

Roots and Branches

The Official Journal of
The Plant Family History Group

Issue N° 9 Jan 95

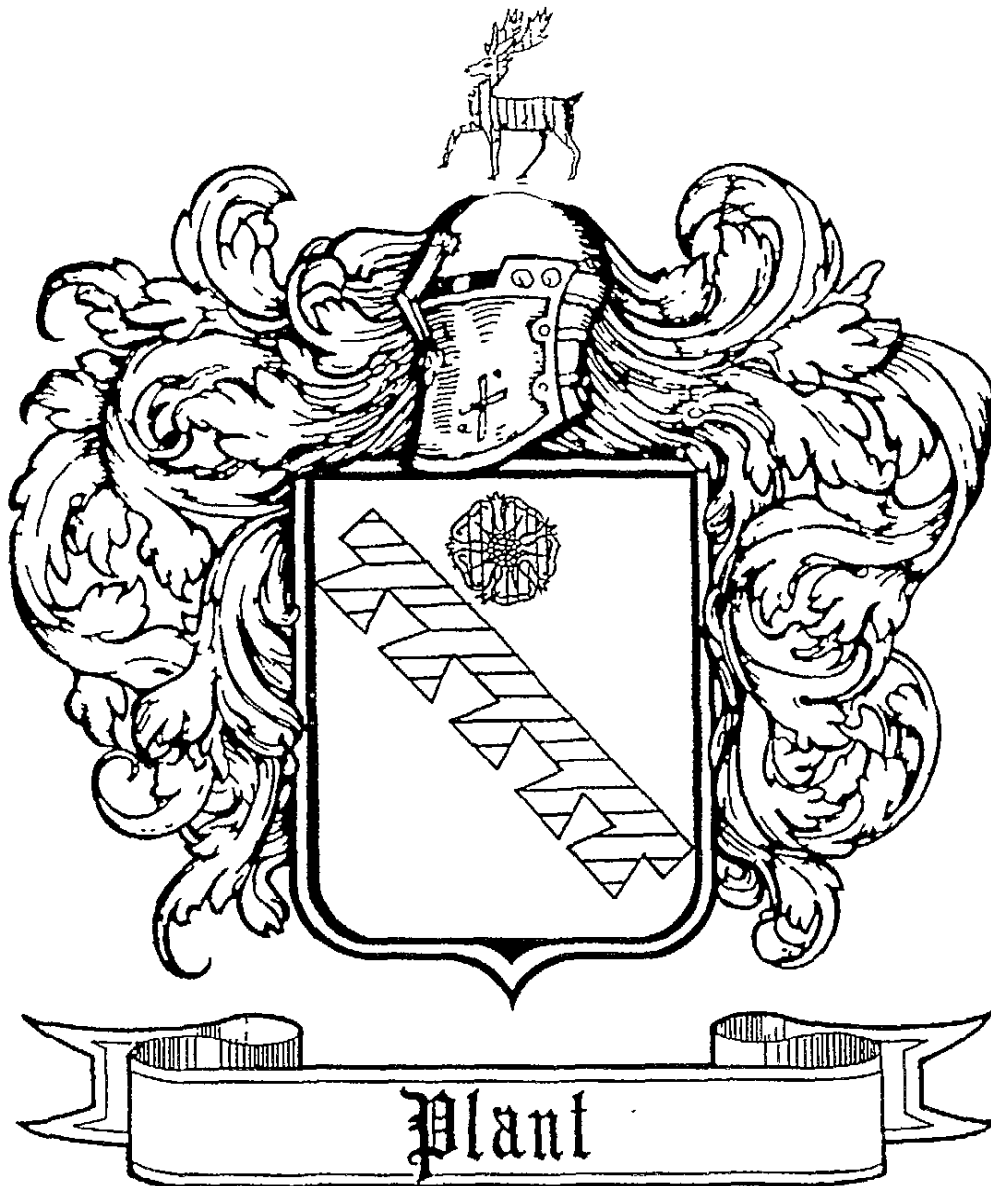
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From information given by members of the Group



THE PLANT COAT OF ARMS HEREBY ILLUSTRATED IS OFFICIALLY DOCUMENTED IN BURKE'S GENERAL ARMORY. THE ORIGINAL DESCRIPTION OF THE ARMS (SHIELD) IS AS FOLLOWS.

"AR. A LABEL IN BEND AZ. IN CHIEF A ROSE GU "

WHEN TRANSLATED THE BLAZON ALSO DESCRIBES THE ORIGINAL COLORS OF THE PLANT ARMS AS:

"SILVER; A BLUE LABEL PLACED DIAGONALLY IN UPPER THIRD A RED ROSE."

ABOVE THE SHIELD AND HELMET IS THE CREST WHICH IS DESCRIBED AS:

"A RED STAG WALKING."

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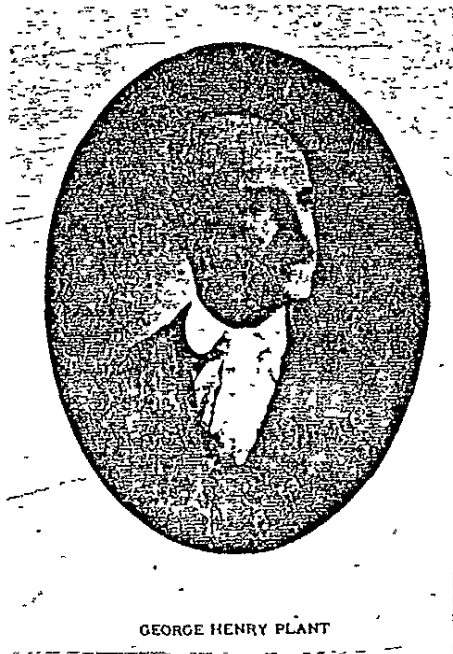
MEMBERS INTERESTS

<u>Membership No</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Interest</u>
1	Miss Linda Lowrey	e19c Macclesfield, Cheshire/m19c Hollingwood - Darwen Lancs/
4	Mr Colin W Plant	19c North Staffordshire/
6	Mr Michael Plant	Any period South Staffs/North Worcs/
10	Mrs Pamela Plant	e19c Stockport Cheshire/
11	Mrs B Jones	L18c Clowne Derby/e19c Stavely Derby/ m19c Halton Leeds Yorks/
12	Mrs Lois Webb	e19c Macclesfield Cheshire/m19c Hollingwood + Darwen Lancs/
13	Ms 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/
19	Mr 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	Mr Arnold Plant	General/
37	Mr Patrick Pearson	Any period Stockport Cheshire/
38	Mrs Stan Plant	e19c Denton Lancs/19c Leicester/ 20c Rounds Northants/
45	Mr David Johnson	19c Kidsgrove/
47	Mrs S Robson	General/
51	Mr Gerald Plant	m19c Goostrey Cheshire/L19c e20c Salford Lancs/
52	Dr John S Plant	19c Sheffield Yorks/e19c Clowne Derbyshire/
59	Mr Nigel Burroughs	L18c 19c Burslem + Longton Staffs/

60	Mrs Rosemary Terry	19c Burslam + Longton Staffs/Any period RH + SL Plant Ltd/
65	Mr D J Plant	Any period Cheadle Staffs/
69	Mr Andrew Plant	M18c + M19c Little Bowden and Market Harborough/19c London
71	Mr G Brian Plant	Any period Cheshire/
74	Mrs Alice D Mercer	19c Leicester/L19c Nottingham/
75	Mr M J Plant	e19c Shropshire/e19c Cheadle Hulme Cheshire/
85	Mr John E Ransley	18c + 19c Staffordshire/
89	Mrs Denise F Weston	Any period Fenton + Cheadle + Longton Staffs/
90	Mrs M R Lake	m18c Suffolk/
91	Mr Fred Faulkner	Any Period Yamfield + Stafford/
93	Cordelia R Shields	19c Stafford/any period Connecticut USA/
94	Mr Ross Plant	m19c County Cavan Ireland/
95	Linda Shields Wheeler	17c Stafford/any period Connecticut USA/
98	Deanne Richards	19c Eckington Derbyshire/
104	Mrs Liz Plant	17c + 18c + e19c Wolverhampton/
108	Mrs Stella Kornfen	L19c Wisbech Cambs/L19c Battersea London/
110	Mrs Myrtle Reid	L19c + e20c Darlaston + Walsall + West Bromwich, Staffs/
111	Mr Malc John Plant	Any period Stbsey Lincs/
113	Mrs Heather Plant	L19c Hackney Middlesex/
114	Mr John Russel Ingamellis	18c Lincs/
115	Mrs Pat Herring	e19c Ashley Staffs/L19c Wheelock Cheshire/
116	Miss Joan Plant	e19c Bristol/
119	Mrs Florence Plant	L19c Staffordshire/
120	Mr Lawrence Edwin Clements	Leicestershire/
121	Kathy Compagno	L18c + e19c Brierley Hill/e18c Old Swinford/ 17c + 18c Rowley Regis/
122	Elizabeth Messer	L19c Cheadle Staffs/

123	Dr Andrew Thomas Plant	L19c Bedfordshire/
124	Mr Alan Plant	General Staffordshire/
125	Mr Ronald George Plant	e20c Rugeley Staffordshire/
126	Mr Bryan Alvey	17c Bakewell + Youlgreave Derbyshire/
127	Mr William T Plant	18 + 19e North Staffordshire/ 18 + 19c West Midlands/
128	Mr Robert Harry Plant	19c Gnosall Staffordshire/ 20c Saskatchewan Canada/
129	Mrs Denise North	19c West Midlands/
130	Tom Plant	TBA

GEORGE HENRY PLANT OF MACON GEORGIA USA



Son of Increase Cook Plant and Elizabeth Mary Plant (nee Hazlehurst) - see Journal No 5.

Brother of Robert Hazlehurst Plant see Journal no 6

b 11 August 1849 - Macon

m 21 November 1883
Minnie Louisa Wood - Macon
d 10 July 1930 - Atlanta Georgia
buried Rosehill Cemetary, Mason

children

1. Leila Bond Plant
2. George Henry Plant Jnr
3. Percy Hazlehurst Plant

George Henry Plant was descended from John Plant of Branford Connecticut (see family tree next page) He was born in 1849 thus being two years younger than his brother, Robert

At the time of the civil war he was too young to join the regular army He was however at the age of 14 in the Home Guards at Macon and his formative teenage years were spent during the war He was in Macon when the city was occupied by General Wilson His education was in private schools until he entered Eastmans Business College in Poughkeepsie, New York, where he completed a course of study and duly graduated.

He first started in business as assistant book-keeper for Hardeman and Sparks, cotton factors of Macon. In 1878 he became a partner in the cotton house of English, Plant and Huguenum For a period he was at Savannah in charge of a branch house retaining at the same time his connection with the firm of English Huguenum & Co.

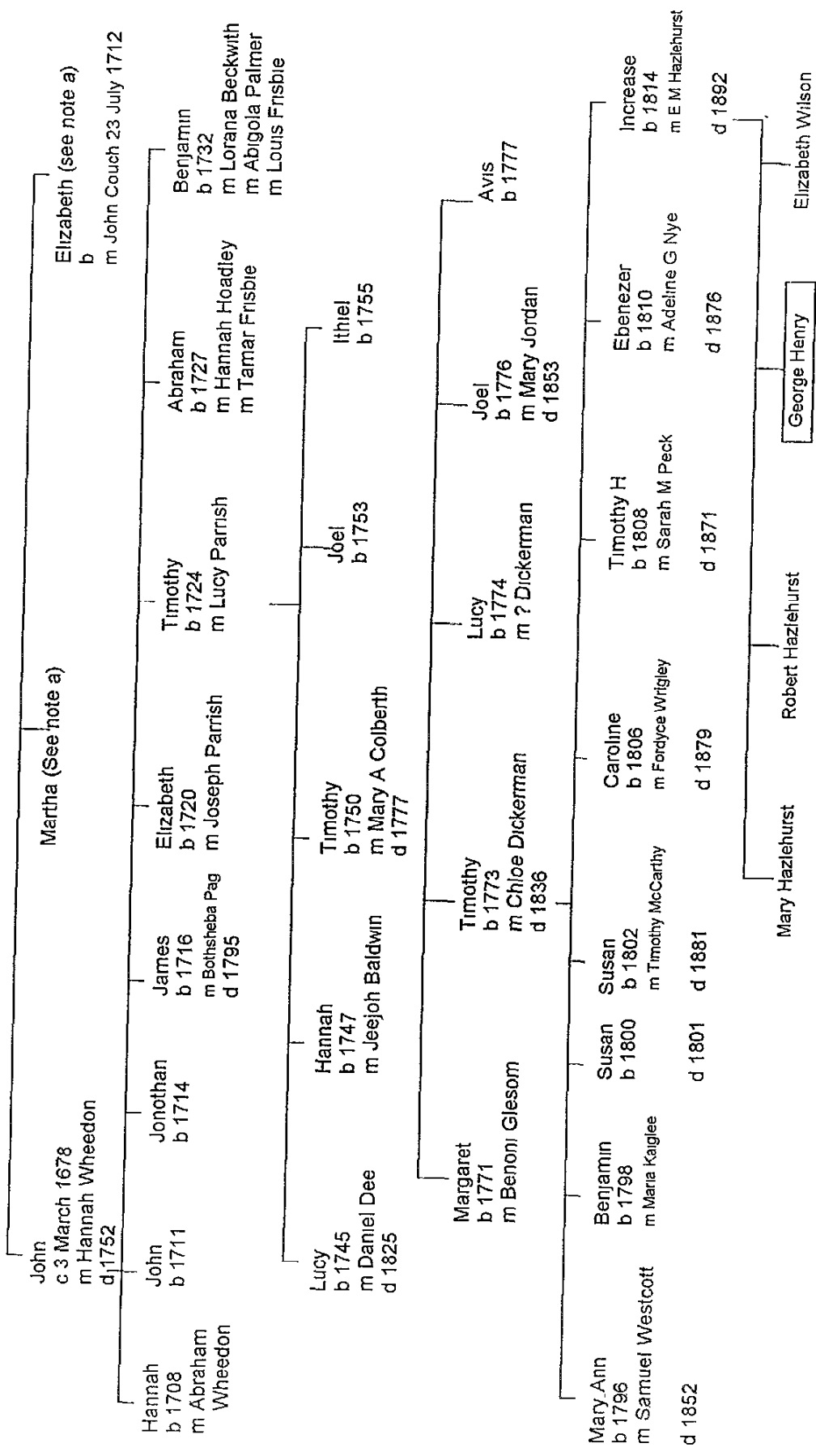
Due to failing health he retired from the business and travelled for a number of years until his health was restored. He then accepted a position in the First National Bank of Macon, where he held various offices until he was elected Vice President in November 1892

Mrs Plant whose maiden name was Minnie Louise Wood was a native of Macon her father, Thomas Wood, having moved there from Norwich Connecticut

It was said that the inclinations of Mr Plant have been toward the quiet enjoyment of his home He had little taste for publicity or the exciting problems of speculative ventures, preferring rather the steady pursuit of a sound and secure business.

