

*

Roots and Branches



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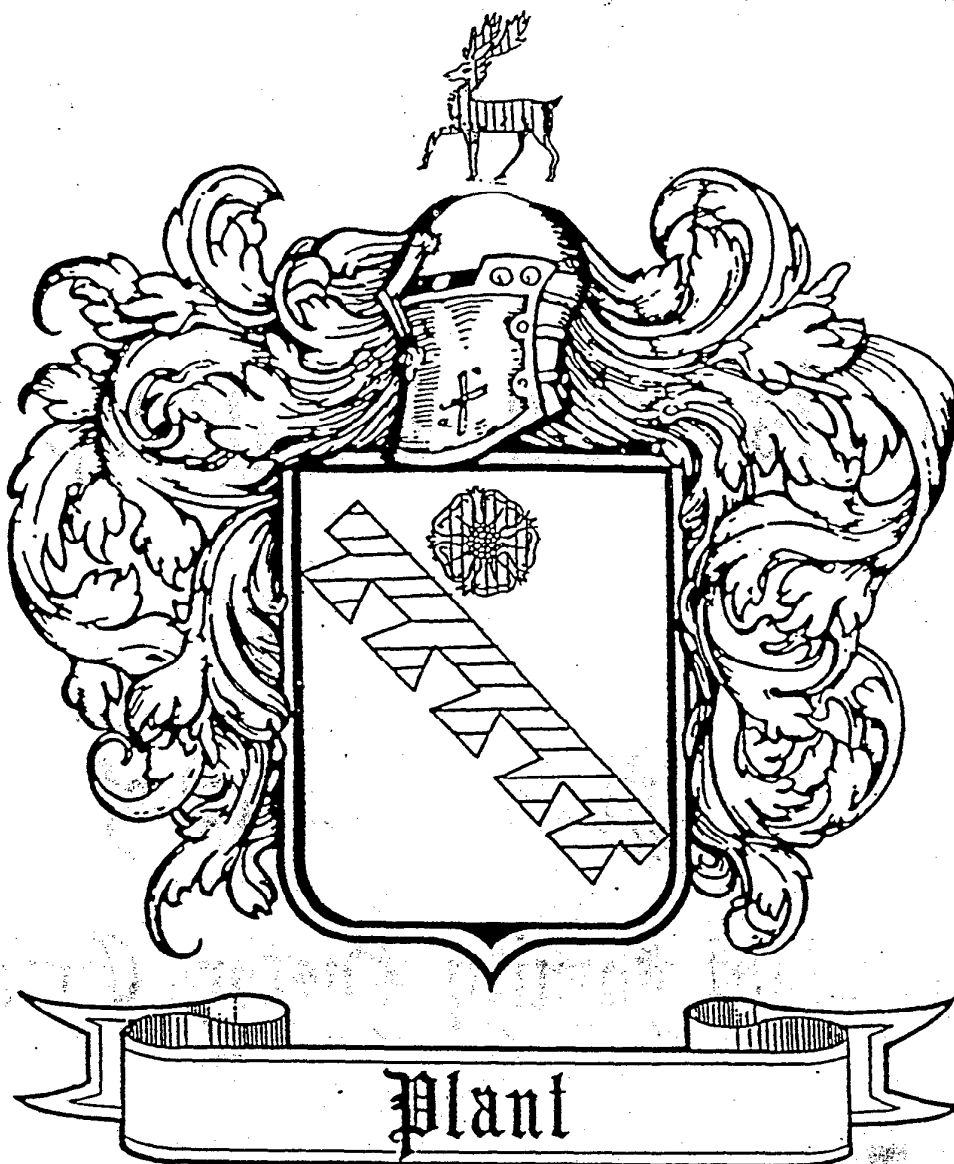
The Official Journal of
The Plant Family History Group

Issue N° 13 January 1997

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From information given by members of the Group



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

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

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

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

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

"A RED STAG WALKING."

ARMS: ARGENT, A LABEL IN BOND AZURE, IN CHIEF A ROSE GULES

CREST: A STAG TRIPPANT GULES

MOTTO: NUNGUAM NON PARARUS - NEVER UNPREPARED

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[REDACTED]

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 Sian Plant	e19c Denton Lancs/19c Leicester/ 20c Rounds Northants/
45	Mr David Johnson	19c Kidsgrove/
47	Mrs S Robson	General/

51	Mr Gerald Plant	m19c Goostrey Cheshire/L19c e20c Salford Lancs/
52	Dr John S Plant	19c Sheffield Yorks/e19c Clowne Derbyshire/
59	Mr Nigel Burroughs	L18c 19c Burslem + Longton Staffs/
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 Malc John Plant	Any period Sibsey Lincs/
113	Mrs Heather Plant	L19c Hackney Middlesex/
114	Mr John Russel Ingamellis	18c Lincs/
115	Mrs Pat Herring	e19c Ashley Staffs/L19c Wheelock Cheshire/

116	Miss Joan Plant	e19c Bristol/
119	Mrs Florence Plant	L19c Staffordshire/
121	Kathy Compagno	L18c + e19c Brierley Hill/e18c Old Swinford/ 17c + 18c Rowley Regis/
122	Elizabeth Messer	L19c Cheadle Staffs/
123	Dr Andrew Thomas Plant	18c + 19c Northants/19c Rutland/19c Hants + Cambs/L19c + e20c Bedfordshire
124	Mr Alan Plant	General Staffordshire/
125	Mr Ronald George Plant	e20c Rugeley Staffordshire/
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	18c + 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/

147	Mr John Ronald Plant	Pre 1900 Stoke on Trent, Staffs/
148	Miss Mgt M Scholefield	e 19c Leek, Staffs/
149	Mr John Farmer Plant	19c Birmingham/
150	Mrs Stephen Ward	19c Leek, Staffs/
151	Miss Tessa Pilsbury	18c + 19c Congleton, Cheshire/

Dear Fellow Members

Welcome to 1997 and let us hope that the coming year proves to be a successful one for you all.

During 1996 a total of 11 new members joined the Group and on behalf of the existing members I would like to welcome these new members to the Plant Family History Group. We all have a common interest, the name of PLANT and as a result of all our efforts, information, relative to the activities of our Plant forebears is now available for a wider audience.

Member No 139, Judith Kirkby, joined in March 1996, her specific interest being her Gt. Gt. Grandmother, Martha Plant, who married Jonathan Jackson, in 1840 and lived near Macclesfield, Cheshire. As a result of joining the Group I was able to put Judith in touch with two other ladies also Gt. Gt. Grandchildren of Martha. They have been in touch with each other (the three ladies not Martha) exchanging information.

In April the Group welcomed Mrs Bateman of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands who learnt of our activities from an article included in an issue of The Bugle, a West Midlands publication dealing with the past. Incidentally I have had a number of articles relating to 'Plants' published in this paper. Mrs Bateman's main interest is the Oldbury in the West Midlands.

Also in April Malcolm Revell joined, Malcolm's forebears being from the Potteries and part of the Plant family of Crown Pottery and RH & SL Plant and Co.

As a result of my advert in The Family History Magazine, Member No 142, High Middleton joined the Group. From connections in the Journal he has opened up some other possible sources, details of which are shown in his letter in The Members letters section.

Interest in the Plants was certainly active through April and in Mid April I had a telephone conversation with Mrs Freda Lawrence, who eventually became Member No 143. Her specific interest is in Prudence Plant of Staffordshire and I was able to furnish her with certain details which have helped in subsequent researches. In return she forwarded to me a list of Plant references in the P.R. of Swynnerton between 1813 and 1917.

April also saw the application for membership from Member 144, Ron Plant of Peterborough, Cambridgeshire who has a general interest in the name.

After becoming a member of the Family History Society of Cheshire and learning of the Plant Family History Group. Graham Wingfield applied for membership and became Member No 145. He is connected to the Mid Cheshire branch of the family.

In the middle of May, whilst my wife and I were away on holiday, Ronald Plant, on holiday from New South Wales, Australia called at my house. Subsequently he phoned me from Scotland and explained that he had a cousin, Jacqueline Ann Rigby, who lived in Blackpool. They were descended from James Plant, a coalminer who lived in Stoke on Trent and whose son John Thomas Plant married Ellen Poole in 1907. Jacqueline Ann Rigby and Ron Plant became members 146 and 147 respectively. 'Good on you sport!'

Member No 148 is Miss Margaret Scholefield of Scarborough whose Gt. Gt. Grandmother, Martha Plant, married Joseph Wood in Leek 1828. She is trying to locate Martha's mother and father.

The final member to join in 1996 was John Farmer Plant from Western Australia who found out about our Group via another John Plant on the Internet. John believes that he is the 6th John Farmer Plant in his line and that his forebears lived in the Birmingham area.

Welcome to all these new members.

In one of my earlier letters I detailed my suggestions for the Millennium 'get together' and sometime in the immediate future we will have to finalise something so that arrangements can be made in plenty of time. Any suggestions would be welcome.

I have managed to obtain a copy of the 1881 Census for Staffordshire covering all Plant references. If anybody requires information please contact me and I would confirm details when forwarding copies of the Journal.

You will notice that I have included in this Journal a new section dedicated to Members letters and I hope that these letters will be of interest.

Finally once again best wishes for 1997 and please keep working on articles for the Journal.

