



# Roots and Branches

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The Plant Family History Group

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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/
18	Mr Peter Johnson	L19c Manchester Lancs/19c Mid Cheshire/
20	Mr David Plant	Pre 19c Clowne Derby/19c Doncaster Yorks/ 19c Notts / 19c Cheltenham Glos/
23	Mrs Judy Wallace	18c + 19c Nottingham/
29	Mrs Shirley Hughes	L17c + 18c Rowley Regis Worcs/19c Dudley Worcs/L19c Sydney Australia/
32	Mrs Catherine Sproston	Any Period Cheshire/
33	Miss Aileen Plant	17c 18c 19c Stockport Cheshire/
35	Mr Arnold Plant	General/
37	Mr Patrick Pearson	Any period Stockport Cheshire/
38	Mrs Stan Plant	e19c Denton Lancs/19c Leicester/ 20c Rounds Northants/
45	Mr David Johnson	19c Kidsgrove/
47	Mrs S Robson	General/
51	Mr Gerald Plant	m19c Goostrey Cheshire/L19c e20c Salford Lancs/
52	Dr John S Plant	19c Sheffield Yorks/e19c Clowne Derbyshire/
59	Mr Nigel Burroughs	L18c 19c Burslem + Longton Staffs/
65	Mr D J Plant	Any period Cheadle Staffs/

69	Mr Andrew Plant	M18c + M19c Little Bowden and Market Harborough/ 19c London
71	Mr G Brian Plant	Any period Cheshire/
74	Mrs Alice D Mercer	19c Leicester/L19c Nottingham/
75	Mr M J Plant	e19c Shropshire/e19c Cheadle Hulme Cheshire/
85	Mr John E Ransley	18c + 19c Staffordshire/
89	Mrs Denise F Weston	Any period Fenton + Cheadle + Longton Staffs/
90	Mrs M R Lake	m18c Suffolk/
91	Mr Fred Faulkner	Any Period 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 Malcolm John Plant	Any period Sibsey Lincs/
113	Mrs Heather Plant	L19c Hackney Middlesex/
114	Mr John Russell 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/
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/
- 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
- 138 Mrs Jean Ray 19c Sheffield
- 139 Mrs Judith Kirkby Pre 1850 Macclesfield Ches/
- 140 Mrs J Bateman Pre 1900 Staffordshire/Pre 1900 Worcestershire/
- 141 Mr Malcolm Revell 18 + 19c Burlsem + Longton + Stoke on Trent  
Staffs/
- 142 Mr Hugh Middleton e 20 c Islington/
- 143 Miss Freda Lawrence 19c Staffordshire/
- 144 Mr Ron Plant General/
- 145 Mr Graham Wingfield 19c Lower + Higher Whitley + Little Leigh, Cheshire/
- 146 Miss J A Rigby Pre 1900 Stoke on Trent, Staffs/

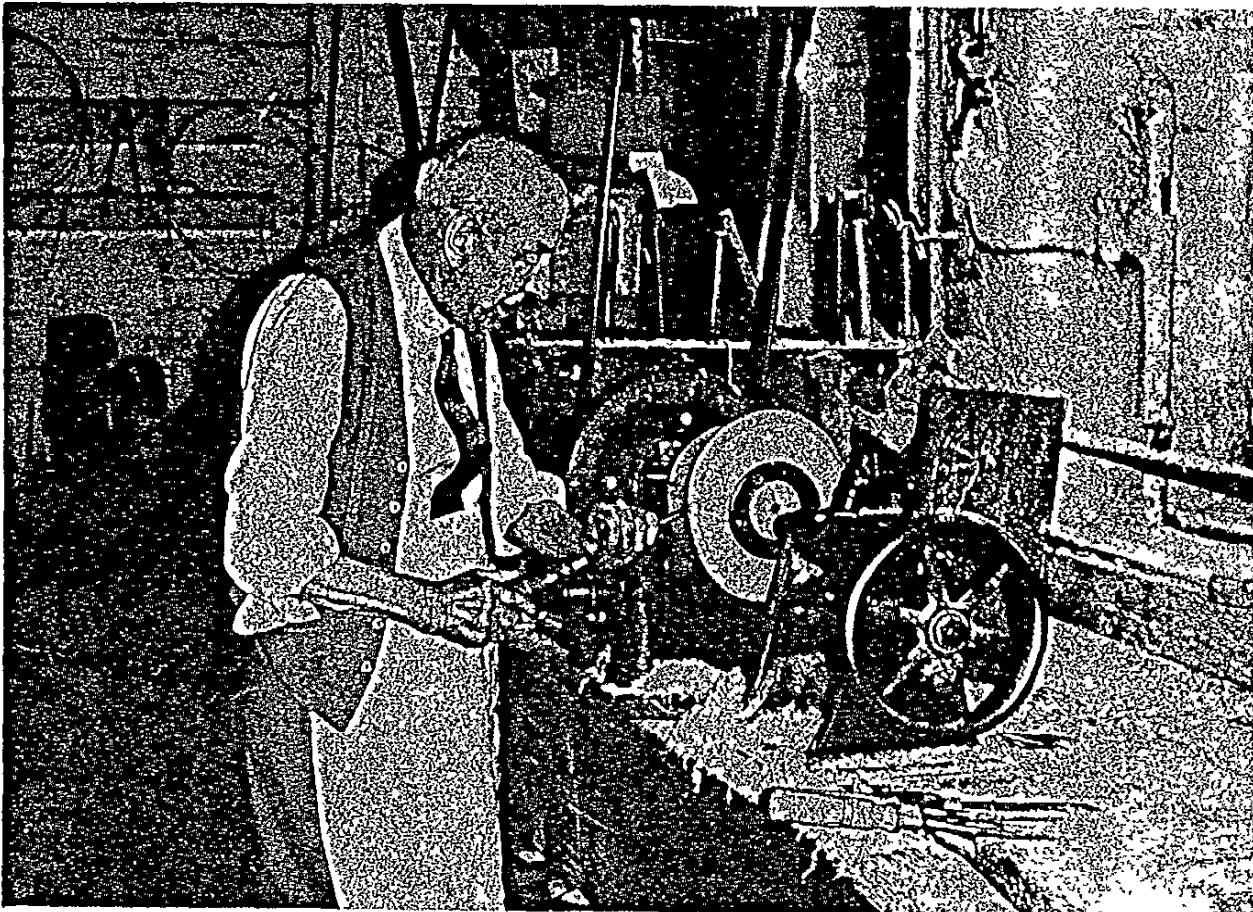


THE PLANT FAMILY AND HATTING INDUSTRY IN THE NORTH WEST OF ENGLAND

Chapter 2

William Plant

Wood Block and Woodcraft Manufacturers  
67a Great Ancoats Street  
Manchester



Block making, William Plant, 1975

The following article was written by Clifford Cross and published in 1977 by Stockport Museums and Art Gallery Service Recreation and Culture Division

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William Plant, Hat Block and Wood Craft Manufacturers, 67a Great Ancoats Street, Manchester, ceased production on Monday, 1 March 1976, when the last proprietor, Mr Walter Plant of Stockport, who had been actively engaged in his trade almost until that date, died at the age of 91 years

In 1828 Walter's grandfather, William Plant, founded a business of Hat Block Making in part of Churchgate Mill, Stockport, during a period when hat making was still very much a hand craft, carried out in widely dispersed small workshops and in the houses of the workers. Change was, however, proceeding fairly rapidly and the manufacture of silk and cotton fabrics and hats was taking place more and more in larger factory units and becoming concentrated in specific regions

On the assumption that Manchester would be more centrally situated for his business, in 1850, William Plant and Sons removed to premises off Rochdale Road, where a prosperous business was established and which continued until 1947

The increased activity and mechanisation generated by the industrial revolution in the latter half of the nineteenth century encouraged William Plant and Sons to diversify their range of products and to include in addition to Hat Blocks, "Dishes, Matrices and Machinery used in producing the shapes of Hats and Caps", with an assurance always that "there was personal supervision of the work in every detail".

In 1892, Walter Plant's father, William Plant, a son of the founder, left the family firm and started up a hat block workshop of his own in Hilton Street, Manchester, moving to a three storey premises in Great Ancoats Street nine years later. Walter, who was 16 years of age at this time, joined his father and elder brother William in the business. The firm William Plant, Wood Block and Woodcraft Manufacturers, was to exist for three quarters of a century and witnessed many changes in the hatting industry

#### HATTING AND THE HAT BLOCK

Stockport and district was a recognised centre of the felt-hat trade as early as the eighteenth century, and until the middle of the nineteenth century a large proportion of the hat bodies, or hoods, were formed in domestic workshops. These were sold to local dealers who in turn disposed of them to the fashionable London hatters for finishing. Inevitably, from the domestic workshops, small factories evolved which possessed the capacity to manufacture hats from start to finish. As the century progressed the factory units became larger as machinery, which replaced some of the hand processes, was introduced. The Americans were pioneers in the production of hat-making machinery and Christy & Co purchased and installed a variety of such machines in 1869 in their Hillgate factory. This action appears to have encouraged local engineers to manufacture similar machines and as a consequence of an acceleration in mechanisation, the hat trade proliferated in Stockport and many sizeable firms emerged. In addition to Christy's these included Sutton & Torkington, Battersby's, Carrington's, Ward's and Lees, which were to become renowned in markets throughout the world for the quality of their hats.

The hatting industry under factory conditions became concentrated within a restricted number of areas in Britain - the principal centres being Luton, famous for straw hats, Denton, Hyde and Atherstone for felt hats, and parts of Manchester for caps. Stockport manufactured on a large scale a wide variety of hat types (excluding 'Straws'), high quality men's headgear being a particular feature which included 'Beavers', 'Silks', 'Felts' and 'Velours'. Cloth caps, firemen's and policemen's helmets and, in more recent years, riding hats, uniform hats and 'sporty' tweed hats were also included in the range. There is now little or no demand for some of the original styles, but production of most of the range still continues. The ladies' hat trade was also important in Stockport, but because of the 'fashion' factor, this sector was much more volatile and consequently more individualistic. Felt shapes manufactured by some of the firms were purchased mainly by milliners as a basis for their ever changing creations

In 1892 there were forty-five firms in the Stockport area listed, in Kelly's Directory of Cheshire, as Hat Manufacturers. Thousands of people were dependent upon these firms either directly or indirectly for employment. The volume of trade fluctuated considerably from this date until the end of the 1939/45 war, after which a period of relative prosperity was experienced following a series of export drives mounted by the hatters in the late 1940's. The boom, however, did not last. The wearing of hats declined and fashion became more and more informal. Shortage of orders brought about a series of closures and amalgamated still further to form the Associated British Hat Manufacturers Limited, occupying Christy's former works in Hillgate, Stockport, and thus becoming the largest hatting organisation in Western Europe.

At present, the trade is represented in this area only by Denton Hat Co Limited, Associated British Hats in Stockport with a subsidiary in Denton, and Messrs Rowland Ratcliffe Limited, Stockport. In consequence, hat block making has declined proportionately.

In recent years, however, hat making in Stockport in its streamlined form has made something of a come back as it responded to dramatic changes in the market and an increasing demand for hats of a more specialised nature - riding hats, uniform hats, and tweed cloth hats and caps now popularly worn for leisure activities. The Bowler, the Trilby and the Top Hat are now luxuries and no longer provide the 'bread and butter'.

Apart from individuals living in the areas previously mentioned, who have been associated in some way with hatting, very few people possess even a basic knowledge of the intricacies of the trade and the diverse and often highly skilled processes involved during the period from when the raw materials arrive at the factory until the finished hat is ready for dispatch.

The wooden hat block is an implement which plays a most vital role during the manufacture of all hats and brims, whatever the shape or size. It is used during the later stages in production when the roughly formed hat shape is placed upon its appropriate block and subjected to a process of pulling and shrinkage in which steam figures prominently. Thus the crown of the hat is moulded into its final recognisable form and proceeds from this stage to be finished. If a particular style incorporates a brim, a separate wooden frame or block is carved to accommodate this.

#### THE HAT BLOCK AND HATTING

Wooden blocks when in use are subjected to extremes in environmental conditions, including periods of prolonged contact with water, steam and sometimes acids, whereas at other times they are allowed to dry out completely. It is essential, therefore, that the character of the wood from which they are fashioned should be capable of withstanding drastic treatment without warping. The wood from well grown Sycamore and Alder trees has proved ideal in this respect and is used almost exclusively for block making. Poplar wood is employed in the production of wool-forming and shaving cones, and Box wood for some of the small wooden hand tools used for shaping brims and crowns, accessories which were also made by block makers.

The timber was selected with great care. Specimen trees were particularly desirable and massive Sycamore and Alder trunks, often up to 18 feet in length, were purchased from estates in Cheshire during the early years, but as timber of the right type became increasingly scarce locally, East Anglia became a significant source of supply. At one time, the trunks were transported almost to the doors of the workshop by barge via the Rochdale Canal and later by rail and road transport. Upon arrival at the workshop, the wood was stacked in an outdoor shed for a period of at least five years to ensure that it was adequately seasoned.

Whenever an order was placed with William Plant's for a series of hat blocks of a particular type, under normal circumstances production was carried out in the following sequence:-

- 1 A seasoned trunk or plank was cut into roughly equal sections of an appropriate size by means of a large circular saw.

- 2 Each individual section was roughly shaped and trimmed on a small circular saw
- 3 One face of each section, which was to become the base of the finished block, was smoothed off on the planing machine
- 4 From the now partially shaped sections of wood, one was selected to be sculptured into a 'pattern' block from which the series of blocks, each of a different size, was to be copied
- 5 Using data, a model hat supplied by the manufacturer, and simple mathematical techniques, the oval shape of the crown of the hat was drawn upon the base of the 'pattern' block
- 6 A hole was bored by the drilling machine into the base of the block to enable it to be screwed on a lathe
- 7 The block was turned on the lathe to produce as near as possible the ultimate shape
8. The final touches were applied on the bench by hand. This was the stage at which skill and experience in the use of a wide variety of chisels, gouges, spoke shaves and templates was required
- 9 The finished block was finally 'sanded up' on a lathe
- 10 The 'patter', usually designed for a hat size 7, was placed into position on the copying machine alongside a rough block still at stage (7). This machine produced from these blocks a finished article identical in shape to the 'pattern' and to any size within the required range. Normally, men's hats were manufactured in nine sizes rising from 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> in eight's to 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>. Five sizes were offered to ladies, although more recently these have been reduced to three - small, medium and large

#### THE WORKSHOP

The William Plant workshop, and the tools and equipment it contained, changed little throughout its long existence. When it was established in 1892, block copying machines manufactured in Vermont, U.S.A., by Gilman's, had already been introduced into Britain. William Plant acquired two of these machines which obviated the necessity for every hat block to be individually sculptured by hand. Only one in any particular series - a 'pattern' block - had now to be produced in this way. The machines took care of the rest and output was thus increased considerably.

Doubtless the multifarious hand tools and ponderous cast-iron saws, planer, drill, sander and lathes in the workshop appear incongruous at the present time when light, electrically powered tools are available and would be adequate for most of the operations involved in hat block production. During the latter half of the nineteenth century however, quality and durability were of paramount importance. The fact that the same machines were still operating efficiently almost a hundred years later, and showing little sign of wear and tear, is a fitting tribute to the pioneers of the Industrial Revolution.

During the early years the machinery was driven, via a system of line shafts and pulleys, by a stationary steam engine of similar vintage to the 'Tangye' now installed in the reconstructed workshop. Later, however, this engine was replaced by a much more convenient electric motor.

Although many of the larger hatting firms had block making sections of their own, such was the volume of work at times, that a substantial proportion of this business had to be sub-contracted out to the independent workshop, and prior to 1914 William Plant employed a workforce of up to nine men. After the First World War, trade slackened and this was reduced to five, until latterly only Walter Plant and his assistant, Bert Gurden, remained.