Together, with his father he was involved with the Presbyterian Church, and the whole Plant Family held an enviable position in Macon where they were generally esteemed as worthy citizens and valued personal friends

John Plant
b c 1655
m) Branford
d c 1691) Conn



- a The family of John Plant is not proven. There was certainly a son, John baptised 3 March 1678 and Martha Plant was listed as a member of the church in 1704. In addition 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. Alternatively either Martha or Elizabeth could have been the wife of John snr.

MR WILLIAM PLANT - Member No. 72

It is with regret that I have to report the death of Mr William Plant. Mr Plant died on 30th September age 84 following an accident in his bath.

He was a Vice President of The North Staffs Boys Brigade and St Werburghs Church, High Lane was full of his relatives, friends and acquaintances for his funeral. He had devoted his whole life to the Boys Brigade and many boys are now in a position to be of some use to society as a result of his efforts.

On behalf of the Group I offer my sincere condolences.

• THE PLANT FAMILY OF CHEADLE

compiled by W Keith Plant from information provided by Mrs Denise Weston
(member No 89)

The late husband of Mrs Denise Weston (Member no 89), Thomas Albert Weston was descended from John Plant b c 1749 and Hannah Needham. He was born 15 December 1909 at 52 Back Street, Cheadle, Staffs, and died in Dorset 1987. On his retirement he wrote a book entitled 'Nipper', an account of his youth in the Cheadle area.

The book was published by Pentlands Press and reviewed in the local press as follows

'Thomas Albert Weston was born into a poor mining family in 1909 and for the first 18 years of his life he displayed a remarkable resourcefulness and initiative born out of sheer necessity.

His mother died before he was 2 years old and he lived with his maternal grandparents, Mr and Mrs Job Plant until, at the age of eight he set out on foot from Longton to Cheadle to find his father only to discover he had re-married and had several children to provide for. From that moment life for 'Nipper', as he was affectionately known, became a constant battle of wits to survive against all odds. During World War II he was captured at Dunkirk and made a Prisoner of War but not even the Germans could contain him and inevitably, he escaped.

The story of these years makes fascinating reading as well as being a valuable record of social conditions in the Potteries before the 1930's

Thomas Albert Weston was an indomitable character and his book is a delightful piece of personal writing. The book is also a fitting tribute to a very extraordinary 'ordinary man'.

Over the last few years Mrs Weston and her daughter have carried out exhaustive research into her late husband's Plant family of Cheadle and with her approval I am including details of his forebears. Mrs Weston would love to hear from any members connected with the family and any information relative to the John Plant b 1749 who married Hannah Needham c 1770.

The article will be completed in the next issue of the Journal

For further information relative to the Plant family of Cheadle see Journal No 1 and the article on John Plant of Cheadle by John Roberts

John Plant (8)
b1749?
m c 1770 Hannah Needham
d 26 Feb 1818

Thomas
bt 2 June 1771
Dec
St Giles
Cheadle

Jane
bt 10 Feb 1773
St Giles
Cheadle

John
bt 8 Dec 1775
St Giles
Cheadle

Elizabeth
bt 27 Jan 1777
St Giles
Cheadle

Ann
bt 1 Oct 1780
St Giles
Cheadle

John
bt 31 Mar 1782
St Giles
Cheadle

Jdb(6)
bt 23 Dec 1785
St Giles
Cheadle

Mary
bt 10 Jan 1788
St Giles
Cheadle

Philip
bt 15 Aug 1790
St Giles
Cheadle

Isaac
bt 7 Jul 1793
Cheadle

Hanna
bt 3
1795

m 12 Jul 1810
Frances Brundred
St Johns Burslem

m 22 Dec 1802
Louis Lowe

b 8 May 1784

b 3 Aug 1777

b 16 Jul 1802

Elizabeth
bt 9 Dec 1810
St Giles
Cheadle

John (9)
bt 30 Apr 1813
Cheadle

Sarah
bt 18 Mar 1818
Bethel Well St Ind
Cheadle

Philip (7)
bt 11 Oct 1820
Bethel Well St Ind
Cheadle
m c 1840 Sarah Nutt

Isaac (11)
bt 10 Sept 1826
Bethel Well St Ind
Cheadle

Mary (10)
bt 25 Jun 1823
Bethel Well St Ind
Cheadle

d 10 Sep 1829

d 1881-91

d 5 Dec 1827

d 25 Oct 1827

John
bt 1 Jan 1838
Bethel Well St Ind
Cheadle

Isaac (Ike) (3)
b 11 00 am 1 Aug 1840
at Majors Barn Cheadle

Emalia
b 1846
at Fenton

Job
b 1849
at Cheadle

Philip
b 1852
at Fenton/Longton

Thomas
b 1861

m 17 Sep 1862 = Eliza Johnson (5)
at St Giles Cheadle
d

m Sarah?

TO BE CONTINUED

EXTRACTS FROM THE STAFFORDSHIRE BURIAL INDEX RELATIVE TO PLANTS -
CHEADLE

Ann Plant	31 Oct 1780	dau of John and Hannah	
Ann Plant	12 Sept 1787	dau of George and Sarah	
Ann Plant	8 June 1788	wife of John	
Ann Plant	4 July 1765	dau of John	
Anne Plant	24 Dec 1827		age 63
Anne Plant	18 June 1835		age 40 of Paradise Lane
Benjamin Plant	15 Nov 1835		age 3 of Hobs lane
Bridget Plant	22 Nov 1835		age 6 mths of brassworks
Charlotte Plant	30 Jan 1830		age 10 weeks
Elizabeth Plant	16 Oct 1774	dau of John and Ann	
Elizabeth Plant	22 April 1815		age 65
Elizabeth Plant	31 Aug 1824		age 16 weeks of Back of the Town
Elizabeth Plant	6 Nov 1830		age 15 of the road to Cheadle
Elizabeth Plant	11 May 1831		age 4 of Lid Lane
Frances Plant	8 June 1823		age 79 of Town End
Frances Plant	23 Dec 1826		age 43
Frances Plant	1 July 1828		age 34 of Black Lane
George Plant	23 Sept 1819		age 14 moths of Lid Lane
George Plant	29 Mar 1834		age 50
Hannah Plant	15 Dec 1816		age 8 of Back of the Town
Hannah Plant	10 Jan 1822		age 59 of Back of the Town
Hannah Plant	22 May 1837		age 88 of Majors Barn
Harnet Plant	29 Jan 1819		age 2 weeks of Majors Barn
Isaac Plant	25 Oct 1827		age 14 months
Jacob Plant	16 July 1826		age 5 days of Hobs Lane
James Plant	22 May 1817		age 63 of Town End
James Plant	27 Nov 1826		age 46
James Plant	1 Feb 1811		age 3 months
Jane Plant	28 Mar 1822		age 2 of Back of the Church
Jane Plant	6 Aug 1830		age 17 of Back of the Town
Jane Plant	18 Oct 1812		age 19
Job Plant	29 Mar 1827		age 11 weeks of Majors Barn
John Plant	26 Feb 1818		age 69 of Majors Barn
John Plant	19 Dec 1826		age 13 of Mobberley
John Plant	2 May 1828		age 24 of Majors Barn
John Plant	10 Sept 1829		age 16 of Lid Lane
Margaret Plant	9 Dec 1750	wife of Thomas	
Margaret Plant	12 Apr 1763	dau of John & Mary	
Mary Plant	3 Nov 1814		age 28 of Paradise Lane
Mary Plant	26 Mar 1815		age 5 months of Paradise Row

Mary Plant	5 Dec 1827		age 4 of Black Lane
Robert Plant	12 Jan 1722	son of Thomas	
Robert Plant	18 Sept 1820		age 5 days of the back of the Town
Robert Plant	22 Oct 1835		age 59 of Bell Yard
Samuel Plant	5 Mar 1825		age 67 of the back of the Town
Sarah Plant	22 Apr 1726	dau of Thomas and Margaret	
Sarah Plant	25 Oct 1767	wife of Thomas	
Sarah Plant	21 Feb 1835		age 71 of Paradise Lane
Simon Plant	8 Nov 1836		age 85 of Town End
Susannah Plant	9 May 1715	dau of Sarah	
Thomas Plant	23 Nov 1775		
Thomas Plant	8 May 1784	son of John and Hannah	
Thomas Plant	30 Apr 1786		
Thomas Plant	25 Mar 1795	son of Thomas and Elizabeth	of Bradley in the Moors
Thomas Plant	21 Sept 1803		age 13
Thomas Plant	3 Sept 1821		age 23 of London
Thomas Plant	24 Mar 1827 -		age 19
Thomas Plant	23 Oct 1827		age 76 of Bell Yard
William Plant	15 Mar 1753	son of John	
William Plant	28 Nov 1830		age 6
William Plant	5 June 1837		age 83

PEN PICTURES

(1) Isaac Plant

bt 7 July 1793 at St Giles, Cheadle, Staffordshire
 m 12 July 1810 Francis Brundred
 Collier

At some time lived at Town End, Cheadle In 1861 census recorded as lodging in the house of Tipper family in Lydd Lane, Cheadle

(2) Thomas Plant

bt 22 Oct 1815 at St Giles, Cheadle, Staffordshire
 m 8 April 1837 - Ann Beardmore at St Giles, Cheadle, Staffs
 d 1881 - 91

Iron Miner and Collier

Lived at Majors Barn Cheadle

In 1861 census was living at New St , Cheadle

(3) Isaac 'Ike' Plant

bn 11 00 a m (so possibly a twin) 1 Aug 1840 at Majors Barn, Cheadle, Staffordshire

m 17 Sept 1862 Eliza Johnson at St Giles, Cheadle, Staffordshire

Iron Miner and Collier

Lived at Tean Road, Cheadle
 Town End, Cheadle
 Oakamore Rd , Cheadle

- (4) Ann Beardmore
 bn 3 Sept 1818 Checkley?, Staffordshire
 m 8 April 1837 Thomas Plant at St Giles, Cheadle
 Father's name John Hibbs - mother's name Sarah Beardmore?
- (5) Eliza Johnson
 bn c1843 at Cheadle, Staffordshire
 m 17 Sept 1862 Isaac Plant at St Giles, Cheadle
 Worked as a cotton tape weaver - later had a toffee shop
 Father was Joseph Johnson
- (6) Job Plant
 bt 23 Dec 1785 at St Giles, Cheadle
 m 22 Dec 1802 Louis Lowe
 Children John bn 1804
 Margaret bn 1809
 Thomas bn 1812 m Hannah?
 Martha bn 1814
 Mary bn 1820
 Job bn 1827
- (7) Philip Plant
 bt 11 Oct 1820 at Bethel Well St , Ind
 m c1840 Sarah Nutt
 Children William bn c 1840/4 at Cheadle
 Fredrick bn 1843 at Cheadle
 Frances bn 1846
 Enoch bn 1851 at Stoke
- (8) John Plant
 bn 1749
 m c1770 Hannah Needham
 buried 26 Feb 1818 Cheadle age 69 of Majors Barn
- (9) John Plant
 bt 30 April 1813 at Cheadle
 died at Lid Lane
 buried at Cheadle 10 Sept 1829
- (10) Mary Plant
 bt 25 June 1823
 died at Black Lane aged 4
 buried at Cheadle 5 Dec 1827
- (11) Isaac Plant
 bt 10 Sept 1826 Bethel Well St Ind Cheadle
 died at Black Lane aged 14 months
 buried at Cheadle 25 Oct 1827

Chapter 9

by John S Plant (Member No 52)

Clowne Plants in Sheffield

SOME PLANTS ARRIVING BEFORE 1840¹

The unravelling of the data for a number of William Plants, for whom there are records at Clowne and at Sheffield, requires careful consideration. Some other Plants apparently came, perhaps as a family group, from Clowne to Sheffield before 1841 but the evidence is scarcer for two Williams who, even so, are believed to have made the same journey. Despite a scarcity of *direct* evidence there is an appreciable body of *indirect* evidence to support a contention that both these Williams were from the same family — the lack of *direct* evidence can be understood largely in the light of a finding that both these Williams died in 1848, not long after the instigation around 1837 of better records for keeping track of people's movements near such rapidly growing centres as Sheffield.

9.1 A contended connection with Clowne

When I was young my father asserted that the family had come to Sheffield from Clowne though the details were not clearly remembered.

Steps towards trying to confirm this start out with straight-forward genealogical studies. These show that my father's grandfather was the Sheffield-born dram flask maker James Plant (1829-1904) and that his father was a Sheffield shoemaker called William. In order to make further progress it has been found to be necessary to set aside an indicated county of birth for this shoemaker William as 'misleading' and some justification for this is presented later. This 'misleading' data appears in the 1841 Census returns which indicate that this Sheffield shoemaker had been born in the county, which was Yorkshire, and this has to be reconciled with the fact that his baptism appears to have been at Clowne which, though only 10 miles away, was in the different county of Derbyshire. The manner in which this *apparent* anomaly can be assimilated with the fuller information will be discussed later, towards the end of this chapter.

First, however, we begin by considering various Williams and we may recall from an earlier Chapter that there were three different baptisms for Williams at Clowne. In order to clarify the reasoning whereby Williams around Sheffield can be pieced together with the data for Williams at Clowne, it is helpful to label the three Williams that were baptised at Clowne as:

¹Including genealogical data supplied by Gordon and Gwyneth Vick (Carlisle), formerly of the Plant Family History Society, and by Mrs José King of Sheffield Archives, Sheffield City Libraries

$W^m(1)$	bap 16.3.1772
$W^m(2a)$	bap 12.9.1803 son of $W^m(1)$
$W^m(2b)$	bap 5.8.1801 nephew of $W^m(1)$

The Clowne data was described in Chapter 3 and has appeared as *JSP, Roots and Branches, Issue No. 2, June 1991, pages 29-37*. The Clowne data in itself seems quite straight-forward and indicates that the Clowne-baptised $W^m(1)$ was the eldest son of Thomas of Clowne from Sutton-Cum-Duckmanton, $W^m(2a)$ and $W^m(2b)$ were respectively his son and a nephew.

