in the first 16 years of his life Edmund had been exposed to the harsh industrial forces of his native Nottingham, had witnessed the value of technical skill and the penalty for failure through his father's bankruptcy. He must also have seen, during his stay in the USA the opportunities that were available for people with talent and ambition. Had the Civil War not started in 1861 Edmund may well have chosen to stay in the USA.

The collapse of their father's business possibly encouraged the brothers to venture into another, more distant part of the New World and they set sail for Queensland in late 1861 arriving early in 1862.

There is no record of Edmunds activities in America, but as is possible that he became interested in mining during the three years spent in that country. The Californian gold rush had occurred six years previously and he was there at the time of the Colorado discoveries in 1859.

There is no record in the Queensland Archives relating to the arrival of the brothers in Australia. They could of course have disembarked in Sydney, or may have been paying passengers, (though this would have been unlikely,) not all of whom have been recorded.

At the time of Plants arrival in Australia, severe recession was ravaging the economy in Queensland and geological difficulties were causing problems to the gold-seekers. It seemed that success was reserved for those who adopted new technology to mining and who perfected the techniques of metal extraction from newly discovered ore as well as from the tailings which earlier, less careful producers had abandoned. Edmund Plants subsequent achievements in the Queensland mining industry distinguished him as a skilful extractor of gold, not simply an explorer and producer of one.

When the brothers arrived in 1862 all States except Western Australia had been proclaimed separate colonies with administrative parliaments. The population of Australia had passed one million and the value of gold produced since its initial discovery ten years previously exceeded £120 million. Queensland had yet to become a major gold producer, the first significant field, Gympie, not being discovered until 1867. The population of Queensland in 1862 was less than 30,000. Port Denison (now Bowen) was its most northerly settlement and ten years were to pass before Charters Towers was born.

At this time, the areas around Charters Towers Goldfield gave no hint of the wealth stored beneath its surface. The mounds of boulder granite rising up from the surrounding undulating, thickly-wooded country were in the midst of a loneliness broken only by an occasional tribe of wandering natives and almost unknown to white men. However, the North Kennedy district in which Charters Towers is situated was not by any means unknown. Ludwig Leichhardt, in 1844 going northward to the Gulf of Carpentaria had passed through the then unknown Dawson and Mackenzie country and discovering these and their main stream, the Fitzroy had passed over the range and northward along the Belyando and by the greater Burdekin waters, near which Charters Towers is situated. Later on the stock owners, seeking fresh pastures, followed in the footsteps of the explorer. Various small stations with



connecting tracks were becoming established but generally the area had not been explored and one of the richest gold-bearing districts in Australia was for many years a rough 'tip' with the gold-laden surface stone which the discoverers of the field, Hugh Mosman, J Fraser and G E Clarke came across was lying scattered in profusion.

Initially, on arrival in Australia, Edmund (and presumably Charles, though this is not known for certain) obtained employment on a rural property some 250 miles from Brisbane, his annual income amounting to £20. He appears, over the next 7 years to have gained pastoral and mining experience having worked at the goldfields of Peak Down, 4 mile Creek, Morinish and later Rockhampton. During this period prospecting in the southern and central mining fields, notably Rockhampton, brought him success and encouraged him to move northward to the newly discovered Ravenswood field where he arrived on 11 November 1869. His savings of £500 were more than enough to pay for a mining lease on the Black Jack Reef where he erected the first ore crushing mill (known as the Vulcan Mill) on the field in 1870. This mill comprised a 10 head crushing battery purchased in Melbourne. He was then 26 years of age and about to launch into a remarkable career in Northern Queensland.

In 1869 Edmund was appointed to the Commission of the Peace and served as a J.P. for many years.

Little is known of Charles Fredericks activities at this time though it is probable and later confirmed by his obituary, that he accompanied Edmund on his explorations. Certainly he was resident in 1884 in Ravenswood on the occasion of his marriage.

The Black Jack Reef was a prolific source, one crushing yielding more than 3250 ounces of gold from 526 tons of ore.

In 1871 gold was discovered at Charters Towers by three prospectors, J Fraser, G E Clarke and Hugh Mosman.

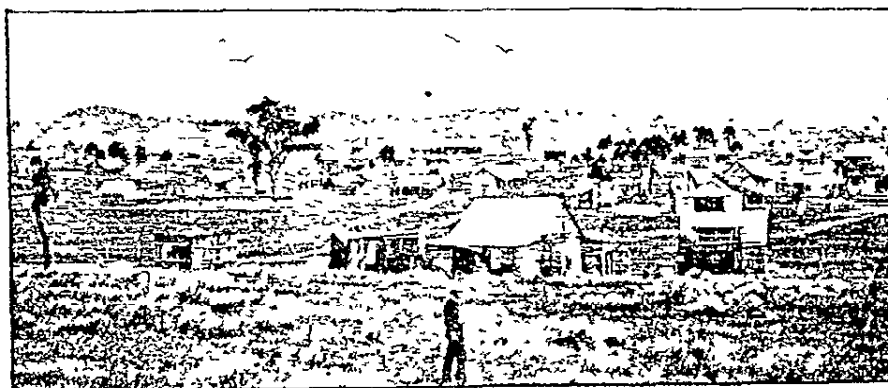
Hugh Mosman moved from Sydney to Queensland early in 1860 and spent some unprofitable years in the farming industry. The rich returns from the mines at New Zealand Gully, Rockhampton, were therefore hard to resist. After a short period he went to the Tambaroora and Ophir diggings in NSW. However, in 1870 he returned to Queensland and the newly opened Flinders River country. Returning to Rockhampton he decided to set out northward prospecting, and started on his journey in 1871, accompanied by a Mr J Fraser. The intervening country proved to be barren and only moderate success was attained at Ravenswood. It was here that a Mr G E Clarke joined the party and their subsequent journey has been described in the North Queensland Mining Registers History of Charters Towers:-

