

Roots and Branches

The Official Journal of
The Plant Family History Group

Issue N° 11 Jan 96

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From information given by members of the Group

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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/
2	Mr John Plant	General
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/
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/
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 Sian 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 Bran 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 Yarnfield + Stafford/
93	Cordelia R Shields	19c Stafford/any period Connecticut USA/
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 Kornfein	L19c Wisbech Cambs/L19c Battersea London/
110	Mrs Myrtle Reid	L19c + e20c Darlaston + Walsall + West Bromwich, Staffs/
111	Mr Malc John Plant	Any period Sibsey 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/
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	18c + 19c Northants/19c Rutland/19c Hants + Cambs/L19c + e20c 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	18c + e19c North Staffordshire/
129	Mrs Denise North	19c West Midlands/
131	Mrs Jean Walpole	m19c Wolverhampton Staffordshire/ L19c Camberwell, Surrey/
132	Miss Linda Wilks	Any period Potteries, Staffordshire/

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- | | | |
|-----|------------------|--|
| 133 | Mr Nick Dykes | Any period RH + SL Plant Ltd/ |
| 134 | Mrs Hillary Bell | 19c Haslington, Cheshire/ |
| 135 | Ms Helen Plant | Pre 1828 Hanley Staffs/ |
| 136 | Mrs Joyce E Shaw | Pre 1881 Leek Staffs/1881 onwards Manchester
+ Salford |
| 137 | Mr David Plant | Pre 1800 Clowne Derby/ 1840 onwards Doncaster/
19c Worksop/19c Retford/19c Cheltenham |
| 138 | Mrs Jean Ray | 19c Sheffield |

• CHAPTER 11 •

Sheffield Area Plants by Dr John Plant - Member No 52

Plant Lands Near Plant's Yard

SOME 18TH CENTURY PROPERTY ACQUISITIONS BY PLANTS NEAR PLANT'S YARD¹

There seem to have been few known Plants throughout a wide area of several parishes around the site of Plant's Yard in Little Sheffield, around 1800 --- the available data for such Plant properties appear to relate to a bricklayer John and a bellows-maker Benjamin. As will be described further later (Chapter 12), some relatives of the wife of this Benjamin Plant were prominent in the administration of Ecclesall and the neighbouring town of Sheffield, by the late 18th century, and Plant properties can be traced through these times which feature the (1779-88) Parliamentary Act for the Enclosure of Common Lands in Ecclesall. The repercussions of this Act form a key episode in Sheffield's developing destiny of progressing from being a small town to becoming, a century later, a major industrial city.

11.1 Ecclesall Plants

The chapelry of Ecclesall in the parish of Sheffield extends SW from central Sheffield towards Dore. In part, it lies between the Porter Brook and the River Sheaf but, near the site of Plant's Yard in Little Sheffield², it extended north of the Porter to include the ancient estate of Broom-hall and the common land of (Little) Sheffield Moor.

The bellows maker *Ben(bellows)* ('1742-1806), or '*Benjamin Plant of Sheffield Moor*' as he is known in a standard work on Sheffield's history³, is shown later in this Chapter to have held various properties around the edges of (Little) Sheffield Moor in Ecclesall. A foretaste of impending developments here, in Benjamin's lifetime, can be found in an early eighteenth century couplet, which is associated with a visit of Lord Oxford to Sheffield in 1725⁴.

*'When Sheffield Moor is ploughed and sown
Then Little England look to thine own'*

though it was not ploughing and sowing to which (Little) Sheffield Moor was to succumb. To the Moor's immediate west was Broom Hall.

11.1.1 The Gells and Eyres of Broom Hall in Ecclesall

The IGI⁵ suggests that an ancestral home of the Plants in the region was around 15 miles SW of Sheffield in the parishes of Bakewell, Great Longstone and Edensor⁶. A 1538 Bakewell deed⁷ shows that a Christopher Plant was leasing estate there from Ralf Gell of Hopton, whose fortunes were based on wool and lead mining. Christopher Plant was apparently Gell's bailiff. Ralf Gell's son enhanced the family fortunes sufficiently, with legal fees, to buy the Manors of Wirksworth and Carsington and founded Wirksworth School. It was Sir John Gell of Hopton who, a century later, kept Derbyshire under firm Roundhead control throughout the Civil War and held Sheffield Castle, controlling Sheffield and Rotherham, in 1642-3.

From around these times, the Eyre family repeatedly married into the Jessop family of Broom Hall and in particular, one such spouse called John Eyre changed his name to John Gell of Hopton on inheriting the Gell fortunes through the death of his mother around the start of the 18th century. The

¹ Including data supplied by Jose King of Sheffield Archives and by Pat Clark of the Local Studies Centre, Sheffield City Libraries

² Little Sheffield was a separate hamlet, about a mile to the south of Sheffield town, with (Little) Sheffield Moor lying between the two

³ Peeps into the Past being passages from the diary of Thomas Asline Ward, edited by A. B. Bell, 1909

⁴ This is described in the book 'The Manor and parish of Ecclesall, including the enclosure of Common and Waste Land there' by Carolus Paulus (1927), Chapter V

⁵ International Genealogical Index, Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints (1992)

⁶ J. S. Plant (Jan 1992) Roots and Branches, 3, pps 12-15

⁷ Official Guide to the Old House Museum, Bakewell, Bakewell and District Historical Society (1984), page 2.

Eyre family is noted, for example, for having built a new Catholic chapel at North Lees near Hathersage following the accession of James II to the throne in 1685. The home of the Eyre family was at Highlow, Hathersage, which is roughly midway between Bakewell and Sheffield.

It seems that the Plants may have come to Sheffield and Rotherham around the times of Gell's Parliamentary sympathies with Sheffield⁸. The advance of Gell's parliamentary forces on Sheffield in the Civil war was followed by Gell connections with the Eyres and Broom Hall. It may be more than just coincidence that in 1764 a Robert Plant married Anne Eyre at Edensor, some 15 miles SW of Sheffield, and a Tho Plant married Mary Eyre there in 1766 around the time when *Ben(bellows)* came 10 miles from the south to Sheffield and acquired Broom-hall land.

In 1777 John Eyre's son, Philip Gell (1723-1795), leased his ancient estate at Bakewell to the famous industrialist, Sir Richard Arkwright, who is sometimes called '*the father of the industrial age*', and the road called Via Gellia was cut to connect Gell's mines around Wirksworth with the Cromford Canal, which opened in 1793. This Philip Gell was co-owner of the broom-hall estate near Sheffield and he was clearly familiar with some key major aspects of the so-called Industrial Revolution.

Immediately to the east of Broom Hall was (Little) Sheffield Moor and this was rapidly developed after being divided into small allotments in 1788 at the time of the Parliamentary Enclosure Award for Ecclesall. The British Prime Minister of 1765 and 1782, the Marquis of Rockingham Charles Watson Wentworth, had married Mary Bright on 27.2.1752 and he and his Fitzwilliam heirs, of the prominent Whig House of Wentworth, had thereby become the Lords of Ecclesall Manor. The By-Laws of Ecclesall Byerlow were administered by the Lord's Court Baron and Court Leet and, in 1826, some 17 years before their work became unnecessary, Benjamin Plant's friend and nephew, Samuel Broomhead Ward (Figure 11.1), was the foremost person of these courts, the Foreman of the Jurors⁹. *Ben(bellow)*'s nephew, S. B. Ward, hence presided over such Juries as the Homage Jury whose members included such as Edward Harwood who had also been appointed to the additional duty of Special Constable for Button Lane on (Little) Sheffield Moor, which was by then in a built up area not far from a site that was becoming widely known as Plant's Yard.

(a) 1772 Land Tax records			(b) 1773-4 Rate Book	
own	Enock Tickeyt	5/7 ¹ / ₂	Enoch Tickit	1/6
own	Mr Farebank	3/9	Mr Fairbank	1/-
2	Widow Middleton	1/3	Widw Midleton	4
own	Benjn Plant		Benjn Plant	6
Benjn Plant	& Mrs Redfeam Houses	5/7 ¹ / ₂	& for Mr Redfeams	1/-
Mr Smith	Mrs William Smith	3/9	Mr Wm Smith	1/-
Own	Elkana Roberts	2/6	Elkana Roberts	8
Mr Newbold	Mrs Newbold or Tenant	5 7 ¹ / ₂	Mr Newbould Wheel	2/-
Broomhall	Mrs Broomhead Wheel & Stalker Field	7/6 2/6	Late ? Hents & Broomhall Land	10 10

Table 11.1 Some early 1770's records

11.1.2 Uncertain Origins of the Name of Plant in Ecclesall

It seems that there were Plants in Ecclesall at least from as early as the mid eighteenth century. As will be described more fully later, there are entries '*Late Plant yard*' in 1779 and 1786 Ecclesall rate books (Table 11.2) and it seems possible that these could refer to property that had belonged to an earlier generation of Plants.

⁸ There is a Sheffield baptism entry for a Ruth to a John Plant on 15.3.1737.

⁹ This was published in the *Sheffield and Rotherham Independent* (1st April 1826) whose editor was another nephew of Benjamin Plant, Thomas Asline Ward (Figure 11.2).

There is no immediately clear indication of earlier Plant property here, though there are separate references to Benjamin Plant in property records dating back to the early 1770's (Table 11 1) There are relatively few available records for before the 1788 Parliamentary Enclosure Award for Ecclesall though some *possibly relevant* early information has been found in such records as a few poor relief rate books, land tax and window tax records which, for before 1779, are part of the Wentworth Woodhouse Muniments in Sheffield Archives¹⁰.

The closest known explanation, in earlier papers, for the 1779 and 1786 entries '*Late Plant yard*' is represented by a 1774 entry '*Late ? Kents (10d) & Broomhall Land (10d)*'. This entry, in a 1774 rate book (Table 11 1(b)), might be thought to tally with later 1793-5 Plant property records that also mention Broomhall land (Table 11.4). This postulated *possible* connection can be traced back to 1742-3 rate books which contain '*Richard ?Kont (1/8d) and for Broomhall Land (1/4d)*' Earlier 1729 Window Tax records include an entry '*Rich ? Kent (6d)*'

The 1729 handwritten surname in *Rich ? Kent* is not dissimilar to *Plont* written in one of the various styles that had proliferated by 1700 after Secretary Hand gave way to Italic Hand¹¹ An ambiguously written *Plont* could have been copied to a more definite *Kent* and a Richard Plont, in an area where Plant's were previously unknown, may have inadvertently acquired *Kent* as an alias --- indeed, bearing in mind that aliases were more commonplace at those times, he may have kept *Kent* as his alias in order to preserve his property rights.

In particular, such a theory would explain why the 1774 entry *Late ? Kents ..* ' is replaced with '*Late Plant yard*' in 1779 following the arrival in Sheffield of *Ben(bellows)* with a neat signature that was incontrovertibly *Plant* This simple theory, of *Plont* being aliased to *Kent*, could also be applied to such facts as -

- there is a stubborn gap around 1700 in the local Plant family history record, at a time when writings could confuse *Plont* and *Kent*, and
- the 1741 Master Cutler was called Richard Kent before *Ben(bellows)* became closely associated with several Master Cutlers¹².

For the moment, however, suffice it to note that the available evidence *may be* amenable to an interpretation that there could have been a Richard *Plont* in Ecclesall by 1729 It is uncertain, however, whether there was a close connection with, for example, a Richard Pl(o/a)nt(e) who married on 21 8 1682 at Great Longstone (Chapter 2) though it can immediately be said that *this* marriage seems too early to tally with a notion that *this* could have been the 1741 Master Cutler Richard Kent who may have been related to a Rotherham Kent family

11.1.3 Uncertain Location of 'Late Plant Yard'

It seems uncertain that the Ecclesall entries '*Late Plant yard*' in 1779 and 1786 (Table 11 2) apply to the site subsequently known as *Plant's Yard* in Little Sheffield (Chapter 10)

It may be helpful to try to clarify some details of these times It seems that Benjamin Plant was still, in 1784, living a mile to the north of Little Sheffield in Coalpit Lane at the SW edge of Sheffield town By 1787, Benjamin's brother, John, had moved to Little Sheffield (Chapter 10) and John and Benjamin had acquired two adjacent pieces of land at Broom Close in Little Sheffield, at least by 1798 (Chapter 13)

¹⁰ These records are part of the William Bright collection (B P 103-110) and acknowledgment is accordingly made to Olive, Countess Fitzwilliam's Settlement Trustees and the Director of Sheffield City Libraries for access to them

¹¹ The downstroke of an *l* could easily convert *P* to *K* and the similarity of *o* and *o* at those times is well known For further evidence of contemporary handwriting styles, see Terrick V H FitzHugh (1985) *The Dictionary of Genealogy*, page 266 and Eve McLaughlin (1990) *Further Steps in Family History*, page 43

¹² The IGI indicates that the name Kent was generally rare throughout Yorkshire and Derbyshire, apart from a cluster at Rotherham about 6 miles NE of Sheffield Surprisingly, there are as many as 4 Richard Kents of a roughly suitable age to have been the 1741 Master Cutler, all baptised at Rotherham, and one of these (bap 18 10 1694) had a brother William (bap 30 11 1700) of a suitable age to tally with *W^o* (o) of Figure 11 1

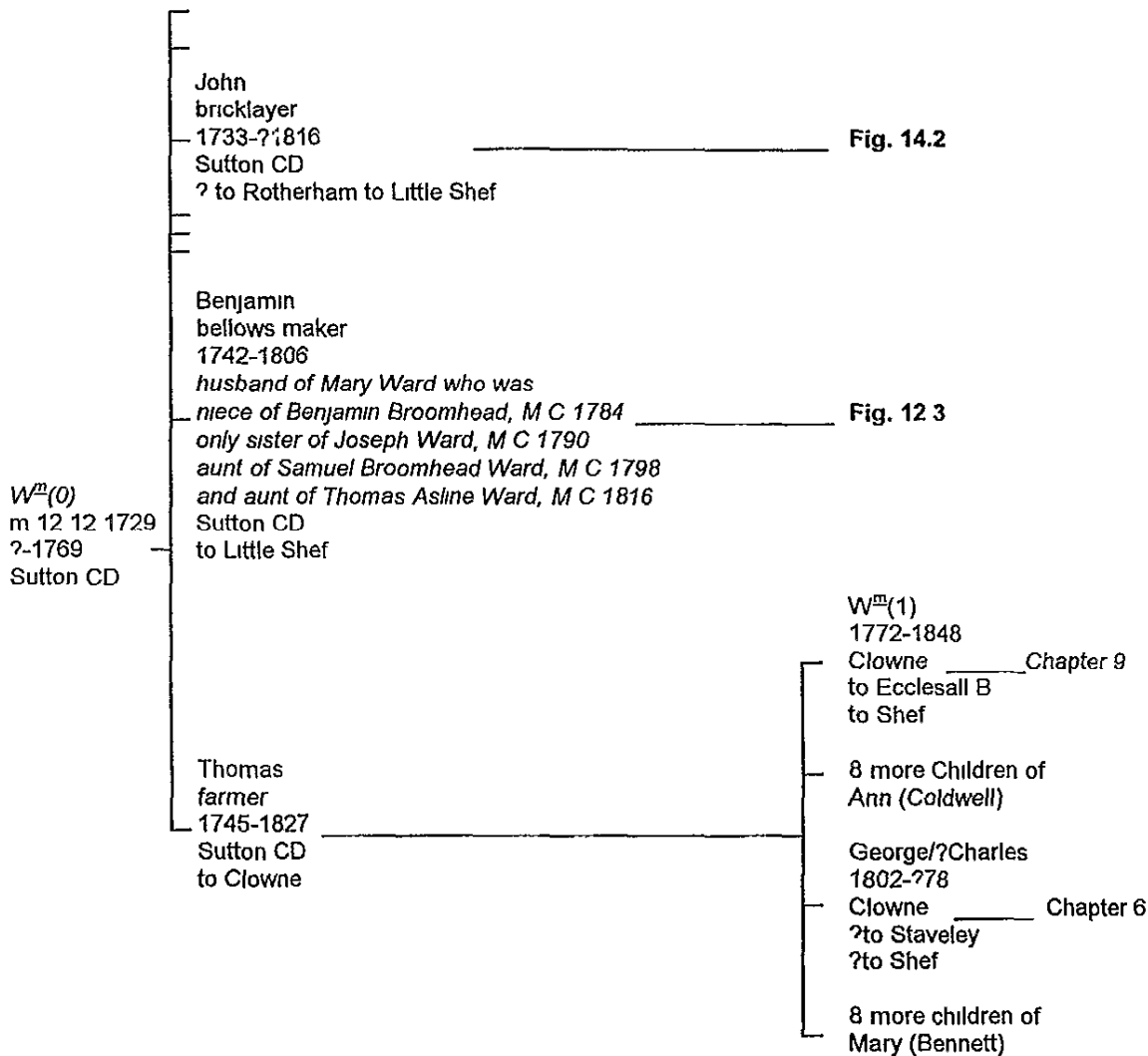


Figure 11.1 Some Plants associated with Little Sheffield

We might attempt to guess at a date of purchase of this Little Sheffield property, which may have been around the time of John Plant's arrival in Little Sheffield from Rotherham, perhaps around 1787. On the other hand the rate book entry 'Late Plant yard' occurs clearly in 1779 and 1786, at that time when it is uncertain that the Plants were established in Little Sheffield. This leaves us to ponder whether, for example, this Broom Close site could have been called *Late Plant yard* whilst it was being owned temporarily by Edward Shepherd, from whom the Plants bought the site¹³ that was to become widely known some years later as *Plant's Yard*.