9.1.1 Some further family folklore

Though *fully convincing* connections for the Williams seem initially to be elusive, between Clowne and Sheffield, further progress is in fact possible. Some clues to finding a way forward arise partly from a few snippets of inherited information. In particular, some of the family folklore is borne out by data that has become available relatively recently, after 100 years privacy for the 1871 Census listings, and this provides a basis from which the evidence can be developed more completely. The useful pieces of inherited folklore are as follows.

In my childhood, my father Tom maintained *from what his father Tom (1859-1931) had told him that*:

- ‘the family’ came from Clowne; and, also, that
- someone *long ago* in the family had an association with mangles (my father had slightly split finger ends on his left hand, from playing with a mangle with his sisters when young, which is probably why he particularly remembered this story).

There were also the following stories. These *could have been* influenced partly by the genealogical findings of my father’s sister Elsie (1903-54) though she died whilst I was still young, before some of the currently available data was uncovered². Two stories, which at that time were probably composites of *suspected* genealogical theory and earlier folklore, were:

- ‘the family’ used to live on the site of the current town hall; and,
- my father *thought* that he had been told a story of shoemaker brothers (this story seemed to be associated with an ‘atavistic’ heirloom that I have inherited — a 3.4 inch painted metal figure resembling a biblical man, which was said to symbolise a Plant ‘ancestor’ with a biblical name).

The last of these four stories leads on to the next step in our deliberations, which is to consider a possible link between my great great grandfather, the Sheffield shoemaker William, and the family of a Clowne-born Sheffield shoemaker called Benjamin Plant. In fact, it turns out that *all four* of the above stories, not just the first and the last, are compatible with such a link.

²Even parish records were less readily available before her death in 1954. More particularly, only *anonymised* Census data is generally available until 100 years have elapsed and, by 1954, there were no full personal name indexes available even for the released Sheffield Census listings of 1841 and 1851

9.1.2 An explanation of this inherited information

In particular, the above family story about mangles (section 9.1.1) originated most likely as an inherited story long before it found any confirmation in subsequent genealogical investigations. Indeed it seems probable, in the light of some 1871 Sheffield Census data, that this and *all* of the other three inherited stories above may have been passed down from my grandfather's childhood.

In the 1871 Census returns, in the same district as where my grandfather Tom was living (aged 11), the shoemaker Benjamin's family can be found at '56 New Hereford Street'. At that time my father Tom's father Tom was living with his father James (1829-1904) at nearby Bramall Lane and so close together were:

$$\begin{array}{l}
 F_{ily}^{am}(W^m) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Descendants of the shoemaker William,} \\ \text{namely my family via the line} \\ W^m(\text{shoe}) - \text{James} - \text{Tom} - \text{Tom} - \text{me} \end{array} \right. \\
 F_{ily}^{am}(B^{en}) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Family of the shoemaker Benjamin,} \\ \text{who is known to have been} \\ \text{a son of } W^m(1) \text{ of Clowne} \end{array} \right.
 \end{array}$$

Earlier Census returns (1841 and 1851) show that Benjamin was certainly from Clowne and living, in 1841, on the site of the present town hall. The subsequently released 1871 Census data shows a household that includes Benjamin's widow, Elizth Plant (57), who is listed as a mangle woman. Thus, this 1841-71 Sheffield Census data provides confirmation that the $F_{ily}^{am}(B^{en})$:

...had a connection with mangles, lived on the site of the current town hall, and came from Clowne

in good accord the inherited information.

I had always taken my father's assertions to mean that 'my' family had come from Clowne but there is *perhaps* an alternative explanation — it seems *conceivable* that all three of the inherited snippets that have found confirmation above could have arisen from my grandfather's recollections of the $F_{ily}^{am}(B^{en})$ since this family lived near him in his childhood. Hence, these stories may have been passed down my $F_{ily}^{am}(W^m)$ largely because stories about the $F_{ily}^{am}(B^{en})$ were impressed on my father's memory following his childhood accident with a mangle. *Even if this is the case*, this interpretation of the above described 1871 data *at least* suggests the likelihood of a close association between the $F_{ily}^{am}(B^{en})$ and the $F_{ily}^{am}(W^m)$ to which the following pieces of 1871 data can be added:

...the unmarried children of Benjamin's widow are listed as Elizth (26), Mary A (21) and Chas ?H (18) brass turner — in particular, these two daughters from the $F_{ily}^{am}(B^{en})$ are described as dram flask closers and, hence, presumably worked for my great grandfather, the nearby dram flask maker James Plant (1829-1904) from the $F_{ily}^{am}(W^m)$.

Thus, members of the $F_{ily}^{am}(Ben)$ not only lived near the $F_{ily}^{am}(W^m)$ but they were also, it seems, no doubt so employed.

This then just leaves us to try to confirm the remaining snippet of inherited information:

...that the two shoemakers were brothers

and this now forms the key to further progress. Confirming this is a little less straightforward and relies rather more on an accumulation of *indirect* evidence, including for example the following piece of vaguely supportive evidence:

...a witness at the wedding of a sister of the shoemaker Benjamin had the same surname, Hartley, as the shoemaker William's wife.

Such evidence is not fully convincing *in itself* and it has to be viewed together with other evidence as indicated below.

9.1.3 A summary of the evidence

To summarize the evidence presented so far, the standard *official sources* of genealogical data produce the following deduced family groupings:

investigated data	summary of results	family groupings
Sheffield records	my agnate ancestry back to the shoemaker William	$F_{ily}^{am}(W^m)$
1871 Sheffield census	shoemaker William's son James <i>closely associated with</i> shoemaker Benjamin's family	$F_{ily}^{am}(W^m)$ ⇕ $F_{ily}^{am}(Ben)$

If we now extend this *established* association between the $F_{ily}^{am}(W^m)$ and the $F_{ily}^{am}(Ben)$ back to form a contention that the shoemaker William was from Clowne, like the shoemaker Benjamin, we can form *possible* links, which are denoted $? \rightsquigarrow F_{ily}^{am}(W^m)$ below, from the Clowne Plants to the Sheffield shoemaker William:

investigated data	summary of results	family links (?)
Clowne data	$W^m(1)$ was... (1) father of shoemaker Benjamin (2) father of $W^m(2a)$ (3) uncle of $W^m(2b)$	$\rightsquigarrow F_{ily}^{am}(Ben)$ $? \rightsquigarrow F_{ily}^{am}(W^m)$ $? \rightsquigarrow F_{ily}^{am}(W^m)$

In other words, we arrive at two alternatives for the shoemaker Williams's identity, namely $W^m(2a)$ or $W^m(2b)$. Moreover, from a wider consideration of the regional data, these are the only *known* possibilities for this shoemaker William's origins³.

These two possibilities for the identity of the shoemaker William are indicated with adjoined *'s in Figure 9.1. Either possibility would allow for a close relationship between

³It may be recalled from Chapter 7 that there were few Plants in this region at that time and, even though a surprising number of them were called William, it seems *unlikely* that any further suitable Williams will be uncovered

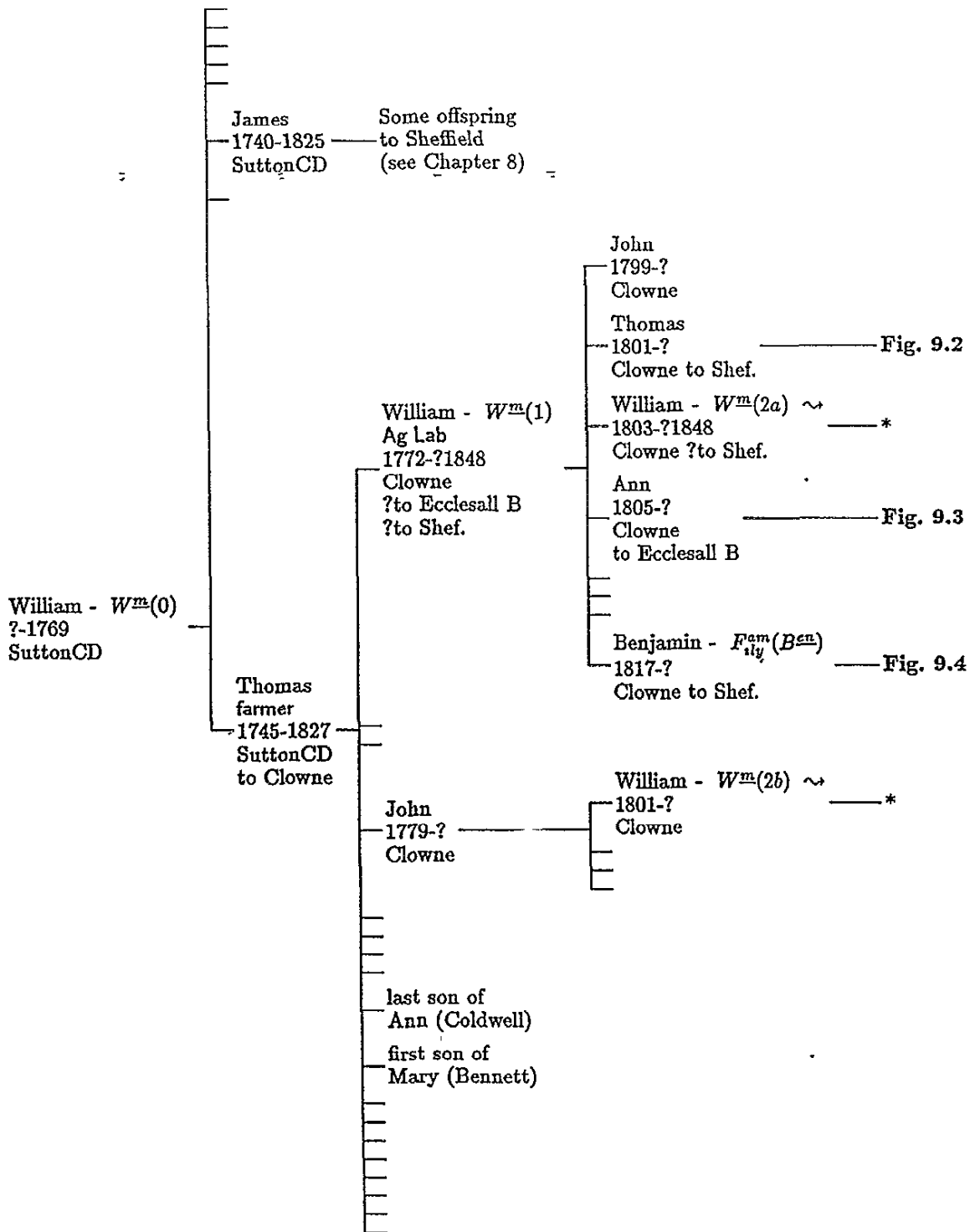


Figure 9.1: Outline Summary of some Sheffield Plant ancestry from Clowne

the shoemaker William's and Benjamin's families though Figure 9.1 helps to suggest why an association is *slightly more* expectable if the shoemaker William were $W^m(2a)$ rather than $W^m(2b)$. If the shoemaker William were $W^m(2a)$ then he would have been a brother, rather than a cousin, of the (other) children of $W^m(1)$ who are known to have travelled from Clowne to Sheffield as will be described in more detail later. Also, the 1871 dram flask closers Elizth. and Mary would then have been working for their cousin James, rather than for a second cousin. Furthermore, the shoemaker William's wife would have had a namesake as a witness at her sister-in-law's wedding, rather than at the wedding of her husband's cousin. To this may be added the evidence of the shoemaker William's Sheffield death certificate, on which his age fits *precisely* with that of $W^m(2a)$ and differs by 2 years from that of $W^m(2b)$.

Given the limited number of other William Plants in the area and the lack of others of a suitable age, the shoemaker William is hereafter presumed to be from Clowne and to be $W^m(2a)$, rather than $W^m(2b)$. In short, successive investigations have tended to strengthen, rather than weaken, the evidence that the two shoemakers were brothers and the accumulation of evidence continues to add still further support, as will continue to emerge in Chapter 10 for example.

9.2 Farmer Thomas's son $W^m(1)$

Having accepted that an adequate body of evidence has by now been presented to establish links for two of the Clowne Williams, who turn up in Sheffield, we can move on to piecing together a story about $W^m(1)$ and his children, though full details for the Sheffield shoemaker William (now presumed to be $W^m(2a)$ who was baptised at Clowne) are reserved until later (Chapter 13).

The Clowne data show $W^m(1)$ as a labourer at the baptisms of his children in 1813 and 1817. As he was the oldest son of the land owning farmer Thomas (1745-1827), he would most likely have been an agricultural labourer. Such a William appears in the 1841 Census returns, at Hunter Roade, Ecclesall Bierlow near Sheffield (Table 9.1), as an 'Ag.Lab.' of stated rounded age 65 which fits with the expected age 68/9 of $W^m(1)$ from Clowne.

9.2.1 $W^m(1)$'s death in Sheffield

There is no suitable William to fit $W^m(1)$ in the local Census Indexes for 1851 and, in view of his age, it seems reasonable to suppose that he had by then died. Investigations of all three deaths recorded in the Civil Registration Index throughout a wide area (South Yorkshire, Derbyshire, and Nottinghamshire), for William Plants between 1841 and 1851, have remained consistent with the idea that the 'Ag Lab' William of Hunter Roade is the same William as one who died in Sheffield in 1848. From the death certificates, we have:

- two Williams who died at Earl Street and in the adjoining Sylvester Street, in 1848, were of the correct ages to be father and son ($W^m(1)$ and $W^m(2a)$) from Clowne.