LETTERS

From Jean L G Walpole

Member No. 131

Dear Keith

Last weekend we attended the FFHS conference hosted by our local Society.

Eric and I were kept very busy attending to the Tombola, but did manage to get to a few talks. On the Sunday morning a very interesting talk entitled "A bomb in your back garden" by Peter B Park.

He researched into the bomb which fell in his back garden, and as it was the first in the area of Walton for three years it was published in the paper. He quoted from the Herald and News February 25th 1944:..... "also at 1 & 2 Old Palace Road Mr C Plant 6 members of the family killed including Mr Plant himself. He was also injured 3 years ago at Vickers."

If this is a stray Plant who has been lost I can do further research. Peter Park explained where to find information about bomb damage and casualties, I could also go to Colindale Newspaper Archives and obtain a copy of the paper.

Thought you would like to hear about this, please do not hesitate if you want further information.

Thank you for the note about Burke's Peerage books, I find these communications make excellent recycling material. Which is where they end up.

Filed under WPB.

Yours sincerely

Jean L G Walpole

.....

From Linda S Wheeler

Member No 95

Dear Keith

Thank you for the most recent issue, January 1996, of Roots and Branches. It was fascinating as always. But this time I took special note of the article about the Hatting Industry, with information provided by Aileen Plant.

As you can see by the photocopy I have enclosed, William Agur Plant from my family line could be a brother, or at least a close cousin of the William Plant whose photo accompanies the article in Roots and Branches. I am most curious to know more about that particular family's background.

Our William, who was my Great-Grand-uncle was born in 1811 in Stratford, Connecticut, U.S.A., and became a farmer in Syracuse, New York. His father was David Plant, Governor of Connecticut, born in 1783, who was the son of Solomon Plant, born in 1741, son of James Plant, born in 1716,

son of John Plant (3), born 1678, son of John Plant (2) born in England c. 1646 and Elizabeth Roundkettle, born in England c. 1650. John (2) was the son of another John Plant (1), born in England about 1615. He settled in Connecticut in 1639, and apparently returned to England for the birth of John (2). It is said that John (2) came to the US with Lord Saltonstall's Company.

I have no information regarding where this family lived in England, in fact no information beyond what I have stated here about the family before it came to the States, but if any of the other Plant family members knows anything, I'd surely appreciate hearing from them.

Sincerely

Linda S. Wheeler

PS Member #93, Cordelia Ronelle Sheild, is my sister, so this information concerns her too.

William Agur Plant
Summer, 1888



.....
From Judith Kirkby

Member No 139

Dear Keith

Just a quick note on a busy day! You asked me to let you know if I came across any more Plant details. I've now heard from Ann Battersby (many thanks for that lead) and from Pat Brigg. We are all 3 Gt. Gt. Grand-daughters of good old Martha Plant from Derbyshire. They knew one another and have been corresponding in family history for years.

I have now added considerably to my knowledge of the Jackson's and have been given a contact for the Heathcotes (my paternal Great Grandmother was Elizabeth Yarwood Heathcote), but only have a little more Plant details.

I enclose copies of my latest Plant notes. I have no more at present re. the Plants but considerably more on the Jackson's. I may have more to come from Derbyshire C.C.

I think you'll find Ann Battersby may now join the Society. She is certainly interested. She has several old photos, including a lovely one of Martha and Jonathan Jackson in their old age, and a somewhat starchy studio portrait of the Martha Yarwood who married Thomas Jackson (Jonathan's father) - must have been one of the earliest photos, as she died in 1852.

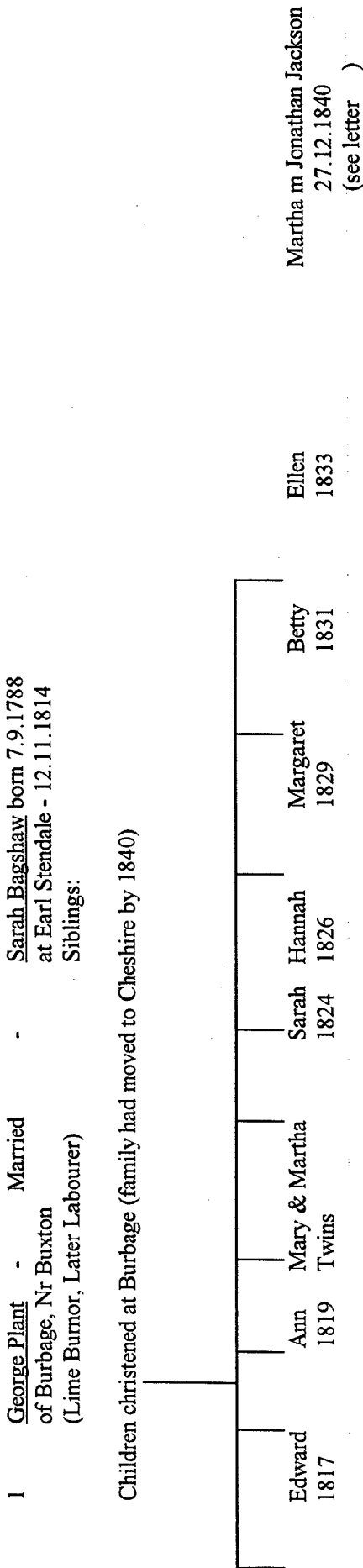
Ann has many anecdotes, but not, sadly, of the Plant line.

Regards

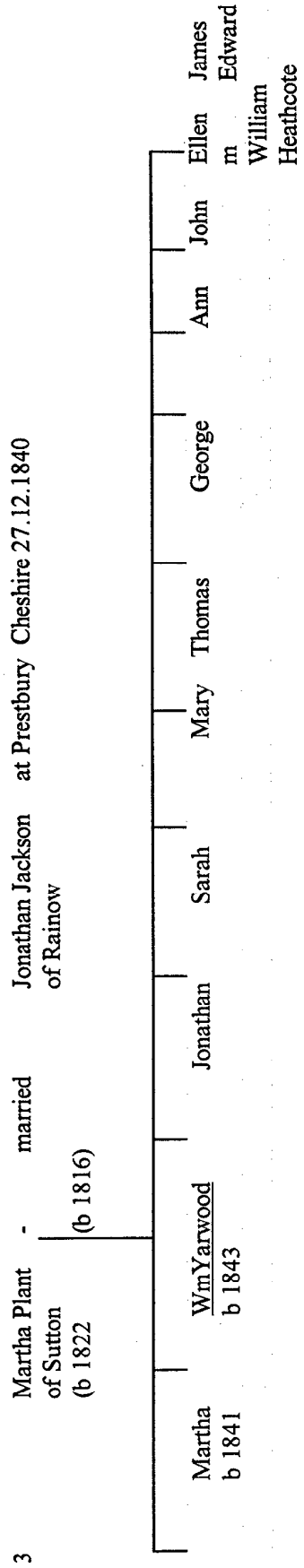
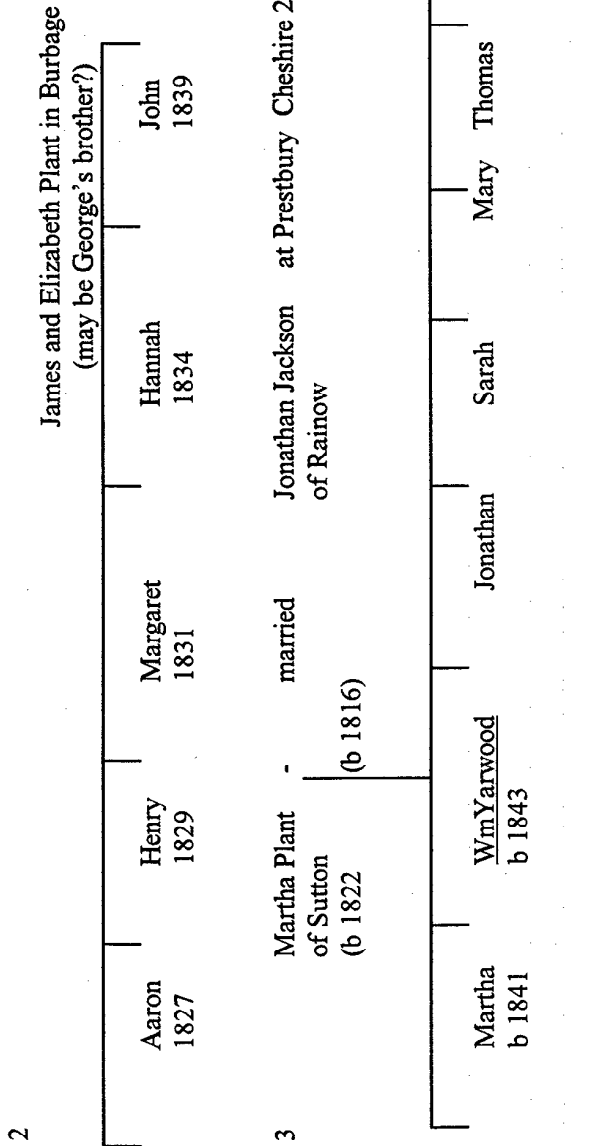
Judith
.....

Note: For Family Trees see page 14.