Some further relevant information may be forthcoming in due course, perhaps from some early property deeds¹⁴. For the moment, however, our considerations need to be left open to such possibilities as one that *Late Plant yard*, and perhaps also the earlier *Late ? Kents* . . ., were nearer central Sheffield, before its expansion, where they may have had some commercial significance.

¹⁴ The Wakefield index of the registered versions of deeds is alphabetical from 1794 onwards but, from 1704 to 1793, it consists of 25 volumes which are alphabetical in initial letter only, so that the entire 'P' (and 'K') section in every volume would have to be searched (I am grateful to the Principal Archivist of the West Yorkshire Archive Service, Michael Bottomley, for assistance with such information). A full search of the Plant entries has accordingly been made (so far) only for 1794-1863.

¹³ This is indicated in subsequent property deeds.

11.1.4 Some pre-1786 Rate Books

A 1779 Ecclesall rate book, signed on the 6th September 1779, states a Poor Relief rate of 2d in the pound. The rate increases threefold to 6d in a rate book of 27 June 1786, though the individual instalments typically double as indicated in Table 11.2

Though the items are listed in a rather different order in the 1786 rate book, it can be noted for example that the 1779 entry 'Mr Plant' appears almost next to an entry 'Mr Newbold Wheel' and similar proximity is apparent in the earlier records of Table 11.1. The entry 'Mr Newbold Wheel' no doubt refers to the Newbould family's water wheel, the Broomhall Wheel, on Broom-hall land near the site that was subsequently widely known as *Plant's Yard* and as will be explained more fully later, there appears to have been a close relationship between Benjamin Plant's wife's family, the Wards, and the Newboulds

(a) 1779 2d in £	(b) 1786 6d in £
..	Joseph Sampson 8
.	Mr Ibbotson 1/8
Mr Fairbank 1/-	And for Wheel 4
Widw Middleton 4	
Mr Plant 1/-	Benjn Plant 2/-
Ellena Roberts 8	And for Roberts 1/4
Mr Newbold Wheel 2/-	.
..	Late Plant yard 2/4
Late Plant yard 1/2	Mr Sykes for Gribbet 7/0
Mr Ibbotson Wheel 2/-	Plant 3 ¹ / ₂ Unwin 6 ¹ / ₂ 1/8

Table 11.2 Some Pre-Enclosure Award rate book entries

There is also, in 1786 (Table 11.2(b)), a reference to Joseph Sampson who also appears in the 1774 rate book and who may have been a relative of Samuel Sampson who married Benjamin's daughter, Mary Ward Plant, in 1788. There is an associated reference to *J Sampson* in 1800 in the diary of Benjamin Plant's nephew, T. A. Ward, as will be described more fully in Chapter 12. The 1786 entry for Sampson is next to one for *Ibbotson and his Wheel* and there was a close connection between Benjamin Plant and this Ibbotson, as will be described further later.

11.1.5 Two Early Deeds

The name of Roberts, in particular Elkana Roberts, seems closely associated with the name of Benjamin Plant in 1772-86 records (Tables 11.1 and 11.2) and just such an association occurs at Coalpit Lane on Sheffield's SW edge in a 1784 property deed which refers back to earlier times. This deed refers back as far as the demise of a cutler Joseph Down(e)s to a cutler Samuel Thwaites, in 1695, though it does not indicate how a Plant connection had subsequently arisen

A 1794 Deed in the name of the bellows maker Benjamin Plant (DO-684-836) refers to an earlier 1784 deed (20 Dec 1784) registered at Wakefield on 18 April 1785 (CQ-240-350). This 1784 deed is between 'Benjamin Plant of Coalpit Lane otherwise Cowpit Lane... Bellowsmaker .. and Joseph Kay of Sheffield aforesaid penknifemaker¹⁵, and concerns a 'piece or parcel of a Close situate lying and being at the South West End of the Town of Sheffield on the west side of the Cowpit Lane called Balm Croft alias Garlick Croft'. The ground is specified to contain 'the House of the said Joseph Downes as the same was demised and let by the said Joseph Downes .. cutler to Samuel Thwaites cutler in and by a certain Indenture of Lease bearing date' 25 March 1695 'for the Term of seven hundred and ninety five years'. The ground is also stated to contain 'those three Tenements or Dwellinghouses thereon erected and built together with the Garden and yard thereto belonging as the same premises were heretofore in the several possessions of Elkanah Roberts the Elder,

¹⁵ The later 1794 deed was in the names of 'Benjamin Plant late of Cowpit Lane but now of Little Sheffield Bellowsmaker Joseph Kay of Sheffield Gentleman heretofore penknifemaker and Elizabeth Pitt of Carlton in the parsh of Royston in the said County of York Widow'

Elkanah Roberts the Younger... and now of the said Elkanah Roberts the Younger ... and James Bennet. This 1784 deed also mentions *'and all outhouses Edifices Buildings Barns Stables .. Yards Orchards Gardens Ways Watercourses Easements...'*.

A 1771 map¹⁶ taken together with measurements in later deeds suggest that this 1784 deed might apply to a strip of properties extending about 46 yards between Coalpit Lane and the parallel Back Lane which backed onto open ground near the head of (Little) Sheffield Moor. This 'Balm Croft' property may have been near 'Balm Green' which lay away from the turnpike road from Sheffield to Chesterfield at the far end of Coalpit Lane.

11.1.6 Some Contemporary Developments

Development from this south west boundary of Sheffield town was encouraged by the Ecclesall Enclosure Act (1779-88), since it divided the common of (Little) Sheffield Moor into small allotments which were of little use except for building. This partitioning led to the spread down the Moor of Sheffield's buildings from Coal-pit Lane at its head, where Benjamin Plant held property, subsequently to engulf the site later known as *Plant's Yard* in the hitherto separate hamlet of Little Sheffield just south west of the Porter Brook at the foot of the Moor --- the ancient estate of Broom Hall, which lay immediately to the west of this Sheffield Moor development, did not escape its impact.

11.2 Parliamentary Enclosure near Sheffield

Nationally, the procedure of Enclosure by Acts of Parliament had begun around 1710, though it was not until the 1760-1820 reign of King George III that many applications were made. The results of the application for Ecclesall, which began in 1779, have been written about widely as a key episode in enabling Sheffield's subsequent growth. The following account mentions the particular role of *Ben(bellow)'s* wife's family, the Wards, as well as the impact of these tumultuous times on the Vicar of Sheffield, who was co-owner with Philip Gell of the Broom Hall estate--- this rather well known and controversially regarded Vicar, the Rev James Wilkinson, was a cousin of Philip Gell whose family *apparently* had rather ancient associations with the Plants.

11.2.1 Parliamentary Enclosure for Ecclesall

Enclosure for Ecclesall, which was the first by Parliamentary Act near Sheffield, took place between 1779 and 1788, and for Upper and Nether Hallam between 1791 and 1805. Earlier Ecclesall had included Upper and Nether Hallam and, in 1819, each was still electing an Ecclesall Chapel Warden. In his standard work on Sheffield parish¹⁷, Hunter records an irregular boundary to the north of Ecclesall because of the difficulties of separating it from the neighbouring two Hallams at the time of the Parliamentary Enclosure of Common and Waste Lands there. Despite Hunter's use of the term 'Ecclesall township' in his 1819 work, it was still sparsely populated, especially to the west.

11.2.2 Public Discontent

Significant beneficiaries of the 1788 Ecclesall award included the Duke of Norfolk and Benjamin Plant's young friend and nephew, Samuel Broomhead Ward (1770-1849). In general the 1788 Enclosure Award offered advantage to some highly-placed residents and large holders.

This first Enclosure Act near Sheffield brought the nature of the general process of Parliamentary Enclosure to the widespread attention of the local inhabitants and this brought with it a growth of public discontent. The 1788 Act deemed that 3412 acres of Ecclesall were occupied already leaving 806 acres for the Enclosure Award. Earlier enclosures of less than 40 years' standing were not recognised. Discontent arose in particular amongst a large number of the owners and occupiers of tofts and massuages who suffered loss in as much as the compensatory *small* allotments were of no direct use to them in connection with their traditional right to pasture or turn geese on the common. When it became known that the Ecclesall Act was to be followed by one for the Hallams, a public

¹⁶ This map is entitled 'A Correct Plan of the Town of Sheffield in the County of York Drawn by Wm Fairbank 1771'

¹⁷ Joseph Hunter (1819) *Hallamshire: The History and Topography of the Parish of Sheffield in the County of York*

notice of opposition was posted in the *Sheffield Register* (6th September 1787). Despite general awareness of such growing opposition, application for the Hallam Act was delayed no longer when George Wood took over as Master Cutler from Benjamin Plant's brother-in-law, Joseph Ward (Figure 11 2), in 1791.

The 1791 Broom Hall Disturbance

The situation then became alarming

The Vicar of Sheffield, the Master Cutler and a town trustee petitioned the Home Office for military aid claiming the arrival in Sheffield of fugitives from a very different riot in Birmingham. Aid was forthcoming in the form of a company of Light Dragoons from Nottingham, which caused commotion on their arrival in Sheffield on 27 June 1791. A notorious element of the crown that gathered outside the Tontine Inn went on to release prisoners from the jail in King Street and then on to Broom-hall, the residence of the Vicar Wilkinson, where they caused substantial damage before their dispersal by the army¹⁸. Thirteen prisoners were taken, of which eight were released with caution. The remaining five were sent to York, heavily laden in irons, where four of them were acquitted but a John Bennet(t) was found guilty of setting fire, with three others who had escaped, to the library in Broom Hall and to the haystacks outside.

In his book, Carolus Paulus states that the 'youthful' John Bennet was hanged, though he gives two conflicting dates for this (7 Sep and 20 Sep 1791) and some dispute has been broadcast on the local radio in recent years as to whether the death sentence was ever carried out, or whether some crude technique was offered instead to alter Bennet's personality before a surreptitious release.

Various John Bennets

It has to be viewed with suspicion, however, that this John Bennet was in any way related to a John Bennet who owned property next to Benjamin Plant's properties in Coal-pit Lane, shortly afterwards in 1793 (cf the James Bennet who appears in the 1784 property deed for Coalpit Lane described above).

Certainly any association can be dismissed with the bachelor John Bennet who subsequently became a close associate of another Benjamin Plant's nephews, Charles Plant from Clowne (Figure 11 1 and Chapter 6) as this John Bennet (d 21.12.1835) was probably Charles Plant's uncle, who would have been too young (bap 7 4.1782 Hague Common, Stavely) to fit the role of the guilty party. The father of this uncle of Charles was also called John Bennet but he would have been too old to be described as 'youthful' in 1791.

It may be pointed out, more generally, that the name Bennet(t) was not uncommon in the area.

The Public View

Rightly or wrongly, the populace blamed Vicar Wilkinson of Broom-hall for being one of the main promoters of Parliamentary Enclosure and his unpopularity did not cease with John Bennet's death sentence. The Ecclesiastical Enclosure award had ruled against Vicar Wilkinson and Philip Gell in their claim that Broom-hall should be placed outside the jurisdiction of the Lord of the Manor and this failed challenge may have left some resentments in high places. Furthermore, whilst the Lord of the Manor himself had gained little allotment, the Vicar had obtained 20 acres which may have helped to fuel his unpopularity with the poor.

In one of his historical works¹⁹, Robert Eadon Leader records the story of a little girl who was incited by mischievous fellows to go up to a gentleman and say

*'They burnt his books
And scared his rooks
And set his stacks on fire'*

¹⁸ The damage at Broom-hall included much to the Library which had been collected by the Rev Wilkinson's great-grandfather, Francis Jessop, one of the earliest members of the Royal Society

¹⁹ R E Leader, *Sheffield of the 18th Century* (1901) page 240

The gentleman, who was none less than the Vicar himself, replied "What my dear?" The little girl repeated the chant prompting the reply "Yes my dear, come along with me" whence he led her to the stocks to her great distress.

11.2.3 The Plant's Neighbouring Position

We can not be sure whether the Plant family's ancient association with the Gells caused *Ben(bellows)*'s sympathies to extend to Philip Gell's cousin, the Vicar, after the 1791 conflagration of Broom Hall. We may note however that the Broom-hall estate included five water wheels along the Porter Brook just to the north of the subsequent *Plant's Yard* --- Benjamin Plant's step-father-in-law, Samuel Broomhead, was tenant of one of these, the Stalker Wheel, by 1765 and this was inherited by Benjamin's brother-in-law, Joseph Ward, by 1794, at which time Benjamin himself acquired land near another, the Broomhall Wheel, as will be described more fully towards the end of this Chapter

It may also be recalled that *Ben(bellows)*'s close friend and nephew, Samuel Broomhead Ward, had been amongst the main beneficiaries of the 1788 Ecclesall Award and so it seems unlikely that *he* would have been *violently* opposed to the practice of Enclosure in general. It can be added, however, that Benjamin Plant's brother-in-law, Joseph Ward, had not *himself* applied for *further* Parliamentary Enclosure in *his* year of office as Master Cutler, in the year preceding the disturbance. T. A. Ward, who was another nephew of Benjamin Plant, was only 10 at that time but there is substantial later evidence of his own lack of enthusiasm for autocratic rule, such that it would have been quite out of character for *him* (and, by then, probably some other rich people, as well as the general populace) to be seen as sharing the Vicar's readiness for a military imposition of further Parliamentary Enclosure



Figure 11 2. Joseph Ward (1745-1820) and his son T.A.Ward (1781-1871)

Ben(bellows)'s young nephew, Thomas Asline Ward (Chapter 12, is known in Sheffield history largely for his popularity with the poor, often espousing their causes, though he was himself rich. In the book *Peeps into the Past*, which summarises T. A. Ward's diary, the editor A. B. Bell comments²⁰ 'Mr Wilkinson (the Vicar), we may be sure, would be in his element (with the military) for he was a Clergyman who literally belonged to the Church militant... His stern administration of the law --- for he was a magistrate as well as a clergyman --- stood between him and popularity at times.'. Despite his more liberal views, T. A. Ward's sympathies would surely not have extended to noting against the Vicar, however, and, in his diary, he records the full memorial sermon for the Vicar (d 1805 aged 75) which includes "And here I must mention an event which is to the disgrace of this town and to our nature. At one time of his life, Mr W---, engaged in the faithful and conscientious discharge of his duty, incurred the odium and resentment of designing men, who, enemies to peace and good government, would have proceeded to further outrages, if possible."²¹

	A R P	Situation	Name of Allottee
320	0 0 7	Sharrow Moor	John Plant
247	0 0 14½	Brincliffe Edge Common	Benjamin Plant
247A	0 0 1½	Brincliffe Edge Common	Benjamin Plant

Table 11.3 Plant Allotments in the 1788 Enclosure Award

11.2.4 Plant Allotments

Benjamin Plant, and his presumed brother, John, had been awarded small allotments in the 1788 Ecclesall Act, as indicated in Table 11.3²²

Benjamin's allotment No 247 was only around 439 square yards but its location holds some interest. Its location is shown on a map in a book by Carolus Paulus²³ and it appears in a later, more detailed 1850 map to be near a few trees called 'Rustling Place' where a track led from Greystones Road about 500 yards northwards to 'Rustling Farm' past a few buildings called the 'Rustlings'

A rate book for 6 Jan 1800 includes, under Saml Newbold and his aforementioned Wheel, a substantially charged entry 'ditto for Rustlings' suggesting that the area known as 'Rustlings' was, at that time owned, or being leased, by the Newbolds who are known to have been associates of Benjamin Plant's wife's family²⁴. A deed registered on 5 Aug 1802 records the transfer from Benjamin Plant to James Beal, for £50, of Benjamin's adjacent allotments (247 and 247A of Table 11.3 which adjoined the Rustlings) which are described as 'ground commonly called Rottenspot at the bottom of Brincliffe Edge... containing .. sixteen perches.. be the same more or less . ground . allotted and awarded by the Commissioners to the said Benjamin Plant ... and also all that barn laith or building thereon erected and built together with all ways, waters, watercourses, hedges, ditches, gates, styles ..'.