Bert started work at the age of fourteen as an apprentice in 1923, and apart from a break for war service during 1939/45, was employed continuously by the firm until it closed down. He is now enjoying a well earned retirement.

The hundreds of different blocks which were to be found in every nook and cranny of the Ancoats Street workshop illustrate the evolution of hatting in a very novel and solid way. The blocks provide evidence of many styles which are now long forgotten, in addition to classic types which will always be remembered. Many styles have assumed historical significance in their own right. The sola topee, a symbol of the British Empire, was commissioned in thousands by the Government during the 1914/18 war in an attempt to protect the troops fighting in the Middle East from heat stroke, is one example. Other hats were made famous by outstanding personages such as Winston Churchill, Anthony Eden and General Montgomery, to name just a few.

Blocks for all these were produced by 'Plant's'

The craft of wooden hat block making lingers still.

Associated British Hat Manufacturers Limited employ a block maker. It is difficult, however, to envisage that the production of blocks on a large scale will ever again be resumed.

The frame or brim block was fashioned entirely by hand in all instances. The jig saw cut out the oval of the head shape and the block was finished on the sanding bench.

Two main categories of block were generally in production in the workshop -

- a) When the crown of a hat narrowed or remained parallel from its base, taking as an example a 'Bowler', the block was made in a single piece, as was its associated frame or brim block.
- b) If, however, the apex of the hat crown was larger in circumference than the base, as in the case of a cap or tam-o-shanter, or if, as in some styles of silk hat, the crown was waisted, the block was made in five pieces which could be held together or dismantled during the shaping process as required.

#### THE MEASUREMENT OF A HAT

To the layman, the manner in which the size of a hat is determined and the measurements used are nothing less than a mystery.

Using a bowler hat as an example, the particular size of a hat is calculated as an average of the length of the base of the crown and its width. In a hat known as a  $1\frac{1}{2}$  oval, the length would be  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches longer than the breadth and a size 7 would be  $7\frac{3}{4} \times 6\frac{3}{4}$ . The largest block produced by Walter Plant was for a hat ordered by the King of Tonga in the size of  $8\frac{1}{4}$ .

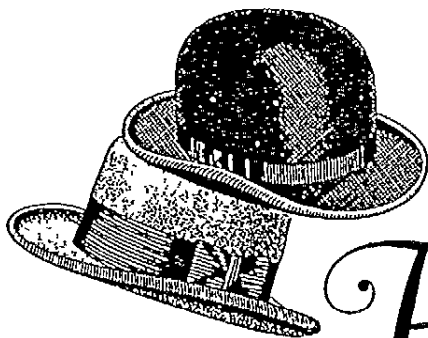
Although the unit inches is inferred, it is never referred to by hatters.



The story of this particular branch of the Plant Family will be continued in subsequent Journals.

WKP note - For members living in the North of England it is worth visiting The Museum of Hatting in Stockport (see next page). Included in the Museum is a section dedicated to William Plant's Hat Block Workshop.

A 20 minute documentary film has been produced of William Plant's workshop, details of film being shown on page 13.



# Hat WORKS

## The Museum of Hatting - Stockport

*Come and see the UK's only  
museum dedicated to the  
hatting industry!*

Working Machinery

William White's Shop

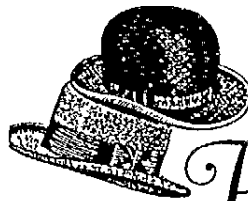
William Plant's Hat Block  
Workshop

Audio Visual Room

Mad Hatter's Tea Room



Stockport Metropolitan  
Borough Council



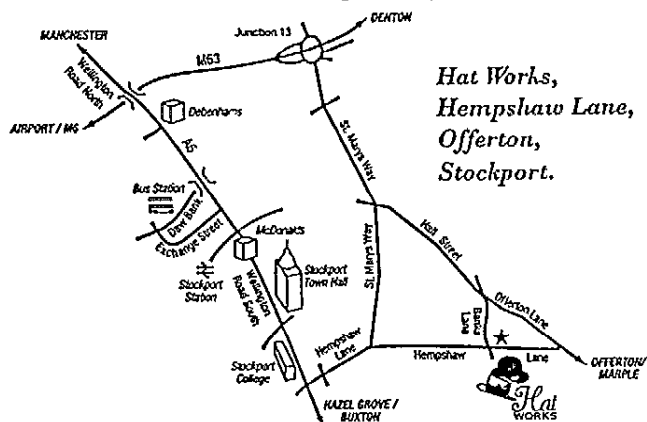
# Hat WORKS

## The Museum of Hatting - Stockport

Stockport now has the UK's first Museum of Hatting, with the largest public collection of working hatting machinery and tools.

Recently restored to working order the machinery collection provides a noisy and exciting encounter with the town's industrial past. Also on display are fascinating exhibits, which show how hats have featured in working lives, music and the movies.

Spend some time in our audio visual room to learn more about the hatting industry and the museum. After your visit, why not join Alice and the Hatter in the Mad Hatter's Tea Room, and buy your souvenirs from the excellent gift shop?



Open Sundays 1pm - 5pm

Admission: Adults £1.95 Concessions £1.00

Group visits by appointment

For further information, contact Stockport  
Museum on 0161-474 4460 or Hat Works itself on  
0161 480 2432 (Sundays only)



Hat Works has been assisted by the European Regional Development Fund

# Hat Block Maker

A 20-minute documentary film about an old local trade has been produced jointly by Stockport Museum and the Manchester Film and Video Workshop. This report from the Workshop.

"It was like walking into a new world" says Bert Gurden describing his first day at Plant's hat block factory in 1922. Viewers of the film *Hat Block Maker* (Open Eye Films) may well feel the same way about this 20-minute documentary film as they enter the by-gone world of William Plant's workshop, its Victorian machinery driven by leather belts on pulley systems apparently designed by Heath Robinson

In the early part of this century, Ancoats, where the factory was located, was a hive of industry. Laden barges thronged the Rochdale canal, trams rumbled down Great Ancoats Street, working people crammed the arterial back streets. The myriad woodworkers and cabinet makers, in every available space, earned Ancoats its name—The Timbertown. Today, the industrial revolution having long since been and gone, ghost town seems a more appropriate description. Plant's firm worked with wood, producing the wooden blocks on which the surrounding hatting manufacturers shaped their wares—bowlers, trilbys, toppers, caps and the

seasonally changing styles of women's headwear.

A glance at any pre-2nd World War group photograph reveals nearly everyone wearing a hat, cap or bonnet. At the start of *Hat Block Maker*, archive footage (kindly supplied by the North West Film Archive) illustrates this point. Slowly, the camera pans over a 1930's football crowd watching a local match. Every head is covered. Try the same shot today at the Stretford End and it's a fairly safe bet that bare heads will be the order of the day.

After a brief resurgence making helmet blocks for the forces during the war, Plant's, like the hatting industry in general, suffered from this change in fashion. It's hard to believe that in the late 1970's when the bulk of the film was shot they were still able to ply their trade at all, particularly in view of antiquated machinery, poor wages and bad working conditions.

Bert Gurden, at that time a craftsman with 54 years' employment at Plant's, recalls, "It was a very, very cold shop. There was no heat in it at all. The harder you worked the warmer you got. You had to work hard to get warm." Despite

these difficult conditions the skill and enjoyment in his work shines through Bert again. "It was a lovely, interesting job. Every time a hat or a cap came in it was different. Most interesting to get it right."

Walter Plant, 91-year-old owner of the firm is seen working alongside Bert and he echoes these sentiments. "To get a nice effect like we get, you've got to persuade the wood. Don't start to jam it, don't start to be clumsy with it. It will respond to you if you've got a very clever hand. It loves to be stroked." As the viewer watches the making of a simple crown block and a more intricate 5 piece cap block, the voices of Bert and Walter go on to describe other aspects of their craft, including the decline of the trade and of hard work, working relationships, training and skills. The film was shot about 6 years ago. Shortly afterwards Walter died and the firm went out of business. This presented a real problem for the producers, Gaby Porter, Keeper at Stockport Museum, and John Crumpton of the Manchester Film and Video Workshop. "We basically had a film which was a literal record of various technical processes. It had not been shot as a documentary in the normal sense of that word. We wished to expand the subject area of the film and put it in the context of the hatting industry and its decline in the north west." Consequently, archive film and photographs were traded, additional interviews with Bert—the only surviving worker—were recorded and extra film footage shot. "We then felt that we were in a position to present a more rounded view of Plant's output." The film achieves a fine balance between the technical and social elements within it. It is a sad and moving testimony to an industry whose demise was brought about by falling demand and the advent of mass-production, but it is not without its lighter moments. "You can't buy a hat or a cap to fit you now" moans Bert. "They turn out a size 7, you take 7½, you put it on and it's like a pimple on a mountain. You buy what they call a large one and it drops on your shoulders."

After Walter Plant died, the contents of the workshop were given to Stockport Museums Service where they have been partly reconstructed in the Museum at Vernon Park. A video copy of the film can be seen daily at 2pm at the Museum, bringing the exhibits to life. The film can be booked from Open Eye Films, 5 James Leigh Street, Manchester 1.



Pictured in 1761 Bert Gurden (left) and Walter Plant—the last two surviving hat block makers in the north west.

## STAFFORDSHIRE BURIAL INDEX •

Unice to William (inc Misc records)  
continued from Journals 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 11

1721	Mar	13	Unice dau of John		Uttoxeter
1682/3	Feb	9	Walter		Uttoxeter
1798	May	21	Walter		Longton
1696	Mar	21	William son of Edward of Stone		Draycott in the Moors
1697	Jun	6	William son of Edward of Stone		Draycott in the Moors
1698	Nov	-	William of Oncoat		Butterton
1807	May	4	William of Abbots Bromley	42	Checkley
1708	May	3	William of Loxley		Bramshall
1742	Jan	12	William of Stone Walls		Dilhorne
1753	Mar	15	William son of John		Cheadle
1767	Mar	4	William, a poor stranger		Audley
1773	Jan	10	William	1	Bnerley Hill
1773	May	21	William		Bucknall cum Bagnall
1780	Nov	30	William, a stranger		Longton (Lane End)
1782	Dec	20	William of Loxley		Bramshall
1784	Jan	4	William	14	Bnerley Hill
1787	Sep	6	William of Uttoxeter		Bramshall
1795	Jan	28	William		High Offley
1795	Jul	5	William		Ashley
1798	Dec	11	William son of William & Sobieskeith	16	Bnerley Hill
1805	Dec	26	William		Burton on Trent
1809	Jul	10	William		Stafford St Mary
1810	Apr	1	William	age 2	Newcastle under Lyme
1811	Jan	26	William	17 weeks	Longton
1811	June	3	William	jnr	Stafford St Mary
1811	Dec	16	William		Stafford St Mary
1814	Apr	6	William of Longport	53	Burslem St John
1816	Jun	18	William High Lane Burslem	54	Norton le Moors
1817	Mar	29	William of Over Tean	5 weeks	Checkley
1817	May	26	William of Darlaston (by Stone)	78	Stone
1817	Sep	22	William of Mill Hill	15	Biddulph
1818	May	17	William	infant	Hanley
1819	Aug	31	William	infant	Sandon
1820	Apr	24	William & John	6 & 4	Warslow
1820	Apr	25	William of Outwoods	70	Gnosall
1820	Jun	15	William	7	Longton
1820	Aug	17	William	26	Wolverhampton
1821	Feb	21	William of Cross Gate	1	Fulford
1822	Sep	8	William	1 week	Stafford St Mary
1822	Nov	16	William	65	Longton
1823	Feb	2	William of Stone Heath	84	Fulford
1824	Oct	17	William Hill Top	15 Weeks	West Bromwich All Saints
1825	Jul	4	William of Outwoods	57	Gnosall
1826	Oct	)	William	58	Wolverhampton
1827	Feb	4	William	2 weeks	Stafford St Mary
1827	Feb	12	William Henry of Stone	1 mth	Eccleshall
1828	Mar	16	William	10 weeks	Newcastle Under Lyme
1829	Jan	9	William of Winshill	1	Burton on Trent
1829	May	13	William of Market Place	3	Stoke on Trent
1830	Feb	14	William	55	Uttoxeter
1830	Nov	28	William	6	Cheadle
1831	Jan	18	William	infant	Burslem St John
1831	Feb	16	William of Oulton	72	Stone
1831	Feb	24	William of Biddulph	79	Leek
1831	Jul	24	William of Fenton	14	Stoke on Trent



1831	Dec	30	William of Penkhull poorhouse	75	Stoke on Trent
1832	Jan	17	William		High Offley
1832	Apr	14	William	41	Eccleshall
1832	May	10	William of Shelton	infant	Hanley
1832	Jun	3	William of Commercial Buildings	63	Stoke on Trent
1832	Nov	11	William of Tipton	82	Brierley Hill
1833	Apr	8	William	65	Hanley
1833	May	29	William	10	Ellenhall
1833	Oct	31	William	5 months	Bilston Wesleyan
1837	Jun	5	William	83	Cheadle
1729	Aug	2	Widow Plant		Betley
1776	Aug	27	Widow Plant of Wheaten Aston		Church Eaton
1712	Feb	9	Wife of Joseph Plant		Hanbury
1653	Aug	2	Infant of John & Susan Plant		Dilhorne

The following article has been submitted by

Ms Helen Plant - Member No. 135

**THE WANDERING PLANTS - FROM CRATE MAKERS IN  
BURSLEM, THEN GLASGOW TO  
BUSINESSMEN IN AUSTRALIA**

Abraham Plant was baptised on 25 January 1828 at St John's Church, Burslem. Nothing is known of his parents. James Plant married Catherine Omerslie. It is presumed that they both came from Staffordshire. At the time of Abraham's baptism, their address was Yell Grove ?Burslem or ?Hanley.

Abraham, like his father, became a crate maker by trade. This was quite a thriving business in earlier times, since baskets were used for transporting most goods. Crates or baskets were woven from willow trees and used for packing and carrying pottery that was produced in copious amounts at that time in Burslem. After the opening up of the pottery industry in Glasgow, the family moved there, presumably in the 1840's. Abraham married and produced seven children between the years 1851 and 1861.

William Mitchell Plant, one of his children, was born according to the Birth Certificate, on 15 May 1856, at 75 Finneston Street, Anderston, Glasgow. His real date of birth was 29 April 1856, but was not registered within the time limit, so the date was altered to conform! He was educated at St David's Parish School and the Bath St Mechanics Institute. By this time his father was employing 16 men (a Journeyman) in the crate manufacturing trade so William was apprenticed and worked in the business till his father's death. He then worked for J & P Coates, cotton manufacturers of Paisley for 15 years, finally achieving the position of sub manager. While there he met and married Jeanie Hall (his first wife Susan Wright, having died in childbirth, leaving him one daughter), and the couple became keenly interested in advertisements announcing that large irrigable tracts of land of special soil were available for settlers at Mildura on the River Murray in Australia.

So impressed were the Plants with this widespread advertising that they decided to buy a 10 acre portion of land, sight unseen, from the Chaffey Bros of California, who owned and marketed the land. Three years later in 1892 with four young children and all their worldly goods they set sail in the "Hohenstauffen" (Norddeutscher Lloyd Line) from Southampton together with William's two sisters, their husbands and families who had also bought land under the same scheme.

The ship sailed by Suez and arrived in Adelaide, South Australia where they disembarked in June 1892, and from there they travelled by rail to Morgan on the River Murray and thence by Paddle Steamer "Ellen" arriving Mildura Victoria six weeks later.