PLANT FAMILY TREES - NOTES by Judith Kirkby



Children christened at Burbage (family had moved to Cheshire by 1840)



From Hugh Middleton

Member No 142

Dear Keith

I thought you might like to know how progress in various lines is being made through "Roots and Branches". A neighbour of mine, Anthony Parkin, who is tracing Parkins in Derbyshire and Yorkshire, (we exchange any letters, magazines etc.), read my copy. He then showed me a marriage certificate he had just found of a Plant and Parkin marriage in Sheffield. I wrote to two members with Sheffield interests No 52, Dr. John S Plant and No 138, Mrs Jean D Ray. Dr Plant replied that "Alice Plant" on the certificate was almost certainly "his". Mrs Ray sent me her Tree, Alice was not related, but there is a very interesting entry - Albert Plant b 1877 son of John and Jane (Steel) Plant. Now I'm hoping that he may be one of "mine". Albert Edward Plant (died 1929 aged 53) so a distinct "possible". Mrs Ray writes that if she finds anything useful she will send it to me while I am going backwards as it were! Thus "Roots and Branches" has already been very helpful in starting new lines of enquiry.

Yours sincerely

Hugh

.....

From Kathy Compagno

Member No 121

Hello Again!!

The enclosed is "hot off the press". I've just found my David Plant family in the 1880 USA Census at Sandusky Ohio USA. He appears to have been joined by his wife circa 1873, judging by Bradlaugh's birth year.

So I've updated my "query" for the Journal, and also enclose a copy of the actual census for your files.

Your plans for a Millennium Reunion sound exciting - hope I can manage to come. I have a Spruce cousin, Jennifer BOULTER, who works at Tatton Park. I'm sure she would be happy to help you with any plans for tours there.

The Spruces keep me busy, but not many letters to report. It seems that mentions in Local History Societies produce more response. But I do plan to continue my GOONS membership - it has helped me focus my efforts!

Must close, with my best wishes

Kathy Compagno

.....

WKP - Note: With this letter Kathy included an article on Midlands Plants in America as follows:

MIDLANDS PLANTS IN AMERICA ? !!

My Plant surname connection begins with the maternal grandmother of my grandmother. Born Sarah Ann Plant, she married Edmund Mason on 16 July 1853 at St. James Church in West Bromwich, Staffs. Her parents were William Plant and Phyllis Bennett Plant, and she had six siblings: Joseph, Thomas, William, Selina, James and David. With so many brothers, it has long been my dream to find descendants of her Plant family. My face is similar to those in photo's of descendants of Sarah Ann Plant and Edmund Mason. I have spend the past year corresponding with a newly found Mason family branch. It is uncanny to see my Grandma's face looking at me from their ancestors! ~~And some current cousins could be my twins ...~~ So, I wonder: is mine a Mason face or a Plant face?? Descendants' photos might provide the answer; but how to know which modern Plants in the Midlands might be mine?

But I have just had a rather surprising discovery, while reading the 1871 Walsall census; recently acquired death certificates have told me (to my surprise) that two brothers, David and James, were living there to be witness to their parents' deaths in 1870 and 1873. The family is found in the Palfrey area of Walsall:

WALSALL CENSUS 1871 APR 15 = #836427

PLANT, MARY HEAD WIFE MAR 32 PUDDLERS WIFE HUSBAND IN AMERICA OF WEDNESBURY; DTR ELIZTH AGE 3 OF WEST BROMWICH STAFFS; SON DAVID 8 MONTHS OF WALSALL; @ DALE ST., PALFREY.
PLANT, PHILIS 72 WIDOW RETIRED SHOEMAKER; OF WORCESTERSHIRE; LODGER WITH: JACKSON, THOMAS 32 PUDDLER OF PLECK WALSALL; WIFE HANNAH 28 OF DUDLEY WORCS; @ COBDEN ST. PALFREY AREA.
PLANT, ANN WIFE MAR 29 (HUSBAND GONE TO AMERICA) OF WEST BROMWICH STAFFS; BOARDER WILLM BECKETT UNM 21 IRON ROLLER OF W. BROM; PLANT KIDS: ELISA 9 OF W. BROM; WILLM 7 OF WALSALL; SELINA 5 OF WALSALL; HENRY 3; FLORA 7 MNTHS; @ LORD ST, PALFREY AREA
PLANT, JAMES MAR 33 PUDDLER OF STAFFS HILL TOP; PATIENT AT COTTAGE HOSPITAL, PALFREY AREA, BY 48 BRADFORD ST; SUPERINTENDENT SISTER DORA UNM 34 PROFESSED SISTER OF THE HOMES OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN, OF HANSWELE YORKS; WITH SISTER MARIEN OF BUCKINGHAM BUCKS

There is much to ponder here: first, I have heard stories of the grandfather (named Henry Rowley) of a distant Plant cousin, Marjorie Bryan: he made trips to the steel mills of Pennsylvania and Michigan in 1900 or 1910. Here I have some iron puddlers gone to America as early as 1870: AMAZING! By 1881, James is back in Walsall with his family for the census, but David's family is not there. I've now found David in Sandusky Ohio in the 1880 USA census, with wife Ann and seven children, three born in Ohio. David was working in a rolling mill. Sadly, the current Sandusky phone directory shows no Plants; I do not know where his descendants might be.

What confuses me is that Mary's husband James Plant was born in 1837 at Hill Top near West Bromwich, Staffs. So could there be two James Plants of the same age and birthplace in same little village of Palfrey (there are NO OTHERS here), or was he in the hospital before he left for America??? Wouldn't his wife had said in hospital?? It is exciting to me to see a possible link to the famous Sister Dora of local Walsall renown; her statue still stands in the Market Place there!

I would be delighted to hear from any Plant Society members who know of other Plant families at West Bromwich, who could help me to understand the above census records. The next page shows other census records for these families; any suggestions on how to find their modern descendants??

WKP note: The following information has been extracted from the Census referred to in Kathy's letter.

'Inhabitants in Sandusky 3rd Ward of the County of ? State of Ohio on the 1st day of June 1880.

House No	Family No	Name	Colour	Sex	Age Last birthday	Relationship	Single	Married	Profession	Attended School	Cannot Read	Cannot Write	Place of Birth
423	445	Plant David	W	M	40		X		Works in rolling mill				England
		Plant Ann	W	F	37	Wife		X					England
		Plant Lizzie	W	F	19	Daughter	X		At home				England
		Plant Selina	W	F	13	Daughter	X		At home	X			England
		Plant Henry	W	M	10	Son	X			X			England
		Plant Flora	W	F	8	Daughter	X			X			England
		Plant Bradlaugh	W	M	6	Son	X			X			Ohio
		Plant ?	W	F	3	Daughter	X						Ohio
		Plant ?	W	F	1	Daughter	X						Ohio

During a recent study of The Family History Library Catalog of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints the following information was obtained.

1. Author

Dereta, Aloa C

TITLE

Eliza Louisa Watson/Aloa Dereta

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

Bountiful, Utah : A. Dereta, [1987?]

FORMAT

14, 33, 2, [35] leaves : ill., ports

CONTENTS

Eliza Louisa Watson Plant (1853-1928) was born in Branstone, England. Her parents were members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. She married Samuel Holehouse in 1870. She left her husband and immigrated to the United States in 1873 with her family. She first lived in Ogden, Utah where she divorced Samuel. She married Cornelius Plant in 1875. They lived in Salt Lake City and elsewhere in Utah and Idaho before settling in LaGrande, Oregon. They also lived in Cuba for five years then returned to Idaho and later to Ontario, Oregon.

Sources: leaves [1]-33 following text

ADDITIONAL FORMATS

Also on microfilm. Salt Lake City : Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1987. on 1 microfilm reel ; 35 mm.

US/CAN FILM AREA

1320593
item 1

THIS RECORD FOUND UNDER

1. Plant, Eliza Louisa Watson, 1853-1928
2. Plant
3. Watson

2. AUTHOR

Dereta, Aloa Christiansen, 1934 .

TITLE

Ancestry of Aloa Christiansen Dereta, 1730-1934 / Aloa Christiansen Dereta.

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

Salt Lake City : Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1991.

FORMAT

on 1 microfilm reel ; 35 mm.

NOTES

Microfilm of typescript (photocopy) pedigree charts. 6 leaves.

CONTENTS

The ancestors of Aloa Christiansen born 30 May 1934 in Ontario, Malheur, Oregon the daughter of J. Conan Christiansen and Licile B. Morfitt. She married 9 Jul 1955 Nicholas Dereta.

Ancestors included Joseph Plant chr 12 Aug 1750 in Leeks, Staffs, England the son of Joseph Plant. He married in June 1771 Elizabeth Clulow; Thomas Parkin Garland born in 1841 in Bolton-on-Dearne, Yorks, England the son of Thomas Garland. He married 30 Jul 1827 Ann Brooke ; Joseph Sanders Watson who died 13 Nov 1862 in Burton-on-Trent, England the son of Thomas Watson. He married Ann Barrett; John Bateman born in 1730 at Fish Lake, Yorks, England the son of Richard Bateman and Mary Toutal or Toufal. He married 23 Apr 1760 Margaret Staniland.

THIS RECORD FOUND UNDER

1. Christiansen
2. Plant
3. Garland
4. Morfitt
5. Watson
6. Bateman

3. AUTHOR

Bethell, David.

TITLE

The ancestors of Richard Brough & Mary Horleston ; including a history of the Brough's [sic] of Staffordshire, England, from 1190-1873 A.D. / by David Bethell, R Clayton Brough, Marie B. Nielson.