The name, age and occupation of labourer William (77) of Earl Street, on his 6 12.1848 death certificate, correspond closely with the Clowne data for $W^m(1)$. His death from 'Decay of Nature' was registered by the *mark* of 'Elizabeth Plant present at death Earl Street'. It seems unlikely that this *mark* of an Elizabeth was that of his presumed

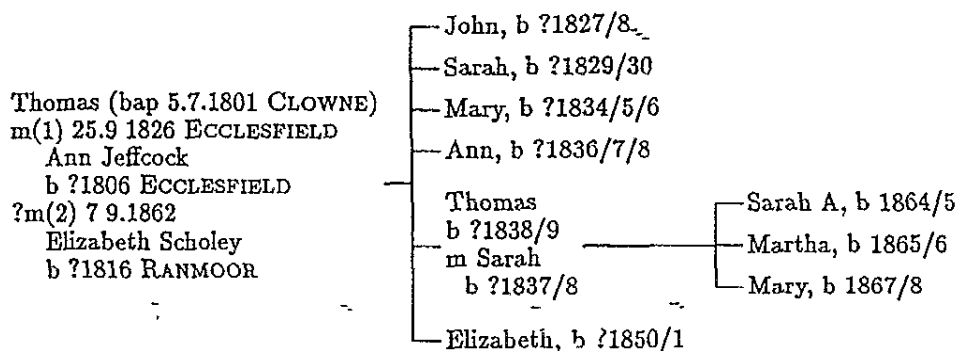


Figure 9.2: Wm(1)'s son Thomas from Clowne

daughter-in-law, the shoemaker $W^m(2a)$'s wife Elizabeth, as this shoemaker's wife had *signed* her name at her marriage in 1828 and, also, *signed* with her address given still as 'Sylvester Street' at the death of one of her sons, on 7.1.1849, just one month after this nearby Earl Street death. Another possibility is that it belonged to another daughter-in-law, the shoemaker Benjamin's wife Elizabeth. However, alongside the baptisms in the Clowne parish register is written Elizabeth Webster, suggesting a possible maiden name for $W^m(1)$'s wife, and so it *may have been* $W^m(1)$'s widow Elizabeth who placed her mark on the 1848 certificate of $W^m(1)$'s death at Earl Street.

9.3 $W^m(1)$'s wife and children in Sheffield

Further data indicates that several of $W^m(1)$'s family had travelled the 10 miles or so from Clowne to live near Sheffield by 1841. Certainly two of $W^m(1)$'s sons, Thomas (1801-?) and Benjamin (1817-?), had made this journey, as will be described more fully below (sections 9.3.1 and 9.3.3). To these can almost certainly be added a daughter Ann, with her mother Elizabeth (section 9.3.2). These children, and their mother, outlived the two Williams considered above and so more complete accounts can be assembled quite readily from the fuller data in later Censuses⁴.

9.3.1 $W^m(1)$'s son Thomas from Clowne

One of those clearly shown to be from Clowne, in the 1851 Census listings, is a Thomas; this is quite certainly the second son (bap 5.7.1801) of $W^m(1)$ as indicated in Figure 9.1. The IGI shows a marriage in 1826 of a Thomas Plant and Ann Jeffcock of Ecclesfield and this, together with the available Census data, forms the basis of the tree in Figure 9.2 for this Thomas of Sheffield from Clowne (1801-?).

The 1841 Census returns for Hill Square, Sheffield show this Thomas (rounded age 35) as a steel burr(?er) with Ann (30), John (13), Sarah (11), Mary (6), Ann (4) and Thomas (2); all are stated to have been born in Yorkshire except for the senior Thomas in this

⁴Although the two Williams outlived the 1841 Census, this Census is less helpful than later Censuses in establishing people's origins and, as will be explained towards the end of this Chapter, the limited clues given in 1841 for these two William's households were moreover 'misleading', giving rise to a need for the above discussion of the evidence that these two Williams' origins were indeed in Clowne

(a) 1841 Hunter Road				(b) 1851 Rustlings							
William	Roberts	39	farmer	William	Roberts	51	head	M		Derbys	Holmsfield
Ann	"	38		Ann	"	46	wife	M	farmers wife	"	Clowne
John	"	5		Jonathan	"	21	son	U	farmers son	"	Clowne
George	"	4		John	"	16	son	U	farmers son	"	"
Sarah	"	3		George	"	15	son		scholar	Yorks	Ecclesall
N K	"	1 week	(female)	Sarah	"	12	daug		"	"	"
Jonathan	Plant	10		Jane	"	9	daug		"	"	"
George	Drewrey	15		Henry	"	1	son		"	"	"
Ann	Widdowson	15	F S	Mary	"	7	daug		"	"	"
William	Plant	65	Ag Lab	Ehsabeth	Plant	75	m-l	W		"	Pontefract
Hannah	Roberts	60		Thomas	Barlow	12	serv	U	Farm labourer	"	Ecclesall
Jane	"	15									
William	Plant	6									

Table 9.1: A Roberts/Plant household in Ecclesall ecclesiastical district

household. Their address, Hill Square, was near Hoyle Street in Sheffield, which runs from Meadow Street to Infirmary Road and this is very near the addresses where soon were to be found this Thomas's step uncle Isaac from Clowne and his son, the successful provision merchants, who were described in Chapter 8 and who lived near Meadow Street from about 1855 to 1885.

Thomas (1801-?) had moved from his 1841 address only as far as nearby 77 Hoyle Street by 1851, where he is listed as a steel refiner from Clowne; with him are his wife Ann (45) from Ecclesfield and offspring Sarah (22), Mary (15), Ann (13), Thomas (11) errand boy and Elizabeth (3 mth); finally there is also in this household Fanny. E Negister (1) nurse child. All the children are shown in this Census data to have been born in Sheffield, indicating that this Thomas had moved from Clowne (via Ecclesfield) to Sheffield by as early as 1828.

In the 1871 Census listings, we find that Thomas from Clowne had moved from Hoyle Street only as far as 57 Infirmary Road where he is listed (aged 69) as a steel melter with his wife, who is here listed as Elizabeth (55) from Ranmoor⁵; the likely remarriage of Thomas to Elizabeth Scholey is included in Figure 9.2. This Thomas's son Thomas (32) is to be found as a steel refiner in 1871 in the adjoining Portland Street, in Court 25, with wife and daughters Sarah (33), Sarah A (6), Martha (5) and Mary (3).

9.3.2 Wm(1)'s daughter Ann from Clowne

Parish records show a marriage by Banns at Rotherham on 14.10.1834 between William Roberts and Ann Plant. Both were of that parish, bachelor and spinster, and both *signed* their names as did the witnesses William Plant and Amelia Hartley. It may be noted that the latter witness had the same surname as the wife of the shoemaker William Plant, who was called Elizabeth Hartley, and this provides a component of the evidence outlined above in support of a link between the shoemaker William (supposed to be $W^m(2a)$) and $W^m(1)$ who was baptised at Clowne. $W^m(1)$ was quite surely $W^m(2a)$'s father. He was similarly surely also this bride Ann's father and he appears, in his late year's, in her household.

The date of this Ann's marriage helps to explain why, in 1841 Census data, the eldest children are called Plant and the youngest Roberts. In the 1841 Census returns for Hunter Road, Ecclesall Bierlow (adjoining Sheffield), there is the large household that is listed in Table 9.1(a) and a similar 1851 household is listed alongside as part (b) of the

⁵Ranmoor is just 0.6 miles NE of the Rustlings address that is featured in section 9.3.2 below and in Chapter 11.

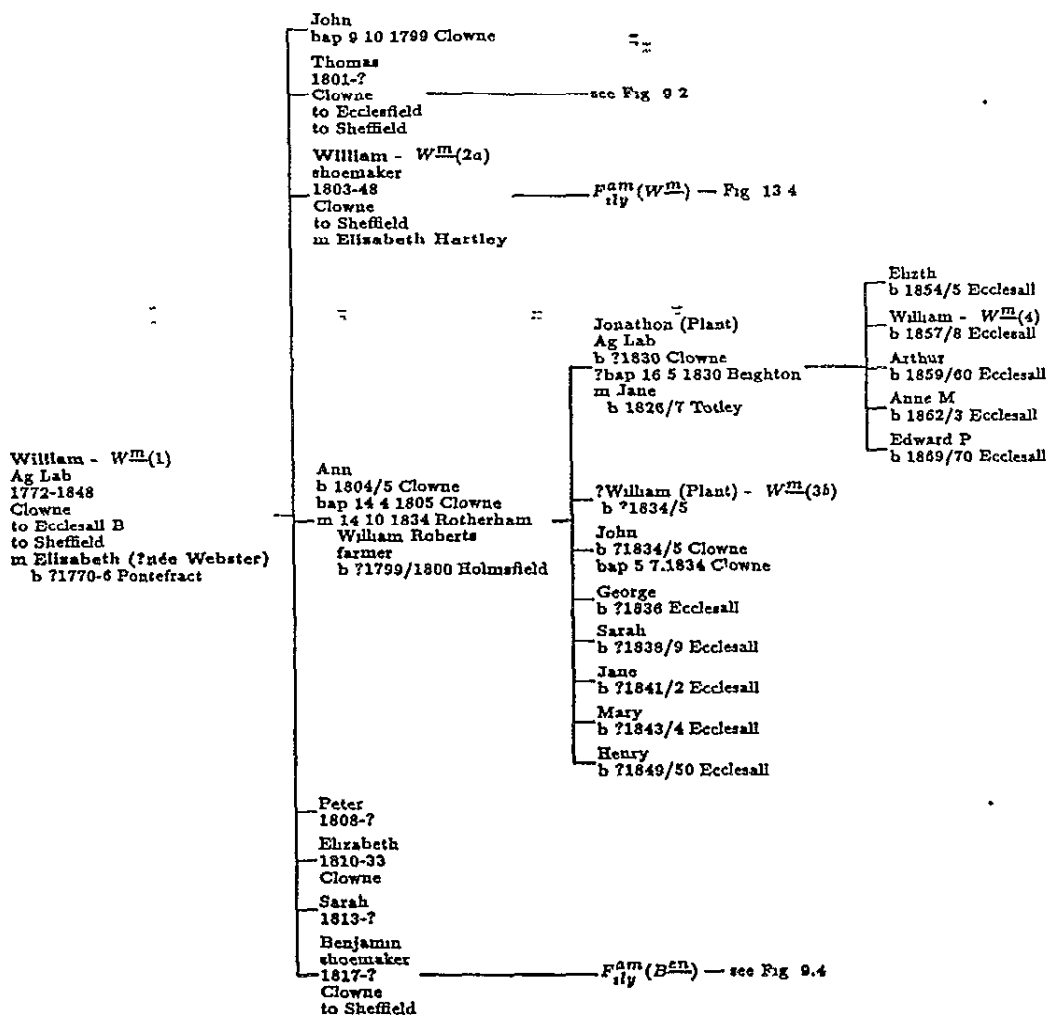


Figure 9.3: Wm(1)'s eldest daughter Ann from Clowne

Table. The stated occupation 'F S' of Ann Widowsen in 1841 probably denotes 'farm' or 'family' servant; Thomas Barlow appears as a servant in the later 1851 data. All, except the farmer William Roberts and Ann Roberts, are indicated in 1841 to have been born within the county though this is not fully borne out by the 1851 data, which shows that some others also had been born outside the county, in Derbyshire.

The 1851 Census entry for the 'Rustlings', Ecclesall Bierlow (Table 9.1(b)) appears to provide more accurate ages and it seems to confirm that this Ann Roberts, now stated to be aged 46 and to be the Clowne-born wife of farmer William Roberts, was W^m(1)'s eldest daughter, who had been baptised in Clowne in 1805 as indicated consistently in Figure 9.3. The 'Ag Lab William' who appears in the above 1841 household is missing in 1851, as is consistent with the supposed death of W^m(1) at Earl Street in 1848. However, the 1851 household now contains an Elizabeth Plant (75) who is stated to be the farmer William Roberts's 'mother in law' and a widow, born in Pontefract, Yorkshire. She can be presumed to be the widow of the Ag Lab W^m(1) and she is included as such in Figure 9.3.

The William Plant that was stated to be aged 6 in 1841 (W^m(3b) in Figure 9.3)

is missing from the 1851 household but a Jonathon is still present, though now called Roberts instead of Plant. There are few known records of a Jonath(a/o)n Plant in the area but a Jonathan Edwin Plant of the correct age was baptised in Beighton on 16.5.1830, with mother called Anne Plant. This is probably the Ann Roberts (née Plant) who appears in Table 9.1 and it seems possible that her son Jonathan was baptised some 6 miles away from Clowne because he was illegitimate. Subsequently (5.7.1834), however, the further child, John (Plant/Roberts), was baptised as a son of Ann Plant at Clowne itself (Figure 9.3), perhaps indicating an increased level of acceptance by this family's home circle in Clowne, though mostly the family had by then apparently moved away from Clowne anyway.

In the 1871 Census returns, the eldest known son, Jonnathan Plant (aged 41) from Clowne, is to be found as an 'Ag.Lab.' in Dobbin Hill Cottages living next door to the 'Sexton of Ecclesall Church'. Dobbin Hill was just to the south of the 'Rustlings' which was near where an earlier Plant had owned land, as will be described later (Chapter 11). With Jonathan are his wife Jane (44) from Totley and children Elizth. (16), William (13) errand boy (*W^m*(4) in Figure 9.3), Arthur (11), Anne M (8) scholar and Edward P (1); all of these children had been born in Ecclesall.

5.3.3 Wm(1)'s son Benjamin from Clowne

In 'A Century of Sheffield 1835 to 1935' David Robins writes:

... in 1886 the present town hall site was bought for £49,000 with a view to general improvements being made, as the site was then a muddle of small cottages and streets, prominent among them being CHENEY SQUARE the home of several of Sheffield's most eminent men ...

though the reason for this reference to "most eminent men" is not clear from the 1841 Census listings. The shoemaker Benjamin was living there in 1841.

The birth certificate of this shoemaker Benjamin's son William (b 10.1.1841) gives the address as 5 Cheney Square and the 1841 Census return for Cheney Square shows 'shoem.' Benjamin and milliner Elizabeth with William (then aged 4 months). There is also, at this time, in Trades Directories:

- Benjamin Plant, Shoemaker, and Elizabeth, Dressmaker, 5 Cheney Square (*W.White's 1841*)

In the 1851 Census return, Benjamin's wife and children are shown to have been born around Sheffield (as indicated in Figure 9.4). There is only one slight inconsistency; the indicated birth place of 'Ecclesall' for the daughter Elizabeth does not tally quite exactly with the fact that her birth certificate gives her birth place as '5 Cheney Square', the same as for her older brother William, who is indicated in the same 1851 Census records to be from Sheffield not Ecclesall. This inconsistency can be set aside, however, as being small and perhaps due for example to a slight change, between the two birth dates of 1841 and 1843, in the agreed boundary, since Cheney Square was almost on the boundary of the chapelry of Ecclesall in the parish of Sheffield.