Disaster! The land the family came to settle on was supposed to have been planted with grape vines etc and returning a small income, but the family arrived to see a dry desolate saltbush plain with no attempt at cultivation. The Promised Land!!! From the Cyclopaedia of Victoria 1905 which gives a biography of prominent citizens of the State "Mr Plant commenced operations by selecting ten acres and this area has been gradually increased to more than 200 acres under fruit and vine cultivation, his output averaging 1150 tons of dried fruit of various kinds. Mr Plant is also a large buyer of citrus fruit, which he packs for the Melbourne Market, trading under the name of Mildura Fruit Company, the quality of fruit grown and purchased by him being a very considerable one." He was instrumental in setting up the Dried Fruits Trust, extended his land holdings and business enterprises in many directions, even in to owning a gold mine. His brother, James, came to Australia to visit him in 1900, liked what he saw and returned to Glasgow only long enough to collect his wife and family.

William Mitchell Plant became a prominent businessman, entrepreneur, benefactor to many charities, owned one of the first motorcars in the area, fathered 12 children, (the last of whom only passed away last year) and helped lay the foundation to make Mildura the beautiful city it is today - an oasis in the desert.

One hundred and fifty descendants from all over Australia and New Zealand gathered in Mildura in 1992 to celebrate the Centenary of the arrival of William Mitchell Plant and family in Australia. Sadly only one descendant lives in the area.

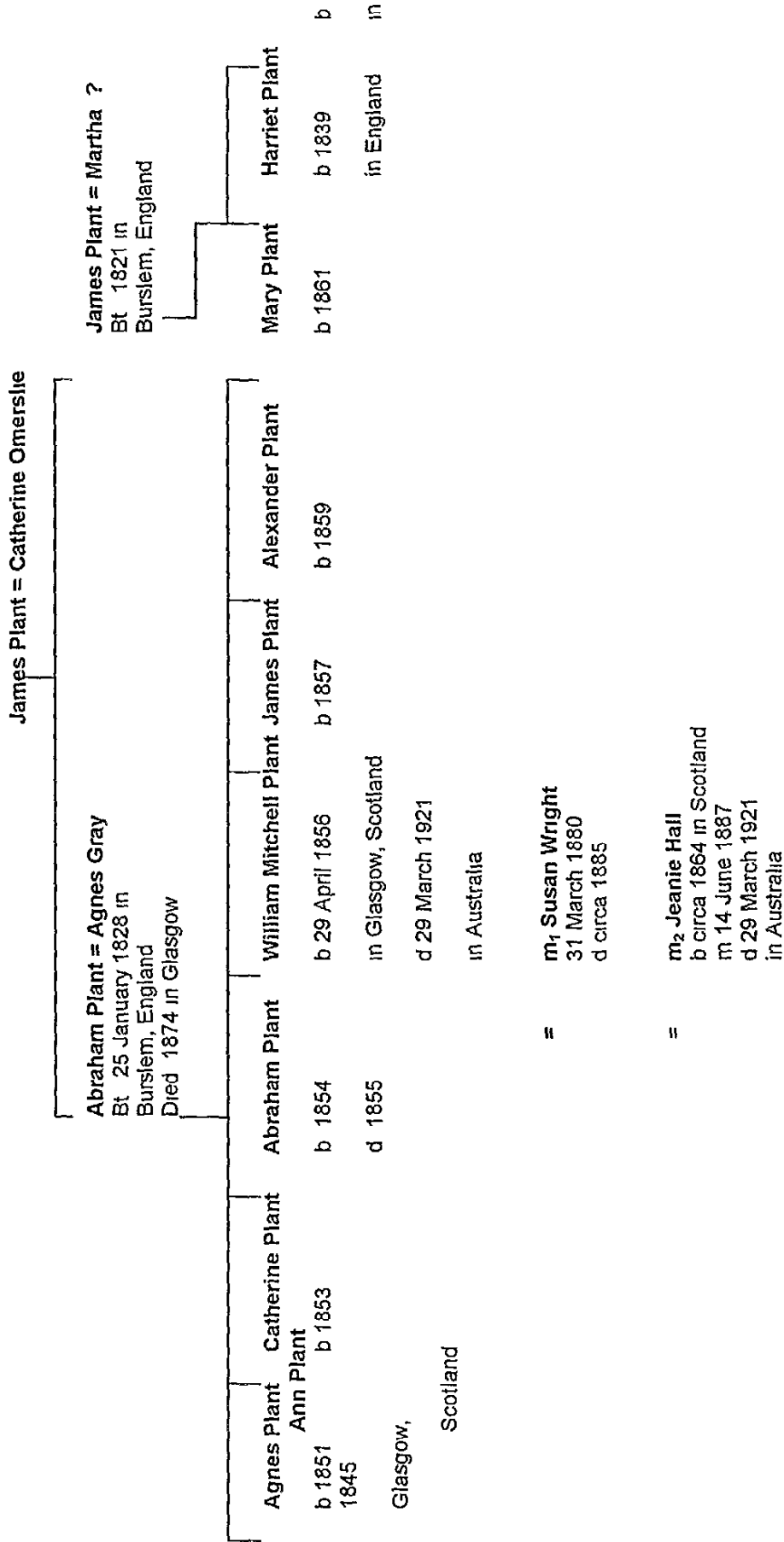


Abraham Plant



William Mitchell Plant

PLANT FAMILY TREE



## • CHAPTER 12 •

by Dr John Plant - Member No. 52

### Distaff Kin of Benjamin (1742-1806)

#### Some Related Contemporaries of Benjamin Plant of Sheffield Moor<sup>1</sup>

This Chapter relates to a bellows maker Benjamin Plant (i.e. 'Ben(bellows)') and, for example, his connections with a well-documented Ward family. Fuller accounts of this Ward family have been given by others - these make it clear that *Ben(bellows)*'s wife, Hannah, was the only sister of Joseph Ward who became the Master Cutler in 1790, two of Joseph Ward's sons, in particular, appear prominently in early nineteenth century Sheffield history. This and subsequent Chapters adds information about *Ben(bellows)* giving some insights into his role beyond the information which is provided in a standard book on Sheffield's history.

#### 12.1 The Bellows Maker Benjamin

The bellows maker Benjamin Plant (i.e. *Ben(bellows)*' of Chapter 11) is listed in a 1774 Directory<sup>2</sup> as having an address at Coal-pit Lane which was on the SW edge of Sheffield town - this address was near the site of the present Town Hall which is now near the centre of a vastly expanded Sheffield. In 1793 rate books, his various listed properties still include 17 houses and shops in Coal-pit Lane (Chapter 11) though he apparently moved his main base around 1793 to the vicinity of the Little Sheffield site of Plant's Yard in (Chapter 10). Little Sheffield, though now regarded as near central Sheffield, had until those times been a separate hamlet about a mile to the south of Sheffield town.

Though baptised in 1742 at Duckmanton, 10 miles to the south, *Ben(bellows)* appears in Sheffield parish church records by 1766. This is earlier than his presumed brother, the bricklayer John, who was still by around 1770 having his children baptised at Rotherham, 6 miles to the north east of Sheffield, prior to his appearance in Little Sheffield in a 1787 Trades Directory entry.

The burial (8 January 1806) of *Ben(bellows)* is recorded at the parish church of Sheffield (later the Cathedral) where, according to his will, he owned 'five sittings' though no memorial inscription has been found. *Ben(bellows)*'s will, which will be discussed more fully in Chapter 13, makes it clear that he was from the Duckmanton Plant family (as indicated in Figure 12.1) and it also mentions a nephew of his wife, the 1798 Master Cutler Samuel Broomhead Ward (Figure 12.2), whom *Ben(bellows)* describes as 'my friend'.

##### 12.1.1 Benjamin's Marriage and Daughters

It seems that *Ben(bellows)* moved from Duckmanton to Sheffield, for reasons that are not yet clear though *perhaps* to live near an uncle (Chapter 11) and to take up his place in Sheffield's emerging industry. By 1766 he married into an important Sheffield family. *Ben(bellows)* thus became the brother-in-law of Joseph Ward who was to become the 1790 Master Cutler, as is made clear in the recorded history of the Ward family of Sheffield (e.g. *Peeps into the Past being Passages from the Diary of Thomas Asline Ward*<sup>3</sup>). A more complete pedigree than that in Figure 12.2, for this Broomhead-Ward Asline family, has been given by Joseph Hunter<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Including data supplied by Pat Clark of the Local Studies Centre, Sheffield City Libraries and Sue Graves of the Mappin Art Gallery.

<sup>2</sup> Sketchley's Sheffield Directory (1774).

<sup>3</sup> This book, which relates to the diary of Benjamin Plant's nephew, T. A. Ward, was edited by Alexander B. Bell with an introduction and annotations by Robert Eadon Leader, it was published by Sir W. C. Leng & Co., Ltd., in 1909.

<sup>4</sup> Joseph Hunter, *Familiae Minorum Gentium*, Ed John W. Clay, London (1894-2), Harleian Society's Publications.

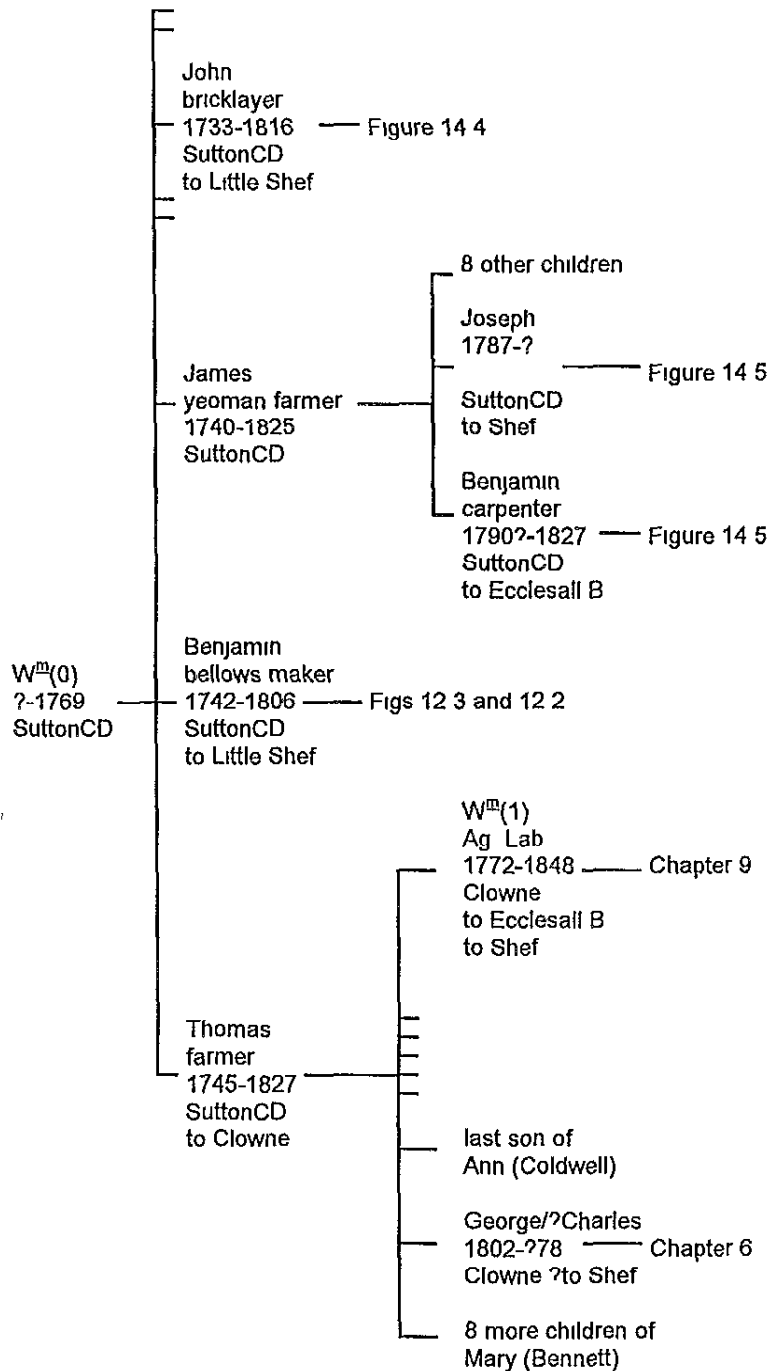


Figure 12 1 Some spear kin of Benjamin Plant (1742-1806)

At the 1766 marriage (banns) in Sheffield of 'batchellor' Benjamin (otp<sup>5</sup>) and spinster Hannah Ward (otp) both signed the register as did the four witnesses John Broadbent, Thos (W/H) (a/u)11, John Scott and Mary Bayliff though the first two of these were also witnesses at other marriages and were probably hired officials

<sup>5</sup> This is an abbreviation of 'of this parish'

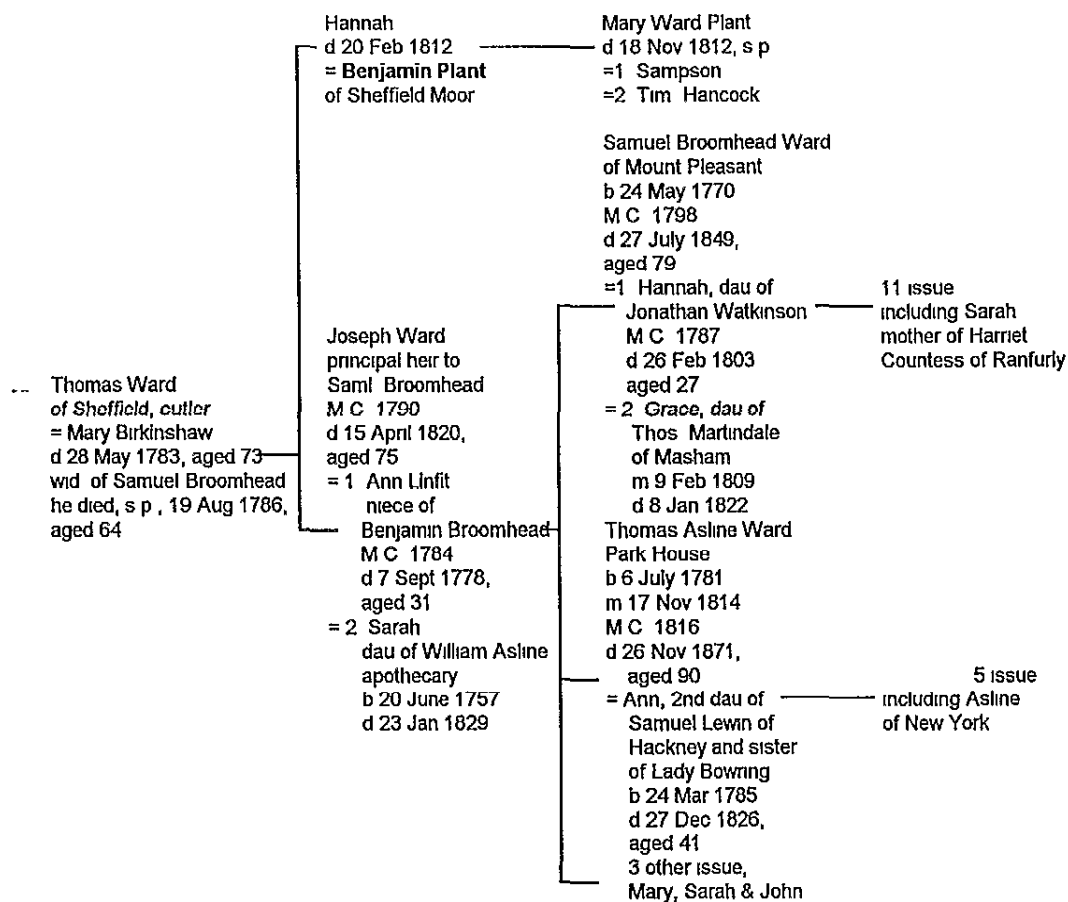


Figure 12 2 Some distaff kin of Benjamin Plant (from *Peeps into the Past*)

*Ben(bellows)*'s bride, Hannah, and her brother Joseph were the children of Thomas Ward (admitted to the Company of Cutlers 28 May 1726) and Mary Birkinshaw, who was the wife of the childless Sheffield cutler Samuel Broomhead (admitted 29 Jan 1742) Samuel Broomhead was thus Hannah and Joseph's step-father and he was also an uncle of this Joseph Ward's first wife, Ann Linfit. Samuel Broomhead and his principal heir Joseph Ward lived near The Ponds at the SE edge of Sheffield town, as will feature again later (Chapter 13)

In the Sheffield baptism records for *two* daughters in 1768 and 1772 (Figure 12 3) there is confirmation that their father Benjamin Plant was a bellows maker and hence, no doubt, the *Ben(bellows)* who is found in Coalpit Lane, at least by 1774, and later at the (future) site of Plant's Yard in Little Sheffield The diary of *Ben(bellows)*'s nephew, T W Ward, mentions only one daughter (e g, Figure 12 2) suggesting that a younger daughter Fanny Plant (bap 1772) may have died young, and Joseph Hunter<sup>6</sup> also lists Mary Ward (bap 1768) as *Ben(bellows)*'s only child

<sup>5</sup> This is an abbreviation of 'of this parish'

<sup>6</sup> Joseph Hunter, *Fam in Gent*, *ibid*

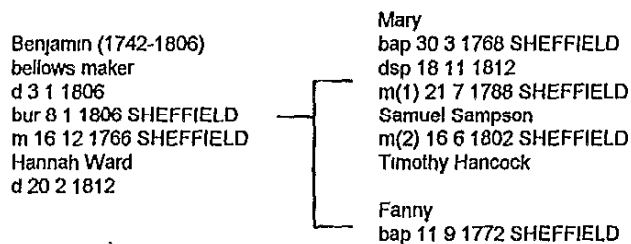


Figure 12.3. Some Sheffield Plant parish records

In *Ben(bellow)*'s 1805 will, Mary Ward Plant's husband is indicated to be '*Timothy Hancock of Sheffield Cutler*', whom she had married in 1805<sup>7</sup>. It seems clear that the Plants considered that the Ward connection was an important one and *Ben(bellows)*'s 1805 will refers to his daughter as *Mary Ward Hancock*, even though double barreled names were rare at that time<sup>8</sup>.