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

Bountiful, Utah : Richard Brough Family Organization, c 1981.

COPYRIGHT DATE

1981

FORMAT

91 leaves : ill., coat of arms, geneal. tables, ports.

CONTENTS

Richard Brough (1786-1873) married Mary Horleston/Hurlinstone in 1825. All their children except one were born in Longton, Lane End, Staffordshire, England. Descendants include Mormons. Includes ascending and descending genealogies. Includes Blakeman, Buckstones, Lounds, Plant and related families.

ADDITIONAL FORMATS

Also on microfilm. Salt Lake City : Filmed by the -----
Genealogical Society of Utah, 1981. on 1
microfilm reel ; 35 mm.

US/CAN FILM AREA

1033785
item 8

THIS RECORD FOUND UNDER

1. Brough
2. Horleston
3. Blakeman
4. Buckstones
5. Lounds
6. Plant
- I Brough, R. Clayton (Robert Clayton), 1950
- II Nielson, Marie B
- III Richard Brough Family Organisation

4. **TITLE**

Family collections: Broughton

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

Cambridge : Chadwyck-Healey, 1988

FORMAT

1 microfiche

NOTES

In Finding aids / Staffordshire County Record Office. Staffordshire County Record Office inventory title is: Family collections: Broughton.

CONTENTS

Contains title deeds for property of various families in various parishes in Staffordshire. The earliest titles date from 1688 and are of the Broughton/Plant/Johnson/Addison/Hewitt and Gardner/Deakin families.

THIS RECORD FOUND UNDER

1. Broughton
2. Plant
3. Johnson
4. Addison
5. Hewitt
6. Gardner
7. Deakin
8. England, Stafford - Land and property.

Further information can be obtained from any Morman Family History Center.

**EXTRACTS FROM 1851 CENSUS RELATING TO PLANT NAME
IN THE DISTRICT OF CONGLETON AND SANDBACH CHESHIRE**

Piece No 2167 covering

*Astbury
Brereton com Smethwick
Congleton
Davenport
Leese
Somerford
Twemlow*

*Biddulph (Staffs)
Buglawton
Cotton
Hulme Walfield
Moreton Cum Alcumlow
Somerford Booths*

*Blackden
Church Hulme
Cranage
Kermincham
Radnor
Swettenham*

Piece No 2167 Folio 25 Cranage

Manor Farm Samuel Plant Servant U 14 Farm Lab born Church Hulme
Knutsford Rd

In the house of Wm Hocknell Farmer of 107 Acres

Piece No 2167 Folio 32 Cranage

14 Cranage George Plant Servant U 19 Gen Servant born Church Hulme

In the house of Thomas Lea Farmer

Piece No 2167 Folio No 33 Cranage

23 Cranage Samuel Plant Head M 36 Beer Seller born Lach Dennis
Ann Plant Wife M 35 born Buglawton
Harriet Plant Dau 10 Scholar born Leese
Ann Plant Dau 8 Scholar born Leese
Emma Plant Dau 6 born Leese
Samuel Plant Son 4 born Leese
William Plant Son 2 born Leese
Joseph Plant Son 1 born Cranage

+ one servant

Piece No 2167 Folio No 43 Leese

Leese Samuel Plant Head M 46 Farmer born Sandbach
Hannah Plant Wife M 45 born Sandbach
George Plant Son U 18 born Sandbach
Plant Son U 16 born Sandbach
Eliz Plant Dau U 13 born Sandbach
David Plant Son 10 born Sandbach
Hannah Plant Dau 3 born Sandbach
Joseph Clough Father W 77 Formerly
in law Farmer born Sandbach

Piece No 2167 Folio No 50 Church Hulme

Holmes Chapel	Charles Plant	Head	M 24	Innkeeper	born Holmes Chapel
	Ann Merial				
	Plant	Wife	M 23		born Norley
	Cath Ann Plant	Dau	16 mth		born Holmes Chapel
	James Palin	Brother in			
		Law	W 58	Brewer	born ?

+ 3 Lodgers, 2 Servants, 1 Visitor

Piece No 2167 Folio No 57 Church Hulme

Holmes Chapel	Joseph Plant	Head	M 39	Joiner	born Sandbach
	Dorothy Plant	Wife	M 33		born Sandbach
	Ann Plant	Dau	U 17		born Manchester
	Andrew Plant	Son	15		born Holmes Chapel
	Samuel Plant	Son	13	Scholar	born Holmes Chapel
	Sarah Plant	Dau	11	Scholar	born Holmes Chapel
	Joseph Plant	Son	5	Scholar	born Holmes Chapel
	Mgt ? Plant	Dau	1 mth		born Holmes Chapel

+ 1 Servant, 1 Visitor

Piece No 2167 Folio No 63 Church Hulme

Holmes Chapel	Mathew Plant	Head	W 84	Wheelwright	born Holmes Chapel
	Andrew Plant	Son	W 57	Cordwainer	born Holmes Chapel
	Ann Plant	Dau	U 40		born Holmes Chapel
	Arthur ? Plant	Grndson	U 21	Servant	born Holmes Chapel
		GrnDau	U 8	Scholar	born Holmes Chapel

Piece No 2167 Folio No 63 Church Hulme

Holmes Chapel	Sarah Plant	Head	U 78	Retired	born Holmes Chapel
	George Plant	Bro	M 67	Labourer	born Holmes Chapel
	Mary Plant	Niece	U 34	Dress Maker	born Holmes Chapel

Piece No 2167 Folio No 65 Church Hulme

107 Holmes Chapel

Thomas Plant	Head	M 59	Wheelwright	born Holmes Chapel
Hannah Plant	Wife	M 58		born Alsager
William Plant	Son	U 27		born Holmes Chapel

Premises occupied as a shop & warehouse

Piece No 2167 Folio No 65

Church Hulme

109 Holmes

Chapel	George Plant	Head	M	47	Saddler	born	Holmes Chapel
	Ann Plant	Wife	M	48		born	Plumley
	Jane Plant	Dau	U	21		born	Knutsford
	Uriah Plant	Son	U	13		born	Holmes Chapel
	Thomas Plant	Son	U	10		born	Holmes Chapel
	Charles Plant	Son		3		born	Holmes Chapel

+ 1 Lodger

Piece No 2167 Folio No 109

Brereton-Cum-Smethwick

41 Brereton

Heath	Joseph Plant	Servant	U	14	Gen Servant	born	Astbury
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In house of Edward Cherry Farmer

Piece No 2167 Folio No 218

Congleton

59 Danesinshaw	Martha Plant	Head	W	72		born	Biddulph Staffs
	Sarah Deane	Dau	M	41	Silk Minder	born	Biddulph Staffs
	Eliz Henshull	Dau	M	29	Silk Minder	born	Biddulph Staffs
	John Henshull	Grndson		4		born	Congleton
	Henry Henshull	Grndson		1		born	Longton Staffs
	Ann Birchenhough	Grnddau		14	Silk Minder	born	Congleton
	Hannah Birchenhough	Grnddau		11	Silk Minder	born	Congleton
	Sarah Birchenhough	Grnddau		4		born	Congleton

Piece No 2167 Folio No 316

Congleton

159 Lawton St

Congleton	Eliza Plant	Servant	U	12	House Servnt	born	Astbury
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In house of Samuel Goodall Carpenter & Publican

Piece No 2167 Folio No 329

Congleton

14 High St

Congleton	Thomas Plant	Head	M	48	Innkeeper	born	Smallwood
	Ellen Plant	Wife	M	43		born	Odd Rode
	+ one Servant						

Piece No 2167 Folio No 397

Congleton

176 Mill St

Congleton	Thomas Plant	Lodger	W	72	Cabinet Makr	born	Withington
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In house of Thos Robinson Lodging & Eating House

Piece No 2167 Folio No 478 Congleton

216 West Rd

Congleton Mary Ann Plant Servant U 16 Gen Servant born Astbury

In house of John Blackshaw Wheelwright & Smith

Piece No 2167 Folio No 501 Congleton

120 West St

Congleton Emma Plant Servant U 17 Gen Servant born Congleton

In house of Sarah Read ?