"We spent some weeks of fruitless searching in and around Ravenswood, which was then a promising goldfield: then we travelled on westward prospecting the Burdekin river country. Sometimes we got a little gold, but not what we considered payable, still we determined to keep on for a year longer if necessary. The valley of the Burdekin westward and north-west was untried country, and somehow, being young,

comparatively inexperienced and enthusiastic, we were always sanguine of discovering a good goldfield. If not, we determined to go still further north. It was a pleasant life, and, although disappointments were numerous, yet the possibilities, if somewhat uncertain, were great. We prospected the Broughton branches, getting a little gold almost everywhere we tried, becoming more plentiful as we neared the Seventy-Mile pinnacles. A cluster of conical and square-topped hills away to the north had often attracted our attention and we determined to prospect in that direction. We found gold in the locality of the Merrie Monarch lease, but not payable. From these the hills were about four or five miles distant. The following day we went through a gap between the hills, which has so long formed the subject of our observation, and camped near the outcrop of the North Australian reef. Masses of quartz were strewn about the surface, which we at once saw were very rich. We prospected for several days, finding other reefs carrying gold, and we then went back and moved our permanent camp from the Seventy-Mile to Charters Towers. There was not time for proving reefs by sinking so after careful examination of surface blows we selected the North Australian, Ophir, and another, and Mosman travelled to Ravenswood and applied to Warden Charters for the reward claims. Then the rush set in, and in a few weeks there were several hundreds of miners on the field. In the meantime we had found the Washington, Old Warrior, Alexandra, St Patrick, and others. The Washington was, I think, about the best surface show on the field. From this reef, from the surface alone, we took about 1,600 ozs of gold."

Sometime towards the end of the 1860's, Edmund visited the Etheridge field with the intention of commencing operation there, but with the discovery of gold at Charters Towers he moved there and in 1873 erected a 15 Stamp Mill (The Venus) at Millchester which he later sold prior to returning to Ravenswood. On his return he, in 1874, established a large tailing mill and two years later transferred this mill to Charters Towers where it processed some 40,000 Tons of tailings over the next six years. Ore crushing batteries were later added.

Not only was Edmund involved in the goldfield at Charters Towers, for he also had interests in the Palmer field and in copper, tin, wolfram and other mines in North Queensland. He also took some interest in pastoral matters owning cattle stations, the first of which was purchased in 1877.

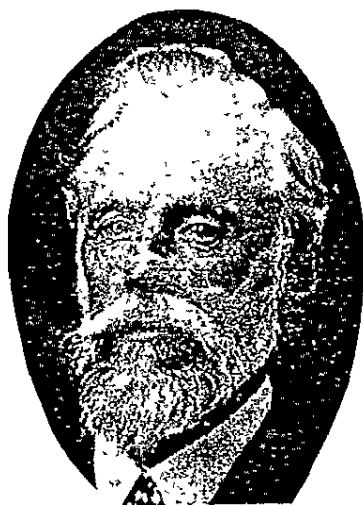


CHARTERS TOWNS 1873

In 1872 or 3 Edmund married Elizabeth Esther Hodel of Townville and they raised a family of six daughters and two sons, namely:

Maria Esther	born 7 May 1876
Armenia Ann	born 29 January 1879
Rosa Bosana	born 5 March 1882
Maggie Janet	born 22 February 1884
Emilia Ada	born 13 October 1885
Edmund Neville	born 11 June 1887
George Harris Donald	born 1 April 1890
Katie Nancy Dora	born 13 May 1893

In 1875 he purchased "Goose Lagoon Station" near Ingham in North Queensland where he eventually retired to.



Edmund Plant



Mr G E Clarke



Mr Hugh Mosman

Two of the discoverers of Charters Towers Goldfield

In 1886 the mining activities were sold to the Bonnie Dundee Co with Edmund Plant continuing as Managing Director.

Little is known of Charles Frederick Plant's activities in this period though it is known that in 1884 he married Isobel Marion Pegus at Charters Towers. Isabel was born in Launceston, Tasmania 1858 the daughter of Campbell John Pegus Capt. R.N. and Ellen Rosa nee Hoad.

They raised a family of three sons and two daughters, namely:

Reginald Arthur Neville	born 28 September 1884
Hilda Florence Neville	born 24 March 1886
Harold Frederick Hoad	born 18 January 1888
Eric Clive Pegus	born 3 April 1890
Oenome Elfreda Maud	born 29 April 1892

It is believed that through the 1880's Charles was involved in the mining industry and must have been of some importance being a J.P. in 1889. At this time he was resident at Hackett Terrace, Church Towers. According to his obituary in the North Queensland Register 1932, he was engaged in Banking in his early life.

In 1888 Edmund Plant and his family spent twelve months visiting England returning to Australia on the S.S. 'Dacca' leaving London 6 February 1889 and arriving Brisbane 1 April 1889.

The family disembarked at Townsville the records showing that the following members of the family made the trip:

Edmund H.T. Plant	age 40	to Townsville, Saloon Class
Mrs H.T. Plant	age 35	"
Miss H.T. Plant	age 15	"
Maria H.T. Plant	age 12	"
Maggie Plant	age 6	"
Rosa Plant	age 8	"
Emilia Plant	age 4	"

Some confusion here when compared to the dates of birth, perhaps Miss Plant was Armenia Ann and the authorities got her age wrong. In 1889 she would have been 10.

Edmund Neville Plant who would have been about 7 months old when the family left Australia in 1888 must have been left at home or was in the Ships Nursery. In any event he is not recorded with the family.

On their return to Charters Towers construction commenced on their new home, Thornburgh House. It was sited on Plant Ridge, adjoining the Bonnie Dundee Mill.



Thornburgh House Mr + Mrs Plant + daughter

From 1890 to 1893 Edmund was a director of the Bank of North Queensland. In the period 1892 - 1902 he served as Chairman of the Dalrymple Divisional Board and also at times during this period as a member of the Chamber of Commerce, Hospital Board, Waterworks Board and the Townville Harbour Board. He was a member of the London Art Society, Royal Colonial Institute, London and the Australian Institute of Mining Engineers.