### 12.1.2 Some apparent associations with Master Cutlers

The 1741 Master Cutter, Richard Kent, was on the Company of Cutlers from 1730 to 1750 and he was Master again, following the death of his successor Thomas Rose, from April to August in 1743. This Richard Kent resided in Coal Pit Lane<sup>9</sup>.

It is interesting to note that these surnames reappear in a deed for Benjamin Plant's Coalpit Lane property, where *William Kent* and *William Rose* are listed in 1824 as former occupants (Chapter 14). The Kent family was apparently based mainly in Rotherham, 6 miles to the north east, but some further evidence will be presented in Chapter 14 to support the supposition that some of the Kents had an association with *Ben(bellows)*'s Coalpit Lane property. As the name Kent was generally rare in the area, apart from at Rotherham, *Ben(bellows)*'s Coalpit Lane property may hence be considered a likely location for the *Rich Kent* and then the '*Late Kents*' entries, which appear in Ecclesall property records for 1729-74. These Kent property entries are listed in connection with *Broom-hall Land* and *Ben(bellows)* was also associated with *Broom-hall Land* giving, seemingly, another connection between Richard Kent and *Ben(bellows)*.

One might wonder if *Ben(bellows)*'s father, William Plant of Duckmanton, was at some stage associated with this property, perhaps between the times of Richard Kent (around 1730-50) and this *W<sup>m</sup>(0)*'s burial, which was apparently in 1769 at Duckmanton. *Ben(bellows)* may have lived in Coal-pit Lane from around the times of his 1766 marriage and, certainly, a 1774 Directory lists him there. The change in rate-book entries from '*Late Kents*' in 1774 to '*Late Plant yard*' by 1779 has been mentioned already (Chapter 11) and the available evidence seems conducive to a suggestion that '*Late Kents*' and '*Late Plant yard*' may have been the same location, namely *Ben(bellows)*'s Coalpit Lane property.

<sup>7</sup> This Timothy Hancock apparently descended from a line of Timothy Hancocks reaching back to his grandfather Timothy, who was baptised (21 4 1725 at Sheffield) to a Daniel Hancock. He was hence *not* closely related to the famous 1763 Master Cutler, Joseph Hancock (1711-91), who is widely known as the 'Father of Sheffield Plate'.

<sup>8</sup> Double Christian names were rare until midway through the eighteenth century and, for example, Samuel Broomhead Ward was only the second double barreled Master Cutler in 1798, though double barreled names preponderated for Master Cutlers after 1870.

<sup>9</sup> *History of the Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire in the County of York*, Vol 1, by Robert Eadon Leader, 1905.



It was around Richard Kent's year of office that Thomas Boulsover first discovered the basic process of forming Sheffield Plate and Benjamin Huntsman invented Crucible Steel. It was also 1741 when Francis Sitwell died, bequeathing £400 to be loaned in amounts of up to £5 to impoverished cutlers for up to six months, interest free, on a deposit of goods to be kept in the Cutlers Company's store house. This Francis Sitwell's nephew built the substantial property Mount Pleasant in 1777 and this was bought in 1794 by *Ben(bellows)*'s nephew S B Ward.

Joseph Ibberson was Master Cutler in 1759 in which year the Company of Cutlers first engaged in co-operative steel making. The management of the Company's new steel furnace in Scotland Street was left in the hands of Joseph Ibberson from 'first heat' in November 1759 to the beginning of 1762<sup>10</sup>. In 1772, after several unsuccessful business years, this co-operative steel making venture was abandoned<sup>11</sup>.

As will be detailed further in Chapter 13, a Joseph Ibberson (?-1826) was the rate-payer for the Spurr Wheel in 1793 and this wheel, which was in a rural area to the SW of Sheffield, later became known as the Ibbotson or Ibberson Wheel. *Ben(bellows)* owned land near the Spurr Wheel, at least by around 1790 and, moreover, he was the rate-payer for the Spurr Wheel in 1802. The name of the 1781 Master Cutler, Peter Spurr the older, might well be related to this Water Wheel, as is evidence below.

The evidence for connecting the Spurr Wheel with Peter Spurr relates to an apparent association between Benjamin Plant, who is *known* to have been associated with the Spurr Wheel, and the Spurr family. This Peter Spurr's (MC 1781) sister was the wife of Thomas Tillotson (MC 1789) and the Tillotsons, like Benjamin Plant, were associated with Coal-pit Lane, Highfield and Broomhall. Moreover, this Thomas Tillotson was a fellow officer of *Benn(bellows)*'s brother-in-law, on the Company of Cutlers around 1790. Rather later, the Tillotsons appear repeatedly in the published diaries of *Ben(bellows)*'s nephew, T A Ward (MC 1816) - George Tillotson (MC 1817), who was the brother of John Tillotson (MC 1810), subsequently bought Mount Pleasant at Highfield from *Ben(bellows)*'s friend and nephew, SB Ward (MC 1798). These family connections also seem to relate to the earlier discussed evidence (Chapter 11) of an association between *Ben(bellows)* and the Newbold family, who were tenants of the Broomhall Wheel near the Little Sheffield site of Plant's Yard. One of Thomas Newbold's (MC 1751) grand-daughters married Peter Spurr the younger (MC 1824) of Highfield, which was near this Plant's Yard site.

It hence seems likely that *Ben(bellows)* was closely acquainted with at least some of the above mentioned Master Cutlers as well as with those close relatives of his wife who became Master Cutlers themselves. Although the step-father Samuel Broomhead of *Ben(bellows)*'s wife was not himself Master, his brother Joseph was fined for refusing Mastership in 1771 and another brother, Benjamin Broomhead, was Master Cutler in 1784. Furthermore, *Ben(bellows)*'s brother-in-law Joseph Ward attained that position in 1790 followed by two of his sons, Samuel Broomhead Ward (MC 1798) and Thomas Asline Ward (MC 1816).

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<sup>10</sup> The profits for these 3<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> years were £212 6s 11d. A son of the curate in charge of St Paul's was apprenticed to Joseph Ibberson in 1760 and, like any labourer's boy, he took his chances working for his keep and 16d a year, not even apparel being found (*History of the Company of Cutlers* *ibid*, Vol 1, page 49).

<sup>11</sup> There is some evidence that the inventor of crucible steel, Benjamin Huntsman, was approached by the Company in 1750 though the main thrust of steel-making at that time was still that of the blister steel from Cementation Furnaces, in which complete melting was not achieved and carbon was diffused instead into the iron from its surface in an inhomogeneous and less reliable manner. The main centre for blister steel was at Newcastle, some 130 miles to the north, though Sheffield subsequently supplanted it as the principal steel city.

### 12.1.3. Benjamin Plant's wife's family

According to records of 1765 and 1774, *Ben(bellows)*'s wife's step-father, Samuel Broomhead of Pond Lane, was tenant of the Stalker Wheel which was about a mile or more to the south west of Pond Lane and near the (future) site of Plant's Yard at Little Sheffield. This Samuel Broomhead was subjected to threats as is revealed in the following anonymous letters<sup>12</sup>

*'You may Please yourself, But surely as Day and Night cometh you shall Repent your neglect if in 6 days you do not Lay 100 pounds 2 underground just at Back of 6 Mile Stone the road to Athersage...'* (6 July 1780)

and again

*'.. the reason of these 3 troublesome letters is you are able to Bear the loss . Keep all secret nor tell your most secret friend nor watch for I shall be armed with 3 loaded pistols. . '* (18 July 1781)

This may have been an early example of the sentiments involved in 'rattening' whereby workers destroyed employers' machiners<sup>13</sup>.

The Stalker Wheel was immediately upstream on the Porter Brook from the Broomhall Wheel, which was in the tenancy of the Newbould family. Samuel Broomhead's place as tenant of the Stalker Wheel is taken, in 1793 rate-books and a 1794 list, by *Ben(bellows)*'s brother-in-law Joseph Ward who, as shown in Figure 12.2, was the principal heir to Samuel Broomhead<sup>14</sup>. In 1794 *Ben(bellows)* acquired land stated to be at the Broomhall Wheel and, as will be discussed in Chapter 13, an 1802 rate-book indicates that this land was probably between the Broomhall and Stalker Wheels.

A step-uncle of *Ben(bellow)*'s wife, Benjamin Broomhead (?-1796, MC 1784), lived in Fargate in Sheffield and had a warehouse in the adjoining Pepper Alley. This was about 0.1 mile to the east of *Ben(bellows)*'s Coalpit Lane home, on the southern edge of Sheffield town, and about a third of the way to Samuel Broomhead's home in Pond Lane. It is not clear whether the brothers Samuel, Benjamin and Joseph Broomhead were closely related to the 'John' and Benjamin Broomhead who held the Upper Lescar Wheel, which was upstream on the Porter Brook from Little Sheffield towards the Spurr Wheel. A 1777 Broomhead tenancy of the Upper Lescar Wheel is confirmed by records of 1787 and 1794<sup>15</sup>. There are references to the close Broomhead relatives of *Ben(bellows)*'s wife in the published diary of *Ben(bellows)*'s nephew T A Ward.

## 12.2 Some contemporary related History

*Ben(bellows)*, who had bases near the head and foot of Sheffield Moor, became known as *Benjamin Plant of Sheffield Moor*. His connection with Coalpit Lane near the Moor head may have dated from around the 1760's, by when his wife's step-father held the tenancy of the Stalker Wheel near the Moor foot. *Ben(bellows)* apparently did not move his main base down the Moor to Little Sheffield, however, until around 1790. *Ben(bellows)*'s and his wife's family's connections with the 1779-88 Eccleshall Enclosure Act have been described already in Chapter 11 and this led on to Sheffield's first major expansion of the Industrial Age, which was on Sheffield Moor.

<sup>12</sup> *Peeps into the Past*, *ibid*, page 250

<sup>13</sup> The employers were generally called '*Little Mesters*' to distinguish them from the *Master Cutter* himself

<sup>14</sup> A 1794 list describes the Stalker Wheel with 10 troughs and 14 workers in the tenancy of Joseph Ward, under the ownership of the Rev James Wilkinson and Philip Cell, who had inherited in the Broom-hall estate (*Water Power on Sheffield's Rivers*, Ed Davis Crossley, Sheffield Trades Historical Society and University of Sheffield Division of Continuing Education, Joint Publication 1989)

<sup>15</sup> *Water power on the Sheffield Rivers*, *ibid*

Some further events in Sheffield's history can be associated with the bellows-maker Benjamin Plant, as outlined below. This Benjamin Plant (1742-1806) appears to have been close to his wife's nephew, Samuel Broomhead Ward (1770-1849), for example who is mentioned in particular below.

### 12.2.1 Early Invention

The earliest two references to improvements on traditional manufacturing methods, in the records of the Company of Cutlers<sup>16</sup>, mention Elkana Roberts and J Fletcher. These same names are associated, in deeds (e.g. Chapter 11), with *Ben(bellows)'s* Coal-pit Lane property.

1704-5 *Fines & americiam<sup>ts</sup> & money givey by persons y<sup>l</sup> invented* £3 16 0  
*new sorts, viz Rob<sup>t</sup> Longson, Elkana Roberts & James Hool*

1707-8 *Of J Fletcher his new invented sort* 10 0

These apparent 'fines' are not as pernicious to innovation as might at first appear, as a 1712 parchment makes it clear that they were a sort of patent fee, paid in acknowledgement of protection against piracy.

### 12.2.2 The 'thirteen to a dozen' controversy

The first wife of *Ben(bellows)'s* young friend and nephew, Samuel Broomhead Ward, was a daughter (d 26 2 1803) of the 1787 Master Cutler, Jonathan Watkinson, who acquired an unenviable notoriety that was long remembered in Joseph Mather's popular Music Hall song '*Watkinson and his Thirteens*'. It had been a custom, before Watkinson's year of office, for cutlery workers to keep left-overs arising from the fact that 14 blades (a grinder's dozen) and 13 handles (a dozen of the horn, wood and bone-scale crafts) were supplied for a dozen knives.

A vivid portrayal of the scathing satire to which Watkinson's name was subjected, as a result of his presiding over this controversy, is given in the 1920's handwritten and elaborately illustrated notes of Henry Taton's *Sheffield Vol 1* on page 53, where he draws a woodcut with a verse:

W---'s THIRTEEN  
indicated by FIVE PENKNIFE CUTLERS

*That Monster oppression behold how he talks  
Keeps picking the bones of the poor as he walks  
There's not a mechanic throughout the whole land  
But what more or less feels the weight of his hand  
That offspring of tyranny, baseness and pride  
Our rights hath invaded and almost destroyed  
May that man be banished who villainy screens  
Ossides with big W--- with his thirteen*

Alongside the words in this vitriolic portrayal of S B Ward's first father-in-law, the Master Cutler of 130 years earlier, is a carved caricature of him in a broad brimmed hat and brandishing a knife, saying 'I WILL HAVE THIRTEEN'.