Piece No 2167 Folio No 538 Newbold Astbury

22 Lime Kiln Rd

Newbold Astury	Joseph Plant	Head	M	48	Labourer	born	Dales Green Staffs
	Sarah Plant	Wife	M	48		born	Astbury
	Ann Plant	Dau	U	22	Dressmaker	born	Astbury
	Eliz Plant	Dau		10	Scholar	born	Astbury

Piece No 2167 Folio No 541 Newbold Astbury

135 Gorse Newbold

Astbury	Daniel Henshall	Head	W	60	Farmer 8 Acres	born	Astbury
	Henry Plant	Son in Law	M	35	Miner	born	Biddulph
	Eliz Plant	Dau	M	29		born	Astbury
	Rebecca Plant	Grnddau		9	Scholar	born	Astbury
	Fanny Plant	Grnddau		6	Scholar	born	Astbury
	Eliz Plant	Grnddau		4		born	Astbury
	Arthur Plant	Grndson		mth		born	Astbury

Piece No 2167 Folio No 562 Biddulph

1 Marsh Green

Gillowheath William Plant Servant U 13 Farm Servant born Biddulph

In house of Richard Lockett Farmer 50 acres

Piece No 2167 Folio No 563 Biddulph

10 Beacon House

Gillowheath	Ellen Plant	Servant	U	20	Dairy Maid	born	Biddulph
	Eliz Plant	Servant	U	12	House Servnt	born	Biddulph

In house of Wm Telwright Farmer 98 acres

Piece No 2167 Folio No 569

Biddulph

62 Gillowheath	Thomas Plant	Head	M	51	Ag Lab.	born	Biddulph
	M Plant	Wife	M	50		born	Biddulph
	J Plant	Dau	U	24	Silkworker	born	Biddulph
	W Plant	Son	U	22	Ag Lab.	born	Biddulph
	Y Plant	Son	U	17	Coal Miner	born	Biddulph
	A Plant	Dau	U	15	Silkworker	born	Biddulph
	Y Plant	Son		10	Scholar	born	Biddulph
	Y Plant	Son		7	Scholar	born	Biddulph

Piece No 2167 Folio No 606

Biddulph

96 ? Bank

Biddulph	James Plant	Head	M	41	Corn Miller	born	Biddulph
	Eliz Plant	Wife	M	41		born	Biddulph
	Lettice Plant	Dau	U	17		born	Biddulph
	George Plant	Son	U	16		born	Biddulph
	Benjamin Plant	Son	U	11	Scholar	born	Biddulph
	Samuel Plant	Son		8	Scholar	born	Biddulph
	Frances Plant	Dau		5	Scholar	born	Biddulph
	Samuel Brown	Father					
		in law		65	Labourer	born	Biddulph
	Herbert Brown	Nephew		2		born	Stockport
	Eliza Brown	Niece		3 mth		born	Manchester

Piece No 2167 Folio No 612

Biddulph

139 Pool Fold

Biddulph	Mary Plant	Servant	U	24		born	Kidsgrove
	Samuel Plant			2		born	Kidsgrove
	Alfred Plant			9 mths		born	Biddulph

In house of Thos Mitchell Timber Merchant

Piece No 2167 Folio No 622

Biddulph

5 Congleton Edge

Biddulph	John Plant	Head	M	38	Stone Miner	born	Biddulph
	Mary Plant	Wife	M	41		born	Biddulph

+ 1 Lodger

Piece No 2167 Folio No 634

Biddulph

94 Hill Farm

Biddulph	Annie Plant	Servant	U	15	House Servnt	born	Biddulph
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in house of Mary Doorham Farmer 60 acres

Piece No 2167 Folio 635

Biddulph

101 Furwood House

Biddulph	John Plant	Head	W	70	Farmer 70 Acres	born	Eaton Staffs
	Charles Plant	Son	U	36	Ag Lab.	born	Biddulph
	Christopher Plant	Son	U	30	Ag Lab.	born	Biddulph
	Mary Bailey	Dau	M	40	House Keeper	born	Biddulph
	Enoch Bailey	Grndson		5		born	Biddulph
	John Bailey	Grndson		2		born	Biddulph
	Jane Bailey	Grnddau		14	House Maid	born	Biddulph
	Stephen Bailey	Son in law		31	Caol Miner	born	Biddulph

Piece No 2167 Folio No 638

Biddulph

128 Nettle Beds	Thomas Plant	Head	M	40	Farmer 130 acres	born	Norton Staffs
Biddulph	Anne Plant	Wife	M	39		born	Norton Staffs
	John Plant	Son	U	17	Farm Servant	born	Biddulph
	Maria Plant	Dau		11	Nurse	born	Biddulph
	Jane Plant	Dau		8		born	Biddulph
	Thomas Plant	Son		6		born	Biddulph
	Ruth Plant	Dau		6		born	Biddulph
	Lydia Plant	Dau		4		born	Biddulph
	Sarah Plant	Dau		2		born	Biddulph

Piece No 2168 covering

*Alsager
Bradwell
Hassall
Sandbach
Wheelock*

*Arcled
Church Lawton
Maston (Sandbach)
Smallwood*

*Betchton
Elton (Sandbach)
Odd Rode
Tetton*

Piece No 2168 Folio No 32

Odd Rode

42 Thulwood	Mary Plant	Head	M	46	Farmer	born	Davenport
	Henry Plant	Son	U	23	Labourer	born	Brereton
	William Plant	Son	U	21	Labourer	born	Brereton
	John Plant	Son	U	17	Labourer	born	Odd Rode
	Eliz Plant	Dau		12	Scholar	born	Odd Rode
	Walter Plant	Son		10	Scholar	born	Odd Rode
	Sarah Ann Plant	Dau		7	Scholar	born	Odd Rode

Piece No 2168 Folio No 36

Odd Rode

73 Rode Heath	Eliz Plant	Head	W	67		born	Arundel Sussex
	Ann Midford	Grnddau		11	Scholar	born	Odd Rode
	Wm Midford	Grndson		10	Scholar	born	Odd Rode
	Michael Plant	Grndson		6		born	Odd Rode
	Hannah Plant	Grnddau		4		born	Odd Rode
	Eliz Plant	Grnddau		1		born	Odd Rode
	+ 1 Lodger						

Piece No 2168 Folio No 41 Odd Rode

113 Forge Mill Edwin Plant - U 15 Miller
Apprentice born Sandbach

In house of Maria Parton

Piece No 2168 Folio No 71 Odd Rode

42 Rode Close George Plant Head M 38 Farmer of 10 acres born ? moss Chesh
Frances Plant Wife M 33 born Staffs

Piece No 2168 Folio No 99 Church Lowton

122 Lawton
Mere Edwin Plant Visitor M 23 Agr Lab. born Astbury
Sarah Plant Visitor M 19 born Church Lawton

In house of Geo Barson

Piece No 2168 Folio No 113 Alsager

59 John Plant Head M 58 Agr Lab. born Congleton
John Espley Son inlaw M 33 Groccr born Chesterton Staffs
Mary Espley Dau M 33 born Borthomley
Harriet Espley Grndau 10 born Alsager
Jane Espley Grndau 5 born Alsager
George Espley Grndson 6 mths born Alsager

Piece No 2168 Folio No 169 Betchton

57 Lawton Heath End
Barlows Cottage Thos Plant Head M 45 Agr Lab born Betchton
Ellen Plant Wife M 55 born Church Lowton

Piece No 2168 Folio No 207 Sandbach

78 Elworth Hall Thos Plant Head M 33 Farmer of 180 acres born Sandbach
Ann Plant Wife M 25 born Thornton
Joseph Plant Brother U 23 Brewer born Sandbach
Eliz Beech Servant U 26 House Servant born Haslington
Sarah Warrington Servant U 23 House Servant born Newton
Sarah Palin Servant U 19 House Servant born Sandbach
Saml Cowley Servant U 16 Errand Boy born Sandbach
Charles Clowes Servant U 16 Farm Servant born Elton

Piece No 2168 Folio No 221 Sandbach

18 Wheelock

Road Louisa Plant Servant U 25 House Servant born Haslington

In house of Wm Latham Solicitor

Piece No 2168 Folio No 294 Sandbach

69 Middlewich

Road Mary Plant Visitor U 24 born Church Hulme

In house of Thomas Swain Plumber & Glazier

STAFFORDSHIRE BURIAL INDEX

Aaron to George

This list is an addition to the list shown on page 17, Journal No. 3 January 1992.

Date	Forename	Parish Church
1770 Feb 15	Aaron	Leek
1737 Nov 26	Adam son of James and Ann	Kingsley
1607 Mar 24	Agnes	Maer
1615 Jan	Agnes widow	Stone
1860 Feb 12	Alfred Rhodes age 60 MI see also Wm 1840 Jane	Hanley, Welsh Ch, United R. Stone
1585 Jan	Alice	Leek
1665 Nov 16	Alice of Barnyate	Stone
1737 Nov 6	Alice inf. of Fulford	Maer
1772 Oct 9	Alice w/o Jas.	Stoke on Trent
1684 Aug 18	Alicia widow	Quarnford
1764 Apr 22	Amelia d	Grindon
1718 Oct 24	An	Stoke on Trent
1773 Jan 2	An	Stone
1684 May 14	Ann dau. of Humphrey	Leek
1705 Feb 4	Ann spn of Bradnop	Mucklestone
1712 Sep 15	Ann dau. of John of Woor	Uttoxeter
1713 Jan 9	Ann dau. of Thomas	Milwich
1715 Sep 7	Ann	Leek
1719 May 6	Ann	Mucklestone
1728 Mar 6	Ann dau. of Jos. of Mill Bank	Mucklestone
1730 Apr 19	Ann dau. of John of Bearson	Pattingham
1732 Aug 26	Ann dau. of Thomas	Swynnerton
1737 Oct 11	Ann of ye Ridge p. Standon	Stone
1741 Jun 15	Ann dau. of Matthew of Darlaston	Mucklestone
1745 Oct 28	Ann dau. of Thos and Eleanor of Gravenhunger	Swynnerton
1750 May 13	Ann dau. of George of Earnfield	Leek
1751 Oct 22	Ann wid. of Nay Ch. from Alstonfield	Uttoxeter
1755 Apr 5	Ann dau. of Thomas	Leek
1757 Jul 15	Ann wife of James of Leek	Walsall
1764 Nov 29	Ann wife of John	Endon
1766 Oct 27	Ann of Fowley	Endon
1766 Oct 29	Ann wife of John	Leek
1770 Jan 31	Ann Inf.	Stone
1773 Apr 24	Ann of Eccleshall	Kingsley
1774 Jul 16	Ann wid.	Leek
1775 Nov 30	Ann Inf.	Cheadle
1780 Oct 31	Ann dau. of John and Hannah	Longnor
1782 Sep 5	Ann dau. of Ann of Gaulidg	Longnor
1783 Mar 7	Ann dau of Ann	Stoke on Trent
1784 Jan 26	Ann	Brewood
1784 Oct 17	Ann wid.	