This location was about 1.5 miles to the west of the Little Sheffield site that was to become widely known as Plant's Yard and it is where, some 50 years later in 1851, the widow of a William Plant²⁵, who was a nephew of Benjamin Plant, was to found with her son-in-law, William Roberts

²⁰ This comment is made in the connection with the fact that, in 1804, the young T. A. Ward served a fortnight in training at Doncaster, as a Lieutenant of the Sheffield Regiment of Volunteer Infantry, after which the officers dined with Rev Wilkinson at the Tontine

²¹ It may be noted that the Vicar's name has been abbreviated here to Mr W---. Some rather similar comments to those made about the Vicar could perhaps be applied to S. B. Ward's first father-in-law, the 1787 Master Cutler Jonathan Watkinson, who attained widespread infamy in a long remembered Music Hall song as a result of his presiding over the 'Thirteen to a Dozen' controversy and who was commonly referred to, with some slanderous innuendo, as W--- (Chapter 12)

²² The units 'A R P' in this Table denote 'acres, roods and square poles'. A pole, or perch, or rod were all the same measure, with a square pole equalling 30.25 square yards and 160 square poles = 4 roods = 1 acre

²³ Carolus Paulus (1927) *The Manor and Pansh of Ecclesall including the enclosure of Common and Waste Lands there* Chapter XV

²⁴ *Peeps into the Past* being passages from the diary of Thomas Asline Ward, *ibid*

²⁵ This is W^a(1) of Figure 11.1 and Chapter 9

11.3 Plant Properties Around 1794

The post-Parliamentary Enclosure Award rate books are, in general, more detailed than those in section 11.1.4. By 1793, we find Benjamin Plant's properties listed both under Coal-pit Lane and under Little Sheffield, to the north and the south of (Little) Sheffield Moor, and it seems that he also acquired properties to the Moor's east and beyond *Rustlings* to the west

11.3.1 Coal-pit Lane

In the 1793-5 rate books for Coal-pit Lane to the north of Sheffield Moor on the edge of Sheffield town, there are 13 houses in the name of John Bennet which are followed by 4 houses in the name of Benjamin Plant (payments 2/- 9d 3d 2/3^{3/4}). The fourth property of Benjamin Plant has ?C Roberts written alongside in the rate book of 20 March 1795, which may be compared with the mention of *Elkana(h) Roberts* in conjunction with Benjamin Plant in the pre-Enclosure rate books and in a 1784 Coal-pit Lane property deed (section 11.1.5). These four entries for Benjamin's houses are followed by Joseph Smith's properties (a house, shops, and Clogg Field) and then by Benjamin Plant's 5th to 17th premises listed under Coal-pit Lane (all are described as houses except for the 10th, 12th, and 13th, which are described as shops)

Benjamin's Neighbour J. F. Smith

Benjamin Plant's neighbour here was the 1796 Master Cutler, Joseph Fletcher Smith, who holds the distinction of being the first Master Cutler with a double barrelled name. He is also the one who signed the document granting Freedom of the Company of Cutlers to his relative, Joseph Hunter, who later became a close friend of Benjamin Plant's nephew, T A Ward, before becoming known as the celebrated author of the aforementioned 1819 book on 'Hallamshire' A link between Benjamin Plant's nephew, T. A. Ward, and Benjamin's neighbour, J. F. Smith, is apparent by 1804 as the 23 year old Ward writes with dry humour in his diary on 30 Dec 1804 "*This day died Mr. J. F. Smith in the strength of his age, a victim of his own excessive love of good eating and drinking, and a too great dislike for employment.*"²⁶. J. F. Smith's grandfather was the 1722 Master Cutler, John Smith, who started the Coal-pit Lane cutlery business that expired on 14 July 1807 with the death of J. F. Smith's nephew, John Smith. Some Joseph Fletcher Smith table knives have been handed down my family, presumably down the line *Ben(bellows) - W^m(1) - W^m(2a) - James - Tom* to my late father Tom junior, and they have been presumed to have originated from a neighbourly connection between J F Smith and the bellows maker Benjamin Plant

11.3.2 Total Rate Payments in Ecclesall

Five rate books have survived for the year 1793-4 with similar instalments recorded as paid in each book. The 17 premises of Benjamin Plant in Coal-pit Lane attracted, for each instalment, a total charge of 13/6^{3/4}d which, when added to Benjamin's payments for other properties in Ecclesall Bierlow gives £1/3/7d. This seems a significant payment even when compared with those in Ecclesall Bierlow from the wealthy Josh Ibberson (17/7^{1/2}d) and from Benjamin Plant's friend and nephew, Samuel Broomhead Ward, (£2/3/8^{1/4}d) who was already the owner of the substantial property Mount Pleasant in Ecclesall (Chapters 10 and 12)

11.3.3 Little Sheffield Entries

The entries listed in the 1793-5 rate books, under Little Sheffield, seem to continue on for the whole of the rest of Ecclesall though the entries shown in Table 11.4 appear near the beginning of these and they are apparently for Little Sheffield itself, at least in part. These entries suggest that Benjamin and John Plant may have been living close to each other in Little Sheffield, probably in fact both at the Broom Close site which subsequently became widely known as 'Plant's Yard'. It may be noted, in particular, that the first of the many rate books summarised by Table 11.4 is for 15th Jan 1793 and it states '*Benjamin Plant for his Yard*' - as has already been mentioned (section 11.1.3), it is (as yet) uncertain *exactly* how this relates to the pre-Enclosure Award entry '*Late Plant yard*' which may perhaps have belonged to a Richard Kent alias Plant

²⁶ *Peeps into the Past* edited A. B. Bell, 1909 pps 60, 61, 139

(a) 1793: 12d in £		(b) 1795: 12d in £	
Benjamin Plant for his yard	2/4 ¹ / ₂	Benjamin Plant for Ho & Gard	2/4 ¹ / ₂
do for own & Smiths Allotment	5 ¹ / ₂	do for New Barn Allotment	3
do for Broomhall Land	3/2 ³ / ₄	do for Broomhall Land	3/2 ³ / ₄
do for Ibberson Land	3/11 ¹ / ₂	do for Ibberson Land	3/11 ¹ / ₂
John Plant for Ho ^s & Gard ^r	1/9	do for Dukes Allotment	3/9 ¹ / ₄
do his 2 ^d House	7 ¹ / ₂	do for Land at Broomhall Wheel	3/3 ¹ / ₂
3 ^d	11 ¹ / ₄	JOHN PLANT'S ENTRIES....	
4 ^d do	9 ³ / ₄	. SAME AS FOR 1793	
do for Allotment	3	..	
..		..	

Table 11.4. Some post-Enclosure rate book entries

Benjamin's 1793 properties include '*Broomhall Land*', which was probably across the Porter Brook from the Little Sheffield site of Plant's Yard and which may have related to the Plants' initial connection with Sheffield, as was indicated near the beginning of this Chapter. Benjamin's 1793 properties also include '*Ibberson Land*' which will be discussed later, in Chapter 13, in connection with Land Tax records for land 2 miles to the west²⁷

In the 1793 rate books, both Benjamin Plant's and John Plant's properties include '*Allotments*' which were no doubt the small lands allotted to them in the 1788 Enclosure Awards. It seems that Benjamin had a '*New Barn*' on his allotment by the time of the 2 Feb 1794 rate book (cf Table 11.4) and there is also mention, in an 1802 deed, of a barn for this allotment, as was described in section 11.2.4.

11.3.4 Additional Acquisitions Around 1794

Table 11.4 also indicates that, between 1793 and 1795, Benjamin Plant acquired additional substantial lands described as '*Land at Broomhall Wheel*' and '*Dukes Allotment*', whose locations are discussed below. These acquisitions appear to relate to Benjamin Plant's industrial ventures, in proximity to his wife's family, as will be indicated more fully in Chapter 13.

Broomhall Wheel

The Broomhall Wheel was near the site that was subsequently widely known as Plant's Yard and near the Stalker Wheel which had been in the hands of Benjamin Plant's wife's family since 1765. The Broomhall Wheel, which was at the southern edge of the Broom-hall estate, appears to have been built in the mid 18th century as it does not appear in a 1742 rate book but it is recorded in a 1759 survey field-book as Thomas Newbould's wheel and dam immediately to the south of Broomhall Mill²⁸. This Wheel is remarkable for apparently being in the tenancy of the Newbould family throughout the whole of its existence. As was mentioned in section 11.2.4, there appears to have been a close relationship between the Newboulds and Benjamin Plant. There are repeated mentions of the Newboulds in the book based on the diary of one of Benjamin Plant's nephews²⁹ where it is mentioned that a sister (Mrs Mary Watson) of the first wife (Hannah Watkinson) of the close friend and nephew, S B Ward, of Benjamin Plant married into this family by marrying the Sheffield Moor merchant, Thomas Newbould. This Thomas Newbould was a grandson of the earlier Thomas Newbould (d 1782) of Newbould Lane³⁰

²⁷ This was around, or just beyond, the *Rustlings* property that was described in section 11.2.4

²⁸ By 1850, shortly before the Broomhall Wheel's disappearance, the rate books record a dual function, as an edge-tool wheel-house and a saw wheel-house, though only a single 16'2" 11hp Water Wheel is described in 1830 (*Water Power on the Sheffield Rivers* edited by D. Crossley, 1989)

²⁹ *Peeps into the Past*, edited by A. B. Bell, 1909, pps 7 and 11

³⁰ Newbould Lane is just to the north of the old site of Broom Hall. It now adjoins the school that was, until the recent abolition of selective entrance (the so-called 11 plus), Britain's most academically successful non-fee-paying school (King Edward VII Grammar School) which had been formed partly from T. A. Ward's alma mater, the Sheffield Grammar School

Dukes Allotment

It is interesting to note that allotment No. 101, for example, of the 1788 Enclosure Award, was granted to the Duke of Norfolk and that this allotment apparently adjoined the Little Sheffield site subsequently known widely as Plant's Yard³¹ However, it seems unlikely that such a small allotment (1 square pole) would attract the large Poor Rate payment attributed to the 'Dukes Allotment' in Table 11.4(b).

Certainly, the Duke had obtained several larger allotments on Sheffield Moor, for example, as part of the 1788 Award but it seems more likely that the above reference to the 'Dukes Allotment' applied to land to the east of The Moor. This area was known as Alsops Fields, which was private land that was not part of the common allotted in the 1788 Act, though it was contemporaneously being developed as leased allotments, between 1776 and 1793. Just such a location (*viz* Pond Land) for land leased from the Norfolk family is indicated in Benjamin Plant's 1805 will which explicitly mentions his *'Leasehold Messuages Lands and Tennements situate in or near Pond Lane in Sheffield aforesaid which I hold by lease under the Norfolk family'*

Thus, this land referred to as *Dukes Allotment* was apparently near the home of Benjamin Plant's brother-in-law, the 1790 Master Cutler, Joseph Ward, and near to one of the Ward's major industrial enterprises, the Pond Tilt, as will be discussed further in Chapter 13

11.3.5 Summary

The post-Enclosure Award records provide clear indications that the Plants held several properties in Ecclesall. Some of these had been held since before the first Parliamentary Act (1779-88) of Enclosure near Sheffield. A few small allotments were awarded to Benjamin and John Plant in 1788, as part of this Ecclesall Act, and there are also records of some subsequent property acquisitions particularly by the bellows maker, Benjamin Plant

The fate of such Plant properties, as well as the arrival near Sheffield of further Plants from this Duckmanton Plant family, can be traced through the early nineteenth century with the help of further property records. These records help to reveal the development of the Plant family name near Sheffield up to and beyond the mid-nineteenth century, by when Census data for example helps to provide additional details.

The development of a Plant base in Sheffield will be described further in Chapters 13 and 14 whereas Chapter 12 will first outline some of the known information about the bellows maker, Benjamin Plant.

³¹ The public footpath provision of the 1788 Award describes *'One public footway from the ancient enclosure belonging to Mary Battie at Little Sheffield eastwards, into and along the Duke of Norfolk's allotment 101 into the Sheffield tumpike road'*. Carulus Paulus identifies this footway as Cross Walk (*cf* Chapter 10)

• THE MANUFACTURE OF BUTTONS - LATE 19TH CENTURY •

The following article relates to the Manufacturing of buttons by Messrs Plant & Green of Birmingham. Who wrote the original is not known - the original is dated 10 October 1874 with pencil note 'Joseph Plant father of F E Lort/John Green uncle of F E Lort'

"The covered button trade is one of the most important industries of Birmingham. It employs several thousands of hands, male and female, senile and juvenile, and produces many millions of the finished article every week. In fact the making of buttons has been one of the staple trades of Birmingham for many years. As far back as 1790, we read of the covered buttons, which are so extensively used now, being an article of manufacture, although their use was strongly opposed by the makers of other kinds of buttons, and an Act of Parliament was passed in the reign of Queen Ann whereby any person wearing covered buttons or sewing them on their garments was liable to a fine of £5 for every dozen of such buttons or in proportion for any less quantity. This most objectionable specimen of the sumptuary laws was continued for a considerable length of time. Even in the reign of the first George an Act was passed imposing a fine of forty shillings per dozen, for wearing certain kinds of buttons. The proscription was removed finally by the better judgement of parliament whereupon the business was resumed.

Fashion was then appealed to in order to undo what the legislature had done, and to foster a trade which had almost been extinguished by law. Occasionally we read of business being depressed in Birmingham, and royalty has been induced to do something to remove it. On 27 January 1794, the following appeared in the local chronicle:- 'This town has the greatest reason to rejoice in the turn fashion has taken in imitation of His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales and the Princess, whose example upon this occasion will be the means of affording employment and support to hundreds of families. His Royal Highness now always wears both on his morning and his evening dress, engraved fancy white and yellow metal buttons'.

Among the enterprising and prosperous firms who devote themselves to this business, stand Messrs Plant & Green, whose factory is well known for the excellence of its productions. It is situated in Warstone-Lane, and is a large, oblong building, three stories in height, embracing the offices and show rooms, as well as the warehouses and manufactory. In designing this building, the firm deviated from the plans of all the other manufacturers in Birmingham, and adopted a system, one feature of which was to ensure more efficient supervision over the hands employed, a matter of paramount importance in the button business, in which so vast and heterogeneous a body of employees is collected together. With this view the building is so arranged that from the warehouse and counting house a clear view is obtained of each shop, and all the workings in it. Another feature was to secure better hygienic conditions for the persons at work, many of whom are very young. With this object, precautions were taken against the pollution of the atmosphere consequent upon several hundred persons being engaged in one apartment, not only by adopting the ordinary modes of ventilation, such as air-gratings near ceilings and floor &c., but that of large shafts of brick running up the outside of the factory to convey a current of air from the outside direct to each story. In other ways provision is made for the health and welfare of the operatives. Even the little girls who assist the 'coverers' have a small bonus given them weekly by their employers, and those who are under age, and work 'half-time' under the Factory Acts, have their education provided gratuitously by the firm.

Although a button is a very trivial and commonplace article, its manufacture involves many complicated processes, too many in fact to be detailed here. A general account of them may, however, be not uninteresting. Beginning at the casting shop, we find in store the ingredients to form the metal of which the button is composed. These ingredients are then placed in a furnace and subjected to a great heat. When the mass metal is reduced to the liquid state, the crucibles are taken out and their contents poured into iron ingots. The metal is next sent to a mill, and by means of large rollers, is reduced to a degree of thickness required from the rolling-mills, it is placed on large shelves, in readiness to be given out to the workers as they require it.

The next shop to be 'noticed' is that known as that of the 'rough workers'. Here the sheets, or technically speaking, the 'roughs' are cut up to form the framework for the linen buttons. This is done by a sort of die-press, and when the circular pieces are cut out they fall through the bed of the press into a drawer or receptacle beneath the bench placed to receive them. The operatives in the shop are all females, and the dexterity displayed by them in cutting out and shaping the various parts of the button is, to a stranger, truly marvelous. The 'roughs' are next shaped or raised at the edges, and pierced in the middle, when they are ready to receive the covering of linen. In some instances, in this factory, the 'roughs' are 'cut' 'raised' and pierced at the same time, but as this process involves very expensive and intricate tools, it is not used by the majority of manufacturers.

Passing on to the 'covering-shops' we find upwards of a hundred women and girls arranged in eight rows, as busy as bees. The shops are 'double-lighted' so that the humble workers in the middle can see as well as those sitting near the windows. The scene in the shop is of the most interesting description. The linen is first cut out from the roll or piece in much the same way as the sheet-metal, by a punching or die-press. The linen used for the covering of buttons, we ought to mention, is made specially for the trade at Belfast, and is of exceptionally fine and expensive quality. The round pieces or 'discs' are, after being cut out, handed over to the coverer. A certain number of them must be got out of each yard of linen, and carelessness in cutting can thus, by counting, be instantly detected, but the accuracy with which the cutting is done, the pieces being cut so close to each other, so as to have the minimum of waste, is very remarkable. The 'coverer' has by her side a stock of the various metal parts required to make the linen button. The woman is assisted by little girls called 'putters-in'. The discs of linen are first placed in steel 'collars' with the metal frames, and by the peculiar action of the tools the linen is stretched over the face and edges of the disc, forming a complete linen button.