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<sup>16</sup> History of the Company of Cutlers, *ibid*, Vol 1, page 252

### 12.2.3 A 'peculiar favourite of fortune'

An interesting snippet of history relates to a list preserved among the papers of *Ben(bellows)*'s brother-in-law, the 1790 Master Cutler Mr Joseph Ward<sup>17</sup>. This shows that his eldest son, the 20 year old S B Ward (1770-1849), was amongst the 14 *peculiar favourites of fortune* of 1790

This expression appears in a contemporary Newspaper account<sup>18</sup> which records an annual custom of '*joyous festivities*' to inaugurate the master Cutler at which he lavishly entertained '*gentleman of the town and neighbourhood at the Cutler's Hall*'. The following day '*an entertainment equally hospitable and elegant*' was given by the Mistress Cutler '*to the ladies when, according to a singular but long established usage, only a few gentlemen, the PECULIAR FAVOURITES OF FORTUNE, will be allowed to appear in the Company's rooms, to enjoy the honour of carving on this delightful occasion, for an illustrious bevy of beauty, taste and fashion.*'<sup>19</sup> It was etiquette that 8 of these '*peculiar favourites*' should be unmarried

### 12.2.4 Mount Pleasant

Mount Pleasant was just 0.2 miles south of the Little Sheffield site of Plant's Yard. It was 1794 when the 24 year old S B Ward acquired this 17 year old property near his 52 year old uncle, *Ben(bellows)* who had apparently moved just shortly before to live at the Little Sheffield site that was to become widely known as Plant's Yard

An illustration of Mount Pleasant, dated to the time of S B Ward's occupancy, is shown in Figure 12 4<sup>20</sup>

In his standard work on the history of Sheffield<sup>21</sup> Joseph Hunter (1819) includes a section headed MOUNT PLEASANT which begins,-

MOUNT PLEASANT The house so-called, situated at High-field in this township, is now the property and residence of Samuel Broomhead Ward esquire It was built by Francis Hurt Sitwell esquire<sup>22</sup>

### 12.2.5 The Freeman's Revolt (1785-1801)

In 1785, the recognised workers (i.e. the Journeymen Freeman) of the Company of Cutlers drew up a list of grievances against the increasingly progressive attitudes of the Company's officers such as their sanctioning a large number of apprentices who were not, as previously, mainly sons of the Company's Freeman. It seems that *Ben(bellows)* may have known the main protagonists on both sides of the ensuing dispute. By 1789, this controversy grew beyond a mere exchange of words when *Ben(bellows)*'s Coalpit Lane neighbour, Mr Enoch Trickett, who was the leader of the rebelling Freeman, demanded to see the Company's accounts and encouraged the Freeman's committee to petition Parliament, in 1789 and again in 1790<sup>23</sup>

<sup>18</sup> The Iris, Thursday September 5th 1794

<sup>19</sup> The 1804 Master Cutler curtailed much of the extravagance of the various Cutler's Feasts and the dinners to ladies ceased, it seems, in 1808

<sup>20</sup> Following S B Ward, Mount Pleasant was occupied by the Tillotson family and in 1874, after a brief period as an asylum, it became the abode of the Girls Charity School which moved there from Virgins Row, which is now St James Row adjoining the Cathedral. Mount Pleasant still stands, though more built up, and it is now used in part as an Adult Education and Community Centre for the area

<sup>21</sup> Joseph Hunter (1819) *Hallamshire, The History and Topography of the Parish of Sheffield in the County of York*, page 217

<sup>22</sup> Francis Hurt Sitwell was nephew to Francis Sitwell, Clerk to the Cutlers' Company in 1718-36 and Mount Pleasant had not been very long built when the Sitwell family sold it to S B Ward in 1794

<sup>23</sup> *Ben(bellows)*'s neighbour Mr Enoch Trickett, a filesmith, is famous in Sheffield history as the first person who dared to appear in the streets of Sheffield with an umbrella (*History of the Company of Cutlers*, *ibid*, Vol. 1, pages 84 and 328)

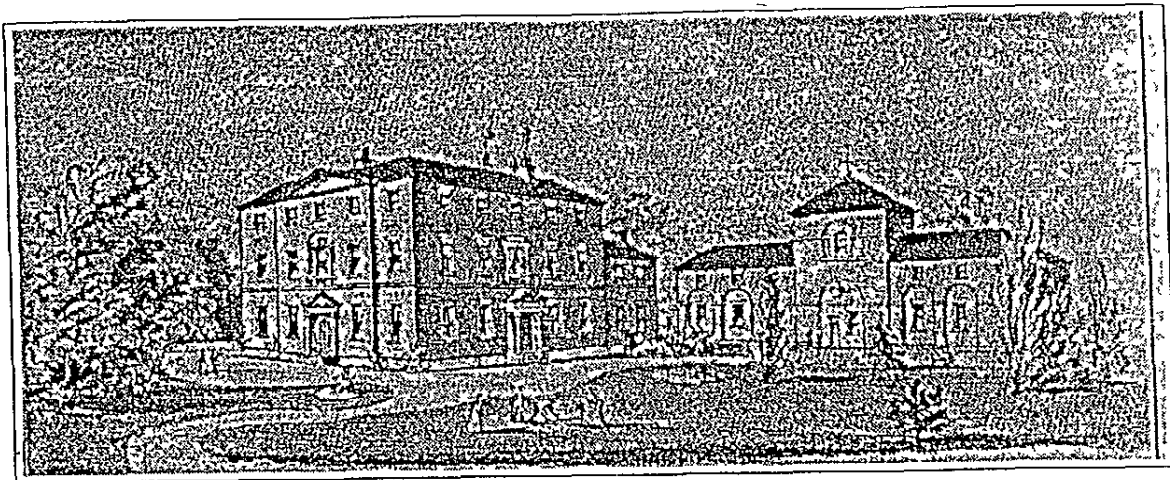


Figure 12 4. Mount Pleasant at the time of S B Ward

The Cutlers Company secured the aid of a prominent MP, the now famous Mr Wilberforce, who suggested that the Freeman's bill should be replaced by one prepared by 'five local gentlemen of character and property'. This agreement was signed by the 1789 Master Cutler Thomas Tillotson and his then Warden, who was *Ben(bellows)*'s neighbour Enoch and his brother James Trickett for the Journeymen

Robert Eadon Leader<sup>24</sup> remarks that, though the journeymen celebrated the passing of the subsequent 1791 Act with a feast, the victory of Enoch Trickett's Freeman was a hollow one and they might well have spoken of those

*"That palter with us in a double sense  
That keep the word of promise to our ear  
And break it to our hope "*

A further Act in 1801 was mainly just a simplified repetition of the 1791 Act

### 12 3 Peeps into the past and some further clues

Although *Ben(bellows)* appears to have been less close to his nephew T A Ward than to the older nephew, S B Ward, this younger nephew warrants mention if only because his notebooks, letters and diary form the standard text on life in early nineteenth century Sheffield. In the book *'Peeps into the Past, being passages from the diary of Thomas Asline Ward'*, which appeared in 1909, there are many insights, with moreover some references to *Ben(bellows)*'s family as will be described later below

The cutlery merchant T A Ward is known especially as being one of the four great philanthropic reformers of early nineteenth century Sheffield<sup>25</sup>

<sup>24</sup> *History of the Company of Cutlers*, *ibid*, Vol 1, page 88

<sup>25</sup> The other three were the journalist James Montgomery, the silver-plater Samuel Roberts and the gentleman Rowland Hodgson (*Sheffield, Its Story and Its Achievements* Mary Walton, 1948)

### 12.3.1 Some extracts from the Introduction

*Thomas Asline Ward was born on the 6th of July 1781 and he died on the 25th November 1871. The families with which he claimed kinship embraced many who gave tone to, and were most characteristic of, the Sheffield of his period.*

*(He was educated at the Grammar School<sup>26</sup>. He had many literary and artistic acquaintances, including the sculptor Sir Francis Chantrey). Ward himself became fairly adept with his pen -- more successfully, it may be admitted, in prose than in verse. He perpetrated sermons and he delighted in the compilation of moving reports. (He was a much valued friend of Joseph Hunter and contributed to his standard work on Hallamshire) Montgomery came to look to him for help on the 'Ins', and the 'Independent' in its early years, before 1829, was edited by Ward.*

*Mr Ward was a great champion of freedom, and was always a sympathiser with people struggling for liberty.. In later phases of the Reform agitation, as President of the "Sheffield Political Union" he represented the Radical, rather than the Whig element of that association.*

*Most of the positions of honour at the disposal of his townsmen were placed within Mr Ward's reach. The mention of two must suffice. He served on the Cutlers' Company from 1809 to 1818, and again in 1833, being Master Cutler in 1816. He was a Town Trustee from 1817 to 1863, including a period of 18 years as Town Collector, and he was made a West Riding magistrate in 1836.*

*But these and other matters are on public record. The value of the diary is the insights it gives. He spent few hours in his counting house. Even these were often encroached upon by attendances at committees and public engagements, or, if not called abroad, he left ledgers for literature. The house of his parents, with whom he lived until 33 years of age, adjoined the works in Howard Street and in that he had a library<sup>27</sup>. Any interstices left commerce had to be content with such hours as were not bespoken in entertaining or being entertained.*

### 12.3.2 A reference to a premature bequeathal

A snippet from the book *Peeps into the Past*, dated to *Ben(bellows)*'s later years, concerns the birth of T A Ward's youngest brother (b 20 1 1801). Falsely anticipating that she might not recover from her forthcoming 'hazard', T A Ward's mother (Sarah Asline, 1757-1829) wrote a long letter to her husband, Joseph Ward, who as already mentioned was *Ben(bellows)*'s brother-in-law. Amid wifely love, she expressed her wishes for the upbringing of her children and cautioned her husband to be careful to alter his will so that the younger children may not suffer great hardship through the eldest son (S B Ward, by a former wife) getting over much. Her requests for the disposal of her 'cloaths' (*sic*) include

**Mrs Plant**, a black sattin (*sic*) petticoat, which is quilted, and black sattin (*sic*) cloak with grey fur

**Mrs Sampson**, black silk gown and coat

**Mrs Plant**, my bombazeen gown and cloak

---

<sup>26</sup> The origins of Sheffield Grammar School can be traced back at least to 1564. In 1906 it was amalgamated with Colegiate School to form King Edward VII Grammar School (my own old school).

<sup>27</sup> Howard Street was near the Pond Lane home of *Ben(bellows)*'s wife's step-father, Samuel Broomhead. In the summer, this Samuel's heir, Joseph Ward, and the family would retreat a mile from their Howard Street home to their country villa, Park House.

This Mrs Plant was quite clearly *Ben(bellows)*'s wife, Hannah. The Plants' daughter was called Mrs Sampson at that time (Figure 12.3) and this no doubt is the Mrs Sampson who is named above as another potential beneficiary. Other such bequests were made to Miss Goddard, Mary Ward, and a Mrs Trickett who will be mentioned again later in this chapter.

### 12.3.3 Some References to the Plants

Unfortunately, it is only just before *Ben(bellows)*'s 1806 death that T. A. Ward's *diaries* begin, in 1804, though there are a few items of interest in his earlier *note-books*. These begin with an 1800 pocket book which starts in French, breaking into Latin and Italian. These notebooks and the subsequent diaries include an occasional reference to *Ben(bellows)*'s family.

- 1800 The French of the 19 year old T. A. Ward was not impeccable and the book gives a sample "*J. Sampson & la famille di Morton prient du the & du souper chez nous*". This presumably relates to the Plants' daughter Mrs Sampson<sup>28</sup>
- 1802, June 16 "*Mrs Sampson married*" (*Ben(bellows)*'s daughter Mary Ward Plant married her second husband, Timothy Hancock).
- 1804, August 26 Mr Ward went with his father, mother and sisters to Hellaby (near Maltby, 12 miles to the east) to dine with Mr Sampson there
- 1805, April 1 "*My Aunt Asline was buried in St Paul's by Mr Mackenzie. The pall was supported by Mrs Trickett, Huntsman, Plant, Younge, and Morton, and Misses Younge and Wainwright*" (Mrs William Huntsman, who is mentioned here alongside Mrs Plant, was the daughter-in-law of the famous inventor of cast (or crucible) steel, Benjamin Huntsman, 1704-76<sup>29</sup>)
- 1805, October 29 In the evening "*I drank tea at Mr Plant's, and supped at J. Roberts' with a party of gentlemen*"
- 1806, January 3 The editor notes the entry "*Mr Plant died*" commenting 'This was Benjamin Plant, whose wife was Hannah, sister of Mr Ward's father'<sup>30</sup>
- 1807 The editor, A. B. Bell, notes that 'A feature of the life at Howard Street<sup>31</sup> at this time is that Mr Ward's Aunt Plant appears to have made a practice of turning up with almost unflinching regularity at the Sunday dinner'.
- 1808 A. B. Bell notes 'The regular Sunday visits of Mrs Plant continued throughout the year, and, almost invariably, she had as her fellow guest on these occasions Mrs Trickett, of whom Mr Ward says "*Her husband was a respectable baker, who set up his sons in business, one as a baker, the other as a silversmith, both of whom failed*" Mrs T has long been a friend of my mother's family "' and R. E. Leader adds 'Mrs Plant, frequently mentioned as "Aunt Plant" was sister to Mr Ward, senior, widow of Benjamin Plant, Sheffield Moor'

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<sup>28</sup> This entry is followed, in French, by mention of Mrs Plant's brother, Joseph Ward, who on the 18th August attended a birthday dinner for the Duke of Norfolk at the Tontine

<sup>29</sup> Born in Lincolnshire in 1704, Huntsman had first worked as a clockmaker in Doncaster. About 1740 he moved to Handsworth near Sheffield where he experimented to make finer steel, suitable for his clock springs. He perfected his process by completely melting the steel in clay crucibles subjected to great heat by means of coke. Huntsman did not patent his invention and although his work was carried out in the utmost secrecy his idea was finally copied.

<sup>30</sup> Similar brevity, without any mention of ceremony, appears later on 17 Nov 1814 with "*I married Ann Lewin*".

<sup>31</sup> Howard Street was at that time the home of T. A. Ward and his parents.

1810 Near the beginning of this year A B Bell notes 'Mr Ward's friends were marrying There were deaths too -- our old friend "Aunt Plant", Mr Joseph Ward's sister, Joseph, a young son of Danniel Brammall at Inchbald's School<sup>32</sup>, and a particularly sad tragedy in which one of the Mount Pleasant nieces lost her life<sup>33</sup>'

#### 12.3.4 The Tricketts of Social Contrasts

A family association between the Plants and Tricketts *might have had* some of its origins in earlier times, around 1770, when the Plants apparently lived near the 1771 Master Cutler, William Trickett, in Coal-pit Lane<sup>34</sup>. The recurrent mention in T A Ward's diaries of Mrs Trickett in the company of Mrs Plant might suggest that this retainer was assisting *Ben(bellows)*'s widow and R E. Leader notes

With regard to Mrs Trickett on one occasion he (T A Ward) says "*Mrs Trickett dined, etc, with us, as in fact she often does when I fail to notice it. She is an old friend of the family, and in humble circumstances; has seen the expiring moments of many members of it.*" She has some small cottage property which Mr Ward managed for her, periodically attending at the 'Green Man' to receive the rents, and to enjoy a gossip with the tenants over their mugs of ale

Shortly after Mrs Plant's death, T A Ward reported (19 Oct 1812)

*"I have been attending at a public-house to receive some small rents for a decayed old lady" (Mrs Trickett) "whose petty money affairs I manage for her. She had 5 or 6 tenants, poor, and like too many of their townsmen complaining. It is their opinion that the kingdom cannot exist, without a change, till Christmas, and they seem scarcely startled at the idea of a revolution.. I cannot help smiling (although it is really grievous) to find them so obstinate in their ignorance and misconceptions "*

Such everyday details command in the Diary as much attention as the Wards' associations with for example the famous slave-trade abolitionist, William Wilberforce *Ben(bellows)*'s nephew, S B Ward for example joined Wilberforce's election committee in the so-called 'Great Yorkshire' national Election of 1807

This Tory association was despite the fact that the Wards maintained associations with the opposing Whig House of Wentworth which can be simply explained by the fact that the Wentworth Earl Fitzwilliam was Lord of the Manor of Ecclesall. The Fitzwilliams had inherited power from the last Marquis of Rockingham, Charles Watson Wentworth, when this British Prime Minister and Eccleshall Lord died in office in 1782. The Marquis was buried at York Minster on 20 July 1782 and Lordship of the Manor of Ecclesall passed to his nephew, the Hon William Wentworth Fitzwilliam, and heirs<sup>35</sup>

<sup>32</sup> This is the Brammall of Bram(m)all Lane, which is now widely known as Sheffield's United's football ground and one of the Yorkshire county team's cricket grounds

<sup>33</sup> *Ben(bellows)*'s nephew S B Ward, was walking in the fields near his house with his wife, two sons, three daughters, and a nursemaid -- all had safely crossed the swollen River Sheaf on a narrow wooden bridge, except for the nursemaid and 2 year old Anne when the bridge broke and only the nursemaid was rescued alive

<sup>34</sup> Despite its name, Coal-pit Lane was one of the more desirable addresses in Sheffield, most of the houses had grass plots to the front with open fields to the rear leading to the head of Little Sheffield Moor. The 1771 Master Cutler, William Trickett, lived on Coal-pit Lane and he is remembered mostly for the broad local dialect of his brother, Enoch, at Cutler's Feasts in the presence of nobility. Enoch Trickett still appears in 1793 rate books with 7 houses in Coal-pit Lane, which was subsequently renamed Cambridge Street

<sup>35</sup> Fitzwilliam was dismissed as Lord Lieutenant by the Prince Regent in 1820, following his failure to condone the Peterloo Massacre of poor protesters in Manchester, and the Lieutenantcy was then conferred on Lord Lascelles of the opposing Tory House of Harewood



A particularly lavish Whig Wentworth ball contrasts with the poor circumstances in the 'Green Man' and, in 1834, *Ben(bellows)'s nephew*, T A Ward records.