1786	Feb	18	Ann wife of Philip	Stone
1787	Sep	12	Ann dau. of George and Sarah	Cheadle
1788	Jun	8	Ann wife of John	Cheadle
1789	Oct	25	Ann Inf.	Stoke on Trent
1791	Feb	3	Ann	Lichfield, St Michael
1791	Oct	26	Ann	Leek
1794	Jul	30	Ann of Gorledge	Longnor
1795	Jul	19	Ann dau of John & Elizabeth of Newport	Gnosall
1795	Sep	13	Ann dau. of John of Macclesfield	Longnor
1796	Feb	7	Ann dau. of William & Margaret	Stafford, St Mary
1797	Jun	22	Ann wife of William	Uttoxeter
1800	Jun	16	Ann wife of John of Mill Dam	Longnor
1802	Nov	18	Ann	Leek
1804	Oct	27	Ann age 63 no 37/26 and 3 sons (of Mary ?)	Walsall, Bath Street
1807	May	24	Ann dau. of Samuel and Mary	Ellenhall
1812	Apr	21	Ann	Stoke on Trent
1637	Nov	28	Anna dau. of Rob of Hobhouse	Leek
1638	Mar	15	Anna widow of Low.	Leek
1643	May	18	Anna wife of John	Abbots Bromley
1715	Nov	26	Anna widow of Beech p. Stone.	Swynnerton
1672	Apr	16	Anne dau of Henry and Anne of Leek	Leek
1687	Dec	17	Anne dau of Beardmore of ye Tafts	Trentham
1687	Jan	3	Anne wife of Beardmore Plant of ye Tafts	Trentham
1701	Aug	22	Anne wife of John	Uttoxeter
1707	Sep	25	Anne dau of John, glasier	Uttoxeter
1721	Oct	8	Anne widow of Mill Meese	Eccleshall
1721	Dec	25	Anne dau of John	Rowley Regis
1744	Feb	22	Anne wife of John of Leek	Leek
1748	Mar	2	Anne dau of James	Longnor
1765	May	8	Anne	Sandon
1771	Jun	16	Anne of Irelands Cross	Mucklestone
1783	Dec	7	Anne of Woore. P.	Mucklestone
1802	Mar	20	Anne	Sandon
1742	Jun	5	Barbarah dau of John & Mary	Wetton
1716	Feb	22	Beardmore of Beech	Trentham
1724	Nov	27	Beardmore de Standon	Swynnerton
1727	Dec	5	Benjamin snr.	Rowley Regis
1827	Dec	3	Benjamin jnr.	Rowley Regis
1730	Feb	14	Benjamin	Kinver
1748	Jun	7	Benjamin son of James & Ann	Kingsley
1788	Dec	21	Benjamin	Leek
1806	Mar	15	Bcnjamin of Newcastle age 85	Leek
1809	Jun	25	Benjamin inf.	Kingswinford
1748	Jul	26	Betty dau. of Stephen & Mary of Barnfield	Swynnerton
1778	Jan	15	Betty dau. of Joseph of Crossgate	Stone
1645	Sep	25	Cath wid. of Cowley	Leek
1743	Dec	4	Cath dau. of James & Eliz. deceased	Leek
1766	Apr	18	Catharine wife of John	Leek
1807	May	24	Catharine inf.	Leek

1729	Aug	6	Catherine widow of Matthew of Barnfield	Swynnerton
1744	Feb	0	Catherine dau. of George of Barnfield	Swynnerton
1779	Jan	20	Catherine dau. of James	Uttoxeter
1809	Nov	26	Catherine dau. of John & Sarah	Stafford, St Mary
1609	Sep	0	Cecilia	Stone
1788	Oct	16	Charles son of Samuel	Uttoxeter
1802	May	31	Charlotte	Sandon
1730	Jan	31	Christopher inf.	Leek
1788	Sep	3	David of Gawlidge, P.	Longnor
1809	Aug	29	David son of Benjamin	West Bromwich
1719	Oct	15	Dor	Leek
1754	Jan	6	Dor inf. of Leek	Leek
1715	Oct	30	Dorothy dau. of Thomas	Stafford, St Mary
1730	Nov	9	Dorothy of Stone	Draycott
1777	Jan	12	Dorothy widow of Leek Moor	Leek
1786	Nov	19	Dorothy of Stone	Milwich
1704	Jul	10	Edw an Anabaptist, bur. at Swinerton	Trentham
1782	Mar	29	Edw of Pipe Gate	Mucklestone
1714	Jan	11	Edward of Heaton	Rushton Spencer
1725	Jul	30	Edward son of Thomas & Dorothy	Milwich
1725	Aug	19	Edward of Stone age 81 - (M.I. died on the 10th)	Draycott in the Moors
1729	May	0	Edward of Macford	Stone
1763	Mar	30	Edward	Brewood
1775	Jun	27	Edward	Maer
1811	Mar	31	Edward son of William	West Bromwich
1725	Nov	21	Eleanor of Haylesborough from Aus.	Leek
1721	Feb	16	Eleanora widow of Swynnerton	Swynnerton
1588	Jan	0	Elena of Maeford	Stone
1578	Mar	0	Elenor	Stone
1802	Sep	26	Eli inf.	Leek
1774	Sep	3	Elianor widow of Ettingshall	Sedgley
1691	Apr	7	Elinor dau. of Thomas of Newborough	Tamworth
1639	Jun	7	Eliz wife of W. of Low	Leek
1696	May	21	Eliz of Bearson	Mucklestone
1696	Jul	29	Eliz w. Ben	Kinver
1701	Sep	4	Eliz	Uttoxeter
1711	Apr	29	Eliz infant of Mill St.	Leek
1715	Aug	4	Eliz	Leek
1728	Nov	29	Eliz wife of Wm.	Seighford
1730	Sep	30	Eliz wife of Rob. of Upper Hulm, also Lydia, inf.	Leek
1742	May	2	Eliz of Leek Frith	Leek
1753	Jul	23	Eliz dau. of Rob of Lane End	Stoke on Trent
1758	May	18	Eliz natural dau. of Will Plant & Mary Cope	Sandon
1779	Feb	4	Eliz of Bearstone	Mucklestone
1781	Aug	11	Eliz	Maer
1783	Oct	23	Eliz	Stoke on Trent
1785	Sep	15	Eliz	Stoke on Trent
1786	May	20	Eliz of the workhouse	Leek
1787	Jul	30	Eliz	Stoke on Trent
1791	Dec	8	Eliz inf.	Stoke on Trent

1793	Jul	1	Eliz age 56	Leek
1794	Mar	19	Eliz pau.	Leek
1802	Sep	10	Eliz	Leek
1808	May	6	Eliz	Leek
1809	May	16	Eliz inf.	Leek
1809	Apr	5	Eliz age 15	Leek
1809	Aug	24	Eliz age 29 wife of Samuel	Keele
1810	Oct	21	Eliz dau. of Josh	Wolverhampton
1810	Aug	2	Eliz of Horton	Leek
1834	Mar	25	Eliz age 71	Wolverhampton
1787	Jun	10	Eliza of Swynnerton	Swynnerton
1571	Sep	0	Elizabeth	Stone
1609	Jun	0	Elizabeth dau. of Thomas	Stone
1610	Jan	11	Elizabeth dau. of James & Elizabeth	Mucklestone
1611	Sep	28	Elizabeth dau. of James & Elizabeth	Mucklestone
1620	Jul	0	Elizabeth dau of William	Stone
1736	Nov	1	Elizabeth wid. of Darlaston	Stone
1736	Sep	4	Elizabeth	Uttoxeter
1737	May	5	Elizabeth dau. of Elizabeth of Barnfield	Swynnerton
1738	Jul	7	Elizabeth of Barnfield	Swynnerton
1741	May	19	Elizabeth dau. of Matthew of Darlaston	Stone
1743	Mar	6	Elizabeth dau. of Thomas of Beech p. of Stone	Swynnerton
1749	Dec	17	Elizabeth dau. of James & Ann	Kingsley
1752	Feb	26	Elizabeth dau. of James	Uttoxeter
1758	Apr	11	Elizabeth wid. of Philip	Ipstones
1758	Mar	1	Elizabeth	Bilston
1761	Mar	18	Elizabeth dau. of Isaac	Walsall
1763	Dec	18	Elizabeth (and Martha) ds/o Sarah Plant ?	Kingsley
1766	Feb	3	Elizabeth of Bramshall	Uttoxeter
1769	Oct	26	Elizabeth wid.	Uttoxeter
1775	Jul	17	Elizabeth dau. of Richd.	Brewood
1776	Mar	21	Elizabeth of Swynnerton	Swynnerton
1781	Mar	13	Elizabeth of Cold Meece	Swynnerton
1781	Nov	30	Elizabeth dau. of James	Wolverhampton
1782	Jun	7	Elizabeth dau. of John & Elizabeth	Fradswell
1784	Sep	18	Elizabeth dau. of Philip & Ann	Stone
1788	Dec	3	Elizabeth of Burton on Trent	Endon
1788	Nov	11	Elizabeth	West Bromwich
1793	Dec	5	Elizabeth dau. of William & Margaret	Stafford, St Mary
1794	Sep	20	Elizabeth w of Thomas of Chalcun (Chatcull?)	Eccleshall
1798	Oct	22	Elizabeth w of Thomas of Croxton	Eccleshall
1798	Aug	30	Elizabeth of Mill Dam	Longnor
1798	Dec	9	Elizabeth widow	West Bromwich
1800	Nov	17	Elizabeth w of Thomas	Madeley
1800	Jul	25	Elizabeth of the Nowall	Swynnerton
1804	May	3	Elizabeth dau. of John & Phebe	Brewood
1807	Sep	2	Elizabeth of Coldmeece	Swynnerton
1812	Nov	20	Elizabeth age 7	Cheadle
1812	May	10	Elizabeth dau. of Richard & Charlotte	Stafford, St. Mary
1625	Mar	22	Ellen widow.	Swynnerton