The tools used in this process are the invention of Messrs Plant and Green, and their construction is necessarily a secret. When the linen buttons are made with eyeletted holes the shells are first indented with little 'half-balls' or hemispheres, to correspond with the number of holes required. The centers of these indentations are afterwards pressed over on the cloth, and then closed in the ordinary way. This button has, however, many serious disadvantages. The eyelet's cannot generally be got to hold the linen perfectly tight after the button has been wetted by washing, and the linen, withdrawing from the holes, presents a very unsightly and frayed appearance. Besides this, the sewing-on thread, being above the surface of the button, is exposed to a great amount of friction. To obviate these great defects the firm have invented and patented a button, the metallic portion of which consists of three parts, namely, a front shell, a back shell or ring, and an eyeletted center-piece. The latter consists of a double eyelet, or, when required, of three or more eyelet's, the holes in which are of a size and shape proper to fit in the holes in the front shell. The smaller end is then

riveted or turned over the back of the shell. The fabric is thus grasped firmly between the front parts of the eyeletted center-piece and the front of the shell, the riveting of the eyeletted center-piece at the back of the shell preserving the eyeletted piece in its place

In the buttons thus made, the thread by which it is attached to a garment rides on the depressed part of the metal situated between the eyeletted holes, and being below the level of the face of the button, is not liable to injury, while from its bearing on rounded metallic surfaces, it is secure from the risk of being cut, which is so common in linen buttons of the ordinary kind. This button, which is called 'The Gem' has a very large sale and, although only recently introduced, is already familiar to most of the drapers and warehousemen in the kingdom. There are a great variety of other covered buttons made in the factory besides linen buttons, such as silk, satin, merino, and cloth buttons, but the process of manufacture is alike in all

We are next conducted into the tailor's button and jewellery 'rough' shop, in which are made a great variety of metal buttons, crest and livery buttons, naval and military buttons, and also the rough work for collar studs, shirt studs, etc. The solid brass buttons are cut from a sheet of solid metal, and are then raised, pierced, and countersunk. In some cases the name of the tailor is put on the button

The stamping show next deserves attention. The 'stamps' are used for all heavy work, such as putting devices on crest buttons, and military and naval buttons. The dies are kept on the walls, in a convenient arrangement for access, and they are of great number and very costly. The 'dipping' and annealing shops, although not presenting such a busy or attractive picture as some others, are well worthy of inspection. Here the metal frames of the buttons are subjected to a great heat in a closed muffle to render them soft and pliable. They are afterwards submerged in a weak solution of aquafortis, to clean off the 'scale' and dirt. Washing in clear water follows, and then drying in warm sawdust. The frames are afterwards again passed through aquafortis, but of considerable strength, and this leaves them perfectly clean and bright. They are finally whitened or silvered as required

Perhaps the most attractive part of the entire establishment is the jewellery shop. This firm manufactures largely the cheap jewelry for which Birmingham is celebrated. Their designs, of which a number were submitted to us, are much more tasteful than ordinary, and although some of them are gaudy and ill-conceived, to suit tastes of an inferior order, the majority combine elegance with marveling cheapness.

In one shop are made the studs, solitaires, sleeve-links, etc., of every description and pattern. The best of these are really works of art, and quite equal in style of making, appearance, and permanence of colouring to any for which our foreign neighbours are famous

In the middle of the center storey the tool making shop is situated. It has a communication with the top and bottom storeys, in the shape of a short flight of steps. This very convenient arrangement gives great facilities to the tool makers in the repairing and changing the tools in the various presses without unnecessary loss of time

We finished our inspection of the manufactory by examining the warehouses, commencing with the metal and 'rough' warehouse. Here all the metal is received from the mill and given out to be cut up for 'roughs' and foundations of linen buttons. The warehouse is one complete nest of drawers and shelves, and a vast stock of roughs is neatly and compactly disposed therein. Next come the

finishing warehouses, where, after the buttons are made they are given out to the outworkers to be carded. This operation furnishes a very useful and almost inexhaustible source of employment to many humble persons, chiefly women, who can be assisted by their children. The work is done at their homes, and in their leisure time, and is fairly remunerative. In Birmingham there need necessarily be no idle persons - there is work for all who are willing to do it. On being returned to the factory the cards on which the buttons are sewn, are pasted on the backs with white paper and labeled. This department is very interesting, and almost infinite variety of showy labels, tasteful cards, boxes, etc., having a very pretty chromatic effect.

The 'stock warehouse' contains the goods after being wrapped up, which are either to be kept until an order for them has been received, or are made to order. Finally we are led into the showroom where are kept pattern cards of all articles made up by the firm. Many of these are familiar to our readers, for they are seen in nearly every draper's shop in the kingdom.

If any member has any information relating to this company and the associated Plant family, please let me know.

UNTANGLING THE VINE THE GEOGRAPHIC PLANTS

by Kathy Compagno Member No. 121

Richmond Warwick Plant of Cradley Heath (also known as 'Stinking Herrings') piqued my curiosity when I read his story in issue No 6 of Roots and Branches. I had long noticed in the International Genealogical Index that many Plants were given names for places. Their branch is what I came to call 'The Geographic Plants', and must admit to some disappointment that they never appear in my branch. They seem a tangled vine, yet the names were so unusual that it seemed their tendrils could be followed.

The Family History Center at Oakland California offers their computerized version of the IGI. This technology permits searching, ALL shires of England with one request and also 'collects' all children of a given set of parents. So one afternoon I set out in search of all the Richmond's, Warwick's and Dudley's with the following results (some information was added from the Kingswinford area 1841 and 1851 censuses). Most stayed in the south Staffordshire area (especially Brierley Hill), but the computer suggests that one branch went as far as Lanark Scotland. I wonder if that area also had coal mines?

We are left with some intriguing questions. First: Richmond Warwick Plant does not appear in the IGI; I wonder just what branch is his? Second: do any of our members claim descent from this geographic branch?? (I would welcome all additions and corrections, working from the IGI alone presents many difficulties!)

Third, the last and most intriguing of all: Why were these unusual names first used? I find no 'mothers maiden name' to suggest an answer, and would be most curious to hear what our members have to say.

**DESCENDANTS OF PLANTS, BENJAMIN BORN
1736 ROWLEY REGIS STAFFS ENGLAND**

0	1	2	3	4	5
	PLANT, BENJAMIN				
	B 1736 @ ROWLEY REGIS STAFFS				
	M 27 Sep 1756 to SARAH THOMPSON @ KINGSWINFORD STAFFS				
	D 27 Jun 1819 @ BRIERLEY HILL, BROCKMOOR				
	PARENTS ANN RUSSON & JOHN PLANT, 1705 (OF JOHN OF BENJAMIN & MARY BATE, ROWLEY REGIS)				
	(1 AT ROWLEY REGIS,				
	9 Children				
	THOMAS PLANT, 27 FEB 1757, KINGSWINFORD				
	JOHN PLANT, 5 SEP 1762 16 MAY 1811, AGE 48, BRIERLEY HILL				
	PLANT, BENJAMIN (Mary) 1764				
	B BAP 25 DEC 1764 @ KINGSWINFORD STAFFS				
	M 1790? to MARY @ STAFFS?				
	D 11 SEP 1809 @ BRIERLEY HILL STAFFS				
	(1 MAYBE RELATED EZEKIAL, BAP 13 SEP 1795, OF THOMAS & SYLVIA, HALESOWEN)				
	(2 SONS OF EZEKIAL EZEKIAL SEP 1827, & WILLIAM WARWICK DEC 1826)				
	(3 ANOTHER JOHN & MARY AT HALESOWEN KIDS BENJAMIN 5 NOV 1786, DAVID 25 DEC 1790,				
	MARTHA 23 OCT 1791, RUTH 25 DEC 1792)				
	4 Children				
	COMFORT PLANT, 17 APR 1792, BAPTISED BRIERLEY HILL				
	PLANT, RICHMOND OR RICHMAN (Sarah Smith) 1793				
	B BAP, 6 AUG 1793 @ OLD SWINFORD WORCS				
	M 15 JAN 1814 TO SARAH SMITH @ OLD SWINFORD				
	D @ OLD SWINFORD, BRIERLEY HILL STAFFS, BROCKMOOR AREA				
	KIDS BAPTISED OLD SWINFORD, BRIERLEY HILL, ALSO AT KINVER JOHN 18 MAY 1783#				
	MARY 1 MAY 1785				
	6 Children				
	PLANT, BENJAMIN (Eliza) 1814				
	B BAP 13 NOV 1814 @ OLD SWINFORD WORCS				
	M 1835? TO ELIZA				
	D @ KINSWINFORD, BRIERLEY HILL STAFFS				
	CANNOT VERIFY SON AT SCOTLAND, BUT UNIQUE NAMES MATCH				
	KIDS BAPTISED AT KINGSWINFORD & BRIERLEY HILL				
	6 Children				
	RICHMOND, 8 NOV 1840/ 4 MAR 1864 MARGT ORR, OLD MONKLAND				
	LANARK SCOTI KIDS AT BOTHWELL LANARK				
	OF RICHMOND MARGARET SNEDDON ORR PLANT, 28 NOV 1864				
	BENJAMIN RICHMOND PLANT 28 NOV 1866				
	JOSEPH PLANT, 27 MAR 1842				
	JANN PLANT, 19 NOV 1843 KINSWINFORD				
	SARAH PLANT, 26 OCT 1845				
	BENJAMIN VALENTINE PLANT, 14 MAR 1847 KINGSWINFORD				
	JOHN PLANT, 5 JUL 1818 14 MAY 1829, BRIERLEY HILL				
	SUSANNA PLANT, 19 JAN 1823 BRIERLEY HILL				
	SARAH PLANT, 16 JAN 1825 BRIERLEY HILL				
	SARAH PLANT, 9 AUG 1795 BAPTISED DUDLEY				

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| PLANT, DUDLEY (Sar Jones) 1790?
 | B 1790? @ RECORD NOT FOUND
 | M 27 MAR 1810 TO SARAH JONES @ DUDLEY, ST THOMAS
 | D D @ BRIERLEY HILL STAFFS
 | PRESUMED MEMBER OF THIS BRANCH, GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES!, CANNOT VERIFY
 | WHICH PARENTS
 | MOST KIDS BAPTISED AT BRIERLEY HILL
 | 8 Children

| MARY ANN PLANT, 27 MAY 1810 BAP DUDLEY

| BENJAMIN PLANT, 25 SEP 1814

| PLANT, WARDWICK OR WARWICK (Elizth) 1816
 | B BAP, 13 OCT 1816 @ BRIERLEY HILL STAFFS
 | M 1835? TO ELIZABETH @ RECORD NOT FOUND
 | D D @ DUDLEY WORCS
 | KIDS BAPTISED AT DUDLEY
 | 3 Children

| SARAH PLANT, 4 FEB 1838

| DUDLEY PLANT, 12 JAN 1840

| RICHMOND PLANT, 15 SEP 1844/ MRD 25 DEC 1865 SARAH LOWE, AT DUDLEY

| SUSANNA PLANT, 3 OCT 1819, BAP DUDLEY

| JAMES PLANT, 13 JAN 1822

| RICHMOND PLANT, 18 APR 1824

| ISAIAH PLANT, 15 JAN 1828/ MRD. ELIZABETH SARAH 2 DEC 1855, DUDLEY 11 MAY 1856

| COMFORT PLANT, 13 JUN 1830

| SHAW, RUTH (Ed Shaw) PLANT 1767

| B BAP 12 JUL 1767 @ BRIERLEY HILL STAFFS
 | M 25 DEC 1787 TO SHAW, EDWARD (Ruth Plant) 1753 @ KINGSWINFORD STAFFS
 | D D @ KINGSWINFORD, '7 DWELLINGS' AREA
 | 9 Children

| Husband SHAW, EDWARD (Ruth Plant) 1753
 | B BAP 21 JUN 1753 @ KINGSWINFORD STAFFS
 | M 25 DEC 1787 TO SHAW, RUTH (Ed Shaw) PLANT 1767 @ KINGSWINFORD STAFFS
 | D BEFORE 1841 @ KINGSWINFORD 7 DWELLINGS
 | Father SHAW, *EDWARD (Est Skidmore) 1721
 | Mother SHAW, *ESTHER (Ed Shaw) SKIDMORE 1721
 | WIFE RUTH'S COUSIN WILLIAM PLANT/ MRD EDWARD'S SISTER SOBIESK
 | 9 Children

| ELIZABETH SHAW, 26 OCT 1788

| MARIA SHAW, 30 APR 1791

| SOBIESKETH SHAW, 25 AUG 1793/ MRD 29 OCT 1821 ISAIAH PLANT

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BENJAMIN SHAW, 21 DEC 1794, 1841 MINER, LIVING WWIDOWED MOM

PERRINS, PATIENCE (Jo Perr) SHAW 1800

B BAP 8 JAN 1800 @ BRIERLEY HILL STAFFS
M 20 MAR 1826 TO JOHN PERRINS @ DUDLEY ST THOMAS WORCS
D @ OLD SWINFORD WORCS BRIERLEY HILL STAFFS
KIDS BAPTISED AT OLD SWINFORD & BRIERLEY HILL, UNCLEAR IF FAMILY
MOVED, OR TRAVELLED TO BAPTISM
4 CHILDREN

JANE PERRINS, 22 APRIL 1827

EMMA PERRINS, 3 JAN 1830

ALFRED PERRINS, 21 AUG 1831

DIANA PERRINS, 4 OCT 1843, BAPTISED AT BRIERLEY HILL

EDWARD SHAW, 24 JUL 1803

IOBED SHAW, 29 OCT 1809

SHAW, JAMES (Mary Dukes) 1812

B BAP 8 MAR 1812 @ BRIERLEY HILL STAFFS
M 17 MAR 1833 TO MARY DUKES @ KINGSWINFORD
D @ OLD SWINFORD CRADLEY WORCS 1841 KINGSWINFORD QUARRY BANK AREA
OCCUPATION CHAINMAKER
HE, & SIBLINGS BAPTISED AT BRIERLEY HILL, 1841 KINGSWINFORD CENSUS
MOM LIVES '7 DWELLINGS' AREA
(1 NOTE PRESBYTERIAN BAPTISM MAYBE CLUE TO SISTER SOBIESKI'S SCOTS NAME?)
3 CHILDREN

SARAH ANNE SHAW, 9 MAR 1834, BAPTISED OLD SWINFORD

WILLIAM SHAW, 25 SEP 1836, BAPTISED PARKLANE PRESBYTERIAN, CRADLEY

CHARLES SHAW, 1839, CENSUS INFO

COX, RUTH (Jer Cox) SHAW 1814

B BAP 30 OCT 1814 @ BRIERLEY HILL STAFFS
M 23 MAY 1836 TO JEREMIAH COX, BAP 21 DEC 1800 PARKLANE PRESBYTERIAN,
CRADLEY, OF JEREMIAH COX/MARY SMITH @ DUDLEY ST THAMAS WORCS
D @ BRIERLEY HILL STAFFS
HUSBAND JEREMIAH MARRIED HIS 1st WIFE SARAH PUGH, 10 JUNE 1832 @ DUDLEY,
ST THOMAS
2 CHILDREN

STEP DAUGHTER HESTER COX, 26 MAY 1833, BRIERLEY HILL, BY JEREMIAH'S 1st
WIFE SARAH

MATILDA COX, 21 MAY 1837, BRIERLEY HILL

WILLIAM PLANT, 18 FEB 1770, KINGSWINFORD

PLANT, GEORGE (Zipp Pearson) 1772

B BAP 3 MAY 1772 @ BRIERLEY HILL STAFFS
M 27 DEC 1791 TO ZIPPORAH PEARSON @ KINGSWINFORD
D 18 MAR 1797 @ BRIERLEY HILL
OCCUPATION SON 1841, MINER, GOSSTY BANK, 1851 SINKER/PITS, BROCKMOOR BRIDGE
CENSUSES SHOW BOTH OF CHARLES' WIFES!
ILLNESS DIED AGE 27, MAYBE A MINE ACCIDENT?
BURIAL BRIERLEY HILL PARISH RECORDS
2 CHILDREN

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SUSAN PLANT, 17 AUG 1792

PLANT, CHARLES (Mar Ash Phoebe) 1796
B BAP 24 APR 1796 @ BRIERLEY HILL STAFFS
M 11 APR 1819 TO MARY ASHTON, 1806 1840'S MOM TO ALL KIDS @ OLD SWINFORD
WORCS
RM BEFORE 1851 CENSUS TO PHOEBE, 1801 @ RECORD NOT FOUND
D @ BRIERLEY HILL STAFFS, GOSSTY BANK, BROCKMOOR BRIDGE
OCCUPATION 1841, MINER, GOSSTY BANK 1851 SINKER OF PITS, BROCKMOOR
BRIDGE
KIDS INFO FROM CENSUS RECORDS
BURIAL WIFE MARY DIED BEFORE 1851 CENSUS
6 CHILDREN

ANTONY PLANT, 1827

PHEBE PLANT, 1829

MARY PLANT, 1831

GEORGE PLANT, 1833

JESSE & ZEBORAH PLANT, 1835

MATILDA PLANT, 1837

JANE PLANT, 8 FEB 1777
ELIZABETH PLANT, 15 DEC 1779

PLANT, ROBERT (Ann Turner) 1759
B BAP, 13 JAN 1759 @ KINGSWINFORD STAFFS
M 10 JUN 1781 TO ANN TURNER @ KINGSWINFORD
D @ BRIERLEY HILL STAFFS
KIDS BAPTISED AT BRIERLEY HILL NOTICE TWINS!
10 CHILDREN