*"The invitations in this neighbourhood have been thought rather scanty  
My brother, S B Ward and three daughters, were there*

This ball was to mark the coming of age of the Wentworth Lord Milton, who was being carefully trained for high national office, but the prominent Whig House of Wentworth suffered irreparable damage when Milton was cut off the following November. This was shortly after Sheffield had been granted their first two Parliamentary seats, in 1832, and T A Ward had stood unsuccessfully as an 'Advanced Liberal', the popular champion of the uninfluential poor.

#### 12.4 A seemingly relevant oil painting

An oil painting, believed to be from the Wards' family collection<sup>36</sup>, is known as 'A visit to the Lawyer'. It shows, towards its left side, a well-dressed gentleman standing by a table and some books and, towards the right and more to the fore, a more elderly man seated and resting his hand on an upright walking stick which forms a central feature of the picture. It is recalled that this painting was displayed in a 1965 Sheffield exhibition to celebrate the re-opening of the Mappin Art Gallery in Weston park<sup>37</sup>. This painting was displayed with historical notes that it fell between the contrasting episodes of the 'Thirteen to a Dozen' controversy and the famed philanthropy of the benevolent Sheffield reformer Thomas Asline Ward. Until recently an oil-wash copy of this same painting (signed 'Vaute') was held by my own family, it was said to represent a Plant ancestor and, in the light of current knowledge, it could very credibly have been handed down from the estate of Benjamin Plant (1742-1806)<sup>38</sup>.

It seems possible that this painting may perhaps portray a meeting between Samuel Broomhead Ward and his elderly uncle Benjamin Plant. This reference to 'lawyer' in the supposed title has been taken to be an allusion to S B Ward's offices in the Manorial Courts though an alternative explanation, if the painting does indeed portray a meeting between Ward and a Plant, could be that it might relate to *Ben(bellows)'s actions to put his affairs into better order around the time of his 1805 will.*

By the time of *Ben(bellows)'s* 1805 will, he was 63 and S B Ward was 35, which it appears could roughly match the ages in this painting, provided that some allowance is made for a story that S B Ward aged noticeably after the death (aged 27) of his first wife, the daughter of the ill-famed W---, in 1803. Besides Benjamin (1742-1806), other Plants who were connected with this will include the yeoman farmer James Plant (1740-1825) but a more plausible explanation of why a copy of this painting was apparently passed down *my* branch of the Plant family would arise if the depicted Plant were either *Ben(bellows)* (1742-1806), who is known to have been a close friend of S B Ward, or perhaps his brother the farmer Thomas Plant (1745-1827) of Clowne whose eldest son, Wm(1) (1772-1848), is mentioned as a beneficiary in Benjamin's will.

#### 12.5 The unseen hand of Benjamin Plant

Almost as soon as nineteenth century Sheffield began to enter the spotlight of T A Ward's diary, his uncle, the bellows maker Benjamin Plant, breathed his last breath. Thus, within the celebrated vision of the young T A Ward, Benjamin is confined to the penumbra. We are left largely to guess at *Ben(bellows)'s* precise role in the Sheffield of his times though his indirect influence may well pervade the known account of the Sheffield that he left, as given in his young nephew's diary. By 1805, T A Ward's elder brother had entered more fully into

<sup>36</sup> It is possible that this painting is now in the possession of a descendant of S B Ward, Harriet Countess of Ranfurly.

<sup>37</sup> The Mappin Art Gallery had been closed since its having been destroyed in enemy bombing in 1940.

<sup>38</sup> It seems that this painting, which was in very poor condition, may have been handed down the line *Ben(bellows)* - Wm(1) - Wm(2a) - James - Tom to my late father Tom whereafter it was sadly lost around the time of his death.

adulthood and it is S B Ward who appears in Benjamin's will, as its first trustee and beneficiary

Information about *Ben(bellows)*'s likely role, at earlier times, can be gleaned partly from the records of this epoch's most authoritative local official, the Master Cutler. Even though Benjamin's own trade of bellows making was rather outside the wide disciplines that qualified for the so-called Company of Cutlers we may note that, just as bellows were crucial to contemporary metal crafts, Benjamin may have formed a crux of some key contemporary events. It seems that the close-knit family connections of old Sheffield (section 12 1 2) may have played their part in bringing about such events as the Master Cutler being called Jos Ibberson in 1759 and Peter Spurr in 1781 and that, at least by the time of more-detailed 1790's records, *Ben(bellows)* occupied Ibberson Lands which included the Spurr (or Spurgear) Wheels (Chapters 11 and 13). The naming of the Spurr Wheel may have arisen from the name of the 1781 Master Cutler, Peter Spurr, whose apparent family connections with *Ben(bellows)* provides the credentials for Peter Spurr's being associated with this Wheel.

It seems difficult to dismiss as just coincidence. A step-uncle of *Ben(bellows)*'s wife, Joseph Broomhead, refused 1771 Mastership, and the office passed instead to Benjamin Plant's neighbour, William Trickett. This was somewhat before the times of the Freeman's Revolt (1785-1801), the 'Thirteen to a Dozen' controversy (1787) and the Broom-hall conflagration (1791) but one might wonder, for example, if *Ben(bellows)* lent a hand in passing Mastership from a rich uncle of his wife to a neighbour, perhaps because it was thought that this neighbour was more acceptable to the Freeman. Certainly a Trickett connection persists through to the 1790's when the Freeman's Revolt involved William Trickett's brothers Enoch and James, as well as *Ben(bellows)*'s brother-in-law, *Joseph Ward*. Although the details are not clear, it can be added that the name Trickett recurs in that a Mrs Trickett is to be found closely associated with *Ben(bellows)*'s wife in Ward documents between 1801 and 1812.

The Masterships of *Ben(bellows)*'s close distaff kin (viz Benjamin Broomhead 1784, Joseph Ward 1790, S B Ward in 1798 and T A Ward in 1816) were interspersed, in 1796, by a year as Master Cutler for J F Smith whose Coal-pit Lane property was apparently surrounded by Benjamin's. It seems likely, as indicated in Chapter 11, the *Ben(bellows)* may have formed a link of particular importance between the Smiths and the Wards and that this may have led to T A Ward's close friendship with Smith's young relative and protege, Joseph Hunter, prior to the publication of Hunter's celebrated 1819 history on '*Hallamshire*'. The genesis of Sheffield (now Britain's fifth largest city), through the centuries up to the late nineteenth century, is illuminated most famously by Hunter's *Hallamshire* and T A Ward's *Peeps into the Past* -- the creative friendship between these two leading luminaries of Sheffield can arguably be attributed to Benjamin Plant.

*Ben(bellows)*'s title '*Benjamin Plant of Sheffield Moor*' appears in the published works of his nephew and his nephew's friend, viz Ward's *Peeps into the Past* and Hunter's *Familiae Minorae Gentium*. It is not clear exactly how *Ben(bellows)* acquired this title and whether it accrued from more than just the known fact that some of his properties lay around the edges of this site of Sheffield's first major expansion of the coming Industrial Age. The occupations of *Ben(bellows)* and his presumed brother John Plant may have helped to build Sheffield's forges and inter-mixed dwellings and such bellows-making and brick-laying activities, from the two apparent bases of *Plant's Yard* near the Moor's head and foot, may have helped earn *Ben(bellows)* his '*Sheffield Moor*' title.

*Ben(bellows)*'s historical role may have related as much to such technological developments as to his relationships with Sheffield's Master Cutlers and the subsequent chroniclers of Sheffield. He clearly had '*connections*' with important events in Sheffield's history - for example, Mrs Plant in her late years is known to have been associated with the son and successor of the famous Benjamin Huntsman. We can accordingly surmise that, just as Benjamin's bellows may have been developed to help temper malleability into Huntsman's cast steel, so *Ben(bellows)* himself may have helped to breath extensibility into Sheffield's developing scene. Benjamin Plant's influence may have extended into the development of Sheffield's industrial plants - he also seems central to the establishment of the Plant name in Sheffield, as will be described further in subsequent chapters.

## THE MANUFACTURE OF BUTTONS - LATE 19TH CENTURY

Journal No 11 contained an article relating to the manufacturing of Buttons by Messrs Plant & Green of Birmingham, based on original papers dated 10 October 1874 the original papers containing pencil note - Joseph Plant father of F E Lort/John Green uncle of F E Lort

Since preparing Journal No 11 I have managed to solve the mystery of the names mentioned above with the help of Jon Ackroyd 113 RR1, Cambell River BC, Canada V9W 3S4 who, on 15 July 1991, set down information passed down through his family He is descended from Joseph Plant who with his wife's brother, John Green, had the Button Factory in Warstone Lane, Birmingham, trading under the name of Plant and Green

The F E Lort referred to in the previous article (Journal No 11) was in fact Florence Eliza Plant, the daughter of Joseph Plant, who married John Anthony H Lort

Sometime in the early 1930's Florence Eliza set down the following information:

"My father, Joseph, and my mother's, brother, John (Green) had a huge covered button factory on Warstone Lane, Birmingham employing several hundred hands in the 1870's

I know very little of the Plant family, My grandfather, Joseph Plant, was the son of a soldier who lived at Bromley, Kent, England This soldier married Miss Portlock of London and was stationed in India I heard my grandfather tell this to my mother he also said his half-brother was born there and was sent to a boarding school in England when he was 7. His mother must have died when he was very young and his father married again and there was a boy of that marriage My father often spoke of his uncle who also had an only son who died unmarried I heard of this son from a woman my mother knew. she spoke of him as Harry Plant and gave the impression that she had been in love with him - she also said that my grandfather was very badly treated by his step mother His father must have died as my grandfather lived with her and her son -about 14 or 15 he ran away from home and never spoke of his past not even to my father I remember him as a very dejected looking old man, he had a business of his own Buttons again! but only in a small way, only one kind of pearl, not the sort that my father made He wanted to take my father into his workshop but my grandmother's sister - Mrs Sandlord - advised her to apprentice him with a good firm - which she did and my father eventually owned that business "

From the information above and other details given by John Ackroyd the tree shown on the following page can be established.

Following an enquiry to Birmingham City Council Library Services relative to the Plant families connection with the manufacture of buttons in Birmingham I received their reply as follows

'A preliminary search has revealed the following information from the trades directories, pearl button makers

1800 Henry Plant, 4 Stafford St  
1825 Plant & Barlow, 21 Bread St  
1842 Arobella Plant, 43 Water St  
1852/3 John Plant, court back of 37 Brealey St  
and 43 Great Hampton St  
1872 Plant & Green, 16 Vittoria St  
1886/99 Plant & Green, Warstone Lane

From the patents index Patents associated with button manufacture'

1 1873 John Richard Green, Warstone Button Works, Warstone Lane

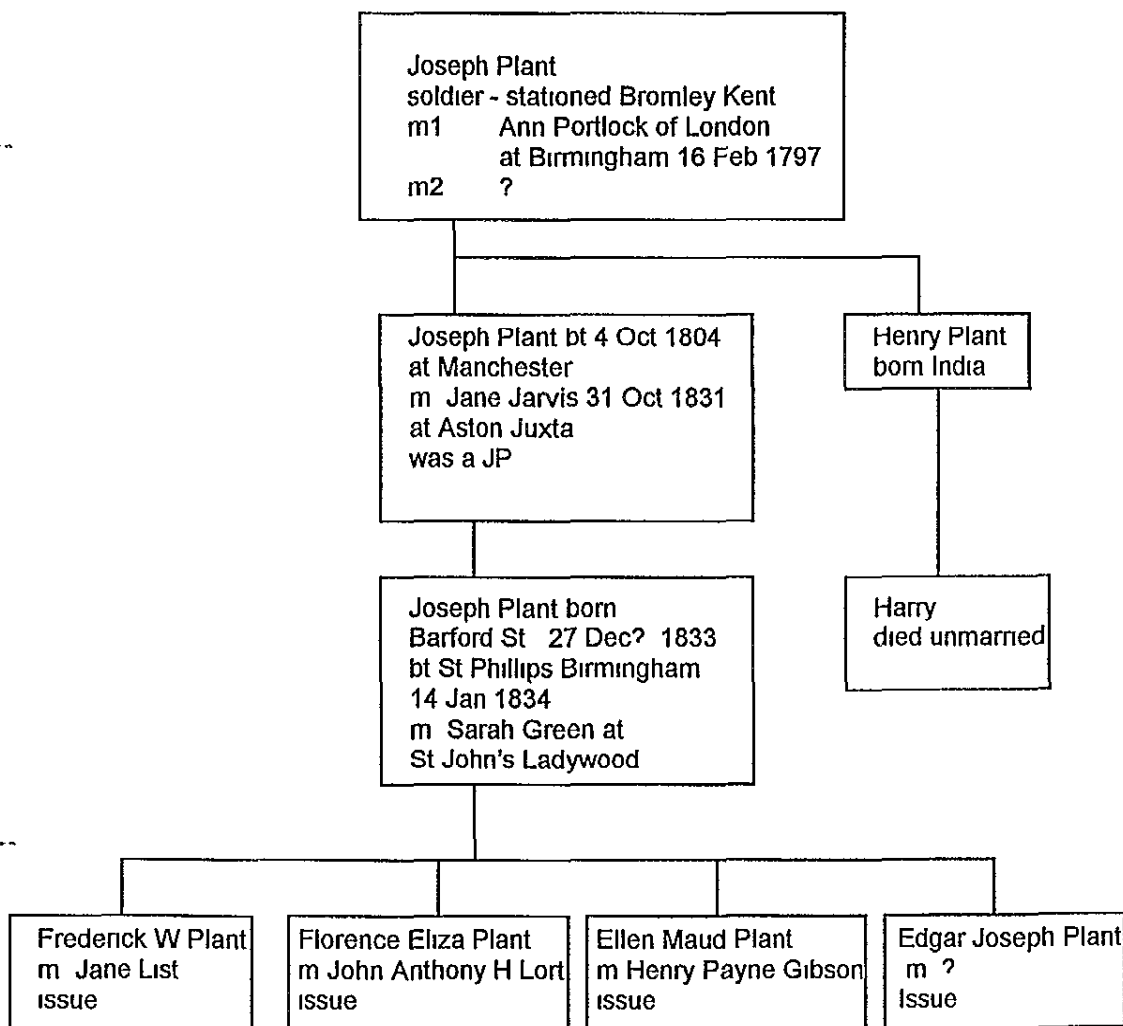
director in Plant and Green (1873-1895), 1893 Woodlea Beach Lane  
 Patents with J Plant 1873, F W Plant and J Newman 1884