By 1851, the shoemaker Benjamin (aged 34) was living at Victoria Square, The Wicker, Sheffield where he is listed as a cordwainer (*i.e.* shoemaker) with his wife Elizabeth (35), son William (10) errand boy and daughters Elizabeth (8) and Mary A (1)

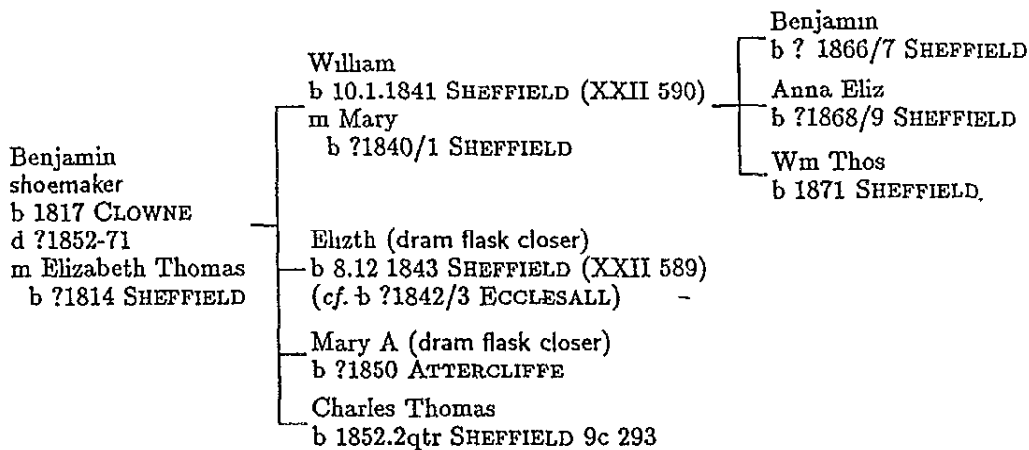


Figure 9.4: Descendants of Benjamin from Clowne

Mary's stated birthplace of Attercliffe was near The Wicker which is where the Victoria Railway Station was opened in 1851. In these 1851 Census returns, Benjamin's birthplace is given as Clowne and this is quite surely the Benjamin (bap 21.10.1817 at Clowne) who was the youngest brother of the Thomas (1801-?) and Ann (1805-?) of the preceding sections and who, as discussed earlier, was most probably also the brother and a close associate of my great grandfather, the shoemaker William (1803-48), who has been presumed to be $W^m(2a)$ of Figure 9.3.

Benjamin's eldest child William was apparently known by my grandfather, as a cousin of his father, and he is shown in 1871 Census returns at 50 Sheaf Gardens as a breech loading implement maker (aged 30) with wife Mary (30) and children Benjamin (4), Anna Eliz (2) and Wm Thos (1 day). He similarly appears in a contemporary Directory as:

- William J Plant, Breech loading implement maker, 50 Sheaf Gardens (*W.White's 1871*)

Sheaf Gardens was near the Ponds where Sheffield's other main railway station, the Midland Station was opened at this time, in 1870.

9.4 Some ambiguities of birth place

The general evidence seems to remain consistent with our underlying theory:

- ...that the 'Hunter Roade' data is for $W^m(1)$ and
- ...that the Sheffield shoemaker William was $W^m(1)$'s son $W^m(2a)$ who had moved with others of the family to live in Sheffield after being baptised at Clowne.

This is borne out further in subsequent chapters by some additional information about Plants in the area, including a rich source of information in an 1805 will (Chapter 12).

Now that we have evidence supporting these assertions, we are left with an apparent contradiction however. Both $W^m(1)$ and $W^m(2a)$ were baptised at Clowne, which is in Derbyshire, and this needs to be reconciled with the 1841 Census returns, which list

each of these two Williams with a 'Y' to the question of whether they had been born 'in the county' which was Yorkshire, albeit near the border. This now leaves us to ponder such notions as:

- the 1841 entries of 'Y' to Yorkshire for these two Williams may have been incorrect entries that arose simply from carelessness or forgetfulness; or,
- the shoemaker $W^m(2a)$ and his father $W^m(1)$ (assuming he is the one indicated above to be at the Hunter Road farm of the Roberts in 1841) perhaps did not wish in Census returns to point out that they were from a different county for administrative reasons (*e.g.* around 1835, Samuel Roberts championed the protests of the poor against the prospects of their being herded into the centralized workhouses of the two new Unions of townships — *viz.* Sheffield and Ecclesall Bierlow — and the ratepayers were also discontented at the prospects of their having to share the costs of the problems of other 'foreign' townships; this may have led to some reticence in some individuals to admitting that they had come from a 'foreign' area). Further reasons why these two Williams may have taken some pride in a *local* allegiance will begin to unfold further in subsequent Chapters.

At least in the case of $W^m(1)$, there is some evidence to favour possibilities in the nature of 'carelessness'. In the same 1841 Hunter Road household as where $W^m(1)$ is recorded as 'Y' to Yorkshire, just such 'carelessness' is evident in that the children Jonathon Plant and John Roberts are also recorded as 'Y' to Yorkshire, despite the 1851 Census entries which indicate that these children had been born, in fact, at Clowne in Derbyshire. It is conceivable that a sub-culture of 'carelessness', or even evasiveness, may have arisen in this household partly in connection with the illegitimacy of Ann's first children, given the contemporary emergence of a growing emphasis on rectitude throughout early Victorian society. This evidence for 'carelessness' or 'evasiveness' is augmented, for this household, by further inaccuracies, as appear for some of the stated ages in the 1841 data, and this combines to provide ample justification for disregarding the 'Y' for $W^m(1)$.

However, the explanation *might* be different for $W^m(2a)$, such as:

- the mother (Elizabeth) of the shoemaker $W^m(2a)$ may have returned from a visit into Yorkshire, after his (perhaps premature) birth, for a baptism at Clowne — for example, the parish of Clowne in Derbyshire almost touches the parish of Harthill in Yorkshire. Furthermore, $W^m(1)$'s widow was from Pontefract and, assuming that it was this Elizabeth who was $W^m(1)$'s wife at the time of $W^m(2a)$'s birth, it may perhaps be regarded as relevant that Pontefract is some 20 miles north into Yorkshire. It may be added that it seems that the family may have had associations with nearby Little Sheffield in Yorkshire from an early date, as will be discussed more fully later (Chapter 10). Thus, possible visits of $W^m(2a)$'s parents to Little Sheffield in Ecclesall Bierlow could provide another possible explanation of $W^m(2a)$'s stated birth place of Yorkshire.

The nature of the connection between $W^m(2a)$ and *Plant's Yard* in Little Sheffield will be explored in some detail in the next Chapter and some relevant discussion of when this family may have arrived near this 'Yard' is presented in the following section. The 'link up' between Clowne Plants from Duckmanton and other Duckmanton Plants in Sheffield is confirmed by an 1805 will and the connection forms the basis of the next few Chapters which, it turns out, place Plants *quite close* to some 'mainstream' episodes of Sheffield's history around 1800.

9.5 Possible travels of this family group

In view of the foregoing considerations, it may be assumed that the 1841 statement of 'Y' to Yorkshire, for the 'Ag.Lab.' $W^m(1)$'s birthplace of 1772, could be spurious. He may not in fact have moved to Yorkshire until as late as 1835, for example, when it began that his daughter Ann's children were being born near *Plant's Yard* in Ecclesall Bierlow instead of at Clowne. On the other hand, it may be noted that the Plants had a base near Sheffield from as early as the mid 18th. century and $W^m(1)$'s wife was apparently from Pontefract in Yorkshire implying that some appreciable travelling must have been incurred by $W^m(1)$ or his wife before 1799, if she is the one who by then was bearing his children. These children were being *baptised* (and according to some of the Census returns *born*) until as late as 1817 at Clowne, which is where $W^m(1)$'s father was buried in 1827 and where one of $W^m(1)$'s children was buried (aged 22) in 1833. Certainly, $W^m(1)$'s son Thomas was in Ecclesfield, near Sheffield, by 1826 and $W^m(1)$'s presumed son, the shoemaker $W^m(2a)$ was married in Sheffield in 1828. Also, it may have been $W^m(1)$'s cousin Benjamin (a son of James 1740-1825 of Figure 9.1) who was the carpenter Benjamin who was in Ecclesall by 1826, as was described earlier in Chapter 8, and this will be discussed further in Chapter 10.

$W^m(1)$'s youngest son, the shoemaker Benjamin, would only have been 9 by 1826, or 18 even by 1835, and it seems reasonable to consider that he may have moved from his stated birthplace of Clowne with (one or both of) his parents and/or (some of) his siblings (such as the shoemaker $W^m(2a)$), to live nearer to Sheffield whilst he was still young (perhaps between 1817 and 1826). It will be explained more fully in Chapters 10 and 11 why it may be supposed that the Duckmanton Plant family had an early base near Sheffield and it is accordingly conceivable that $W^m(1)$'s family may have travelled back and forth between Little Sheffield and Clowne from before the turn of the century. In the 1841 Census returns, there is at Clowne an Elizabeth Plant (rounded age 60, born outside Derbyshire) and this may have been $W^m(1)$'s wife, who was missing from Hunter Road near Sheffield on the Census night of 1841, and so we may suppose that she may *still* have been making the journey *even by then* between Sheffield and Clowne, perhaps by that time to visit old friends in Clowne.

WE ALL KNOW ABOUT GRANDMA PLANT

or

IF UNCLE HADN'T MARRIED AN AUSTRIAN

The June 1992 issue of the West Surrey Family History Society Journal contained an article by Jennifer Tombs relative to 'detective' work that she carried out concerning her Grandma Plant

With her permission and also the permission of The West Surrey Society I am repeating this article as an example of determination in solving family mysteries

Grandma PLANT had lived in Ipswich all her life. She told us this as little girls. This was going to be easy. She had been 21 when Queen Victoria died and her birthday was All Fools Day. One of her favourite sayings was about how being born a Beeton should have made her a good cook but she hated cooking and served up what she cooked regardless. A search of our memories gathered in the information that she had been born at Dover Castle. One bedtime story was about the time she was chased by a monkey and ran into a stranger's house and how the black lady had rescued her and shown her the piccaninnies with their hair in lots of little pigtails. But that was, after all, just a story!!!

So we have Elizabeth Beeton born 14 1880 possibly born in Dover or Ipswich because how many Grandmas are born in a Castle? There she was in the Parish Records in St Helens, Ipswich, Mary Elizabeth Beeton marrying Ernest Richard Plant in 1906, aged 26. Her father was Walter Charles Beeton (deceased). A quick search of the baptisms in Ipswich did not find her birth. So to St. Catherine's. A quick look showed no sign of Mary Elizabeth Beeton or even Elizabeth Beeton being born in that quarter or the next anywhere in Britain. More upsetting was the fact that a much more thorough search did not find her either.

Back to Ipswich to round up the relatives. Then Auntie, in a "surely you must know the story" sort of voice, told us that in the 1950s Grandma wanted a passport to go to Austria to see her daughter-in-law's family but first she needed her Birth Certificate. The same problem was encountered at Somerset House (as it was then). Grandma had thought hard, and suddenly said that up to the age of twelve she was known as Mary Rivers. When pressed for details she said that as a boy her father and his best friend had volunteered for the the army. Thinking that as brothers they would be posted together they lied about their ages and tossed a coin to see which name to take. Yes, the friend won and Walter Charles Beeton became (Walter) Charles Rivers. On reapplying to Somerset House a certificate was obtained for Mary Elizabeth Rivers, born 1st April 1880 at The Castle, Dover, the daughter of Walter Charles Rivers and Elizabeth Rivers formerly DAVIES. He was a Gunner in the 10th Brigade Royal Artillery. A search of St Catherine's produced a marriage certificate.

28 12 1877 at the Parish of St John Pater, PEMBROKE

Charles Rivers	full Bachelor	Gunner, Royal Artillery	Pembroke Dock	Charles Rivers	Labourer
Elizabeth Davies	full Spinster		Pembroke Dock	John Davies	Gardener

I went to Kew to find the Attestation Papers for Walter Charles Rivers or Beeton. Several short visits were necessary to find my way round the system and to search but I found him eventually. Charles Rivers enlisted 15 6 1869 aged 19. He was born in St Clements Ipswich and he was a turner. The papers gave a description of him and his medical records and all the places he had served. He had been stationed in Pembroke Dock 1873 and had a wife Elizabeth Davies and a child Mary Elizabeth born 1.4.1880 at Dover. So we had the correct Charles. Not all attestation papers give children's name. Charles had been posted to Bermuda from 1886 until 1890 so Grandma's story of the monkey chasing her was possible. Charles Rivers left the Army in December 1891. He presumably returned to Ipswich and his old name of Beeton. Grandma was then aged twelve and vaguely remembered that. Well we were positive we had the right people.

Back on track we looked up the Ipswich Parish Records for St Clements and found a Walter Charles Beeton, baptised Sept 1851, father Charles, mother Charlotte Emma. In the 1851 census, whilst looking for another family, a note had been made of a Charles and Charlotte Beeton with their children, Henry aged 10, Harriet aged 8, both born in Great Blakenham. Louisa aged 1, born Ipswich. Mother Charlotte was born in Ipswich and father Charles was 34 birthplace unknown. As we now knew that Walter Charles was born after the census night of 30th March 1851, a check in the same area of Ipswich in 1861 showed that Walter Charles aged 10, and Charlotte had been added to the family. But more importantly this time Charles said he was born at Gt Finborough.

A search of the parish records for Gt Finborough came up with the information that Charles was the son of George Beeton and Elizabeth Baldery and was baptised 1817. George Beeton and Elizabeth Boldero had been married in Gt Finborough in 1807. We could not find that George Beeton had been baptised in Gt Finborough. But a John Beeton was buried there in 1818 aged 74, a Thomasine (thank goodness she was not Elizabeth) Beeton buried in 1817 aged 68, and Maria Beeton daughter of John and Thomasine of Stowmarket 1777.

A hopeful look at Stowmarket in the 1770s found John 1771, Robert 1773, Samuel 1774, Maria Thomasine 1777-1777, Robert 1779, Thomas 1781, George 1785 and William 1791, all children of John Beeton and Thomasine formerly Hunt. John Beeton of Stowmarket single man and Thomasine Hunt of Stowmarket were married by Licence 16 5 1770 in Stowmarket. There are lots of Beetons in West Suffolk and so it will be a bit harder to go further back (*though someone, somewhere has gone back to Roger Beaton 1535 of Gt Finborough*). At Gt Finborough there were the M I s of Lucy Beeton. Relict of Samuel Beeton died 1861 at Hadleigh and of Mr Samuel Beeton of London died 1836. Stuck in the register was a letter referring to a Mr Samuel Beeton as the father-in-law of Isabella Beeton or cookbook fame. From a biography of Isabella and her husband Sam, we found that Samuel born 1774 was the third son of John and Thomasine. He went to London, married and ran the Dolphin tavern in Milk Street. He had a son Samuel Powell.