SARAH PLANT, 12 SEP 1781

PLANT, THOMAS (Han Beddard) 1783
B BAP, 31 AUG 1783 @ BRIERLEY HILL STAFFS
M 26 AUG 1804 TO HANNAH BEDDARD, 1782 OF KINGSWINFORD @ KINGSWINFORD
D. @ BRIERLEY HILL, 1841 BROCKMOOR GREEN, 1851 GORSTY BANK
OCCUPATION 1841 MINER; 1851 COLLIERY PROPRIETOR, 50 WORKERS!
6 CHILDREN

DANIEL PLANT, 30 JUN 1816 KINGSWINFORD

DAVID PLANT, 16 JUN 1816 17 JAN 1820 OF BROCKMOOR

PHEBE PLANT, 14 JUN 1818 KINGSWINFORD

REUBEN PLANT, COLLIERY MANAGER, 30 JUN 1816 & CENSUS AGE 1822/MRD
HANNAH 1816

EMMA PLANT, 19 FEB 1824, BRIERLEY HILL

GRACE PLANT, 20 SEP 1825 BRIERLEY HILL

NANCY PLANT, 25 DEC 1788

PHOEBE PLANT, 10 FEB 1793

SEBORAH PLANT, 11 OCT 1795 & TWIN BELOW

DAVID PLANT, 11 OCT 1795 17 OCT 1817 OF BROCKMOOR

PHILLIS PLANT, 23 Sep 1798

PHILIP PLANT, 13 JUL 1800

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| PLANT, REUBEN (Maria) 1803
 | B BAP 10 APR 1803 @ BRIERLEY HILL STAFFS
 | M 1832? TO MARIA, DIED BEFORE 1851 @ STAFFS?
 | D @ BRIERLEY HILL, ENGINE HOUSE
 | NOT ON 1841 CENSUS 1851 CENSUS KIDS GEORGE, ANN, HARRIOTT, ROBERT
 | THOMAS, & BENJAMIN
 | 8 CHILDREN

| ANN ELIZABETH PLANT, 28 DEC 1834
 | EMMA PLANT, 27 DEC 1835 & TWIN
 | PHEBE PLANT, 27 DEC 1835

| GEORGE THOMAS PLANT, COLLIER, 8 OCT 1836

| HARRIETT PLANT, 17 JUN 1839

| ROBERT PLANT, 1842

| THOMAS PLANT, 1845

| BENJAMIN WARWICK PLANT, 30 MAY 1847

| PLANT, BENJAMIN WARWICH (? Eliz Penn) 1785
 | B BAP, 25 DEC 1785 @ BRIERLEY HILL STAFFS
 | M 1800? TO PRESUMED FIRST WIFE MOM TO OLDER KIDS @ RECORD NOT FOUND
 | (WIDOWED)
 | RM 21 JAN 1811 TO ELIZABETH PENN @ DUDLEY ST THOMAS
 | D @ BRIERLEY HILL STAFFS
 | YOUNG AGE 15 FIRST CHILD NOTE UNIQUE WARWICK NAME
 | 7 CHILDREN

| PLANT, ROBERT (Anne) 1802
 | B BAP, 25 JUL 1802 @ BRIERLEY HILL STAFFS
 | M 1830? TO ANNE, 1814; SEAMSTRESS, OF KINGSWINFORD @ STAFFS?
 | D 1840? BEFORE 1851 CENSUS @ BRIERLEY HILL, 1841 DUDLEY RD 1851
 | WIDOW, ROUND OAK
 | OCCUPATION 1841 MINER
 | KIDS BAPTISED AT BRIERLEY HILL
 | 6 CHILDREN

| BENJAMIN WARWICK PLANT, 16 SEP 1832, COAL MINER

| TWINS JOHN PLANT, 24 JUL 1837 FORGE LABORER } note- maybe not twins
 | & ROBERT PLANT, 24 JUL 1837 NOT IN 1841 CENSUS } but delayed baptism

| COMFORT PLANT, MAR 1838

| ANN PLANT, JUN 1839

| MARY PLANT, SEP 1843

| CID PLANT, GIRL, 13 MAY 1804

| MARY PLANT, 24 MAY 1806 AND TWIN } note- maybe not twins
 | WARWICK PLANT, 24 MAY 1806 } but delayed baptism

| ELIZABETH PLANT, 11 FEB 1810

| MARY ANN PLANT, 29 DEC 1811

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PLANT, ISAIAH (Sob Shaw) 1800
 B BAP 22 JUN 1800 CENSUS 1806 @ BRIERLEY HILL STAFFS
 M 29 OCT 1821 TO SOBIESKETH SHAW, 25 AUG 1793 OF EDWARD
 & RUTH PLANT @ OLD SWINFORD WORCS (Widowed)
 RM 1838? TO SARAH, 1806 @ RECORD NOT FOUND
 D D @ BRIERLEY HILL, 1825 GOSSY BANK, 1841 WEST BROMWICH,
 VICTORIA ST
 OCCUPATION 1841, COAL MINER
 KIDS BAPTISED AT KINGSWINFORD & BRIERLEY HILL
 7 CHILDREN

BENJAMIN PLANT, 29 SEP 1822, 27 FEB 1825

DAVID PLANT, COAL MINER, 27 JUN 1824

DANIEL PLANT, 10 OCT 1826

MARY ANNE PLANT, 19 AUG 1827

ROBERT PLANT, 8 NOV 1829

SARAH PLANT, 20 MAY 1832

HANNAH PLANT, MAR 1840

- THE DIARY OF JOHN PLANT OF HAZZLEWOOD FARM ON •
- THE LEEKFIRTH ON NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE 1849-1853 •

continued from Journals 6,7,8,9 and 10

19 May 1850 to 30 December 1850

- May 19 Maria started by 10.0'clock for to go to Will Shufflebotham wedding tomorrow with Mary Lockett of Henshawhall I Give her leave to stay till Tuesday Night but she was very Refractory and told me should not come before Thursday or Friday if then. We had most of cows calved and were very Buisy but she cared nothing about the buisness. William Beswick brought a cow to the bull stirk the first he had bulled
- 23 Very hot with thunder and raine. Maria returned at 9.0'clock at night.
- 30 Thomas Witicar came to pay his rent £18 half yearly
- June Went to Macclesfield Mr Gaskell was very poorly I bought a pair of moleskin trousers 7s a plush waistcoat 7s6d and a paire of trousers of mingled carseman for 15s.
- 12 T Brough a Leek bought a milk can for 4s Elizabeth went and brought huf to market and Her a white bonnet on
- 14 Mrs Belfield came to beg a bit of hay for a cow.
- 16 I was at Chappel T Brough at Roach grange at night to hear old Alice Beswicks Funeral. Sermon preached by John Maydew of the hillylees. Wet at night
- 17 Mrs Bott came to borrow a chees vat and Invited the Girls to come to the Meadows to there tea the day following. Mrs Halsall of the Needles came to borrow some Annata Little Mary was with her.
- 18 Beswick exciters valued the property of Enoch a 5th share.
- 20 Charles Beswick came with a cow to the bull. Do Mrs Bott
- 21 Mrs Bott and Aaron came with a cow to the bull.
- 27 T Brough went with Enoch Eardley to the Burned Cliff Top Club he came back at 11.0'clock sick and badly.
- July 1 James Barber left Swythamley he had been Head keeper there for Mr Brocklehurst 14 years well like with the Neibours
- 5 Mary Boot came to her tea took rhubarb and sage
- 9 Beswick with a cow at the bull at 2d a time
- 11 T Brough bought a new buckit gave 3s6d for it he whitewashed the stable the Girls went to Allmeadows to see sarah took a lb of gingerbread came back past 9.0'clock
- 13 Harrison the clock Cleaner Dined with us Mr Badkin and Mr Nathan Wardle drank some ale with us Jo Hunt came for the ale.
- 23 Mary Armett told T Brough of John Armett falling of a load of hay on the 21st and was kild roundabout 5

- 27 T Brough took a paire of upper lethers to Isaac Kirkham he made a new paire of clogs they were a good fit charged 1s2d.
- August 2 We thatched the rick got a load of hay out of the oak tree rough field we met 20 bulberryers.
- 4 T Brough at a Chanty sermon at Winkle for Sunday School.
- 16 T Brough told Nadin to look after the Game at F Barn and Tinkers Cote.
- 17 I told Mr Yates he must stop shutting on the Far Barn and Tinkers Cote.
- 18 I was at Chappel I invited William Brough his Wife and three children to come the next Saturday evening E Halsall called at night with a letter from Mica Arnett inviting me to dinner on Monday at 2.0'clock with the Club at the Royal Oak inn rushton. T Brough went to Dambridge meeting at night W Gibson preaching.
- 20 T Brough lent me 16 pound to be paid back at Christmas or before if I have money coming in. Mr Brocklehurst sent 2 brace of Moor Game [Grouse]
- 23 T Brough took a brace of Moor Game to Meerbrook to Mr Turner and a brace to Mr Mountford Brought 7lb of treacle back at 2 1/2d pr lb.
- 24 William Brough his Wife and 3 children came in the afternoon Ellen Halsall came Mr Bellfield called at night would not come in.
- 26 Mr Dingle came to enquire the road to Macclesfield.
- 28 I was at Leek I heard of the death of John Robinson.
- 29 I went to the smithy to get a shearing hook made charge 2s1d.
- 30 T Brough and I went to the fishing of the Turners Pool Mr Brocklehurst Mr Bagshaw and Dr Swannaly were there. Wm Henry Peter and Phillip Brode were there Mrs Wm and Mrs Henry and there 2 dauters and 2 sons were there. Fine day. Stump the cat was Lost
- 31 We thatched the Cart house and coat shippen the cat mist coming I went at Night to Look for her found her in a trap under the hedge between the calfe hag and Hazzlewood The Underkeeper came at the time I quarded with him and told him to keep of the ground for the futer cold and misty. Mr Hughes sent us 24 fish by Jess Perkin.
- Sept. 1 I and Elizabeth was at the chapel one of the keepers met with T Brough and sent by him to me wishing I would not tell Mr Brocklehurst about setting traps
- 2 Sarah Dawson had her leg off
- 12 We finished shearing we had 3 Perkins till noon O Gilsa and I went in the afternoon Leading Corn Will stopt in the afternoon. Fine shearing time not one shower nor Dewe mornings
- 13 I had the Girls went to Macclesfield to Sarah Dawson we heard as we went from Mrs Buxton of the Hiforest that she died this morning. We met John and Richard they told us that she is to be buned on Monday next We came by railway through rushton Very fine day
- 14 Thomas Wood was interd at Meerbrook Wm Perkin got 14 Kivers of snidle.

- 16 Leek Cheese Faire. We had 11 Load of Corn from rough field and Tinkers cote. We made 3 ricks next to the carthouse was our own seed and 2 over were old foret whites from William brough. The Girls went to the funeral of there sister Sarah Dawson.
- 17 We finished Corn Leading at home and far barn we had 15 load and got home a verry Fine Corn time not one shower or dewey morning we cut and carried 4 ricks in 14 days.
- 19 We thatched 2 at Far Barn we finished all up how thankful we ought to be for such a fine Corn Harvest
- 21 Wet. I was at Macclesfield saw J Berisford he was to come on Monday to buy the cheese and pigs.
- 23 We was getting Potatoes J Bensford came but we did not barter for cheese nor pigs he bid us 6s3d pr score we all wanted 6s6d
- 27 Thomas Brough took a side of pork to Mica Bounts at Ball Haye Leek 9 scroe (score) and 18lb at 6s6d per score £3.42.0d took a cheese to Meerbrook to Mr Turner. Mica Arnett came to our house I went with him to Rushton to speak to Mr Hargreaves about £20 of Club Money that Nathan Buxton had on Note Mr Hargreaves was verry angry and said he would neither pay it nor give them a note for it Mr Gaskell was there Mr Murfin was Flitting.
- 28 Head keeper came with a Hare 2 rabbits 2 Partridge
- 29 Wakes Sunday Elizabeth and I went to Chapel Thomas Brough went at night to see Sam Dr Turnock roade past us as we came from Chapel was going to Buxton Brow Sam had a Face swell.
- 30 Thomas got Plumbs at F Barn put the cows in the meadow these at home in to the stubble. George Bellfield married to Elizabeth Bosen came to the Stake.
- October 1 Upper Hulme Band came round Maria Gave them a shilling and a Jug of Beere
- 4 Went to Mr and Mrs Turners to supper. Misses Turner were there Mrs Copland Mr Gold Mr Mrs and Miss Pimiott. T Brough came with the Langthorn we got home at 12.0'clock fine Night we was Good Company and good cheese
- 5 I was cleaning stable chambers T Brough was getting crabs. [Crab apples]
- 7 We began thrashing at home Wm Hine came to his tea to Borrow the History of The World in 3 voloms.
- 16 Thomas brough took a Mall (a cow three years past) to the Faire sold her £6 10s
- 17 Thomas went to the Pheasants clough to invite Ellen Halsall to come see us Ellen came and Mrs Wood from Roach grange Marge Arnett and Mrs Hughes from Swythamley. The Turners Pool was sluged this latter end by Mr Hughes and his men
- 20 I went to Wetwood to tell James Hine that I agreed with Mr Hargreaves on Saturday for him to have £100 at Christmas of James Hine on Note at £4 10s for the Hundred

- 21 Paid Thomas Taylor the Land tax 16s16d. Leek wakes
- 23 I borrowed the Beswick pan the Girls and I winoed 7 bags of oats Mild day with thunder and little rain.
- 25 We were thrashing at home Martin the smallware dealer and rag Gatherer came for the first time since March.
- 28 Aaron Cooper wished me to sign a testimonial Drawn up by Mr Turner and signed by him and Edward Halsall as Warden and Richard Wood of Roach Grange he was going to Manchester to get into the police force.
- November 2 Thomas went to the mill fetched the loading 2 Load 7 score paid 5s 1d 5s 10.1/2d a bag of light oats Dried. A Black Pullet Disappeared at F Barn
- 3 I was at Chappel Mr Turner spoke to me aabout Mr Brocklehurst and the school Mrs Turner spoke about wanting 2 rabbits for the 5th. Elizabeth at Dainbridge and went to Mrs Hughes.
- 6 Mr Bowers was to have called but did not I was at Macclesfield Faire called on Mr Gaskell heard of the death of James Dawson on the 10th Hauks Lee.
- 10 Thomas and Sam Smith had words about Sams tits coming into the tinkers cote Sam was refractory would not make his Fence.
- 13 Elizabeth went to Swythamley to invite Mrs Hughes to come to our house on the 14th to her tea Miss Maydew Miss Beswick to come with her for company. Mrs Hughes gave her a Bottle of barm.
- 14 T Brough took the Cow Asker to Leek faire sold her for £4 a 5 year cow. Very bad faire for cattle. Maria went to the faire took Basket. Mrs Hughes and Mary Ann Beswick came to tea stoped till 9 0'clock.
- 15 T Brough was verry Poorly Lay in bed all day Eat nor Drunk nothing at 5.0'clock he was taken unconscious of anything helpless and motionless wee thought he would have Died Every minute. I sent Elizabeth to Coopers she sent Aaron to tell his Brothers to come as soon as they could and to bring a Doctor Aaron went to Leek and sent Doctor Turnock He Bled him but he was rather revived from his Lethargy and doctor said he was very near having an Applx Fit. The Brothers came about 8.0'clock the doctor about 9 by 12 he was so much recovered that he could sit in bed and supped some Gruel The Doctor and Brother Left about 12 0'clock the Doctor give him a Purgeing Powder it opperated.
- 16 He sent a bottle of medicun by Aaron he stoped at Leek till the Doc returned Mrs Boot brought it in the morning to take 2 taablespoonfull Every 4 hrs. He got up and was much better. John Findlow came to the Barn to Inquire after Thomas Jesse Perkin and Joseph Nettershaw came at night to inquire Aaron Cooper and Mr and Mrs Bellfield
- 17 Mr Taylor of Brownsett called to Enquire as he went to Chappel in the morning I went with with him. Many people enquired at Chappel Mrs Hughes came at Night was very friendly and stoped with us till 9.0'clock.
- 18 Mr Turner came to see Thomas stayed 2 hours was Friendly with him I went to Leek Cheese faire Called on Dr Turnock he sent a bottle of medsun for Thomas James Berrisford and James Lomas came with me and Bought 18 hundred of Cheese at 12s2d pr C Thomas was much better. Mary Halsall came from the Needles to see Thomas very Wet Night

- 19 Elizabeth fetched John Findlow from the Cliff to go with Thomas with the Chees they started at 10.0'clock came back at 6
- 20 Richard Shufflebotham came to see Thomas.
- 21 I went round the Roach called on Hannah Oliver gave her £4 to buy a cow.
- 22 Thomas went with Joseph read to the Thornlee to Look a cow he thought it was tow big for Hannah Oliver.
- 25 I found a stirk dead of the Hient Thomas flead it took it to Leek
- 26 Thomas Brough went to Meerbrook bought 29lb Beef at 3s 1b £6 2s6d Maria went to Leek Mary Arnett gave us a cup of huney and a bottle of mearth.
- December 4 T Brough at Leek was disappointed of the Chees money
- 5 Thomas took Smiler and roade to James Berrisfords for the chees money he paid him £30 being short of money he went to James Lomas and he paid £6 for James Berrisford and lent him £5
- 11 I was at Swythamley rent day. Fine day.
- 12 Mary Halsall came and wanted me to raise Levi Evan £100 but I had no money by me.
- 13 I was at Pheasants Clough paid Edward Halsall 2 Poor Rates
- 14 Mrs Bellfield was at Macclesfield taking the Old Springs Farm for George Mr Bagshaw sent me a note by her vix
- Sir, I Find the Chantable Trust Bill did not pass the last Session of Parliament it was withdrawn at the Close of the session.
I am Sir your Obedient Servant,
Robert Bagshaw, Macclesfield. 14 December 1850
- 15 Mrs Bellfield brought the Move Note. Wet day.
- 16 Thomas Brough took the note to Mr Turner and paid his shoe bill.
- 18 Thomas Brough in Leek paid James Lomas his £5 that he Lent He got Mr Bloureto fill up a Bond for £100 for James Hine who was lending they money to Mr Hargreaves. He charged him 6s the Bond 2s6d included
- 21 I was in Rushton James Hine Lent £100 on Bond 4.10 pr cent to Mr Hargreaves. Paid John Shufflebotham £100 in with interest Had it on Note at 4 pr cent
- 25 Christmas day I was at Chappel in the afternoon
- 26 Thomas was at Leek faire William Brough sent for me to Dine with him on Sunday.
- 29 No one went to chappel verry wet day I Dined with William Brough.
- 30` Thomas brough paid J Nadens shoe bill for me and Betty G Riders bill 11s11 1/2d and T Riders bill £2 7s 3 1/2d

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 1850

What a tragic year for the household, beginning with the revelations by John Plant's niece Ellen Ash of beatings and ill-use at the hands of her husband; and then her death five weeks later.