2 Frederck William Plant (Commercial Clerk) with J R Green and I Newman

Incidentally, when preparing the article in Journal No 11 I wrote to The Button Museum in  
 Ross on Wye and subsequently received a reply requesting further information

I have now replied to their letter enclosing details now established for Plant & Green - Button  
 Manufacturer Any developments will be reported in subsequent Journals

FAMILY TREE



• THE DIARY OF JOHN PLANT OF HAZZLEWOOD FARM •  
 • LEEKFIRTH NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE 1849 - 1853 •  
 CONTINUED FROM JOURNALS 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 & 11

1 January 1851 to 29 March 1851

- 1 T Brough was at Leek Paid Doctors Bill 7s 6d for coming out in the night for Medicin  
 1s I was at half the expense paid 9s
- 2 I was crupping clogs in the afternoon.
- 3 Buxtons lads came for a Copy of Mr Hargreaves Will Miss Hughes came to see us  
 Mary Armett asked me to get her a fresh Will made.
- 4 I was at Macclesfield sold a fat pig to Mr Gaskell at 4d pr lb saw Mr Taylor asked him  
 to come to Make Mary Armett a Will on Monday next. He promised he would
- 6 Mr Taylor came to Turners pool made Mary Armetts will I was at the Isle in the  
 morning for Samuel Clows to come on Wednesday morning to kill us a pig
- 8 T Brough at Leek his Mother very poorly
- 11 T Brough was scouring the ditch around the hay rick the Underkeeper came  
 complained about the Dog disturbing the game T Brough went to the cobblers and  
 Middlehulme he heard his Mother was worse.
- 16 T Brough went to Upperhulme to see James Halsalls widow she was very ill had the  
 Fever many weeks Edward met her at our house she got Lost with coming from the  
 Roach Grange she came over hedge and ditch and found herself.
- 19 T Brough was at Leek took his Mother a bottle of raisin wine she was very ill took a  
 Mittin to the mending [a leather hedging glove]
- 18 His Mother was rather better he took her a bottle of rhubarb wine and a small bottle  
 of Plumb wine Met Moses Ash put a headstone down at Meerbrook in memory of his  
 wife
- 24 T Brough took 2 trts and the alead to the Needles to shift Lime he heard of George  
 Reed be kild going from Leek on the 24th by James Hudson the carners from  
 Macclesfield going over him with his cart
- 26 No one at Chappel soft snow and Wind I put on startups the first time this winter
- 28 T Brough heard the keeper Woods left Swytharnley on Last Saturday Morning
- 27 Mr Taylor caled at Night for Property Tax 6s 5d
- 29 T Brough took his Mother a bottle of mearth she was worse
- 31 Frosty fine day James Gold and Robert Brunt begging for a woman on Goldsich  
 Moss I gave them £1 the snow continued.

February

- 1 Thomas Brough fetched the Loading from the Mill he heard of the death of Thomas  
 Mellors Wife at the Marsh Left 7 children
- 5 T Brough took his Mother a Bottle of Plumb Wine she was rather better she thought  
 the mearth had done her good she was in the house had been Downstairs a few days  
 he heard of old Mr Sneyd Death at Ashcomb

- 6 T Brough took Gilbert to the pool End T Finey thought he was stram in the stifle joint in the Far hip we perceived him lame in the morning We had Martha Turnock Mary Boot to see us Mr Boot had tea I sold Joseph Kid Nan Cow for £8 10s to go on Tuesday next
- 9 I went to see Hannah Oliver I give her 10 shilling promised her 1/2 Load of meal called at Pheasant clough took tea there
- 10 I was at Macclesfield Mr Gaskell and I was at Mr Colvills office he thought we had better resigne being executors for Mr Hargreaves as there was verry much trouble and unesiness with him and Buxtons Mr Gaskell wrote a Resination and I brought it with me as follows

Macclesfield February 10th 1851 Mr Hargreaves,  
 Sir, in considering your Executorship we have jointly come to the conclusion of declining it as we see nothing but trouble and vexation attending it  
 Yours Respectfully, Joseph Gaskell John Plant

I came back by train through Rushton took tea with Mrs Sudlow. I met Mr Brocklehurst coming to Swythamley in Sutfon he invited to go to Tithrington and stop all night I called at Swythamley as I went and saw Mrs Hughes she told me that Mr Hughes wishes to have half a fat pig as we had Feeding I agreed to hit Mr Brough took Hannah Oliver 1/2 Load of meal

- 11 T Brough took Nan cow to the Horse Shoe Blackshawmore and Thomas Clows son John took 1 with him for Joseph Kidd a man met them and paid for them ours was £8 10s Clowes £6 10s Thomas took Mr Hargreaves of Rushton Mr Gaskells and my Resination of Exexutorship He Received very Heavily was very much troubled about it and cried Mrs Buxton his Daughter was verry sorry Samuel Buxton came in the Morning and wanted me to go to Rushton to consult with his grandfather about Raising Mr Gaskell Money he Having given Notice for it to be paid in was £200.
- 12 T Brough at Candlemass Faire caled on his Mother she was rather worse he took her a bottle of Mearth bad Faire for cattle W Beswick bought a 2 year old Filla for £14
- 13 Mrs Hughes came to Look at the Fat Pig and wished to have her side of Bacon to be salted with ours and she would send a man for the ofle and pork
- 17 John Buxtone came to me in the far Barn meadow with a Letter from Mr Hargreaves he wants the Deeds of the Stockmeadow and the Tanhouse I went Down to Rushton in the afternoone Mr Hargreaves wanted me to continue as Executor but I stuck to me Resignation he wanted me to fetch his Deeds from Macclesfield
- 18 I went to Macclesfeld and Mr Geskill to Mr Colvills office to have his advorce he advoced Mr Gaskell to keep the Pitslacks Deeds along with the Oak Deeds an I to bring to Mr Hargreaves the Stockmeadows and Tanhouse Deeds with me his will and some other papers and get him to signe a note that he had Received them wich he did the note is thus  
 This is to Certify that I have this 18 day of February 1851 Received the Deeds of the Stockmeadow and Tanhouse Estates belonging to me from Joseph Gaskell and John Plant  
 Joseph Hargreaves
- 21 William Mills came for Mr Hughes Port we kep the Gut Fat Jane Dawson came to see us Elizabeth took a Letter to the Withystake for Mrs Bellfield to take to Macclesfield to Mr Gaskell
- 23 T Brough went in the afternoon to see his Mother took her a bit of spare rib went to St Lukes Church. Verry fine day Elizabeth went in the afternoon to Dainbridge Chappel to get her text with Isaac Shufflebotham and Wife at the Brick House Danbridge

26 I was at Leek took Mrs Brough a bottle of sherry wine Bought shirt cloth Miss Turner spoke about a Heifer

March

4 Miss Turners man from Endon came to Look at our Heifers He made a choice of one for £9-9s fetch her on the 9th

8 Miss Turners man F Lindep and a boy fetched the Heifer T Brough went with them to gagers lane took 2 Heifers 1 for company Miss Turners sent a Letter by Lindop that I must meet them at Leek next Wednesday but one and they would pay for her

10 T Brough took to Leek Cheese Faire 6cwt 3st 3lb of cheese sold it to George Massa at £2-2s-6d per c and one odd cheese at 5d per lb 17lb snow he brought £14.14s 10d George Bellfield came to me at the F barn wanted T Brough to go ploughing for him on Thursday next at springs

11 Aaron Cooper came for T Brough to go to Thoneylee tomorrow to plough for David Bressington a Boon F C Day

12 no one at Leek a snow T Brough cald at Beswicks to agree with William for 8 strike of short white oats 50lb to the stricke the price not agreed on he was verry refractory when he came Home

13 T Brough and J Findlow was to have gone a ploughing for George Bellfield but Thomas was out of temper and would not go he told me at noon that he would not gake care of the tits no longer I might get someone Els as soon as I wold for he would quit my service in a month or before.

14 T Brough verry poorly got up at 10 0'clock was rather better went to his work ditching in coopers roughmeadow Mary Halsall came to our house

15 Thomas Brough ploughing at old spring for George Bellfield hot day.

16 W Buxton High Forest Brough a Letter his Father Brought from Macclesfield the Day before From Mr Gaskell to Inform me he received his Money from Mr Hargreaves in Rushton the Last Wednesday £300 T Brough and the Girls at Cheppel T Brough went to the Needles to taek Neds Ploughing they agreed that £1-8s-0d if Ned could Bargain with J Findlow to hold Verry find day

17 T Brough at the smithy with Gilbert Beswicks set off for America 5 of Sam Fishers Lads went with them and a Girl that Mrs Bryssington had by Tom Day before she married Tom Brassington.

19 I was at Leek was to have been paid for the Heifer but Mrs and Miss Turner Found fault with her and would not pay for her Mrs Turner said she was but 2 yr old cold not believe she was on April Note III called her and Made me into a Liar I told them to send her home againe I had rather have her till they bring their money.

20 T Brough went early in the morning met Lindop coming with her

21 T Brough fetched one hundred of draining pipe from the top for E halsall at the Needles at 2s pr c ready cash or 2s3d on trust

23 I went down into Rushton Mr Hargreaves sat chiding as usual

24 T Brough started to go to Macclesfield seed in the Newspaper that there was a new Faire held on the 24th went to the Ship and they told him that they had not heard that there ws any faire so he turned back and took Gilbert to help George Bellfield to

plough John Critchlowe from Hillswood came to collect a rode rate for the shiry  
Division they collected 1 1/2d in the pound I paide him 9 3/4d

- 27 T Brough at smithy with Smilerheard of the Death of Miss Roulis on the 23rd He  
brought word that Shusana Arnett and young Wheeldon was Marned 27
- 29 Thos Taylor came with a form to take the number of people

To be continued in next Journal



**EXTRACTS FROM 1851 CENSUS RELATING TO PLANT NAME  
IN THE DISTRICT OF NORTHWICH CHESHIRE**

Piece No 2165 covering

Acton (Weaverham)	Allostock	Anderton
Barnton	Birches	Castle Northwich
Cogshall	Comberbach	Crowton
Cuddington (Weaverham)	Delamere	Eddlesbury
Hartford	Halse	Leftwich
Lergh/Little	Lostock Gramam	Marbury (Gt Budworth)
Marston	Northwich	Oakmere
Onston	Peover/Nether	Twambrooke
Wallercoast	Weaverham	Wincham
Winnington		

Folio 149                      Little Liegh

27	Wm Plant	Head	M	24	Farm Lab	born Sevenoaks
	Rebecca Plant	Wife	M	26		born Stretton
	Mgt Plant	Dau		2		
	John Plant	Son		1 mth		
	Harnet Fenival	Visitor		23	Gent Servant	

Folio 296                      Wincham

68	Sam <sup>l</sup> Plant	Head	M	41	Farmer of 73 Acres	born Lostock Gramam born Allostock
	Ellen Plant	Wife	M	49		born Allostock
	Ann Plant	Dau		18	School Mistress	born Wincham
	Andrew Plant	Son		16	Apprentice Plumber	born Wincham born Wincham
	Sarah Plant	Dau		14		born Wincham
	Eliz Balderstone	Visitor		61	Dairy Maid	born Allostock
	Holland	Servant		24	Farm Lab	born Marston
	Rbt Buckley	Servant		17	Farm Lab	born Wincham

*Samuel b 5-5-1809 was nephew of Uriah Plant (born Lach Dennis and lived in Wincham).*

Folio 407                      Witton

147	Brewery House	? Howarth	Head	32	Agent	born Longmount Staffs
		Caroline Plant	Servant	23		born Moulton

*Caroline was dau of Joseph and Ann Plant b 22-7-1827 in Moulton*

Folio 422                      Northwich

48	Castle St	John Lee	Head	M	38	Physician	born Newfoundland
		Annie Lee	Wife	M	29		born Liverpool
		Caroline Lee	Dau		2		born Northwich
		Donald Lee	Son		1		born Northwich
		Eliz Lee	Dau		4 mth		born Northwich
		Eliza Chantler	Servant	U	23	Cook & Housemaid	born Davenham
		Mary Buckley	Servant	U	22	Nurse Majd	born Davenham
		Wm Speakman	Servant	U	21	Groom	born Anderton Budworth
		Wm Plant	Servant	U	14	Errand boy	born Moulton

William was son of William and Catherine Plant b 24-4-1836 in Moulton

Folio 432

Northwich St Pauls

4	High St	Benjamin Burgess	Head	M	30	Hotel Keeper	born Ashley
		Susannah "	Wife	M	40		born Wales
		Eliz Reeves	Servant		24	Bar Mng	born West Bromwich
		Ann Roylance	Niece		19		born Knutsford
		Martha Hulme	Niece		12	Scholar	born Bowdon
		Eliz Lucas	Servant		39	Cook	born Bowdon
		Mary Wilding	Servant		21		born Northwich
		Susannah Dalton	Servant		23		born Wales
		Ann Naylor	Servant		19		born Cumberbach
		Charles Richardson	Servant		30	Gen Servant	born Knutsford
		Joseph Plant	Servant		20	Gen Servant	born Northwich

Joseph was son of Joseph and Ann Plant b 2-5-1830 in Moulton

Folio 474

Castle Northwich

86	Navigation Rd	Sam <sup>l</sup> Austin	Head	M	65	Lab	born Holmes Chapel
		Mary Austin	Wife	M	50		born Over
		Mary Austin	Dau	U	22		born Castle Northwich
		Sam <sup>l</sup> Austin	Son	U	19		born Castle Northwich
		Wm Austin	Son	U	17		born Castle Northwich
		Thomas Austin	Son	U	14		born Castle Northwich
		James Austin	Son	U	12		born Castle Northwich
		Alice Austin	Dau	U	9		born Castle Northwich
		Joseph Austin	Son	U	6		born Castle Northwich
		John Plant	Son in Law	M	26		born Leftwich
		Hannah Plant	Dau	M	24		born Castle Northwich

John Plant was son of Jonathan and Eliz. Plant b 31-10-1824 in Leftwich and Married Hannah Austin 30-4-1849

Folio 532

Allostock

4	Hulme Hall	Joseph Brocklehurst	Head	M	65	Farmer	
						470 acres	born Biddulph
		Ellen Brocklehurst	Wife	M	63		born Hassall
		John Brocklehurst	Son	U	31		born Buglawton
		Geo Brocklehurst	Servant	U	36	Farm Servant	born Biddulph
		Thos Dodd	Servant	U	32	Farm Servant	born Allostock
		Ellen Plant	Grd Dau	U	11		born Lees Ches
		John Shakell	Servant	U	24	Farm Servant	born Ireland
		James Shakell	Servant	U	22	Farm Servant	born Ireland

Folio 536

Allostock

35	Boots Green	John Plant	Head	M	45	Farmer	
						20 acres	born Lach Dennis
		Sam <sup>l</sup> Plant	Son	U	18		born Lees
		Ann Plant	Dau	U	12		born Allostock
		John Plant	Son	U	8	Scholar	born Allostock
		Hannah Plant	Dau	U	5		born Allostock
		Ann Thorley	Servant	U	21	Farm Servant	born Cranage
		Nancy Plant	Mother	W	73	Former Farmer	born Peover