1733	Jun	29	Ellen widow	Uttoxeter
1762	Jul	15	Ellen of Hazlewood	Leek
1777	Dec	28	Ellen of Irelands Cross	Mucklestone
1777	Jan	19	Ellen of Swinn.	Swynnerton
1686	Mar	19	Ellin dau of William of Fulford	Stone
1692	Sep	4	Ellin dau. of Humphrey of Savorly	Stone
1701	May	9	Ellin wife of Tho of Barn Gates	Leek
1756	Mar	17	Ellin dau. of Mary	Kingsley
1604	Apr	21	Ematt	Lichfield, St Michael
1705	Mar	23	Ephraim infant of Boncott.	Leek
1730	Mar	26	Esther wife of Jos.	Kinver
1770	May	20	Esther wife of James	Leek
1776	Apr	21	Frances dau. of Theophilus & Frances of Swinn.	Swynnerton.
1756	May	10	Francis	Seighford
1779	Apr	16	Francis inf.	Leek
1807	Oct	6	Francis age 75	Walsall, Bath Street
1837	Apr	15	Francis son of Edw & Harriot of Bonnigal	Sedgley, R.C.
1739	Feb	22	Geo son of John & Anne, Spooners Lane	Leek
1747	Sep	19	Geo natural son of Ann	Mucklestone
1767	Sep	24	George of Coldmeece	Swynnerton
1768	Oct	2	George inf.	Leek
1776	May	5	George son of John & Mercia of Barnfield	Swynnerton
1780	May	28	George	Leek
1789	Dec	13	George son of Thomas & Sarah	Ellenhall
1793	Feb	16	George	Leek
1794	May	28	George pau.	Leek
1798	Sep	18	George infant	Madeley
1800	Jan	4	George son of Richard & Jane of Park Lane	Endon
1801	Aug	9	George	Cheadle
1802	Mar	10	George	Stafford, St. Mary
1803	Apr	7	George	Stafford, St. Mary
1805	Jun	17	George G.	Leek

PLANT FAMILY USA

The following article has been taken from 'The House of Plant of Macon, Georgia with Genealogies and Historical Notes by G S Dickerman'. It was published in New Haven USA in 1900 with the following accreditation.

"This family history has been prepared for Mr R H Plant and is printed for private circulation. His uniform courtesy has made the authors task a pleasure and the ready co-operation of many others has greatly aided in the work."

HISTORICAL NOTES PLANT

Persons bearing the name of Plant have immigrated from Europe to America at a number of different times and have established themselves in different parts of the country. The earliest of these was Humphrey Plant, who came in the *Margaret* from England in the autumn of 1619 and was among the thirty-five original settlers of the town of Berkeley, on the James River in Virginia. A little later, in 1642, it is recorded that William Plant died on a plantation in Virginia; and after ten years more, July 24, 1635, Matthew Plant was enrolled in the list of passengers to sail for Virginia on the *Assurance* from Gravesend. No further information has been obtained concerning these settlers in Virginia.

About forty years after this, John Plant was among the settlers at Branford, Connecticut, but whence he came we are not told. In 1722, Rev. Matthias Plant entered upon his ministry in Queens Anne's Chapel at Newbury port, New Hampshire, in which he continued with marked success for twenty-nine years till his death in 1751. Toward the end of the last century, between 1790 and 1800, Samuel Plant came to Boston, Massachusetts, from Macclesfield, England. He was an enterprising manufacturer and left a number of sons who have been prominent in the development of St Louis, Missouri. Again, at the beginning of the present century, Thomas Plant and his brother Robert came from Ireland and settled in Massachusetts, of whom the former had a son, George D Plant, who became the principal of the Seward School of Chicago, Illinois.

Whether these different persons, all having the same surname, were from the same original family is an interesting question. Possibly a more exhaustive study of the records in England as well as in America may reveal some relationships which are now unknown.

Of the Branford family it may be interesting to notice a few of the more influential descendants.

David Plant, son of Solomon and Sarah (Bennett) Plant, was graduated at Yale College in 1804 and studied law at the Litchfield Law School. In both of these institutions he was closely associated with John C Calhoun who was his classmate, and like him he was deeply interested in politics. He became Speaker of the Connecticut House of Representatives, and then successively a member of the Senate, Lieutenant Governor of the State, and a member of the United States Congress. Calhoun when Secretary of State offered him any position within his gift, but being a Whig he declined to take office under the dominant party.

He had three sons and two daughters. His oldest son, William Agur Plant¹, born November 21, 1811, died at Syracuse, New York, January 29, 1898, at the age of 86. He had six children, one of whom is Dr William T Plant, a founder of the Medical College at Syracuse and a man of eminence in his profession.

¹ See letter from Linda Wheeler page 11, this Journal.

The second son of Hon. David Plant was Henry Plant, born in 1821, died June 17, 1895, married Mary Chapman of Marcellus, New York. He was an active business man in Rockford, Illinois, and in Minneapolis, Minnesota. In the latter place he was very active in Sunday school work and Bible reading.

The third son, John David Plant, born October 16, 1823, died 1860, at St Anthony Falls, Minnesota, married Audocia Chapman of Marcellus, New York. On account of pulmonary illness he went to Marcellus at the age of eighteen, and in 1854 removed thence with his family to Wisconsin. His health was never sufficient for active business, but on account of his large faith, genial disposition and love for humanity, his influence was felt wherever he lived. Both he and his brother Henry were beautiful singers.

Another family of note is that of Ebenezer Plant, son of James and Lucy (Judd) Plant of Southington, Connecticut. Their two sons, Amzi Perrin Plant and Ebenezer Howard Plant, began a manufacturing business some fifty years ago in the southern part of their native town, which proved successful and developed into large industries giving employment to many people and building up a prosperous community. As the best tribute to their ability and enterprise the community bears the name of Plantsville.

Another member of this family whose name is more widely known was Henry Bradley Plant, who achieved a national reputation in connection with the Plant railroad system, and whose death during the past year, 1899, has deprived a multitude of people of an employer whom they trusted and honored. His business life, from a period before the civil war, was principally in the South. For this and other reasons his relations with Mr I C Plant and his family were especially warm and friendly.

At the close of the war, when measures were taken to reorganize the banking business at Macon, he rendered his personal assistance in a manner which was substantial as well as timely. Toward the close of his life, and in connection with the preparation of his biography, he took much interest in researches concerning the Plant family. In order to make these researches more comprehensive he asked the cooperation of Robert H Plant and it was under their joint patronage that the *Plant Genealogy* was prepared.

In the outline of the Plant family of Branford² it will be seen that John Plant, Jr., the son of the settler, had four sons, James, Timothy, Abraham and Benjamin, each of whom had a large family. The family of Abraham has not been traced beyond his immediate children, but the other three have been followed with more or less fullness to a recent period. Hon. David Plant and Ebenezer Plant were grandsons of James Plant; Henry Bradley Plant was a great grandson of the brother Benjamin, and Increase Cook Plant, a great grandson of the other brother, Timothy.

Information is lacking concerning the closing events in the life of Timothy Plant and his wife, Lucy Parrish. It seems uncertain, even, whether they remained in Branford during their last years. In 1764, their eldest daughter married Daniel Dee, of Saybrook, in the locality which is now Westbrook, and went there to live. Then her sister, Hannah, married at Saybrook and went with her husband, Jerjah Baldwin, to Milford. Later the youngest son, Ithiel, or Ethel Plant, enlisted in the Revolutionary army from that place and afterwards was married there. This indicates that Saybrook became a kind of home for the brothers and sisters. It does not appear, however, when this began, nor when the father and mother died. The deed of land made by Timothy Plant, Sr., to his son, October 7, 1772, is evidence that he was living at that time.

² See Journal No. 2 page 8.

The youngest son, Ethel, made application for a pension at Delhi, New York, June 5, 1813, and it was allowed him for six years actual service in the Connecticut troops. He was then sixty-three years of age. This shows that he removed from Connecticut to that part of the country. No records are found of his having children; but it is not improbable that there were children and that descendants may be found who will trace their ancestry through him to the Branford Plants.