Since Ashe's son-in-law came to break the news, it would seem that when a girl of 24 years Ellen had married a widower with family her own age.

Her brother James Halsall had died the week before, a victim of the smallpox epidemic. Their mother, distracted with grief no doubt, asks her brother to get her a new Will made.

Another niece, Sarah Dawson, sister to the Girls, underwent unimagineable horror, having her leg off. We are not told why or where it was done, but in those earliest days of anaesthetics and hit-and-miss hygiene, her suffering would be terrible and her death in a few days a Blessed Release. Her husband James Dawson followed her in November, perhaps he too succumbed to the smallpox.

The household at Hazzlewood carries on with what must be done and with social life too, surprisingly enough, but their courage must have had a shaking when Thomas is struck down so seriously ill! Imagine the relief when it is NOT the smallpox.

Even the poor old dog had to be put down and the cat ended up in a trap; but Smiler limps along on his stiff hip. Smiler is one of the Tits to whom so much reference is made, for a tit is a working horse-of-all-trades pulling plough and cart, and sometimes ridden long distances.

The good news was the splendid harvest although to us who have always known some kind of machinery to complete all harvesting tasks in one season, what a protracted business the winnowing is throughout the winter too.

The method they would have used would be to half open the barn doors and winnow inside behind them. When the grain was tossed in the winnowing pan the draught so created would blow the chaff off.

In September when the heads were cut from the stalks, the remaining long straw was snidle, and the 14 Kivers of snidle collected by Wm Perkin would seem to be for thatching, since a kiver is a dialect word for cover.

The clergy made a record of agriculture in the County, just prior to the diary. The Curate of Meerbrook wrote ".....a late cold climate and by consequence but ill-calculated by Nature for the production of Grain excepting Oats. Beans, peas and turnips are strangersexcepting a few gardens for the use of Families and not given or intended for Cattle."

The Vicar of nearby Biddulph said "This is not Corn Country it is too much among the Hill in the Moorlands. The daily bread of the inhabitants is the Oat Cake"

- APPOINTMENT OF JOHN PLANT OF WALSALL, GLAZIER •
- AS OVERSEER OF THE POOR FOR WALSALL IN 1752 •

We Samuel Corbett, Charles Turnpenny and Martin Paskeley
 Esquires Three of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace and for
 the Burrough and Borough of Walsall in the County of Stafford —
 (Whose Names are in the Quorum) Do hereby Appoint the
 Spinnier Sattler's Assessor, William Herditch, Victualler —
 John Plant Glazier all of Walsall aforesaid, and Ezra Newson —
 of the parish of Walsall aforesaid Buchschupemaker —
 (Substantiel Hausbesitzer) To be Overseers of the poor of the
 Burrough and Borough of Walsall aforesaid for the year
 next ensuing the Date hereof according to the Direction of
 the Statute in that behalf made and provided Given under our
 Hands and Seals the Twenty Eighth day of April 1752.

S. Corbett

C. Turnpenny

M. Paskeley

The office of Overseer of the Poor was established by the Poor Law Act of 1597/8 and made obligatory by the Poor Relief Act 1601

At least two persons were appointed yearly by each vestry with approval from the Justices of the Peace where necessary, to levy a poor rate and to supervise its distribution

Their duties included the supervision of endowments and other charitable funds, collection of funds and the allocation of poor relief

In 1597/8 a poor rate was allowed. Relief was divided into 'indoor' for those maintained in poor houses and 'outdoors' for those still in their own houses. The act of 1597/8 enabled the Overseers to erect a poorhouse. As far as possible pauper children were to be apprenticed. The overseers were to provide work for paupers and to keep a stock of raw materials for that purpose.

Under the provisions of the 1601 Poor Law Act the Churchwardens and a few other substantial landholders were made, each year, Overseers of the Poor. The funds for the administration of the Act was provided by taxes on the inhabitants and holders of land or those receiving tithes or fines in the parish. House of Correction were to be built and vagrants committed to them. The Overseers were to erect poorhouses for the incapacitated poor.

The 1662 Act of Settlement stated that a stranger staying in a parish could be removed by the Overseer of the Poor if he had no prospect of work within 40 days or if he did not rent properly worth £10 per year. A stranger staying temporarily for harvesting, for example, had to bring a certificate from his home parish guaranteeing to take him back. After 40 days a stranger could claim that he was then settled and if need arose could become a charge on the poor rate. An amendment to the Act in 1697 enabled strangers to enter a parish provided that they possessed a Certificate showing that they would be taken back by their old parish if they became in need of poor relief. Paupers and their families were to wear a capital P on their clothing

The duties of the Overseers of the Poor were given to the Guardians of the Poor in 1834 and the Overseers became just overseers and collectors. The office was abolished by the Rating and Valuation Act of 1925.

• EXTRACTS FROM 1851 CENSUS RELATING TO PLANT NAME IN THE DISTRICT OF •
 • RUNCORN CHESHIRE •

Piece No. 2164 covering

Acton Grange	Alvanley	Antrobus
Appleton & Hull	Aston Grange	Aston by Sutton
Bartington	Great Budworth	Clifton
Crowley	Daresbury	Dutton
Frodsham	Halton	Hatton
Helsby	Keckwick	Kingsley
Kingswood	Manley	Moore
Newton by Daresbury	Newton by Frodsham	Norley
Norton	Preston-on-the-Hill	Runcorn
Seven Oakes	Stockham	Stretton
Sutton	Walton Superior	Walton Inferior
Weston	Whitley Superior	Whitley Inferior

Folio 14 Budworth

90 Budworth Heath Harriet Plant Serv U 16 House Servant bn Sproston

Harriet was daughter of Eliz Plant (Spinster) of Middlewich

In house of John Grange

Folio 32 Sevenoakes

28 Thelwell Farm Ann Plant Serv U 17 House Servant bn Sevenoakes

In house of Eunice Highfield Farmer

Folio 30 Sevenoakes

12 ? Budworth	John Plant	Head	M	52	Agr Lab.	bn	Aston	by
	Rebecca Plant	Wife	M	60		bn	Antrobus	
	Sarah Plant	Dau	U	18		bn	Sevenoakes	
	Mary Hogg	G Dau		10	Scholar	bn	Sevenoakes	
	Wm Plant	G Son		7	Scholar	bn	Sevenoakes	

John was son of Wm and Eliz Plant of Aston

Folio 40 Antrobus

38 Foxley Brow Cottage	James Plant	Head	M		Agr Lab	bn	Whitley Superior
	Alic Plant	Wife	M			bn	Budworth
	Ann Plant	Dau		9	Scholar	bn	Aston
	Wm Plant	Son		7	Scholar	bn	Sevenoakes
	Emma Plant	Dau		5		bn	Sevenoakes
	Jane Plant	Dau		3		bn	Sevenoakes
	Rebecca Plant	Dau		2		bn	Sevenoakes
	Harry Plant	Son		1 mth		bn	Antrobus

Folio 54 Whitley Superior

4 Near Town Pt John Plant Serv U 33 Tearsman by Whitley Superior

In house of Eliz Storkey Annuitant

Folio 58 Whitley Superior

40 Near Birch Tree	Thos Plant	Head	M	35	Master Shoemaker	bn Whitley Superior
	H Plant	Wife	M	37		bn Antrobus
	A Plant	Dau	U	15		bn Antrobus
	E Plant	Son	U	13		bn Latchford
	E Plant	Dau	U	11	Scholar	bn Appleton
	A Plant	Dau	U	7	Scholar	bn Whitley Superior
	H Plant	Dau	U	5	Scholar	bn Whitley Superior
	J Plant	Son		10 mth		bn Whitley Superior

Folio 65 Lower Whitley

5 Whitley Dale	Joseph Plant	Serv	U	22 Agr	Lab	bn Sevenoakes
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In house of Joseph Cliffe Farmer

Folio 83 Stretton

54 Stockley Wood	Rich Plant	Cousin	U	63	Annuitant	bn Newton Lancs
------------------	------------	--------	---	----	-----------	-----------------

In house of Sam^l and Frances Done both age 71
Farmer born Whitley and Dutton

Folio 204 Hatton

84 Lodge Farm	James Plant	Head	M	50	Farmer 6 Acres	bn Aston
	Hannah Plant	Wife	M	45		bn Alderley
	Sam ^l Plant	Son	U	14	Scholar	bn Crawley

Folio 484 Runcorn

204 Duke St.	Rich. Plant	Head	M	64	Lab	bn Dutton
	Ann Plant	Wife	M	58		bn Lancs
	Ann Plant	Dau	U	21	Teacher in Weslyan School	bn Halton
	Joseph Plant	Son	U	20	Lab	bn Halton
	Francis Plant	Dau	U	17	Dressmaker	bn Halton
	Joseph ?	Lodger	M	28	Tanner	bn Warrington

• PLANT CONNECTIONS WITH UTICA NEW YORK STATE •

Following communications with The Oneida Historical Society of Utica New York I obtained a copy of the following, published in 1877 relating to a Benjamin Plant

THE PIONEERS OF UTICA:

BEING

SKETCHES

OF ITS INHABITANTS AND ITS INSTITUTIONS, WITH
THE CIVIL HISTORY OF THE PLACE,

FROM

THE EARLIEST SETTLEMENT

TO

The year 1825,—the Era of the Opening of the Erie Canal,

BY

M. M. BAGG, A. M., M. D.

"To me the loss of the instruments of human progress run into one another, and become so interwoven as to appear but the continuation of a single life."—SARJEX.

UTICA, N. Y.
CURTISS & CHILDS, PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS.
1877.

In this publication under the sub heading 'Old Fort Schuyler' the following information is given.

"In company with Captain Potter (in 1790) came his son-in-law, Benjamin Plant, from Brantford CT. Purchasing a portion of the Potter lot, he settled thereon, remaining a farmer all his life. His house stood on the rear of the late residence of his son James Plant, now occupied by M. C. Cornstock. He was a good farmer and worthy man. He died in March 1813: his wife in January 1848

Of his sons, one died young [*probably Stephen*] and was the first person interred in the old burying ground on Water St. one is still living [*Frederick*] and one [*Benjamin or James*] after having faithfully shared in the habits of frugal industry which characterized the early settlers was able to surround himself, during the latter years of his life, with the comforts and luxuries of a happy home in a prosperous city. Among the reminiscences of Benjamin Plant Jr., the eldest son who was born in 1794, and who resided on the New Hartford road for upward of fifty years, is of having once come very near to encountering a bear with her cub in the road near his fathers. He was in company with the latter, who, seeing the bear approaching, advised the son to lie down and keep quiet. This he did, when the mother, being intent on getting her young one through a brush fence that impeded their course, passed near and went on her way

Three brothers Garrett viz Samuel, Peter and Cheney, were also companions of Captain Potter in his immigration to this place. Two of them at least were carpenters and worked a short time here, but soon removed from the place. Samuel seems to have been the longest resident but was gone before 1810. Cheney Garrett was one of the first settlers of South Trenton and was living there as late as 1850. "[*The Garrett brothers were probably related to Henry Garret who married Lorana Plant c 1787, Lorana being a sister of Benjamin Plant born 1763*].

Benjamin was descended from John Plant of Branford, Connecticut (see Family Tree) who took part in the Narragansett War which ended in 1676. In this war the early settlers were engaged with Indians. A considerable number of men from Connecticut were in this war including John Plant. Following the war the Connecticut General Assembly granted each volunteer a tract of land at Valantown as a bounty for military service

The records of the town of Branford show the name of John Plant where on 21 January 1677 he was granted two acres of land on condition that he should build on it within three years

His eldest son, John Jnr, was born 1678 and it is therefore reasonable to assume that John married some time in the second half of 1677. Subsequently, John Plant's name occurs a number of times in connection with grants of land. On 6 November 1677 his name appears as a witness on the record of payment

We can assume that a house was completed on this site with John and his wife moving in late 1677 or early 1678.

Other tracts of land were added and within a very short period of time a farm of considerable size had been established.

According to a descendant, Martha Plant Ross of Macon USA who published in 1963 a Genealogical Supplement to the House of Plant, the area of ground around the original site was not of the highest quality and it must have been a difficult job building up a productive farm. On most of the farms in this part of Connecticut the fields were uneven, rough and hard to till. As one of the grants says "allowance being made for the stonyness of the land"

A year after the grant of the land John Plant Jnr was born into probably a single cabin house of a hard working pioneer with few comforts and no luxuries

John Plant Snr was steadily progressing in his business as a farmer being given a further six acres of land on the Way Hill in 1688 and being sworn in as a freeman at Branford on 8 April 1690

An inventory of John Plant Snr estate was taken on 4 June 1691 giving a valuation of property of £130.8s.9d Therefore John Plant Snr must have died early 1691.

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

John Plant Jnr married Hannah Whedon and details of this generation were included in Journal No 2 pages 8 to 11

John Jnr's wife, Hannah, was a daughter of Thomas Whedon Jnr whose father, Thomas Whedon Snr, arrived in New Haven Connecticut from England with John Meigs before 1647 having been bound to him before the voyage as an apprentice to learn the tanners art

John Plant Jnr appears to have lived in Branford for most of his life though there is evidence that circa 1720 he purchased, from one of his neighbours, Josiah Rogers, a hundred acres of wild land in Lithfield on the west bank of the Waterbury river. In the distribution of his estate this land was given to his six sons as a piece of undivided property John Plant Jnr died 10 February 1752 all of his eight children serving him and his wife Hannah.

The youngest child of John Plant Jnr and Hannah was Benjamin born 1732 when his father was 54 years of age and his mother 47 years old When John Plant Jnr and his wife died, John in 1752 and Hannah in 1754, Benjamin was not mentioned in his father's will (though all the other children were) but was mentioned in his mother's will.

Benjamin married firstly Lorana Beckwith of Lyne on 5 April 1758 aged 26 and they had a total of eight children

Hannah	born	1759	m	John Russell		
John	born	1761				
Benjamin	born	1763	m	Lucinda Potter	d	1813
Anderson	born	1765			d	1790
Lorana	born	1767	m	Henry Garrett		
Peggy	born	1769	m	Janathan Frisbie		
Samuel	born	1772	m	Sarah Frisbie	d	1862
Elias	born	1774	m	Ruameh Hall	d	1821

Benjamin's first wife, Lorana, died 16 March 1789 and he subsequently married Abigale Palmer on 17 June 1790 and presumably when she died, Lois Frnsbie on 6 December 1797 Benjamin himself died in 1808 having lived in Branford for the whole of his life.

During Benjamin's lifetime great changes were occurring in the life of the colonies The old order was passing away. For more than a hundred years steady growth had been going on and the number of the original settlers had increased considerably within certain narrow bounds Community type living had evolved within small settlements usually consisting of a band of families. As in the case of the Plant families marriages interlocked the different families At that time Branford was probably made up of a number of settlements, families laying down the basis for a break out and expansion into the outback Little had been done relative to the exploration into remote regions One obstacle to this were the Indians lurking in the woods and threatening any 'white man' who ventured out of the settlements

The end of the French and Indian was in 1760 removed some of the danger from the Indians and enterprising settlers could penetrate far into the wilderness and build their cabins in relative safety As a result a rapid dispersion of the younger members occurred and families like the Plants of Branford became scattered, initially into the surrounding areas and then into Vermont, New York and Pennsylvania

It was in this environment that Benjamin Plant (the second) travelled in 1790 with his father-in-law, Captain Potter, and the Garrett brothers to Utica some 180 miles from Branford Whether his wife, Lucinda, accompanied him on this trip is not sure They had a total of seven children, the eldest being Sally born 1790. the same year that Benjamin was travelling to Utica.