Beeton Samuel Powell married and had a son Samuel Orchart Beeton who became the husband of Isabella Beeton Mrs BEETON I wonder if Grandma knew

Auntie was very interested in all this and then referred to her Uncle Bill OK Auntie, who was Uncle Bill? Grandma's elder brother!!! Contact was quickly made via a local paper with Uncle Bill's surviving daughter, Louisa She produced her father's birth certificate 28 7 1876 William Charles Beeton Father Walter Charles Beeton Mother Elizabeth Beeton formerly Davies Walter Charles was a Gunner in the R A and mother resided at The Green, Pembroke She also had her grandparents' marriage certificate

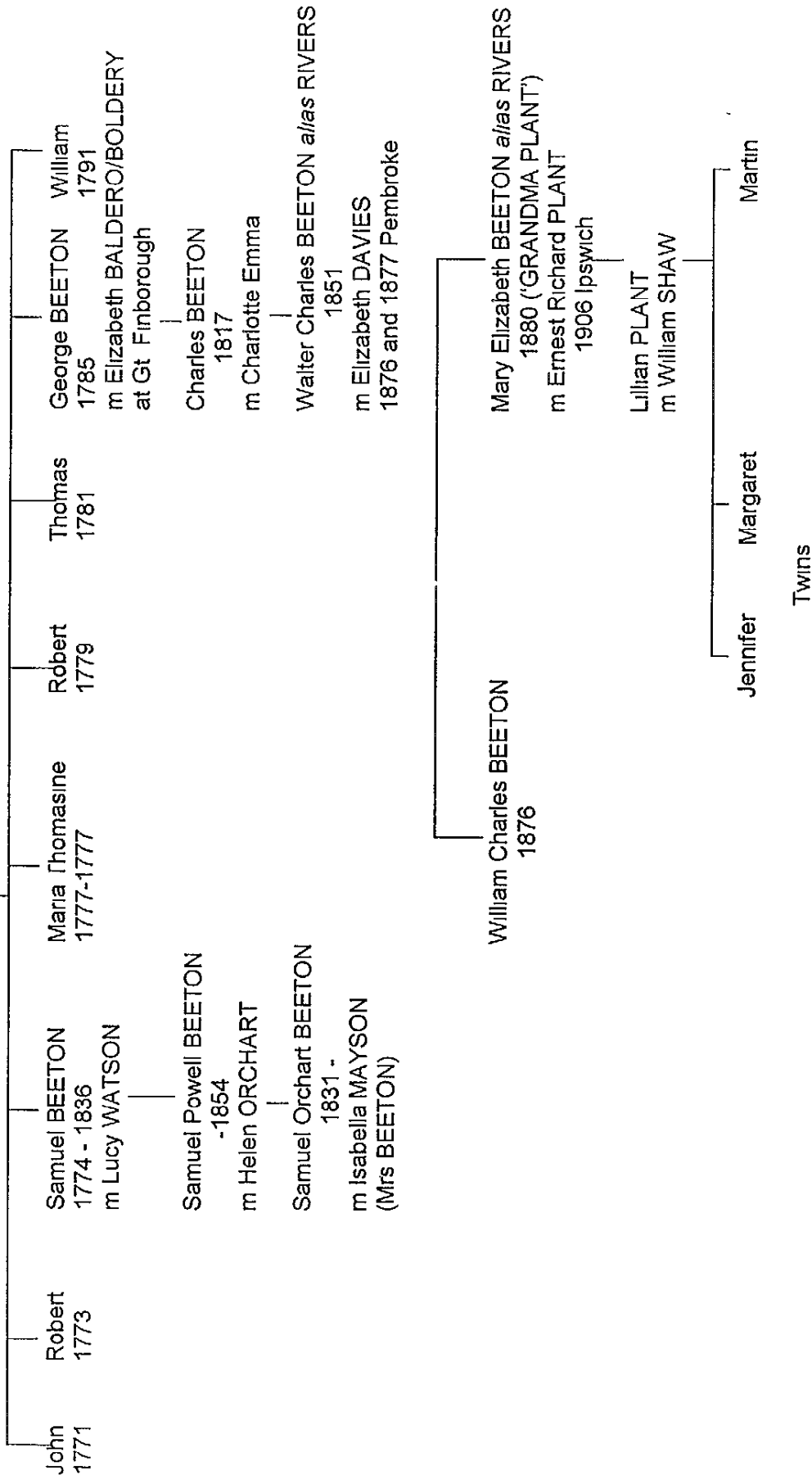
7 May 1876 St Mary, PEMBROKE						
Walter Charles Beeton	24	Bachelor	Gunner 10th Br Royal Artillery	South Hook Pembroke	Charles Beeton	Labourer
Elizabeth Davies	28	Spinster		The Green	John Davies	Gardener

For some reason little William Beetle, as he is named on the 1881 census of Pembroke Green was left with his grandparents John and Mary Davies William always said that he had been born in Bermuda and sent home. This is unlikely as his father was not posted to Bermuda until 1886. Grandma remembered the monkey so surely she would have remembered a brother Grandma did not know she had a brother until she was in her 20s and Walter's sister, Aunt Louisa, who had gone to America, put them in touch with each other probably on the occasion of Walter Charles' death We do not know what happened to great grandmother Elizabeth as Grandma never mentioned her at all

Presumably Walter Charles used his legal name for the first marriage in 1876 and then as he was posted to Dover two weeks later left his wife with her parents to have the baby His second marriage as a RIVERS 18 months later enabled him to get his wife into married quarters by 1880 Presumably as William was still a Beeton in the eyes of the army he was not related and was therefore left behind with his grandparents I wonder what really happened, but *had Uncle not married an Austrian we would never have found out anything about Grandma Plant!*

The above article was by Jennifer Tonks who is the sister of Mrs Margaret Lake (Member No 90) Margaret has submitted a further article relating to her researches into her Plant ancestry in Suffolk and this article will appear in the Summer edition of the Journal

John BEETON = Thomasine HUNT
of Stowmarket m 1770 of Stowmarket



Folio 522 - Bowdon

190 Dunham Rd	John Plant	Head	M	22	Gardener	bn	Wakefield Yorks
	Deborah Plant	Wife	M	21		bn	Kendall

121 West side of Rose Hill	Emma Plant	Servant	U	19	Housemaid	bn	Moulton Cheshire
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House of Wm Walton (Cotton Manufacturer)

Note Emma was dau of Wm & Catherine Plant of Moulton Cheshire

Piece No 2163 - Covering

Agden	Aston by Budworth	Bexton
Bollington	Carrington	Knutsford Inferior
Knutsford Superior	Leigh - High	Lymm
Marthall - Little Warford	Mere	Millington
Ollerton	Partington	Peover - Inferior
Peover - Superior	Pickmere	Plumley
Rostherne	Tabley - Superior	Tabley - Inferior
Tatton	Toft	Warburton

Folio 226 - Aston by Budworth

42 Green Cottage	James Plant	?	?	26	?	?
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House of Samuel Corbishley - Wheelwright

Folio 306 - Over Peover

33 New Hall	Mary Plant	Servant	U	19	Kitchenmaid	bn	Lower Peover Cheshire
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House of Robert & Prescilla Leech - (Farmer)

Folio 330 - Ollerton Township in Marthall & Ollerton

51	Samuel Plant	?	U	41	Servant	bn	Bechton Cheshire
----	--------------	---	---	----	---------	----	------------------

House of Henry & Hannah Stephens - (Farmer)

Folio 433 - Nether Knutsford

159 King St East	John Plant	neph	U	17	Joiner (Abb)	bn	Nether Knutsford Cheshire
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House of William & Sarah Barnes - (Cordwainer)

Folio 484 - Plumley

36 ?	Hannah Plant	S I L.	M	36	Pauper Servant	bn	Crawley Cheshire
	Martha Plant	Niece	U	8	Scholar	bn	Plumley Cheshire

House of Wm & Martha Booth - (Master Bricklayer)

Note - Martha was possibly dau of Thomas & Hannah Plant bn Whitley 10 Aug 1843

Folio 485 - Plumley

43 Plumley Moor	John Plant	Head	M	38	Wheelwright Journeyman	bn	Holmes Chapel Cheshire
	Rhoda Plant	Wife	M	29		bn	Allostock Cheshire

Note - John was son of Thomas & Susannah Plant bn Church Hulme
1 Oct 1813

Folio 496 - Pickmere

35 ?	Thos Plant	Servant	U	35	Farm Servant	bn	Aston by Budworth Cheshire
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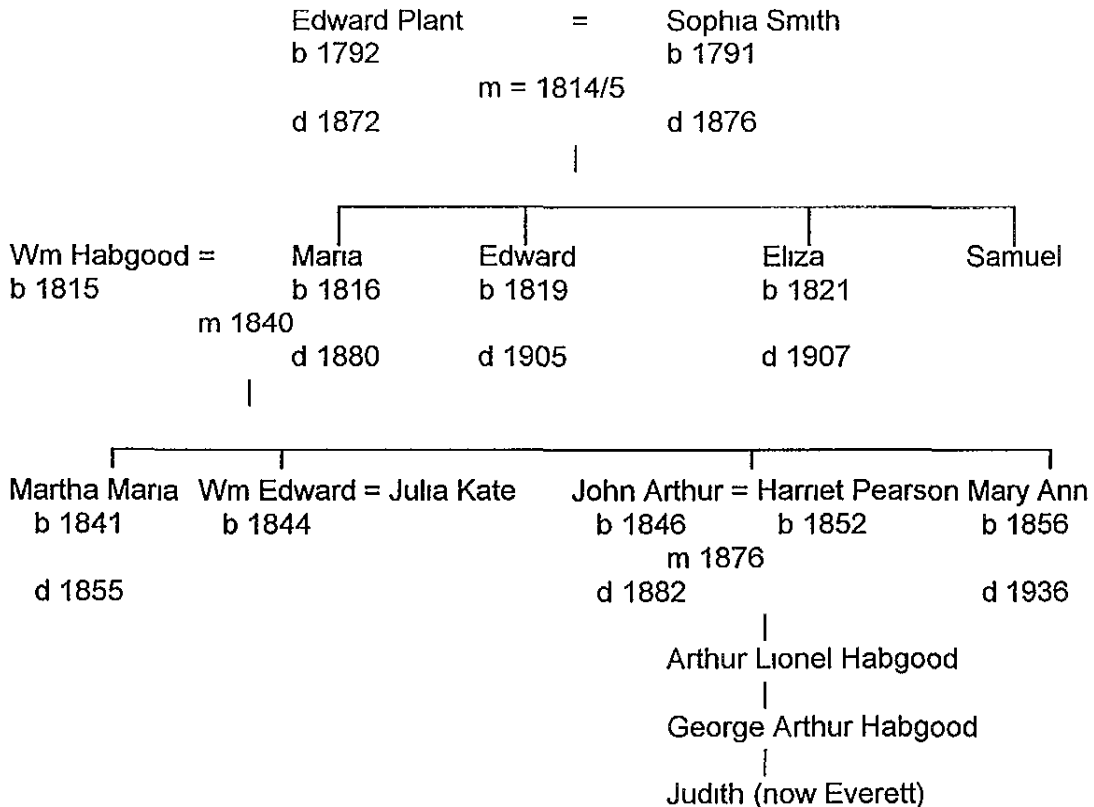
House of Harriet Hickson

Note - Thomas was possibly the son of Thomas & Hannah Plant bn Crawley 21 July 1816

PLANTS OF GLOUCESTER

Some time ago I received a letter from Mrs Judith Everett in which she related the story of one of her ancestors, Edward Plant, who with his children and grandchildren resided in Gloucester through the 19th Century

It would appear that most of the information in her story has been handed down through the Family and by researching Census returns and wills Judith has pieced together a story not untypical of a successful 19th Century Family



Edward Plant was born on 26 January 1792 in Derby, and christened three days later in Friargate Presbyterian Church

At some point he moved to Gloucester, where he married Sophia Smith. They must have married in about 1815, when they were both about 23. She was quite a skilled dressmaker apparently, and perhaps Edward thought she had business potential

They did not have a large family, even though they were young when they married, and this must have caused whispered comments among their neighbours at a time when small families were rare. There were four children: Samuel (called after Edward's elder brother), Maria (called after Edward's elder sister), born in 1816, Edward, born in 1819, and Eliza, born in 1821

Edward was a machine maker. But that was not how he got rich

I imagine that quite early on in his life he let rooms in his house, he certainly did in later life. His wife, I'm sure, was kept hard at work doing dressmaking. He saved his money (and hers), and started buying property

In 1826 he bought two houses, one in Oxbody Lane

The years passed, and the children grew up

In 1840 they were living at 12 Berkeley Street, a road quite close to the center of the town. Maria was now 23 and had met a wealthy young businessman called William Habgood. He came from Cricklade, not far away, but was going to go up to the north of England where he had a factory which produced lace, underclothes, silks, velvet, dainty umbrellas and that kind of thing. The Habgood family was well-established in the wholesale haberdashery, so there were definite connections there with the machinery side of the Plant family business. It is possible that Edward weighed matters up and thought he might use this young man as a sales outlet for his machinery and also for his wife's dresses and hats. William probably thought he might be able to get machinery more cheaply from a future father-in-law, and perhaps a certain amount of stock from his mother-in-law.

William and Maria got married and set off for the north of England, where they lived in some luxury - for a while.

The next year, 1841, Edward had to give an account of himself and his family in the census, the first census of its kind. He described himself as an engineer, on other occasions he had called himself a 'machine maker'. Sophia was a dressmaker and milliner. The younger Edward was obviously helping in the family business, because he too was an engineer, and Eliza was helping her mother in her dressmaking business. Quite a hive of activity. Samuel had already left home by this time, probably after a serious quarrel with his father.

They had two servants, Elizabeth Roan, who was only 12, and another woman of about 20. They probably had to guess her age, because they didn't even know her name. Some families always called the servant by a servant-like name, regardless of their real names.