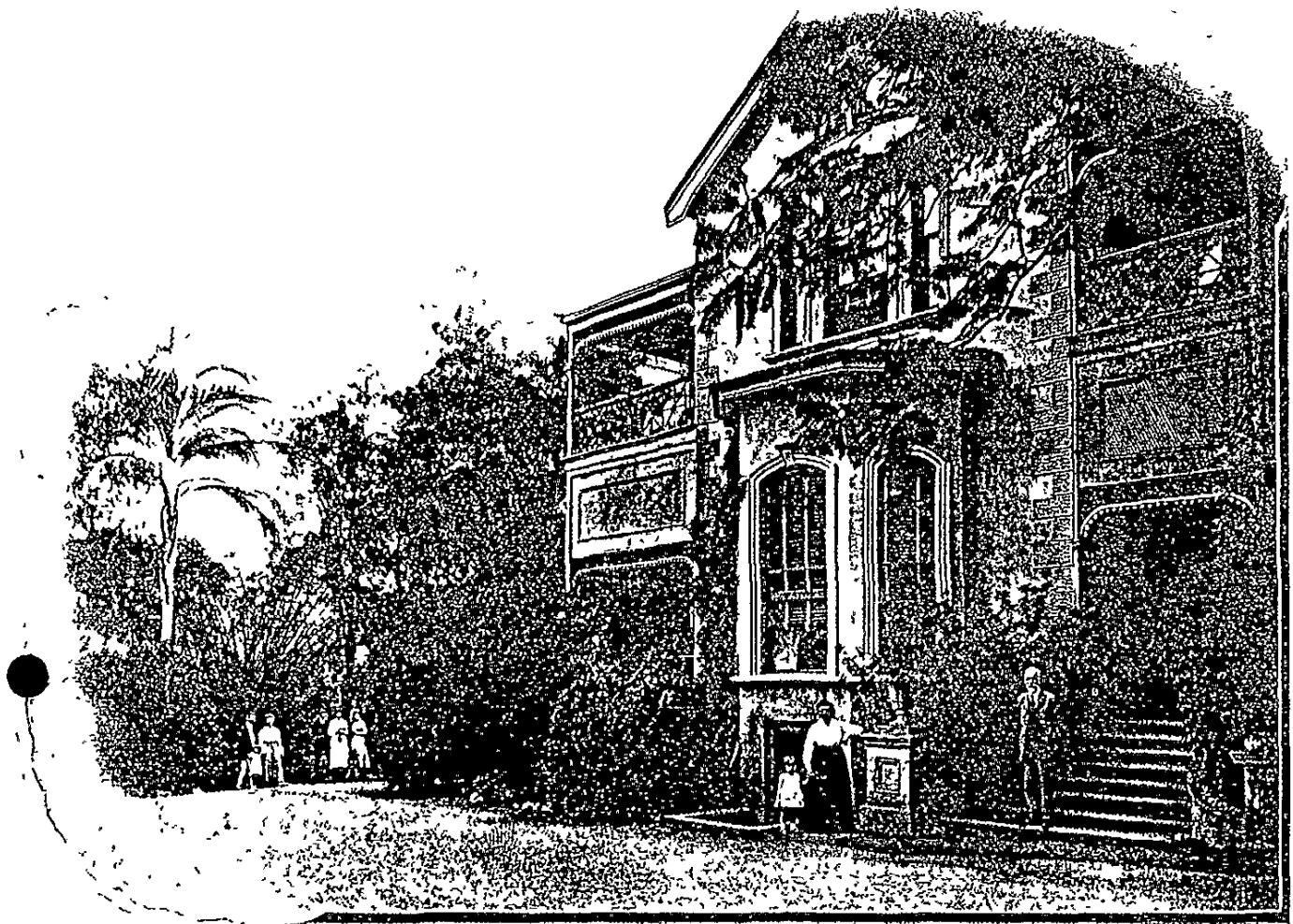
He was also the proprietor of Charters Towers Evening Telegraph.

The Queensland Post Office Directories for this period show the following:

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| 1889   | Homestead Edmund H Plant and James Cass - Graziers.   |
| 1889   | Edmund H T Plant J.P. mine owner, King Street,<br>Charters Towers.                              |
| 1895/6 | Edmund H T Plant mine owner, Charters Towers.<br>Plant and Byrne, mine owners, Charters Towers. |



Thornburgh House - Entrance Gates and Drive - Mr E H T Plant on left of picture.



"THORNBURGH HOUSE," residence of Mr. E. H. T. Plant. (Mr. Plant on steps ; Mrs. Plant with child)

This picture would have been taken about 1895 and the little girl with Mrs Plant could possibly have been Katie Nancy Dora age 3 at this time.

In the period up to the end of the century Edmund was chairman of four mining companies as well as being on the board of directors of other companies.

No records were kept for the first three years of operations to show the amount of gold obtained from the field. However, the first half year of 1875 gave 24,356 ozs of gold from 16131 Tons of Stone.

The rise of the industry can be seen from the following chart showing the amount of gold obtained.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Ozs Gold</u>
1876	52,588
1877	67,891
1878	72,189
1879	83,257

1880	85,298
1881	82,324
1882	79,595
1883	69,535
1884	109,335

The increase over the previous year due mainly to The Day Down PC mine which alone produced 40,000 ozs.

1885	135,650
------	---------

of which three mines The Day Down PC, The Day Down Block and the Wyndham produced nearly 70,000 ozs.

1886	144,379
1887	151,377
1888	137,522
1889	165,352

This year was notable for the discovery of the Brilliant reef at the 765ft level in the Brilliant Mine. Edmund Plant was a director of this company (see page 30 ) but when he was appointed to the board is not known.