Folio 536 Allstock

38 Booth Bed	Rich Goodwin	Head	M	37	Farmer	
					163 Acres	born Allstock
	Sarah Goodwin	Wife	M	36		born Mobberley
	Henry Goodwin	Son		5		born Allstock
	Sarah Ann Goodwin	Dau		3		born Allstock
	Jane Goodwin	Dau		2		born Allstock
	Mary Summerfield	Servant		15	Farm Servant	born Cranage
	Mary Gallimore	Servant		15	Farm Servant	born ChurchHulme
	Thomas Plant	Servant		21	Farm Servant	born Nether Peover
	Wm Kinsey	Servant		16	Farm Servant	born Peover
	John Booth	Servant		13	Farm Servant	born Allstock

Folio 602 Leftwich Parish of Davenham

80 London Rd	James Plant	Head	M	26	Smith	born Leftwich
	Sarah Plant	Wife	M	22	Dressmaker	born Witton
	John Plant	Son		3		born Leftwich
	Mary Plant	Dau		1		born Leftwich
	Thomas Plant	Bro	U	22	Carpenter	born Leftwich

*James and Thomas were sons of Johnathan and Eliz Plant  
James married Sarah Harrison 25-12-1847*

Folio 604 Leftwich Parish of Davenham

91 London Rd	Geo Plant	Head	M	22	Farm Lab	born Davenham
	Mary Plant	Wife	M	23		born Davenham
	Kitty Plant	Dau		2		born Davenham
	Wm Plant	Son		1		born Davenham

Folio 620 Leftwich Parish of Davenham

29 Hartford Rd	Wm Plant	Head	M	47	Sal Lab	born Moulton
	Kitty Plant	Wife	M	41		born Moulton
	Ellen Plant	Dau		13	Scholar	born Moulton
	John Plant	Son		11	Scholar	born Moulton
	Eliz Plant	Dau		9	Scholar	born Leftwich
	Martha Plant	Dau		7	Scholar	born Leftwich
	Charles Plant	Son		4		born Leftwich
	Sarah A Plant	Dau		1		born Leftwich

Folio 622 Leftwich Parish of Davenham

40 Hartford Rd	Joseph Plant	Head	M	54	Arg Lab	born Davenham
	Ann Plant	Wife	M	56		born Over
	Mary Ann Plant	Dau	U	15		born Davenham

*Joseph was the son of John and Eliz (Betty) Plant b 10-10-1796 in Moulton*

Piece 2166 covering

Bostock	Budworth/Little	Byley-Cum-Yatehouse
Clive	Croxton	Darhall
Davenham	Eaton (Davenham)	Goostrey-Cum-Barnshaw
Kinderton Cum Hulme	Lach Dennis	Marton (Northwich)
Middlewich	Mooresbarrow-Cum-Palme	Moulton
Newhall(Davenham)	Newton (Middlewich)Over	Occlestone
Oulton/Law	Shipbrook	Ravenscroft
Rudheath	Stublach	Sproston
Stanthorne	Wharton (or Winsford)	Sutton (Middlewich)
Weaver		Whatcroft
Wimboldsley		

Folio 149          Swanlow

15 Back Lane      Uriah Plant          ?          U    44   Salt Agent          born Lach Dennis

In house of Thomas Jennings (Salt Master)

*Uriah was the son of Uriah and Mary Plant of Middlewich*

Folio 290          Bostock

1 Bostock Hall      Jonathan Plant          Head    M    31   Blacksmith          born Moulton  
Elizabeth Plant          Wife    M    31                        born King St  
Alice Plant              Dau     U    10   Scholar              born Leftwich

In house of James France Hayhurst

Folio 445          Goostrey-cum-Barnshaw

14 Goostrey Lane William Plant          Servant U    13   Plough Boy          born Allostock

## REMOVAL ORDERS AND WHAT HAPPENED TO MARY PLANT

by Mrs E C Reed (Member No 16)

A quarter sessions removal paper found at Stafford record office became the end of one road in my family tree research with 'PLANT' connections. After many years of searching for the baptism of my g.g. grandfather JOHN CONDLYFFE a note on a scrap of paper found amongst a distant relations documents led to the finding of a 1833 will of a Mr Baddeley of Cheddleton, this gave the information that John Condlyffe was actually born JOHN PLANT.

Then came the search for his baptism, success at last in MEERBROOK records, 'John Plant' base born child of MARY PLANT' 27 November 1797, the correct date etc but no clue to the father.

Who was this MARY PLANT, a possible MARY found in records was a young girl of 14-15 years, is it possible she was my g.g.g. grandmother, who were her parents, did she marry or have other children?

Several wills, hand downs and other clues point to the father being a Condlyffe, a well off and well known Leek family of solicitors quite capable of hiding any scandal, hence a later document found at Stafford record office which said the application for the removal of Mary Plant from Leek had been squashed.

The large sums of money left in wills by Condlyffe's to the widow and 2 sons of my g.g. grandfather are the strongest evidence but no help to the actual father.

Perhaps some members of Plant Family History Group may know something.

### WKP note re - Removal Orders

Where the legal place of settlement for a pauper was in dispute between parishes the matter could be referred to Quarter Sessions which would issue a removal order in accordance with their verdict.

These papers date from 1691 and were directed at regulating the flow of families into already over populated parishes. The families or individuals were questioned by two Justices of the Peace in order to establish their last place of settlement to which they would be returned if they needed poor relief.

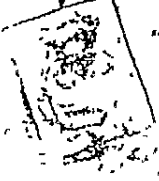
Settlement was gained through birth, apprenticeship, marriage, employment for over a year, contribution to parish rates, or residence in property worth over ten pounds a year. If none of these conditions was fulfilled, the authorities had power to order a Removal back to the last legal settlement, under escort by the parish constable.

County of Stafford

To the Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the  
Township of Loxley in the County of Stafford and to the  
Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Township  
of Tittlesworth in the County of Stafford and to each and every of them.

UPON the Complaint of the Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Township of Loxley in the County of Stafford unto us, whose Names are hereunto set and Seals affixed, being two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said County of Stafford and one of us of the Quorum, that Mary Plant Spinster

*The Gilbert*



hath lately come to inhabit in the said Township of Loxley not having gained a legal Settlement there, nor produced any Certificate owning her to be settled elsewhere, and that the said Mary Plant is now with Child

and likely to be chargeable to the said Township of Loxley. We the said Justices, upon due Proof made thereof, as well upon the Examination of the said Mary Plant upon Oath, as otherwise, and likewise upon due Consideration had of the Premises, do adjudge the same to be true; and we do likewise adjudge, that the lawful Settlement of her the said

Mary Plant

*Pro Bish*



is in the said Township of Tittlesworth in the said County of Stafford. We do therefore require you the Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Township of Loxley or some or one of you, to convey the said Mary Plant

from and out of your said Township of Loxley to the said Township of Tittlesworth and her to deliver to the Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Poor there, or to some or one of them, together with this our Order, or a true Copy thereof: And we do hereby require you the said Church-Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of the said Township of Tittlesworth to receive and provide for her as an Inhabitant of your Township

GIVEN under our Hands and Seals the twelfth Day of August in the Year of our Lord, One thousand

29 Sept: 1797

(2)

To the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the  
Township of Leekfrith in the County of Stafford

That it is to give notice to you and every of you that we the  
~~Churchwardens and Overseers~~ of the Poor of the Township of  
Gittesworth in the said County of Stafford do intend at the next  
General Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be held at Stafford in  
and for the said County of Stafford to enter and lodge an  
Appeal against an Order made by His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said County  
for the Removal of Mary Elant Spinster from the said  
Township of Leekfrith to the said Township of Gittesworth  
and afterwards more in the Court that the hearing of such  
Appeal may be saved and adjourned till the following  
<sup>General Quarter</sup>  
Sessions so that you need not attend yourselves or by your  
Counsel or Attorney at the next <sup>General</sup> Quarter Sessions to  
be held at our hands this Twenty ninth day of September  
in the Year of our Lord 1797.

Jos<sup>th</sup> Goodwin  
150<sup>th</sup> Morvill

Overseers of the Poor of the  
Township of Gittesworth  
aforesaid

The said Mary Elant being with Child and apparently so near her time  
of delivery the conveying her to Stafford at the next Sessions might prove  
dangerous, which is the reason of the hearing of the Appeal being  
adjourned

• EXTRACTS FROM COVENTRY AND LICHFIELD DIOCESE •  
• ORDINATION REGISTER •

1 Source. Lichfield Joint Record Office: B/A/1/12 f 279 r

Title Register of Bishop John Hales of Coventry and Lichfield

1 June 1482  
Lichfield Cathedral

*Orders sacred and general celebrated in the cathedral church of Lichfield, Saturday Ember Day, to wit, 1 June 1482, by the venerable father lord Robert by the grace of God bishop of Achonry in the place of authority of the reverend father and lord in Christ lord John by the grace of God bishop of Coventry and Lichfield*

*Subdeacons regular*

*Brother William Plonte canon of the priory of Stone, order of St Augustine.*

*Deacon = an ordained minister ranking immediately below a priest*

*Regular = subject to the rule of an established religious order*

2 Source. Lichfield Joint Record Office B/A/1/12 f 280 r

Title: Register of Bishop John Hales of Coventry and Lichfield

21 September 1482  
Lichfield Cathedral

*Orders general celebrated in the cathedral church of Lichfield, Saturday Ember Day, 21 September 1482, by the reverend father in Christ Robert by the grace of God bishop of Achonry, by authority of the reverend father John bishop of Coventry and Lichfield.*

*Deacons Religious*

*Brother William Plont of Stone*

3 Source: Lichfield Joint Record Office B/A/1/12 f 284 v

Title: Register of Bishop John Hales of Coventry and Lichfield

20 September 1483  
Lichfield Cathedral

*Orders sacred and general celebrated in the cathedral church of Lichfield, Saturday Ember Day, to wit, 20 September 1483, by lord Robert by the grace of God bishop of Achonry, by authority of the Reverend father and lord in Christ lord John by the grace of God bishop of Coventry and Lichfield.*

*Priests secular [sic, for regular]*



*Brother Willian Plont of the order of St Augustine of the priory of Stone*

4 Source. Lichfield Joint Record Office: B/A/1/13 f 130 v

Title Register of the Diocese of Coventry and Lichfield

22 December 1492  
Lichfield Cathedral

*Orders general celebrated in the cathedral church of Lichfield, Saturday, Ember Day, to wit, 22 December the year abovesaid [1492] by the abovesaid Reverend father the bishop of Down, by sufficient authority given to him by the Keepers of the Spirituality in his behalf.*

*Acolytes secular*

*Coventry and Lichfield diocese*

*John Plant*

*Acolytes = minor church officer*

*Secular = not belonging to religious order.*

5 Source: Lichfield Joint Record Office: B/A/1/13 f 173 r

Title Register of Bishop William Smith of Coventry and Lichfield

1 June 1493  
Lichfield Cathedral

*Orders sacred and general celebrated in the cathedral church of Lichfield, Saturday, Ember Day, to wit 1 June 1493 by the Reverend father and lord in Christ lord William by the grace bishop of Coventry and Lichfield*

*Subdeacons secular*

*Coventry and Lichfield diocese*

*John Plantt by title of the priory of Canwall*

6 Source Lichfield Joint Record Office B/A/1/13 f 175 r

Title Register of Bishop William Smith of Coventry and Lichfield.

21 September 1493  
Lichfield Cathedral

*Orders sacred and general celebrated in the cathedral church of Lichfield, Saturday, Ember Day, to wit 21 September 1493 by the Reverend father and lord in Christ, lord William by the grace of God bishop of Coventry and Lichfield*

*Deacons secular*

*Coventry and Lichfield diocese*

*John Plantt by title of the priory of Canwall*

7 Source Lichfield Joint Record Office B/A/1/13 f 177 v

Title Register of Bishop William Smith of Coventry and Lichfield

22 February 1494  
Lichfield Cathedral

*Orders sacred and general celebrated in the cathedral church of Lichfield, Saturday, Ember Day, to wit 22 February 1493[4] by the Reverend father and lord in Christ, lord William by the grace of God bishop of Coventry and Lichfield*

*Priests secular*

*Coventry and Lichfield diocese*

*John Plant by title of the priory of Canwall*

8 Source Lichfield Joint Record Office B/A/1/13 f 291 r

Title: Register of Bishop John Arundel of Coventry and Lichfield

19 December 1500  
Lichfield Cathedral

*Orders sacred and general celebrated in the cathedral church of Lichfield, Saturday, Ember Day, to wit, 19 December 1500, by the Venerable father in Chrst, lord Thomas by the grace of God bishop of Panados, by authority of the Reverend father and lord in Christ, lord John by divine permission bishop of Coventry and Lichfield given to him in this behalf*

*Acolytes secular*

*Coventry and Lichfield diocese*

*Richard Plant*

9 Source Lichfield Joint Record Office: B/A/1/13 f 293 r

Title: Register of Bishop John Arundel of Coventry and Lichfield

19 March 1501  
Lichfield Cathedral

*Orders sacred and general celebrated in the cathedral church of Lichfield, Ember Day in the first week of Lent, to wit, 19 March in the year of the lord, by the computation of the English church, 1500[1], by the Venerable father in Chrst, lord Thomas by the grace of God bishop of Panados, by authority of the Reverend father and lord in Christ, lord John by divine permission bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, given to him in this behalf*

*Subdeacons secular*

*Coventry and Lichfield diocese*

*Richard Plante by title of the monastery of Kenelworth*

10 Source.Lichfield Joint Record Office B/A/1/13 f 296 r

Title Register of Bishop John Arundel of Coventry and Lichfield

5 June 1501  
Lichfield Cathedral

*Orders sacred and general celebrated in the cathedral church of Lichfield, Saturday, Ember Day, to wit, 5 June 1501, by the Venerable father and lord in Christ, lord Thomas by the grace of God bishop of Panados, by authority of the Reverend father and lord in Chrst, lord John Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield*

*Deacons secular*

Coventry and Lichfield diocese

*Richard Plante by title of the monastery of Kenelworth*

11 Source Lichfield Joint Record Office: B/A/1/14 II p 163

Title. Coventry and Lichfield Diocese Ordination Register

5 June 1512  
Lichfield Cathedral

*Orders sacred and general celebrated in the cathedral church of Lichfield 2 June 1512 by the reverend father in Christ lord Thomas by the grace of God bishop of Panados*

*[Acolytes secular]*

*Robert Plant*

*Richard Plant*

12 Source.Lichfield Joint Record Office B/A/1/14 II p 185

Title: Coventry and Lichfield Diocese Ordination Register

24 September 1513  
Lichfield Cathedral

*Orders sacred and general celebrated in the cathedral church of Lichfield 24 September the year abovesaid [1513] by the reverend father in Christ lord Thomas by the grace of God bishop of Panados*

*Subdeacons secular*

*Thomas Carre } by title of the monastery of Dieulencres*

*Robert Plant }*

*Richard Plant } by title of the monastery of Dieulencres*  
*Henry Stafford }*

13 Source Lichfield Joint Record Office B/A/1/14 II p 189

Title Coventry and Lichfield Diocese Ordination Register

17 December 1513  
Lichfield Cathedral

*Orders sacred and general celebrated in the cathedral church of Lichfield 17  
December the year abovesaid [1513] by the reverend father in Christ lord Thomas by  
the grace of God bishop of Panados*

*Deacons secular*

*Richard Plante } by title of the monastery of Dieulencres  
Richard Yonge }*

*Robert Plante } by title of the monastery of Dieulencres*

14 Source: Lichfield Joint Record Office: B/A/1/14 II p 193

Title: Coventry and Lichfield Diocese Ordination Register

11 March 1514  
Lichfield Cathedral

*Orders sacred and general celebrated in the cathedral church of Lichfield 11 March  
the year abovesaid [1513/4] by the reverend father in Christ lord Thomas by the  
grace of God bishop of Panados*

*Priests secular*

*Richard Plante } by title of the monastery of Dieulencres  
Richard Hayton }*

*Robert Plant } by title of the monastery of Dieulencres  
Richard Stone }*