Ten years later the census enumerator called again. Very little had changed in ten years: everyone was still working at the same businesses. Neither Edward nor Eliza had married, perhaps their father had prevented it. He needed them there to make money for him, perhaps. There was only one servant living in now, a maid of all work who was a local woman of 30 called Hester Trapp. But the house was full of people. Emily Tucker, 16, and Sarah Laker, 12, who were both apprenticed to Sophia to learn the dressmaker's trade. Sophia would have found it cheaper to employ young girls rather than adults to work for her. One room was let to Martha Barrup, a lady annuitant of 56, and 2 rooms were let to Barristers in Practice, on the night of the census these were Thomas Bross and William D Ryder. Edward called the barristers and the apprentices 'visitors', but it is obvious that they all formed part of his money-making schemes. The house must have been quite impressive if barristers rented rooms in it.

They must have made quite a bit of money, what with the engineering, the dressmaking, and the letting, because after a while they moved to a house in a very expensive part of Gloucester, only 5 minutes' walk away from their old one, but in the more upper class district of St Michael. Their new address was 5 Clarence Street.

It was a big, 4-storey house, in white stone with pillars and other ornamentation, a *very impressive house for a very rich person*. These days, *none of the houses in that road are occupied privately, they are all divided up and let out to solicitors and estate agents*

Soon after this, Maria and her husband and children returned to the area, probably after the failure of the business in Manchester. Perhaps they were bankrupt and had to rely on the charity of her father, or perhaps they decided to pool their resources and work together. Whatever the situation, Maria and her children, Martha and John, went to live with the Plant family and worked hard for their keep. No more sitting about living a life of luxury for Maria, and no more pampering for the children. It must have been quite a shock for the Habgoods to be suddenly poor, and to have to depend on charity.

In 1855, about 4 years after they had come to live with Maria's parents, little Martha Maria, now 14, developed rheumatic fever. The illness went from bad to worse, the heart was affected. For 10 weeks, through October, November, and early December she lay ill. In mid-December she developed bronchitis, and a few days later, with her grandmother at her bedside, she died.

Maria, her mother, was to give birth again soon afterwards. The next year, in Bristol, at 39 years old, a baby girl was born whom they called Mary Ann, after her father's sister.

Maria continued to work in her mother's business, making dresses, while her son, John, who was now in his teens, became a draper's apprentice. Their father, William, did not seem to be around, perhaps he was dead, or perhaps he was away frequently away from home working as a commercial traveller. Maria had been used to having servants to wait on her hand and foot, now there was only one servant for a large household, Eliza Price, a woman of 23.

In 1861, the younger Edward, the son, was now 42 and still unmarried, Eliza also, at 39. Relations were probably getting a bit strained and the way of life beginning to seem more and more intolerable, because Edward gave up working for his father, and devoted himself instead to painting. What a contrast! It sounds like a rejection of the materialist lifestyle in favour of something more emotionally satisfying. I'm sure his father did not approve! But the younger Edward couldn't have had much of a life, still working for his father, still single. He probably felt very frustrated. It obviously wasn't a happy household. It starts to look as though Samuel was the lucky one, to escape.

Edward, the father, was by this time an old man of 69. He was not employed, according to the census, he was an "owner of houses". He owned several cottages, and was getting rich by buying property and letting it, as well as letting rooms in his own house. At some point in his life he bought numbers 22 and 24 Clarence Street (easy to supervise - he could see them from his own window, and easy to collect rents from), number 13 Brunswick Square, and Elstow Villas, Midland Road. All, with the exception of the last one, are large and expensive houses, which collectively would certainly cost well over £1,000,000 by today's prices. There may have been other houses as well. But Edward was still working at his machines, he was not the type of person to take things easy while he could be making money. Sophia also was still working, at 68, she was still making her dresses, with the help of Maria and Eliza. There must have been considerable resentment against

Edward, their son, for apparently idling his time away painting pictures when his aged parents were working their fingers to the bone

Poor Edward He never made it as an artist Nobody recalls his name; no paintings remain Eventually he faced the fact that, as an artist, he was a failure, and returned to work as a machinist

In 1871, when Edward was 79 years old, he was still, unbelievably, working And still his wife worked as a dressmaker, with Eliza's help. Maria had left the household and was rapidly heading for penury, ill-health and alcoholism; John Habgood was grown up now, and had left their home long ago, had jobs working as a clothier's assistant in various places in the north of England; he had made a girl pregnant, and was to embark on an unsuccessful marriage with her, and much worse was to come for him. Mary Anne, now 15, was still there, quite predictably working as a dressmaker, and with the family there is a new worker, an 18 year old from Hampshire called Emma Augusta Hiellman, naturally, she is helping with the dressmaking. She would have been some company for Mary Anne in this household of old people The current servant girl was called Matilda Mayo, a local girl of 18

Edward the father had had a long and industrious life, but it was coming to an end. On 17 April 1872, at the age of 80, he died

He had made a will back in 1858. He had left everything to his wife to be divided after her death between Edward, Eliza and Maria. He did not mention the grandchildren. Nothing, but nothing, was to go to Samuel. An unforgiving will, to exclude Samuel for all those years.

The will was proved in June. The personal Estate was under £100; Edward obviously didn't believe in letting money lie idle. The property, unfortunately not listed in this will, must have been worth a huge sum of money.

Sophia was already ailing. For the last 5 years of her life she had not been well, eventually died on 10 February 1876 at the age of 84 The cause of her death is quite illegible When registering her death, her son Edward described her as the widow of Edward Plant, 'proprietor of houses'. This was in spite of the fact that she obviously had run her own millinery and dressmaking business for a lifetime.

Edward and Eliza themselves were now approaching 60 and growing old, but they at least had no intention of working until they were 80, as their parents had done They moved out of the house at 5 Clarence Street - perhaps this was sold to pay Maria her share of the inheritance They moved into one of their other houses, number 24 Clarence Street. They gave up work completely And so did Mary Anne, who was now 25 But with all the rents, they would never need to work again They had one servant, Mary Ann Howell, an 18 year old from Bristol But there were no apprentices, no lodgers, no boarders, no 'visitors', and above all, no dressmaking

The money Maria had inherited from her father only served to fuel her alcoholism, and she developed cirrhosis of the liver All the money disappeared, she had had to resort to her dressmaking again, and took a lodging in Bristol In 1880, she died, and left no will A fortunately timed death, she was not to see the sickness, shame and death which befell her son, John, the following year

Edward lived another 30 years after his father died. Mary Ann never married, she stayed with her uncle Edward and aunt Eliza and looked after them in their old age not an exiting life, she was a girl of 16 when her grandfather, Edward, died and she was already a middle-aged spinster when her uncle Edward died. He died on 3 December 1905 at the age of 87. (They were a very long lived family, hard work and frugality are obviously good for the health!)

Wills had now become more specific when property was involved, and in his will Edward listed the addresses of houses, which have been bought by his father and rented. They had not sold them, they had lived off the proceeds. He left a bit to William Habgood (Maria's eldest son), and to Arthur, (Maria's grandson, the son of John, who was now dead), and the rest was for Mary Anne.

This is the last Will and testament of me Edward Plant of Clarence Street in Gloucester Gentleman of which I appoint my niece Mary Ann Habgood to be sole Executor I bequeath a legacy of two hundred and fifty pounds to my nephew William Edward Habgood of Swindon and a legacy of one hundred and fifty pounds to my Great Nephew Arthur Lionel Habgood of Harrogate both which legacies I direct my Executor to pay at the end of three months after my death and free of legacy duty I devise my messuage being number 13 in Brunswick Square and my messuage called Elstow Villa in Midland Road both in Gloucester to my Sister Eliza Plant for her lifetime but after her death I devise the same to the said Mary Ann Habgood. I devise my messuages being numbers 22 and 24 in Clarence Street in Gloucester and all my other real estate (if any) to the said Mary Ann Habgood to whom also I bequeath all the residue of my personal estate in witness whereof I here subscribe my name this fifteenth day of September 1900.

Edward Plant

Signed by the testator in the presence of us in who in his and each other's presence at the same time subscribe our names as witnesses

Fred H Bretherton Sol Gloucester

Frank H Bretherton his son

Midland Road is an upper working class road these days, Elstow Villa no longer exists due to a road widening scheme. 13 Brunswick Square is a pleasant, tall terraced house built in the Georgian style in a square which has an enclosed garden in the center. It is now divided into flats. Many of the houses in the square are let to solicitors. Clarence Street, of which only the even numbers now remain, contains grandiose four storey houses mainly occupied by estate agents and solicitors.

But what a price Mary Anne had paid for her wealth, like Edward and Eliza before her.

Two years later, Eliza died. She had made a will very soon after her brother's death. She left £10 each to William (Maria's eldest son) and Arthur Lionel (John's only child), and everything else to Mary Anne.

Poor little Arthur Lionel Habgood. He was so much in need of some good fortune - he could have done with a slightly bigger share of the money! But no doubt, once his mother had remarried, he would have had very little contact with the Plants of Gloucester. His stepfather might have resented them. And his mother would probably have wanted to forget the appalling memories of her first marriage.

William Habgood was obviously not totally forgotten, he must have brought his wife and children to see them from time to time. To Mary Ann, they must have been her only surviving family

She moved house First to 106 London Road, Gloucester, then to Bishopstone House, Brunswick Road, then Rathlyn, Barnwood Road near the city

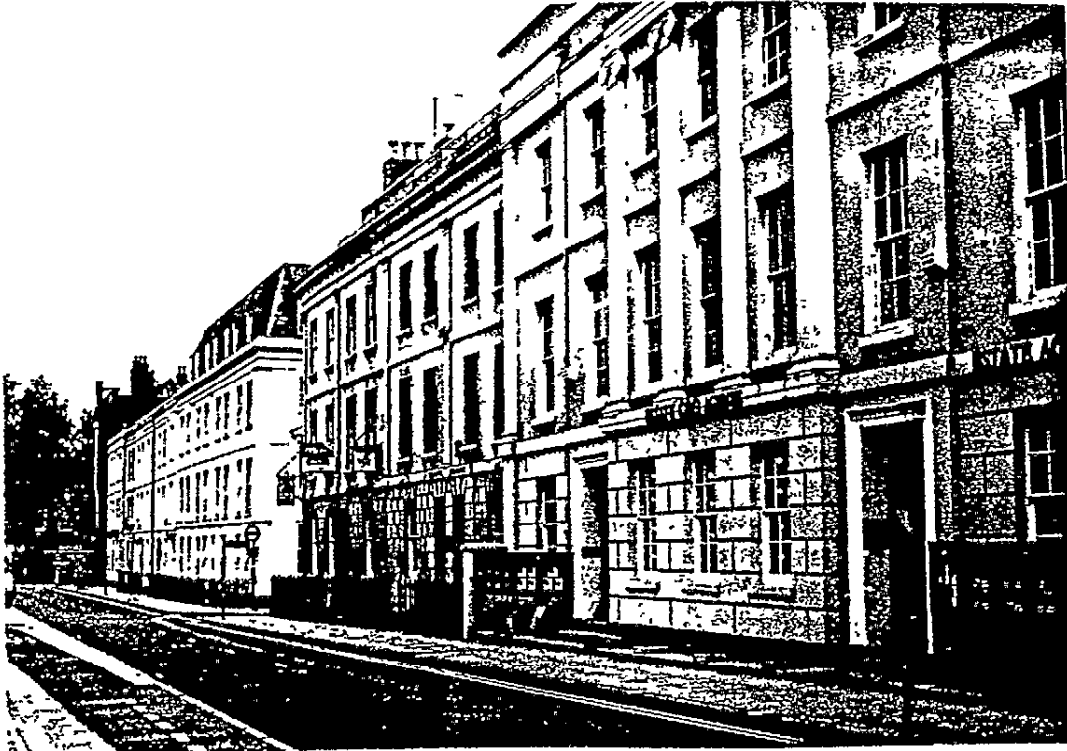
She did not marry

In 1923 she made a will. All her property was to be sold, the money invested, and half of the interest was to go to Julia, the wife of William, Mary's brother. When Julia died, half the capital was to go to the Royal Gloucester Infirmary. The interest from the other half was to go to two cousins, Mary and Edith Eleanor Habgood. (These must have been the children of Martha, or John or Thomas Habgood, the children of Thomas the vet. It is interesting that they had probably kept in touch all those years) When they died, the remaining capital was to go to Work for Blinded Soldier and Sailors, a London charity.

But in 1931 she added a codicil, to the effect that Mary and Edith should inherit a full half of the money, not just the interest for their lifetimes So the blind soldiers and sailors did not benefit

In 1936, she died

Edward Plant's money may have made him happy, but it seemed to bring stagnation and emptiness to Edward, Eliza and Mary. It probably had something to do with the illness of John Habgood; and if so, it could be blamed for the terrible start to Arthur Lionel Habgood's life, too.



Clarence Street

13 Brunswick Square



Villas" in Midland Road

JOHN PLANT OF HAZZLEWOOD HOUSE FARM - LEEK FIRTH

The last 3 issues of the Journal have contained a copy of John Plant's diary for 1849

The following review covering the year was prepared by Catharine Ann Hind who researched and transcribed the original diaries

A Review of the Past Year 1849

Hazzlewood has had a good year for Twinters! - that is, a heifer which was born one of twins and has the genes to possibly calve twins herself. A valuable heifer

John Plant was disappointed to miss trading with the cheese factor, the more galling since he was out wasting time and energy coping with the turmoil at the Royal Oak. His only profit from that is to bear the brunt of Mr Hargreaves being "very stormy". Elsewhere, John Plant proudly records, he is in demand to carve the joints at funerals, a singular honor

Sacrament Sundays were an obligation five times a year for Church members to direct their prayers to the well-being of their own parish. They ploughed through the Offices of Matins and Evensong, with a celebration of Holy Eucharist between, and sermons at each. One clergyman recorded, "I go into church at 10.00 a.m. and rarely leave before 2 p.m.", to which his congregation no doubt responded a heartfelt "Amen".