The Brilliant Gold Mine Company was the 'mother' mine of the Brilliant line of reef, a lease of 25 acres taken up in 1886. It was supposed that the Day Down and Queen line of reefs would junction somewhere in this ground, and though local prophets ridiculed the idea a company was formed. For three years the sinking of shafts was carried out without success. At a meeting of directors it was decided to 'come up' the shaft and put in a drive on a formation passed through at 765ft. Within a very short distance a reef 3ft thick increasing to 8ft rich in gold was found. The months of anxiety and ridicule were at an end and probably the most productive mine of all came into operation.

1890	164,022
1891	223,103

of which Brilliant Mine produced 36,605 ozs from 21,328 tons of stone.

1892	262,962
1893	259,243
1894	268,874
1895	256,557
1896	234,139
1897	360,489

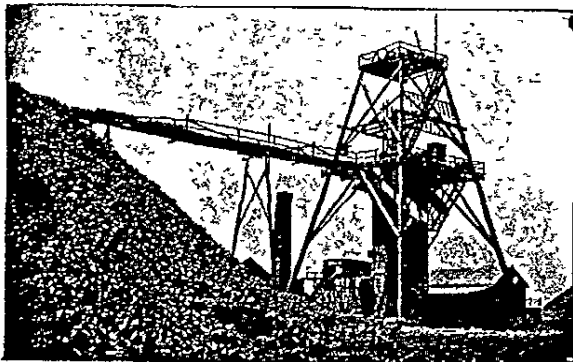
This year was a record year, to date, the chief returns coming from the Brilliant which crushed 32,770 tons of stone for a yield of 40,337 ozs of gold.

1898	457,849
------	---------

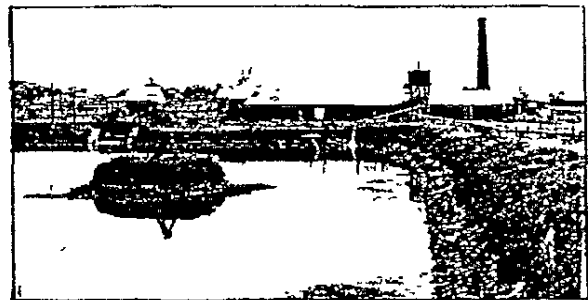
The returns from the Principle Mines in 1898 was as follows:-

<u>Company</u>	<u>Tons Stone</u>	<u>Ozs Gold</u>	<u>Men Employed</u>
Brilliant	33,056	37,404	165
Brilliant Block	15,802	11,569	110
Brilliant and St George	28,758	43,652	160
Brilliant Extended	11,987	6,704	80
Brilliant Freeholds	1,209	706	-
Brilliant Central	941	440	-
Bank of Hope	8,349	8,312	85
Bonnie Dundee	2,915	3,492	72
Cravens Caledonia	1,959	2,719	32
Clarks Brilliant and Worcester and Victory	1,611	1,973	30
Day Down PC	4,157	14,946	80
Day Down Block and Wyndham	34,140	41,106	150
Kellys Queen Block	5,136	12,042	100
Mills Day Down Utd	2,253	937	-
Milletts Wellington	715	1,019	-
Moonstone Consols	1,314	2,933	13
Moonstone Extended	210	440	-
Moonstone Towers Extended	171	540	-
No 7 North East Queen	705	1,060	-
New Queen	6,765	5,909	50
Papuan, Brill and Victoria	5,373	6,118	63
Phoebe	5,533	6,299	90
Queen Cross Reef	4,621	6,949	60
Victory	2,875	7,981	63
Victoria	6,979	12,285	68
Victoria and Queen	6,276	9,961	86
Victoria and Caledonia Block	1,902	4,527	50
Mount Leysham Syndicate	2,934	1,766	-

The Bonnie Dundee Mine of which Edmund Plant was Managing Director covered a total area of 33 acres on which three shafts had been sunk. No.1 to a depth of 1100ft, No. 2 to 800ft and No. 3 to 1816ft. Plans were laid down in 1898 to sink No. 2 shaft to a depth of 2,100ft in order to reach the very productive Brilliant reef, though whether this was ever carried out is not known.



THE BONNIE DUNDEE MINE



BONNIE DUNDEE CRUSHING MILL AND DAM



The Charters Towers field peaked in 1899. Deep mining, to depths of 3,000ft attempted to extend the life of the field, but by 1910 it was clear that the rich grades of ore did not persist at depth and by 1920 all but one major mine had closed. Production in 1920 amounted to 10,000 ozs of gold and the industry which had begun its decline in 1900 finally collapsed. The decline brought stagnation to the area and caused a huge movement of people to the coastal areas.

Edmund Plant was considered to be a driving force in the development of the mining industry. A self-taught mining engineer, a practical miner and processor, a perceptive, courageous investor, he helped prolong the period of prosperity of the gold fields.

Let us now return to Charles Frederick Plant and his family.

For many years whilst resident in Charters Towers he commanded the Kennedy Regiment in which Major-General Sir Brudnell White and other officers who later became distinguished, served under him.

The Queensland P.O. Directories list him as a Captain in the Queensland Defence Force A Company resident in Charters Towers.

In 1898 he moved to Brisbane to live in retirement at Ashgrove, the P.O. Directories for 1901/3 showing

Major Charles F Plant, Woodland St., Ashgrove, Brisbane.

During his retirement he maintained his interest in the Queensland Volunteers, for a number of years as commander of the Queensland Rifles, the P.O. Records showing until his death in 1932, he lived at Woodland St. In 1916 he was promoted to the rank of Colonel.

He was interested (as was Edmund) in the work of the Red Cross during the First World War and about 1915 was one of the founders of the Queensland Red Cross Society. He was honorary treasurer for many years.

For the last thirty years of his life he was one of the trustees of the Brisbane Boys and Girls Grammar Schools being honorary treasurer to the trustees.