The 1800 Federal Population Census for Utica shows Benjamin Plant as head of a family, the family containing one free white male of 26 years and under 45 years of age, two free white females under 10 years of age and one free white female of 26 years and under 45 years of age and two free white males under 10 years of age. Presumably the white male and female between 26 and 45 were Benjamin Plant and his wife, Lucinda, and the four children under 10 Benjamin, James, Sally and possibly, Mary Eliza (see family tree)

The 1830 and 1835 Census returns for Utica list James Plant. He is also listed together with his family in the 1850 Census.

Lucinda Plant, the wife of Benjamin Plant the 2nd, died 25 January 1848, the Utica Daily Gazette of 26 January 1848 carrying the following announcement

DEATHS

On the morning of Tuesday the 25 instant, Mrs Lucinda Plant, widow of the late Benjamin Plant of this city aged 81` years

Friends of the family are invited to attend the funeral on Thursday at 2 o'clock p m from the residence of her son Mr James Plant, Genesee St

The Plants must have become prominent residents of Utica as there is still a Plant Street named near where the Plant Farm was located and a few yards from 318 Genesee St (See page)

The references to Benjamin the second's family included in the 1855 Census for the City of Utica in the County of Oneida taken on the 4 June 1855 is shown on page

In 1860 James Plant (Benjamin Plant the 2nd's son) died of consumption aged 61 and the 1860 Census shows Hannah Plant age 48 described as a Lady with real estate valued at 7000 and Personal estate of 8000. Living with Hannah was Ellec C Plant, Frances W Plant and Frederick age 50 and described as a Gentleman James had lived in Genesee St.

The 1870 Census shows that Hannah and her family had moved to New Hartford.

Benjamin (3rd) (b 1794 the son of Benjamin Plant the second) appears in the 1830, 1835, 1850, 1860 and 1870 Census returns for New Hartford

There are also references in the Utica and New Hartford Census through the 19th century to other members of the Plant 'family' For details see pages .

Benjamin Plant, the 3rd, died in 1876; the administration of his goods, chattils and credits taken in June 1877 referring to his widow, Sarah, Mary Plant Hasford resident of the city of Hudson Ohio, Henry B Plant residing at Joliet Illinois and Francis M Squire residing at Ockland California. From the Plant references in the Census returns for New hartford it is possible to confirm that Mary and Francis were his daughters. There is however no reference in the Census returns for either Utica or New Hartford to a Henry B Plant

The Utica Observer of 29 April 1902 carried an article relative to the Plant family entitled, The Plant Farm in this City, and with the permission of Utica Public Library I am repeating this article as follows

"Family was prominent in Utica half a Century ago One of the survivors tells some interesting incidents about early Utica

Francis W Plant of Joliet, I ll., who has been spending the past two weeks in this city, returned to his home on Saturday Mr Plant during his stay here combined business with looking up the history of the family of which he is a descendant

The Plant family was at one time one of the most prominent families in this city Plant street, which is located in about the center of the old Plant farm, was named in honor of the family The Plant farm of half a century ago covered that

section of the city now bounded by Henry, State and Genesee streets, Watson Place and the old Chenango canal. When the farm was later divided up into city lots, many of the streets were given the christian names of members of the Plant family. Mr Plant's father, who was the last occupant of the Plant farm, was James Plant. His father, Benjamin Plant, was one of the original settlers, coming to this city from Bramford, Conn. The old Plant farm house was located in Genesee street just south of Tracy.

Mr Plant's grandparents were married in Whitesboro, the abiding place of the nearest minister. The young couple journeyed to Whitesboro and return on horseback. When Benjamin Plant died, James Plant continued to reside on the old farm, while another brother, Benjamin, settled on a farm in New Hartford just south of the cemetery road.

James Plant ran the Plant farm until early in the fifties, when it was divided into city lots by William B Taylor. James Plant died in 1859. That part of the farm west of Francis street consisted of a swamp and low ground. Streets were laid out through the farm. One street, since closed, was named Helen street, after one of the daughters in the family.

An old flag pole stood in Oneida square until some years ago. This pole was procured from the woods and placed in position by Mr Plant's father. Francis Plant met many of his old friends during his two weeks' stay in Utica. Among those whom he visited was Assistant Fire Chief Henry Garthside. Chief Garthside and Mr Plant recalled how in 1853 or 1854 they hauled an old hose cart from Oneida square to a fire in New Hartford. Tiger Hose Company's cart came along about the same time and the two companies raced all the way to New Hartford. Among Mr Plant's schoolmates in the Advanced School and Academy now living here were Rufus P Birdseye of the Savings Bank and Fred B Hart.

Mr Plant told many interesting incidents connected with the life of his father and grandfather. Benjamin Plant, his grandfather, was a son-in-law of Stephen Potter. On one occasion he was in what is now known as State street. Mr Plant saw a bear and a cub shuffling along. Mr Plant stepped behind a tree until Mrs Bruin and Master Bruin passed. Back in the forties the state fair was held on the Plant farm. On several other occasions the Utica Citizens' Corps held annual encampments there. During one exhibition of the state fair a picture painter boarded with the Plant family. When he started to go away the man did not have enough money to pay his board bill. He left as security a painting of George Washington's home at Mount Vernon. The painter never redeemed the pledge and the painting, now highly valued, graces Mr Plant's home in Joliet. Colonel Crumb, then a noted military officer, left an old-fashioned high carriage with the Plant family. One was compelled to take three steps to get into the vehicle, which was so constructed that it could be drawn either by two or three horses. The colonel never called for his carriage. In later years it was sold at public auction in Oneida square and bid in by William Jacskon, a butcher, who used the running gear for many years on a delivery wagon.

Among Mr Plant's classmates in the academy were Ward Hunt, Theodor Gardner, Charles Griggs, Fred Hart, Rufus Birdseye and Franck Corey. Mr Plant remembers the drilling of the famous Ellsworth Zouaves in Chancellor square. Mr Hunt and Mr Plant at one time published from the Utica Herald office a paper known as "The Monthly Miscellany".

Mr Plant and his sister, Mrs T D Catlin of Ottawa, Ill., are the surviving children of James Plant. About 15,000 descendants of ancestors have thus far been located by Mr Plant. He is desirous of ascertaining information concerning the family of Royal Mason. The Mason family originally lived in Schuyler.

As a post script to this article it is worthwhile considering the fact that in the 1850's William and Leah Plant and family of Stockport England lived in Utica On their return to England William set up a hat block manufacturing company in Manchester England

Was there some connection between the two branches of Plants or was it pure coincidence that they lived in Utica at the same time

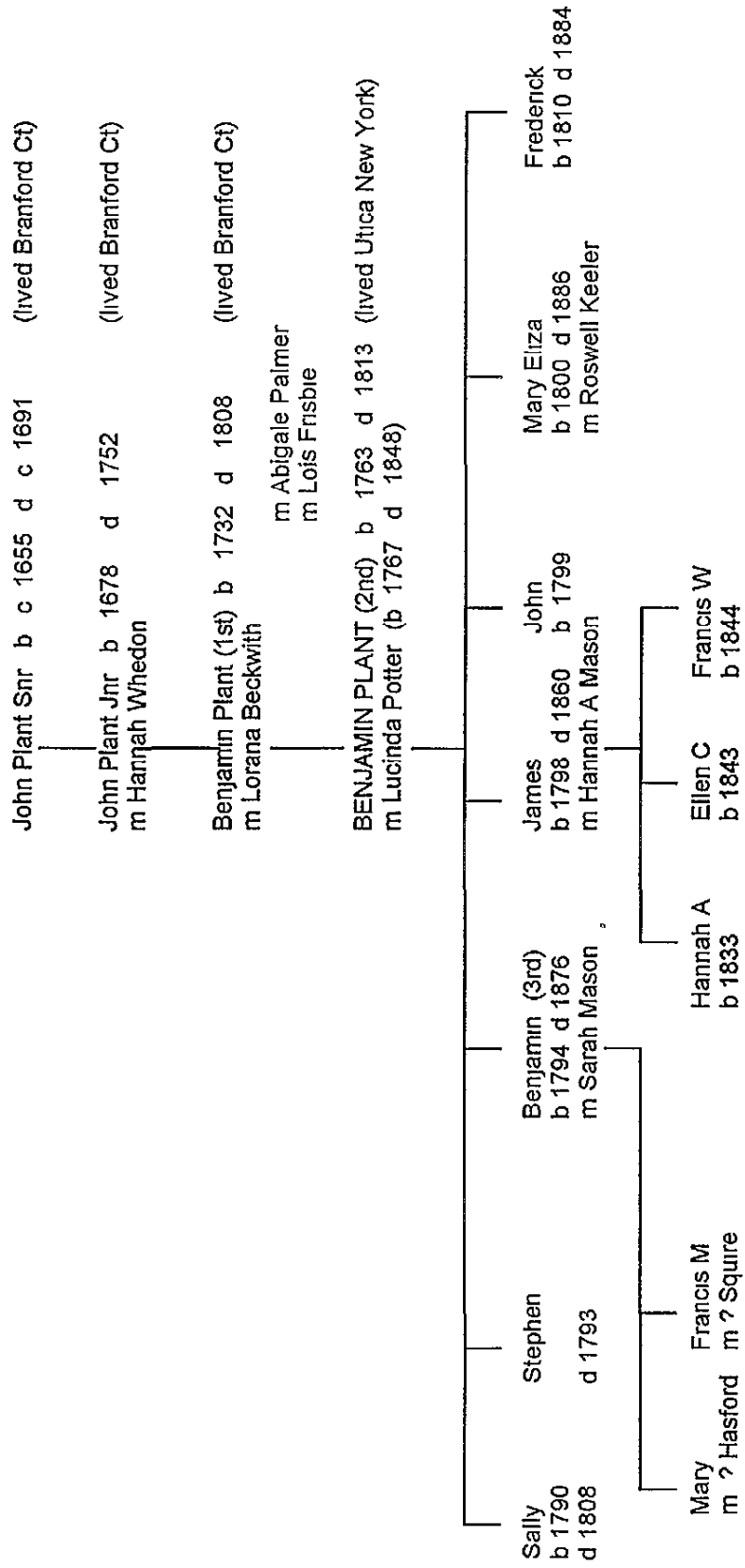
• POPULATION CENSUS OF THE INHABITANTS IN THE ELECTION DISTRICT OF THE THIRD WARD OF
 • THE CITY OF UTICA IN THE COUNTY OF ONEIDA TAKEN ON THE FOURTH DAY OF JUNE 1855 •

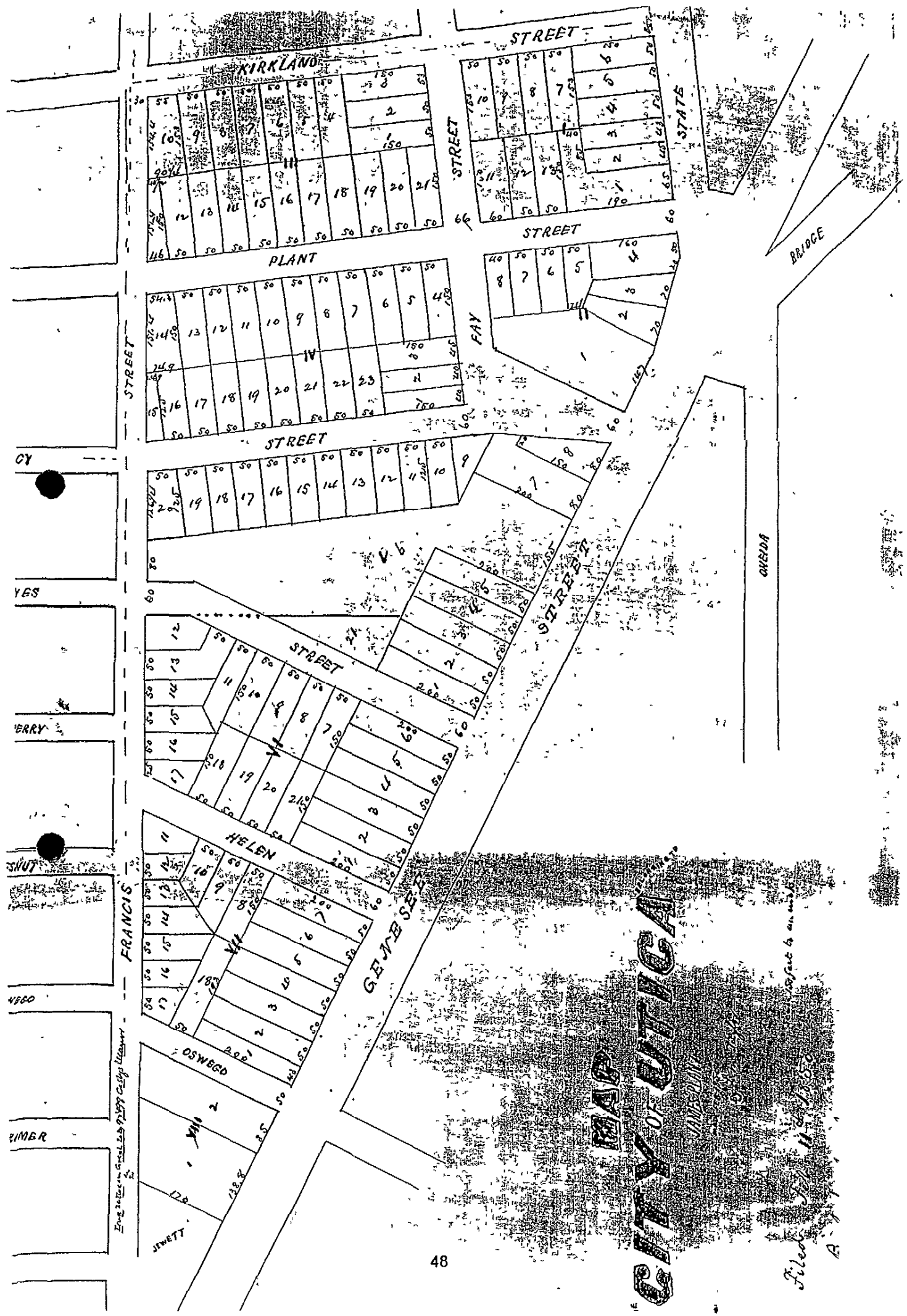
Material of House	Value	Name of every person whose usual place of abode was in this family	age	sex	Relation to the head of the family	Place of Birth	Married	Widowed	Years Resident	profession	Voters		Person over 21 who cannot read or write	Owners of Land	
											Native	Naturalised			Aliens
Brick	10000	James Plant	56	M	Head	Oneida	/		56	Farmer	/			/	
		Hannah Plant	42	F	Wife	Oneida	/		20						
		Hannah A Plant	22	F	Child	Oneida			22						
		Ellen C Plant	13	F	Child	Oneida									
		Francis W Plant	11	M	Child	Oneida									
		???? Owens	25	F	Servant	Wales									/
		Fredrick Plant	44	M	Brother	Oneida			5	Farmer	/			/	

THE ENTRY BELOW COVERS THE FAMILY OF WILLIAM PLANT OF STOCKPORT ENGLAND WHO LIVED IN UTICA AT THIS TIME BUT RETURNED TO ENGLAND IN 1859

Material of House	Value	Name of every person whose usual place of abode was in this family	age	sex	Relation to the head of the family	Place of Birth	Married	Widowed	Years Resident	profession	Person over 21 who cannot read or write	Owners of Land
Wood	500	William Plant	60	M	Head	England	/		2	Wood Turner	/	
		Leah Plant	34	F	Wife	England	/		2			
		Mary Plant	14	F	Child	England			2			
		William Plant	10	M	Child	England			2			
		Leah C Plant	2	F	Child	Oneida			2			
		Herbert A Plant	6 mths	M	Child	Oneida			6 mths			
		*Henry Plant	16	M	Servant	England			1	Turner		

included in the 1855 Census was the family of William and Leah Plant of Stockport England who lived in Utica at that time before returning to England in 1859. William Plant's eldest son, Henry, was at the time of the census living with Henry Boone and his family. As Henry Boone was a Turner, as was Henry, it is possible that Henry was learning his trade as an apprentice.