Charity Sermons were preached, with a Collection for the Chanty Schools of the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge

Days of Humiliation were observed in all churches, prompted by that body of political reformers, the Chartists. Acts of mourning and penitence were made to atone for the collective sins of the Nation. (Days of Humiliation disappeared after 1860). John Plant tried to conserve time and energy by making his Observance at Rushton, and whilst over there he joined the Vicar in prayer at what was believed to be Mr Hargreaves death-bed

A new branch of the railway opened in June (not the Manifold Valley Line, for that was not opened for another forty years). The girls sampled the railway, investing in a first class carriage, an outing for those new dresses and bonnets

The new line was another opening for a wider market for local products, not least Hazzlewood cheeses, which now went into greater production

How nearly the Leek project was shelved was revealed by Mr Challinor, solicitor, at a meeting of 700-plus shareholders at Stoke, eight months after the Opening

" when the North Staffordshire railway was projected, seeing the strange system of parallel lines and branches included in it, we at Leek doubted very much if it was the real intention to make the line by Leek. we were successful in procuring the clause originally sought, and the construction of the Churnet Line by Leek. This was the part I am proud of having taken for the benefit of my native town "

The diaries will be continued in the next issue commencing with the entry for 1 January 1850

MONETARY VALUES IN BYEGONE TIMES

Recent issues of the West Surrey Family History Society and The Somerset and Dorset Family History Society Journals contained articles which may be of interest when making comparisons, usually from wills, relating the value of the estate or legacies to present day values

With the permission of the appropriate Family History Society and the authors of the articles I am repeating below the following articles

What Were My Ancestors Worth by Tim Wilcock and printed in the September 1992 issue of the West Surrey Family History Society Journal

At some stage in their researches most family historians discover details of amounts of money dealt with by their ancestors. These details are commonly found in wills, either in the total value of the estate or in the legacies, but can also concern taxes paid or amounts paid for property or even amounts paid out for parish relief to the poor

It is useful to know how much such amounts of money would be worth at present day values, as the inflation of the last 75 years has altered dramatically the spending power of money. The most usual way of calculating the present day value of money is to use a price index. I have compiled such an index from different sources, to enable the value of money to be calculated from 1830 to the present day.

The table following shows the index, which has a base of 100 at the start in 1830. This table enables us to calculate the present day spending power of money in any year since 1830.

The best way to describe the use of the index table is to work several examples from my own family history. I am afraid that you will need to resort to a pocket calculator in order to complete the calculations!

My four-greats grandfather John Wilcock died in 1849 aged 72, and left a will which was proved in the Prerogative Court of York with estate valued at £100. The index value in the table for 1849 is 87, and for 1992 (May) is 3487. The 1992 value of the estate is therefore £100 divided by 87 and multiplied by 3487 - £4,008 - not particularly rich but not a pauper, and quite well off for a Wakefield milkman.

His son Richard Wilcock died in May 1891 (having very considerably stayed alive to appear on the 1891 Census!). He was the epitome of the Victorian self made man, a rhubarb farmer and something of a local property magnate. His will was valued at £2,129. The index for 1891 is 79, and so the present value of his estate is £93,972 ($2129 \times 3487/79$). An interesting point to note is that between 1849 and 1891 prices did not increase - in fact they declined by 10%

Richard's son John, my great-great grandfather, died in 1911. He was also a rhubarb farmer and market gardener, and left estate of £7,106. The 1992 value of this estate is £272,293 ($7106 \times 3487/91$)

My researches are now concentrated on finding out where all the money has gone! It is interesting to note that it took the upheavals of the First World War to take prices back up to their 1830 level

The index table has been compiled from several sources. The period 1830-1900 is taken from British Historical Facts 1830-1900 by Chris Cook and Brendan Keith (Macmillan 1975)

The period 1900-1915 is from British Political Facts 1900-1985 by David and Gareth Butler (Macmillan 1986) Both books contain invaluable background information for the family historian and can be consulted in most large reference libraries The period 1915-1992 was based on the Retail Price Index published monthly in Accountancy magazine.

TABLE OF PRICE INDICES 1930-1992

<u>Year</u>	<u>Index</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Index</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Index</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>index</u>
1830	100	1875	107	1920	225	1965	370
1831	103	1876	106	1921	205	1966	385
1832	100	1877	101	1922	165	1967	395
1833	98	1878	93	1923	158	1968	413
1834	103	1879	90	1924	158	1969	436
1835	103	1880	94	1925	160	1970	463
1836	113	1881	91	1926	155	1971	508
1837	108	1882	93	1927	153	1972	543
1838	109	1883	93	1928	150	1973	593
1839	119	1884	87	1929	148	1974	688
1840	117	1885	81	1930	143	1975	856
1841	111	1886	76	1931	135	1976	996
1842	102	1887	74	1932	130	1977	1156
1843	96	1888	77	1933	128	1978	1249
1844	99	1889	77	1934	128	1979	1419
1845	101	1890	80	1935	130	1980	1674
1846	100	1891	79	1936	133	1981	1872
1847	106	1892	75	1937	140	1982	2032
1848	101	1893	75	1938	143	1983	2128
1849	87	1894	68	1939	143	1984	2233
1850	87	1895	66	1940	168	1985	2368
1851	83	1896	67	1941	180	1986	2448
1852	86	1897	68	1942	180	1987	2551
1853	103	1898	72	1943	180	1988	2676
1854	115	1899	77	1944	183	1989	2883
1855	115	1900	83	1945	185	1990	3156
1856	114	1901	80	1946	185	1991	3341
1857	117	1902	80	1947	185	1992	3487
1858	102	1903	80	1948	198		
1859	106	1904	83	1949	205		
1860	110	1905	80	1950	210		
1861	106	1906	83	1951	230		
1862	110	1907	87	1952	250		
1863	111	1908	87	1953	258		
1864	109	1909	87	1954	263		
1865	107	1910	91	1955	275		
1866	110	1911	91	1956	288		
1867	108	1912	95	1957	298		
1868	106	1913	99	1958	308		
1869	98	1914	99	1959	308		
1870	101	1915	118	1960	313		
1871	106	1916	133	1961	323		
1872	117	1917	160	1962	335		
1873	117	1918	185	1963	343		
1874	111	1919	195	1964	355		

WHAT WAS IT REALLY WORTH? by Dr Steven Chapman and printed by The Somerset and Dorset Family History Society

How often do references to sums of money in family history research make you wonder about relative values in present day terms? The first official cost-of-living index was calculated in 1914, and based on expenditure of working class families in 1904. This was replaced by an Index of Retail Prices in 1947. The Central Statistical Office then produced an index of prices of consumer goods and services in 1973, which covered the period 1914-1972. This General Index of Retail Prices (January 1974 = 100) is published monthly by the Central Statistical Office, but is conveniently summarised in Whitakers Almanack.

While this index helps with recent times, a fascinating paper by Brown & Hopkins (1956) tackled the problem of relative values over a much longer period. The authors provide "an aggregate price year by year for a composite commodity" which contains "comparable items" from 1264 until 1954. These estimates overlap the official statistics for the period 1914 to 1954. While the two sets of data do not correspond exactly they can be combined, by means of a "best fit", to produce a general picture of the relative values from 1290 to the present day.

The table shows both the cost of a standard unit of consumables (RPI), and the relative value of money (RVAL) in relation to one pound in January 1992.

<u>Year</u>	<u>RPI</u>	<u>RVAL</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>RPI</u>	<u>RVAL</u>
1290	0.78	676.9	1650	8.23	64.54
1300	1.11	479.22	1660	6.71	79.17
1310	1.32	401.12	1670	5.66	93.85
1320	1.04	510.87	1680	5.57	95.34
1330	1.18	451.27	1690	5.03	105.56
1340	0.91	564.08	1700	6.58	80.70
1350	1.00	530.90	1710	7.82	67.86
1360	1.32	401.12	1720	6.23	85.28
1370	1.80	294.30	1730	5.87	90.40
1380	1.04	510.87	1740	6.31	84.09
1390	1.04	510.87	1750	5.78	91.78
1400	1.02	520.69	1760	6.30	84.22
1410	1.27	416.55	1770	7.00	75.84
1420	1.00	530.90	1780	7.16	74.18
1430	1.35	392.40	1790	8.54	62.17
1440	1.37	386.80	1800	15.36	34.56
1450	1.00	530.90	1810	16.37	32.43
1460	0.95	558.27	1820	13.26	40.02
1470	1.00	530.90	1830	11.24	47.25
1480	1.01	525.75	1840	12.43	42.71
1490	1.04	510.87	1850	9.50	55.88
1500	0.92	576.08	1860	12.88	41.21
1510	1.01	525.75	1870	12.17	43.64
1520	1.34	395.27	1880	11.51	46.13
1530	1.66	320.42	1890	9.28	57.18
1540	1.55	342.73	1900	9.75	54.48
1550	2.57	206.69	1910	9.75	54.48

1560	2 60	204 35	1920	23 70	22 40
1570	2 94	180 51	1930	13 60	39 04
1580	3 35	158 34	1940	20 40	26 02
1590	3 88	136 75	1950	31 60	16 80
1600	4 50	117 98	1960	45 60	11 64
1610	4 93	107 66	1970	69 10	7 68
1620	4.75	111 65	1980	259 70	2 04
1630	5 83	91 01	1990	493 50	1.08
1640	5 35	99 18	1992	530 90	1/ 00

Table 1 Relative Price Index (RPI, 1450 = 1 0) and Relative Value of Money (RVAL, Jan 1992 = 1 0) Based on data from Brown & Hopkins (1956), and Monthly Digest of Statistics HMSO

Dr Steven Chapman, Hope House, Winterbourne Zelston, Dorset

STAFFORDSHIRE BURIAL INDEX

continued from Journals 3 + 4 + 6 + 8 covering Noah to Samuel

1792	May 27	Noah	Brierley Hill
1799	May 21	Noah son of John & Maria infant	do
1833	Aug 13	Noah of Church Lane 1	Tipton
1830	Dec 23	Olive of Pool end 13	Leek
1836	Jan 22	Olive of Highfield Cottage infant	Leek
1802	Apr 6	Peter 3	Brierley Hill
1836	June 18	Peter of Brettell Lane 67	do
1799	Feb 20	Phebe a stranger	Burslem
1787	Oct 15	Phillip	Cheddleton
1801	Jan 23	Philip boy	Burslem
1817	Oct 17	Philip of Brockmoor 17	Brierley Hill
1821	June 3	Philip of Gossy Bank 1	do
1828	Mar 9	Philip of Hot Lane 73	Burslem
1830	Sep 24	Philip 34 Killed by falling from a house	Rolleston
1785	Apr 12	Phoebe 4	Brierley Hill
1815	May 31	Phoebe 18 months	Wolverhampton
1815	Nov 25	Phoebe of Mill St 2	Leek
1821	Jun 15	Phoebe of Brockmoor 3	Brierley Hill
1814	Mar 7	Rachel of Stoke 1 year 3 months	Longton
1816	Sep 15	Rachael of Leekmoor 19	Leek
1823	Feb 27	Rachel of Leekmoor 77	Leek
1831	Jan 21	Rachel of Pool End 15	do
1640	Oct 29	Radulphus f Radulphi et Mariae	Dilhome
1658	June 26	Ralph son of John	do
1686	Feb 27	Radulphus	do
1649	Apr 26	Raphe	do
1787	May 24	Ralph infant paup	Burslem
1815	Dec 21	Ralph 22	do
1827	Feb 26	Ralph of Hot Lane 74	do
1833	May 22	Ralph 8 months	Burslem St Paul
1817	Nov 30	Rebecca of Oldcott 26	Newchapel
1822	Mar 19	Rebecca of Mill St 50	Leek
1831	Feb 8	Rebekah of Spring House 87	Rowley Regis
1837	Oct 22	Rebecca of Mill St 3 years	Leek
1771	Jan 3	Richard	Dilhome
1778	Aug 3	Richard Wakelam infant	Brierley Hill
1782	Jul 2	Richard	Alstonfield
1789	Apr 6	Richard	Bucknall cum Bagnall
1795	Feb 5	Richard	do
1807	Apr 27	Richard 63	Longton
1811	May 23	Richard son of Benjamin & Judith	Biddulph
1822	Nov 3	Richard 49	Wolstanton
1823	Sep 29	Richard 7 mths Hanley	Norton le Moors
1823	Dec 2	Richard of Mill St 90	Leek
1827	Mar 7	Richard of Mill St infant	do
1829	Jul 9	Richard of Forebridge 4 days	Stafford St Chad
1828	Apr 27	Richard of Brockmoor 32	Brierley Hill

1833	Mar	27	Richard of Dale Hall	41	Burslem St Paul
1837	Apr	28	Richard of High Lane	39	do
1837	Oct	18	Richmond of Rowley Regis	13	Brierley Hill
1722	Jan	12	Robert son of Thomas		Cheadle
1783	Dec	7	Robert		Alstonfield
1804	Nov	18	Robert	45	Brierley Hill
1816	Jan	15	Robert of Croxton	82	Eccleshall
1820	May	24	Robert	57	Gnosall
1820	Sep	18	Robert of the back of the town	5 days	Cheadle
1823	Mar	27	Robert of Rooost Hill	33	Leek
1833	Feb	3	Robert	79	Ashley
1835	Oct	22	Robert of Bell Yard	59	Cheadle
1835	Apr	5	Rosanna of Chebsey	3	Eccleshall
1821	Apr	11	Sabina	18 months	Stoke on Trent
1837	Apr	23	Sabra Gosty Hill	1	Rowley Regis
1593	Apr	30	Sampson son of Robert		Abbots Bromley
1609/10	Mar	16	Samson		do
1788	Jul	23	Samuel		Burslem
1791	Sep	27	Samuel son of Samuel & Ellen		Longton
1799	Feb	7	Samuel	20	do
1800	Apr	16	Samuel		Kingsley
1802	Aug	26	Samuel	infant	Burslem
1815	Apr	5	Samuel of Yarnfield	21	Swynnerton
1816	Feb	12	Samuel of Penkhull	2	Stoke on Trent
1816	Feb	26	Samuel of Lawn	1	Ellenhall
1816	May	19	Samuel	68	Uttoxeter
1817	Feb	9	Samuel of Crossgate	infant	Fulford
1818	Sep	6	Samuel of Hanley	67	Stoke on Trent
1821	Apr	29	Samuel of Fenton Lowe	30	do
1821	Aug	11	Samuel of Doley	14	Gnosall
1823	Apr	15	Samuel	5 months	Uttoxeter
1825	Feb	4	Samuel of Nab End	3	Longnor
1825	Mar	5	Samuel of back of the town	67	Cheadle
1825	Mar	13	Samuel of Bearstone	46	Mucclstone
1829	Sep	13	Samuel	24	Longton
1832	Feb	12	Samuel	1	Burslem
1835	Jun	9	Samuel	59	Longton
1836	Dec	7	Samuel	infant	Newcastle under Lyme