His wife, Isobel Marian Plant nee Pegus, predeceased him, dying in 1929. Her death certificate contained the following information:

Died at Woodland St., Ashgrove, Brisbane 7 September 1929  
Aged 71 years  
Buried 9 September 1929 Toowong Cemetary, Brisbane  
Religion - C of E.  
Born - Launceston, Tasmania.  
Married - Charters Towers, Queensland, at age 26 years.  
Father - Campbell John Pegus, Capt. R.N.  
Mother - Ellen Rosa nee Hoad.  
Children of Marriage (age at time of mother's death)

Reginald Arthur Neville	age 44
Hilda Florence Neville	age 43
Eric Clive Pegus	age 39
deceased 1 male + 1 female	

In her will she left all her jewellery to her daughters, Oenone Alfreda Maud Finlay and Hilda Florence Neville Grant (however, Oenone had died before her mother - see later).

Charles Frederick Plant died 7 December 1932 and his obituary in the North Queensland Register 10 December 1932 included the following:

'With the death of Lieutenant Colonel C.F. Plant at his home in Brisbane on Wednesday, one of the last remaining links with the early mining days of Charters Towers and the North generally is broken. Colonel Plant was 89 years and 11 months, and retained his mental and physical vigor unimpaired until the end, a fainting fit on Saturday, being the first indication of his last illness'.

His Death Certificate contained the following information:

Died at 'Ferndale' Woodland St., Ashgrove 7th December 1932  
Aged 89 years. Retired Lieut. Colonel  
Buried - Toowong Cemetery, Brisbane, Queensland  
Religion - C of E  
Cause of Death - Myocarditis + Cardiac failure  
Born in Nottingham, Nottinghamshire,  
lived about 49 years in Queensland  
Father - Frederick Plant, Lace Maker  
Mother - Maria nee Neville  
Married - Charters Towers, Queensland 1884  
Informant - J. M. Grant, son-in-law  
Children of marriage (ages at father's death)

Reginald Arthur Neville	age 48
Hilda Florence Neville	age 46
Eric Clive Pegus Neville	age 42
deceased 1 male + 1 female	

Of their children the following information is known:

Reginald Arthur Neville                      born 28 September 1884  
In 1920/21 was ADC to Lieut-Governor of Queensland and lived at Fernberg Road, Rosalie, Brisbane  
In 1921/22 was private secretary to Administrator of Darwin  
Had rank of Captain at time of father's death.

Hilda Florence Neville                      born 24 March 1886  
Married J. M. Grant

Harold Frederick Hoad                      born 18 January 1888  
In 1913-16 was a Medical Officer resident at Wickham Terrace, Brisbane.  
Was killed at Pozieris during the First World War

Eric Clive Pegus                              born 3 April 1890  
In 1911/13 listed as Lieut Plant residing at Musgrove Road, Red Hill, Brisbane  
Had rank of Lieutenant Colonel at the time of his father's death.

Oenone Elfrida Maud  
Married ? Finlay  
died c 1928

born 29 April 1892

We now return to Edmund Plant and his family.

Between 1900 and 1925 the Queensland P.O. Directories contain the following information:

1901 E.H.T. Plant, Managing Director, Bonnie Dundee Gold Mining Co.  
1901/3 E.H.T. Plant, Chairman Divisional Board, King St., Charters Towers.  
1905 E.H.T. Plant, Chairman Divisional Board, King St., Charters Towers.  
1906/7 Hon Edmund H.T. Plant M.L.C. King St., Charters Towers.  
1910/11 Edmund H.T. Plant, Managing Director, Day Dawn Gold Mine Ltd.  
1909/10 Plants Deep Mines Ltd., Charters Towers.  
1911/12 Edmund H.T. Plant, Managing Director, Day Dawn Gold Mine Ltd.  
1912/13 Hon. Edmund H.T. Plant M.L.A. King St., Charters Towers,  
Plants Day Dawn Gold Mine Ltd., Charters Towers.  
1913/14 Hon Edmund H.T. Plant M.L.A. King St., Charters Towers.  
1914/21 Hon Edmund H.T. Plant M.L.A. King St., Charters Towers.  
1924/25 Edmund H.T. Plant, farmer, Ingham.

In 1905, he became a Member of the Legislative Council, representing Northern Queensland as a Liberal until his retirement in 1922.

During the 1901-3 period of depression, caused by the tick pest and drought he became involved in farming and it would appear, from the P.O. Directory records, that he did not become actively engaged again in the mining industry until 1910.

On Sunday 13 October 1918 a meeting of representatives of the Charters Towers Methodist and Presbyterian Churches was convened in the Central Methodist Church by the Rev. R. E. Bacon.

Its purpose was the consideration of a scheme to establish a college for North Queensland children, under the joint auspices of the two churches.

The scheme had been the subject of earlier discussions between Rev. R. E. Bacon and Edmund Plant, the latter having endorsed the idea and granted an option to Rev. Bacon on his home, Thornburgh House, which at that time, was for sale.

At the 13 October meeting the committee of representatives accepted the scheme for establishing a college together with the proposal to buy Thornburgh House, conditional on approval being sought from the Presbyterian Assembly and the Methodist Conference at their meetings early in 1919.

However, before the Assembly and Conference had convened, events occurred which necessitated an immediate decision on the project. What happened was that Edmund received an offer for the property from the Church of England Sisters of Townsville and Edmund, who was facing an adverse property market, due to the decline in the mining industry, advised R. E. Bacon that his option on the property would be held for just twenty-four hours.

A hastily convened committee meeting took place on Sunday 10 November and a decision to purchase Thornburgh House was taken without prior reference to the Assembly or Conference. An amount of £50 was contributed by three members of the committee as a deposit.

On Monday 11 November 1918 at 11.00 a.m. Bacon and Plant met, the deposit accepted and agreement reached on the payment of £1,000 at the beginning of each succeeding month until the full purchase price of £3,000 had been met. Thanks to the efforts of Rev. Bacon the obligation was met and Thornburgh College was opened for tuition on 16 June 1919 with the official opening taking place on 23 April 1920.