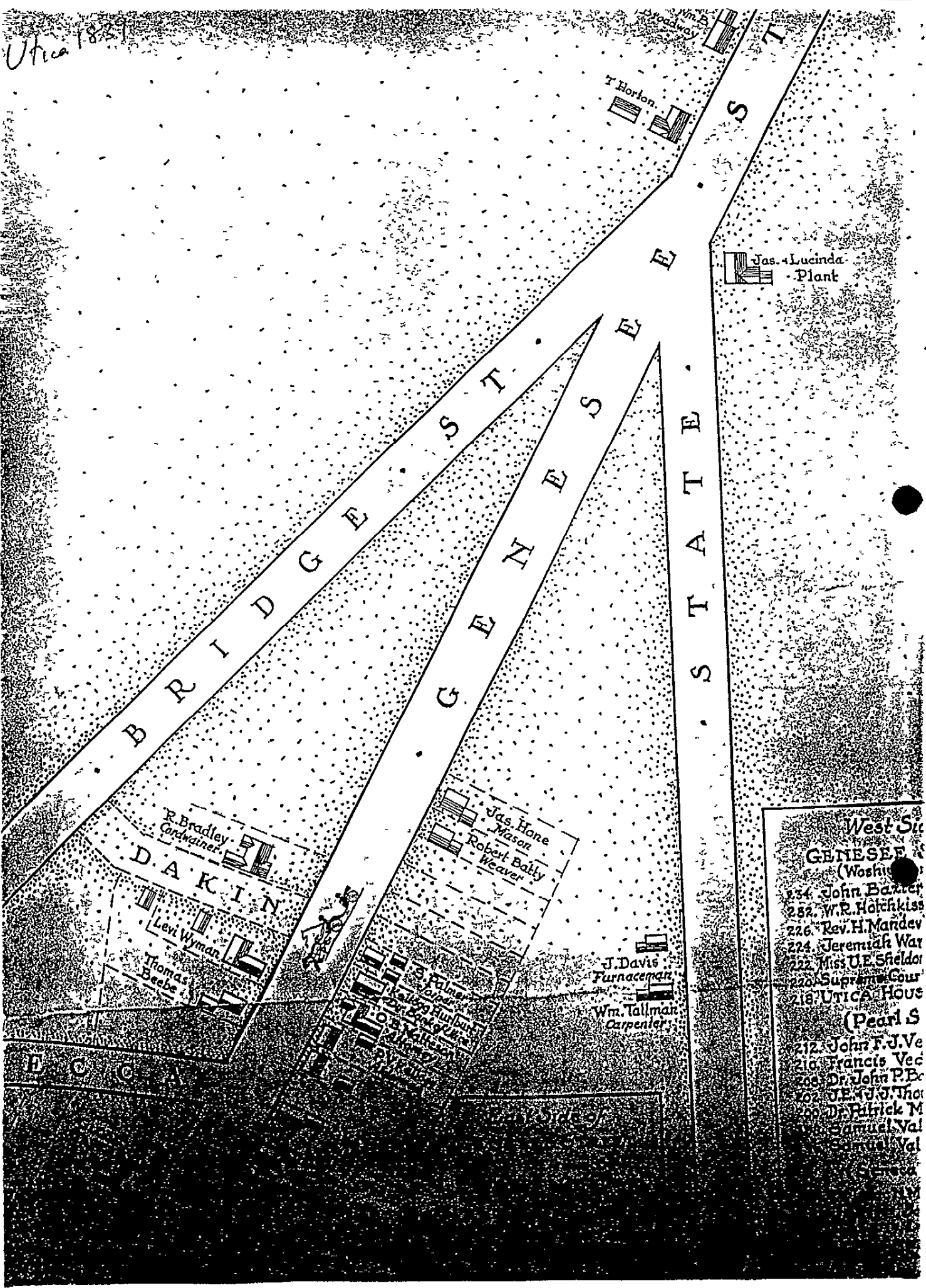




CITY OF DULUTH
MINNESOTA

Filed July 11, 1950
A

Utica 1837



- West Side**
- GENESEEE**
(Washington)
- 234 John Baxter
 - 252 W.R. Hotchkiss
 - 226 Rev. H. Mandev
 - 224 Jeremiah War
 - 222 Miss U.E. Sheldor
 - 220 Supreme Court
 - 218 UTICA HOUSE
- (Pearl S)**
- 212 John F. J. Ve
 - 210 Francis Vec
 - 208 Dr. John P. B.
 - 202 J.E. & J. Thor
 - 200 Dr. Patrick M.
 - 198 Samuel Val
 - 196 Samuel Val

MARCY

UTICA

Deerfield

RIVER

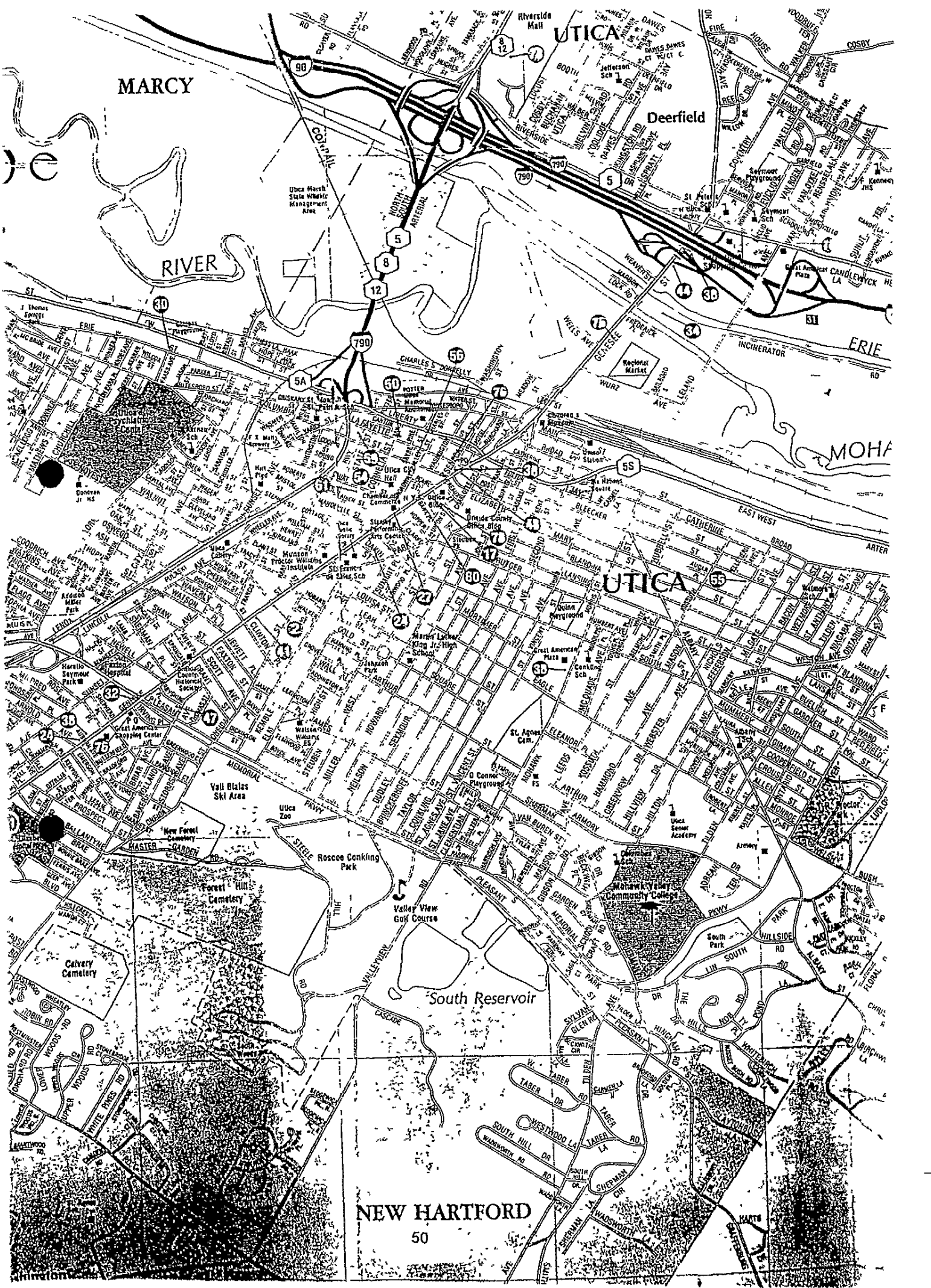
ERIE

MOHA

UTICA

South Reservoir

NEW HARTFORD



PLANT REFERENCES IN CENSUS RETURNS 19TH CENTURY - UTICA

<u>1830</u>	<u>Page No</u>	<u>1835, Ward 3</u>	
Plant, James	51	Plant, James	1
<u>1850, Ward 2</u>		<u>1850, Ward 3</u>	
Plant, James	63	Plant, Arthur	8
Hannah A	"	Delia	
Helen C	"		
Francis W	"	<u>1850, 5th Ward</u>	
Frederick P	"	Plant, Samuel	51
		Charlotte	"
		Charles	"
<u>1855, Ward 3</u>		<u>1855, Ward 4</u>	
Plant, Frederick P.	4	Plant, Arthur	8
Plant, Hannah A.	4	Elizabeth	"
Ellen C	"	Mary L	"
Francis W	"	Plant, Jacob	7
Plant, James	1	Harriet	"
Hannah A	"	Allen	"
		Chauncey	"
<u>1855, Ward 5</u>		<u>1860, Ward 1</u>	
Plant, Samuel	76	Plant, Lorenzo	95
Ann	"	Harriet	"
Charles	"	Otis	"
Mary A	"	Plant, Pheodore	106
<u>1860, Ward 6</u>			
Plant, Henry	50		
Bridget	"		

1860, Ward 3

Plant, Elizabeth	31
Plant, Hannah	10
Ellen C.	"
Francis W	"
Frederick	"

1860, Ward 7

Plant, Samuel	50
Ann	"
Charles	"
Mary H	"
Emma L	"
Laura F.	"

1870 - None Recorded

1860, Ward 4

Plant, Jacob	17
Harriet	"
Allen	"
Chauncy	"

1865, Ward 7

Plant, Samuel	98
Anna	"
Mary E	"
Emma	"
Laura P.	"
Anna E	"

1875

Plant, Samuel	4
Anna, wife	"
Emma	"
Laura	"
?	"

PLANT REFERENCES IN CENSUS RETURNS 19TH CENTURY - NEW HARTFORD

New Hartford Census

<u>1830</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
Plant, Benjamin	1
<u>1835</u>	
Plant, Benjamin	6
<u>1850</u>	
Plant, Benjamin	71
Sarah	"
Mary	"
Francis	"
<u>1860</u>	
Plant, Benjamin	165
Sarah	"
Mary	"
<u>1870</u>	
Plant, Benjamin	76
Sarah	"
Plant, Hannah A	77
Francis W	"
Elizabeth	"
Helen	"
Laura	"
Fredenck	"

• **PLANT FAMILY INVOLVEMENT IN THE HATTING INDUSTRY OF** •
• **NORTH WEST ENGLAND** •

by W Keith Plant from
information provided by
Aileen Plant

Chapter 1 The Beginnings

For many years hatting was the staple industry in parts of North West England particularly in the Manchester and Stockport Area. In many instances it was the central part of people's lives as whole families were engaged in the trade and most firms were family businesses. Plants were such companies, originating from one source and then fragmenting as family disputes arose.

The origins of hatting are connected with the making of felt, which, in this area started in the sixteenth century. At first the felt was sold to merchants in Stockport and Manchester. However, as the market for hats increased, workshops were set up and by the beginning of the eighteenth century the making of hats was becoming established in the Stockport area. For example by 1800 there were at least four sizeable hatting firms in the Denton and Hyde district. A large part of the trade was in drab bonnets of fine wool.

In 1825 there were nine hat factories recorded in Ashton-under-Lyne and twenty recorded in Denton. The improvement of communications brought about by the Industrial Revolution was a vital factor in the development of the trade and companies moved closer to the road network. Expansion in the industry led to increased population, the increase in Denton being from 1362 in 1801 to 3440 in 1841. Production in Denton and Haughton was up to 2000 dozen of felt hats per week in 1840.

The low labour rates at the Stockport area companies encouraged several large London firms to move North and set up factories, sub-contracting manufacture to smaller companies



William Plant 1804 to 1881

Trade was booming and it was in this environment that William Plant founded a Hat Block Making business in Churchgate, Stockport, in 1828.

The Family Prayer Book contains considerable information relating to members of the family and the framework of this article will be based on this information

William Plant was born on 6 November 1804 at (according to the Family Prayer Book) 8 o'clock in the morning, the son of Andrew and Ann.

To be continued in forthcoming issues of the Journal

• STAFFORDSHIRE BURIAL INDEX •

Continued from Journals 3, 4, 6, 8, 9 and 10
covering Thomas

1777	Nov	13	Theophilus		Forton
1583	Sept	1	Thomas son of Thomas		Ellastone
1603	Apr	2	Thomas de Bishton		Colwich
1603	Apr	16	Thomas de Bishton	minor	Colwich
1685	Feb	3	Thomas of Stallington	Stone	Draycott in the Moors
1710	Jan	14	Thomas of Newbor		Hanbury
1745	May	4	Thomas son of Thomas & Anne		Ellastone
1747	Jan	19	Thomas		Lapley
1763	Jun	-	Thomas a youth of Lions Pool		Horton
1764	Aug	3	Thomas of Uttoxeter		Bramshall
1766	May	2	Thomas		Ellaston
1775	Nov	23	Thomas		Cheadle
1777	Mar	14	Thomas son of Samuel & Hannah		Alton
1779	Mar	4	Thomas		Cheddleton
1783	Apr	24	Thomas of Swynnerton		Swynnerton
1784	Apr	22	Thomas of Irelands Cross		Mucclstone
1784	May	8	Thomas son of John & Hannah		Cheadle
1786	Apr	30	Thomas		Cheadle
1789	Apr	5	Thomas son of Samuel & Margaret of Bearstone		Mucclstone
1789	Oct	12	Thomas		Forton
1793	Jan	9	Thomas infant son of Joseph		Lichfield St Michael
1793	Jun	24	Thomas infant		Burslem
1793	Oct	28	Thomas		Lichfield St Michael
1795	Jan	13	Thomas		Sandon
1795	Mar	25	Thomas son of Thomas & Elizabeth from Cheadle		Bradley in the Moors
1796	Feb	15	Thomas son of William & Ann		Chapel Chorlton
1796	May	26	Thomas of the Nowall		Swynnerton
1797	Apr	7	Thomas	9 months	Longton
1799	Feb	27	Thomas son of John & Martha		High Offley
1800	Jan	12	Thomas		Stoke on Trent
1800	Sep	30	Thomas	53	Leek
1803	Feb	22	Thomas son of John & Martha		High Offley
1803	Sep	21	Thomas	13	Cheadle
1803	Oct	27	Thomas	10	Leek
1807	Jan	28	Thomas	17	Leek
1807	Oct	15	Thomas	30	Hanley
1811	Jul	31	Thomas		Eccleshall
1813	Mar	7	Thomas of Croxton	82	Eccleshall
1813	Dec	21	Thomas of Dairy House, Horton		Leek
1815	Mar	26	Thomas of Spout St	61	Leek
1816	Jan	8	Thomas	47	Burslem St John
1816	Jun	6	Thomas of Pershall	26	Eccleshall
1817	Mar	21	Thomas of Wheaton Aston	56	Eccleshall
1817	Jun	28	Thomas	4 fits	Burslem St John
1817	Dec	8	Thomas of Redcross	15	Biddulph
1820	Feb	20	Thomas of Penkhull	12	Stoke on Trent
1820	Mar	5	Thomas of Shelton	6 weeks	Stoke on Trent
1820	Apr	7	Thomas of the Delph	infant	Brierley Hill
1821	Jan	14	Thomas of the workhouse	infant	Leek
1821	Sep	3	Thomas of London	23	Cheadle
1824	Sep	5	Thomas	10 months	Burslem St John
1825	Jul	3	Thomas	3 yr 6 months	Longton
1825	Sep	25	Thomas of Lane Delph	3 days	Longton

1826	Jan	3	Thomas	70		Newcastle under Lyne
1826	Apr	22	Thomas	2		Longton
1826	Aug	20	Thomas	19		Wolverhampton
1826	Sep	17	Thomas	5		Uttoxeter
1827	Mar	24	Thomas	19		Cheadle
1827	Oct	23	Thomas of Bell Yard	76		Cheadle
1823	Feb	26	Thomas of Hot Lane	infant		Burslem St John
1828	Nov	9	Thomas of Lane Delph	2		Stoke on Trent
1828	Nov	11	Thomas of Lid Lane	37		Cheadle
1829	May	26	Thomas of Clifton, Ashbourne	11 months		Mayfield
1830	Mar	21	Thomas	75		Ellenhall
1831	Jun	2	Thomas	10		Burslem St John
1831	Aug	16	Thomas of Thomcliff	74		Leek
1832	Jun	18	Thomas of Penkhull	51		Stoke on Trent
1832	Oct	15	Thomas	infant		Burslem St John
1832	Nov	12	Thomas of Easing	83		Leek
1833	Jan	27	Thomas of None Row	1		Stoke on Trent
1832	Mar	26	Thomas of Shelton	70		Stoke on Trent
1833	Apr	14	Thomas of Dudley Port	1		Tipton
1835	Apr	6	Thomas of Affley Hay	74		
1835	Oct	13	Thomas	44		Longton
1836	Jan	12	Thomas	1		Longton
1836	Feb	2	Thomas of Shelton	59		Biddulph
1836	Mar	2	Thomas of Mill St	25		Leek
1836	Jul	6	Thomas of Cobridge	44		Stoke on Trent
1836	Jul	20	Thomas of Mount Pleasant	70		Brierley Hill
1837	Jan	5	Thomas	infant		Burslem St John
1837	Sep	25	Thomas	2 ¹ / ₂		Longton
1826	Mar	21	Thomasin of Stoke	36		Burslem St John