In 1920 after relinquishing Thornburgh House, Edmund retired to his sugar farm Goose Lagoon at Ingham, before finally settling in 1925 at The Esplanade, Sandgate, Queensland where he died on 28 April 1926.

He was described as quiet, unassuming, rather solitary and in success unostentatious, modest, tolerant and generous and, in adversity, quiet and undismayed.

Edmund's Death Certificate contained the following information:-

Name - Edmund Harris Thornburgh Plant  
Died at - The Esplanade, Sandgate, Queensland.  
Date of Death - 28 April 1926.  
Aged - 81 years 4 months.  
Date of Burial - 29 April 1926 at Bald Hills Cemetary.  
Religion - Church of England.  
Occupation - Retired Mining Prospector.  
Cause of Death - Bronchiectosis + Broncho Pneumonia  
                  Taxaemia + Exhaustion  
                  Cardiac Failure + Syncope  
Born - Nottingham, Nottinghamshire.  
Father - Frederic Plant - Lace manufacturer.  
Mother - Maria nee Neville.  
Children of marriage (ages at fathers death)  
                  Maria Esther age 49  
                  Armenia Ann age 47  
                  Maggie Janet age 43  
                  Emilia Ada age 40  
                  George Harris Donald age 36  
                  Katie Nancy Dora age 34  
                  Deceased 1 male + 1 female.

The will of Edmund Plant contains the following extracts:

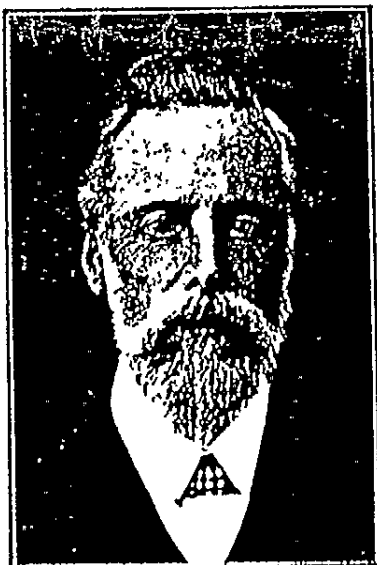
To my son George Harris Donald Plant I leave my large album of photographs, my gold watch and gold chain, trinkets and case of mineral specimens.  
To Eleanor M Ford (former nurse to my deceased wife,) and Annie Savage, my wife's sister - £100 each.  
My property in Hanron Street, Townsville, allotments 1, 2, 11, 12 + 13 not to be sold unless necessary.  
Estate to be divided equally between children.

Note:-

There was mention that Rosa had pre-deceased him by a few weeks and her share was to be divided between her children and kept in trust till they attain the age of 21 years.

The will also contains the following statement:

'I direct that my funeral is to be of the simplest description and that only relatives be invited to attend the same and that the headstone to be erected to mark my last resting place shall be of the plainest kind, it being my wish and desire to avoid both ostentation and expense in the matter'.



HON E H T PLANT.



MR G H D PLANT

Of Edmund and Elizabeth Esther, children, Maria Esther married Frank Webb who worked at the Toowoomba branch of the London Bank of Australia: Rosa Bosana married Alfred Loveden Musgrave and died just prior to her father on 6 April 1926 - Alfred Musgrave was engaged in sugar-growing in the Herbert district.

The two younger children, Maggie Janet and Katie Nancy Dora married respectively Harold Burkett of the Queensland National Bank and Leslie Gibson a Southern Queensland farmer.

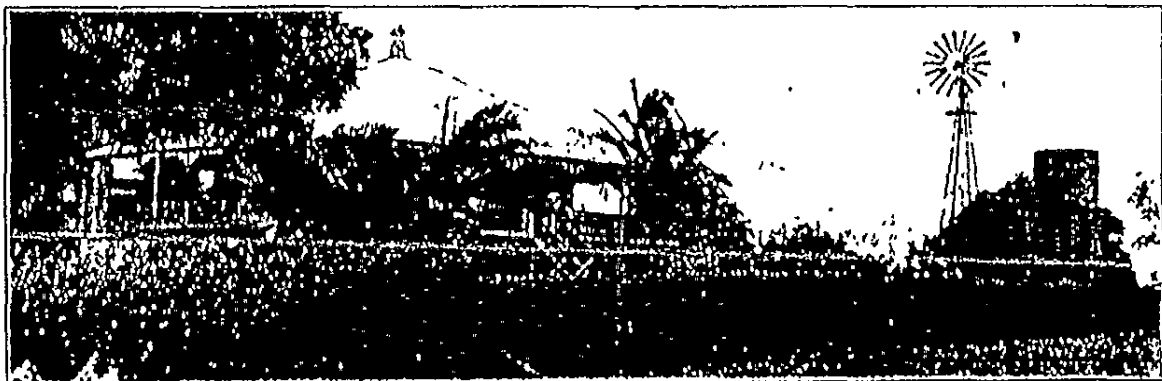
One of the other daughters, Armenia Ann or Emilia Ada, served as an army sister with the A.I.F. during the Great War, ministering to the sick and wounded on transport duty, and on the Egyptian and Continental fronts. She lived with her father during his last years.

Edmunds oldest son, Edward Neville, died during the First World War - details not known.

His other son George Harris Donald was educated at Melbourne Grammar School and, on leaving, he entered a course of training at the Charters Towers School of Mines. He was involved in the mining industry at Charters Towers and Mount Morgan, until the outbreak of the First World War, when he volunteered for service with the A.I.F. He gained his commission and fought in Northern France and Belgium, being severely wounded at Paschendale on 20 September 1917. On regaining his strength he returned to Australia where he was deployed on military matters until his demobilization after the Armistice. He then purchased 'Gosford' Farm near Halifax, Gosford being located in a large sugar producing area.

The house was described as a large two storied structure and its surroundings are among the most desirable in the district, the house being artistically appointed with the grounds well laid out containing a variety of sub-tropical foliage and a fernery in which many rare plants flourish.

In 1915 George married Maude Matilda, daughter of Mr William Helton, a native of Victoria and a descendant of Old English stock. According to the Queensland P.O. Directory, George from 1930 to 1938 represented Australian Sugar Producers Association Ltd, Barbon Street, Bundaberg, Queensland and in 1941 he was a Commission Agent, of Targo Street, Bundaberg, Queensland.



GOSFORD HOMESTEAD

The Involvement of the Plant Family in the activities of Queensland was considerable and perhaps the best way to finish this article is to repeat an appreciation given in

History of Queensland: Its People and Industries relative to Edmund Plant

"His name should be perpetuated in the mining history of the State for the part he played in connection with the development and progress of Charters Towers. Not only this city, but Northern Queensland as a whole, has benefited by the energy, enterprise and exceptional ability which, in his active days, distinguished this pioneer, who started life in his adopted country in the early sixties as a young man in his teens."

CHARLES FREDERICK PLANT  
= MARIA NEVILLE

EDMUND H T  
b 10-12-1844  
d 28-4-1926

CHARLES FREDERICK  
b -1-1843  
d 7-12-1932

ELIZ. ESTHER HOEDEL 1873  
d 28-4-1926

ISOBEL MARIAN PEGUS 1884  
d 7-12-1932

MARIA ESTHER ARMENIANN ROSABOSINA MAGGIE JANET EMILIA ADA EDMUND NEVILLE G<sup>PO</sup> HARRIS D. KATIE NANCY DORA  
b 7-8-1876 b 29-3-1879 b 5-3-1882 b 22-2-1884 b 13-10-1885 b 11-6-1887 b 1-4-1890 b 13-5-1893

FRANK WEBB = ALF. L. MUSGRAVE = HAR<sup>P</sup> BURKETT = MAUDE M. HELTON = LESLIE GIBSON

d 6-4-1926

d W.W.I

CATH. ESTHER THOMAS EDMUND HELEN NANCY ELIZ ROSA  
b 5-11-1908 b 26-4-1911 b 12-4-1912 b 19-7-1914

ESTHER MGT ARMENIA JEAN MAUDE

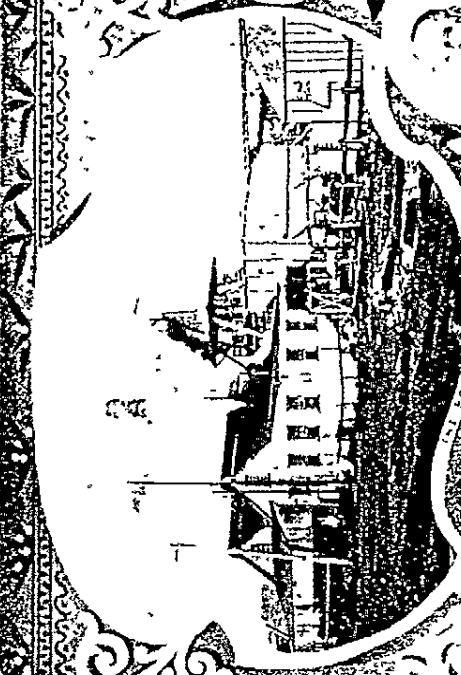
PLANT FAMILY

OF


CHARTERS TOWERS

REG<sup>P</sup> ARTHUR NEVILLE HILDA FL<sup>P</sup> NEVILLE HAROLD F HOAD ERIC CLINE<sup>P</sup> GENOVE EL<sup>P</sup> MAUDE  
b 28-9-1884 b 24-3-1886 b 18-1-1888 b 3-4-1890 b 29-4-1892

= J M GRANT = ? FINLAY  
d W.W.I d c 1928



DIRECTORS OF COY.



BRILLIANT TELE

**BRILLIANT GOLD MINING Co. LTD.**







**CHARTERS TOWERS**  
OFFICES GILL ST. CHARTERS TOWERS

**RECORD OF THE MINE**

Sliver Crushed	246 522 tons
Gold Return	306.63 or 12.464 10%
Value	£409 932 12s. 9d
Dividends	£531 333 6s. 8d

London Office Bloomfield House London Wall, E.C.

L. W. MARSLAND      Secy &      ARTHUR GIFFORD  
D. GEE &      JOHN W. LONARD



FAMINE IMMIGRANTS

by W Keith Plant

- Irish Immigrants arriving at the Port of New York 1846-1851 -

The Record office of the Maritime Museum, Albert Dock, Liverpool, contains the following references to the name of Plant.

1. 'Indiana' 2 January 1847 From Liverpool
 

Plant	Catherine	age 18	Female	Occupation unknown
-------	-----------	--------	--------	-----------------------
  
2. 'Northumberland' 21 April 1848 From London
 

Plant	Emma	age 30	Female	Farmer
Plant	Emma	age 8	Female	Child
Plant	Cereksidy	age 6	Female	Child
Plant	Henry	age 5	Male	Child
Plant	Frank	age 4	Male	Child
  
3. 'Huguenot' 26 November 1847 From Liverpool
 

Plant	George	age 21	Male	Labourer
-------	--------	--------	------	----------
  
4. 'Patrick Henry' 3 April 1848 From Liverpool
 

Plant	William	age 24	Male	Farmer
Plant	Humphrey	age 26	Male	Farmer
Plant	Mary	age 22	Female	Occupation unknown
Plant	Mary	age 20	Female	Occupation unknown
Plant	William	age 00	Male	Infant
  
5. 'Victoria' 23 April 1849 From Liverpool
 

Plant	Ellen	age 20	Female	Occupation unknown
-------	-------	--------	--------	-----------------------
  
6. 'Oxford' 21 August 1849 From Liverpool
 

Plant	Mary	age 50	Female	
Plant	Nancy	age 22	Female	Wife of Labourer
Plant	Hannah	age 18	Female	Wife of labourer
Plant	Peter	age 00	Male	Infant
  
7. 'Industry' 7 September 1849 From Dublin
 

Plant	William	age 16	Male	Occupation unknown
-------	---------	--------	------	-----------------------

8	'John-R-Skiddy'	1 February 1849	From Liverpool		
	Plant	George	age 30	Male	Labourer
	Plant	Elizabeth	age 28	Female	Labourer
	Plant	Jno	age 02	Male	Child
	Plant	Jno	age 00	Male	Infant
9	'Java'	2 October 1848	From Liverpool		
	Plant	?	age 25	Female	Occupation unknown
10	'Shirley'	28 March 1851	From Liverpool		
	Plant	Peter	age 27	Male	Labourer
	Plant	Ann	age 24	Female	Occupation unknown
11	'Wave'	9 November 1850	From Liverpool		
	Plant	?	age 40	Female	Occupation unknown
	Plant	Jane	age 19	Female	Occupation unknown
	Plant	Margaret	age 13	Female	Occupation unknown
	Plant	Elizabeth	age 13	Female	Occupation unknown
12	'St George'	22 March 1851	From Liverpool		
	Plant	John	age 30	Male	Farmer
13	'Universe'	22 March 1851	From Liverpool		
	Plant	Richard	age 33	Male	Carpenter
14	'Tryingham'	24 July 1851	From Liverpool		
	Plant	George	age 21	Male	Labourer
15	'New York'	22 August 1851	From Liverpool		
	Plant	William	age 17	Male	Labourer
16	'Victoria'	23 August 1851	From Limerick		
	Plant	William	age 17	Male	Labourer

LIST OF ARTICLES IN ISSUE NO. 1      DECEMBER 1990

Aims of the Journal

Origin of the Name

Occurrence of the Name

Members Interests

Plant City - Florida

Plant and Fishers  
Dudley Port Ironworks

Ellworth Hall Plants  
Episode 1 - Early Years

Pottery Plants - Trade descriptions

The Conversion of monetary value to 1985 figures

Plants boxing Booth

Robert Plant of Cheadle

Frederick Plant 1903-1972 and his influence on  
the Pottery Industry

Copies of Journal No. 1 are available at a price of £2.00 (U.K.) and  
£3.00 (overseas).

LIST OF ARTICLES IN ISSUE NO 2 JUNE 1991

Aims of the Journal

William Plant - Stockport Grammar School

Plants - Leicester 1851 Census

Members Interests

Early Staffordshire Plants

John Plant & Hannah Weddon of Branford, Connetticutt

Detective Work

The Plants of Elworth Hall  
(Second Instalment)

Plants who attended Oxford & Cambridge Universities

Plants at Clowne (c 1780)

Do you know this Lady?

Terms - Houses & Farm Buildings

Copies of Journal No. 2 are available at a price of £2.00 (U.K.) and  
£3.00 (overseas).

LIST OF ARTICLES IN ISSUE NO.3 JANUARY 1992

Aims of the Journal

Members Interests

Plant of St Louis, Missouri

Mortality Records - Manchester Cathedral

Plants near Baslow

Nipper

The Staffordshire Burial Index

Useful Addresses - Staffordshire Records

Old Names for Traders and Occupations

Plants in the Publication of  
The London Record Society

Plants of Ellworth Hall - Chapter No. 3

Bound Apprentices - U.S.A.

Desford - Leicestershire Records

Robert Plant - Clerk

Copies of Journal No. 3 are available at a price of £2.00 U.K. and £3.00  
overseas.

MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

No    Name

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] t	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] t	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] t	[REDACTED] rd
[REDACTED] t	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] t	[REDACTED]
9. [REDACTED] s	[REDACTED] ne,
[REDACTED] t	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] d
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] n
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] t	[REDACTED] l
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] l,
[REDACTED] i	[REDACTED] r,
[REDACTED] e	[REDACTED] i
29. [REDACTED]	[REDACTED] a.
[REDACTED] n	[REDACTED],
[REDACTED] t	[REDACTED] y,
[REDACTED] t	[REDACTED] e
[REDACTED] i	[REDACTED] k
[REDACTED] t	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED],
[REDACTED] s	[REDACTED] la.
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] t,
[REDACTED] g	[REDACTED] nt
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED],
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] a.
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED] la.

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]s  
[Redacted]y  
[Redacted]t

66. [Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]t  
[Redacted]t  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]t  
[Redacted]s  
[Redacted]y  
[Redacted]s  
[Redacted]

90 [Redacted]  
[Redacted]r  
[Redacted]r  
[Redacted]e  
[Redacted]s  
[Redacted]t  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]s  
[Redacted]t  
[Redacted]y  
[Redacted]r  
[Redacted]t  
[Redacted]t

[Redacted]on,  
[Redacted]l,  
[Redacted]s.  
[Redacted],  
[Redacted]e  
[Redacted],  
[Redacted],  
[Redacted],  
[Redacted],  
[Redacted],  
[Redacted],  
[Redacted],  
[Redacted],  
[Redacted]a.  
[Redacted]n,  
[Redacted],  
[Redacted],  
[Redacted]a.  
[Redacted],  
[Redacted]ne,  
[Redacted]e.  
[Redacted],  
[Redacted]a.  
[Redacted]a.  
[Redacted]t  
[Redacted]l  
[Redacted]ia  
[Redacted]on  
[Redacted]ia  
[Redacted],  
[Redacted]i  
[Redacted]l,  
[Redacted]ia  
[Redacted]ia  
[Redacted]ia  
[Redacted]ia  
[Redacted]ia  
[Redacted]ia  
[Redacted]ia  
[Redacted]ia

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]s  
[REDACTED]n  
[REDACTED]t  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]ia  
[REDACTED]