**THE DIARY OF JOHN PLANT OF HAZZLEWOOD FARM
LEEKFRITH NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE 1849-1853**

continued from Journals 6,7,8,9,10,11 + 12

2 April 1851 to 30 June 1851

- April 2 T Brough at leek took 6.1/2lbs of Butter the first this year. Sam Hulme and George Bellfield came at Night with the Road Book.
- 3 T Brough went with me to George Bellfield accounts at Withey stake as Surveyor and Jesse Perkin at Turners pool his rate was 7d in the pound.
- 5 I had a Hand Quarter of veal of Mary Armett they charged 5d pr lb 18lb it was Dear.
- 10 William Lomas called for the Land tax William Perkin and young Perkin took Mr Hughes Flicht of Bacon to Swythamley.
- 11 Josh Whiston and George Bellfield quariled about the road rate Some Ill-Disposed person tol Whiston that George was collecting 2d of him and 1d of others in the Pound there had been some Difference between them before.
- 15 George Bellfield with 2 Hares he brought word of Mary Mellors Death today about noone.
- 18 Good Friday Elizabeth went to the Chappel in the afternoon. Johathan Cooper called No trade I was at the Funeral of Mary Mellor and Carved. She was buried at Longnor I did not go showry day.
- 21 T Brough at Rudyard pool Great feat rowing Match. Fine Day.
- 23 T Brough and Maria at Leek Ester Fair Maria Brought 2 Bonnets from the fettleing Thunder and rain.
- 27 Hard frost hail and snowstorms I went at Night to see Mathew Mellors took him a custard hills covered with snow.
- 29 T Brough helping to Flit Enoch Eardley with 2 tits and cart from Thornley to Healey House in Sutton wet in the morning turned out fine snow.
- 30 T Brough at Leek gave Mr Taylor tax paper Paid Joseph Robinson at rate for Leek 11s4d that is 2d in the £ mine £65. £13.
- May 1 T Brough took 4 Load of Meal to Downsdales for George Kirkham at 26s pr Load he returned him 1s back.
- 3 I went to the White hill brow to fettle the fence It began to haile and rain I started for hom met T Brough in James Hines field coming to help me we came on Paid Maria Shufflebotham £6 I owe her and £15-10s to Elizabeth.

- 5 T Brough took 2 tits to help George Bellfield fetch a chees press from Thornley.
- 7 John Mellor called as he went to Leek asked me to go to Roster at 4.0'clock to settle some business between him and his father I went and took Thomas with me but nothing could be done they were very croot in there accounts and verry refractory.
- 8 Thomas complained of cold in his Head. John Mellor Harriet Hodkis Hannah Hunt and one of Hodkis lads were Married at Leek.
- 13 Samuel Clows killed us a calfe he had the skin for the work done.
- 14 T Brough at Leek he Brought the Road Book. Mrs Mills talked Loudly in Leek.
- 16 John Mellor came and wanted me to go with him to Macclesfield to see Mr Brocklehurst for to be taken tenant for Roache and to take his fathers stock on valuation I thought Johns Demand for wages and Money Laid down was out of the way for faire dealing I refused go with him. I went to Nadens and spoak for a pair of strong shues.
- 17 George Bellfield brought the Road book and paid me £4.1s.4d in hand.
- 20 Swythamley Keepers brought us 1 Dozen rooks Complained of the dog.
- 22 T Brough went to Leek and brought a tin tub paid 1s5d for it Bought 6 stone of flour at 1s7d pr st a nine gallon barrel of Porter 12s treacle 14lb and a New gallon can.
- 23 we fetched the 1/2 ton of wheat straw from the Old Hag that I agreed for in winter I went to Bear Leg hill to Look and Measure some stone 1 Lot 13.1/2 yard 2 Do 20 yards 3 Lot 8.1/4 yds 4 Lot 15.1/2 yds the 4 Lots together 59.1/4 yards caled on Hanna Oliver caled at Pheasants clough had tea at Wm Billings. Caled at Brownsett to fill a sess tax paper Entered a Dog Exempt being Kept for the Care of Cattle.
- 24 I went round to tell them of beginning of road mending and carting stone from Morige to Roaches.
- 26 I & Thomas went to the roach road with 2 tits fetched 2 Load of stone from Morige 10 carts beside ours. Fine day.
- 27 I & Thomas fetched 2 loads of stone Morage pit T Brough paid Solomon Billing for getting and Breaking 60 yards of stone at 1s2d pr yd and spoke for 60 yards to be gotten by the 18th of May 1852 Isaac Brunt fetched 2 bull calves John Brocklehurst came to tell us he thought we might take the 2 stirks to the Brow as the pasture was Mending. Fine cold day.
- 29 T Brough at Kil I was at Hazzlewood roads we had 10 Load of stone from Joseph Mills 1 tit cart Load allowed him 2.1/2 Days Duty for that and some other that he had brought to the road and spread.
- June 2 Thomas Brough went to Leek to put some money in the savings bank I lent him 6 sovrvins he took £3 in his pocket as they were selling there stock at the Plough from Abbey Green inn there were pigs.

- 3 William Wood came to Bid us to the Burying of Mrs Lomas on Thursday next Bought 2 pigs give 15s each £2-10s. Mrs Bellfield came to tell me that Matthew Oliver was coming to get me since a Notice for some money out of Macclesfield Savings Bank Martha Turnock brought it on the 4th I signed it not knowing what Money he wanted.
- 5 I was at the funeral of Mrs Lomas aged 62 took her to Meerbrook I went to Pheasants Clough to see old Edward he had St Anthonys Fire in his Leg. I paid him a Poor rate £1-82-1.1/4 Mary came with me to the Funcral.
- 9 We were cutting thorns and briars in the Long Field and Smooting Nook.
- 10 I took Mellors of Roaster a Kittling caled at Bellfields Sam Kild us a calfe T Brough & I went to Whitehall Brough and set Robert Brunt the walling of the Waste he was to have 6s for road he getting the stone and helping to fill riding the foundation we to cart the stone also the fence by the Lane said he to get what stone he wanted and to rid the Foundation and the old stone at 9s9d for road we to cart the stone verry showry and wet I paid Martha Findlow 9s.
- 12 I took the tits some provinder into the parks Smiler was rather Lame but I thought he was stiff in his Limbs as it is so cold and wet. T Brough went to Look them on Thursday forenoon he found him verry Lame he took him to the Poolend T Finey puld his shue of but cold find no prick nor Gravel he thought the shue had been two tite put on he had been shod by a Gomeman of T Riders he was so lame they thought he cold not get home and he left him he came home over the Whitehill.
- 13 T Broughy went to Middlehulme Borrowed Wm Broughs sledge went to the Poolend for to bring Smiler home His foot had been crushed with the shue being set on improperly the foot was Gathering T Finey let hit out he was able to come Home. T Whiticar came to pay his rent.
- 14 I took Mary Arnett £4 of the rent that T Whiticar had brought.
- 15 No one at Chappel wet day Mr Turner poorly no service in the morning.
- 16 T Brough took Smiler to the Poolend he continued to be better he was to go agane I went to the Pheasants Clough to see Edward he was better.
- 18 I was at Leek a new hat 2s-9d.
- 20 T Brough alone Leading on the Brough. James Arnett complained of stone being got in the wrong place John Brasington came to Borrow 3 or 4 pounds in cash but I had none to Lend.
- 24 I give T Brough 2s to treat the stone getters.
- 25 T Brough paid me the 6 pound he borrowed on the 2d of June.
- 26 Mr Hughes put a New gate in the arbour at the side of the pool for Beswick.

- 27 Yates Lads brought a cow to the bull but she would not stand went home unbullid.
The Girls was browng Lent Mrs Bott 1s6d.
- 28 T Brough stone Leading he gave them some porter & I sent Robert Brunt ml sovrin I
was at Sudlows paid Mrs Sudlow £2.
- 29 I was at Chappel the Communion William Brough invited me to Dinner I did not go.
- 30 T Brough took the cart to shift the old wall by Lane side he give them porter.

To be continued...../

This article prepared by Dr. John Plant (Member No. 52)

Chapter 13

The Sheffield Plant base by around 1800

THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE AND FATE OF EARLY SHEFFIELD PLANT PROPERTIES

As indicated in Chapter 12, 'Benjamin Plant of Sheffield Moor' (*i.e.* the 18th century bellows maker *Ben(bellows)* 1742-1806) can be associated with some mainstream events of Sheffield's progression from being a small town towards becoming a major industrial city. The *Plant's Yard* base of this bellows maker and his bricklayer brother (Chapter 10) was predated by Benjamin's 1770's base in Coal-pit Lane, near central Sheffield — this may well be the site of the 1779 '*Late Plant yard*' which appears in rate books, as well as the site of now listed buildings, which were rebuilt around 1870 and which were subsequently renamed *Leah's Yard*. Examining the property records of the late 18th century *Plant's Yard* Plants provides clues, for example, about their likely activities through the times of the Industrial Revolution and shows, in particular, an apparent connection with the introduction of steam-age technology to blow Sheffield's developing forges.

13.1 Late eighteenth century Plants and Industry

Various associations can be made between the Sheffield bellows maker Benjamin Plant and some recorded events in local history. Such associations are known partly as a result of surviving property records (Chapter 11) as well as various published histories, such as the history of the so-called 'Company of Cutlers'. A particularly relevant published history is that of *Ben(bellows)'s* wife's family, the Wards (Chapter 12).

Recorded events involving the *Plant's Yard* Plants include the tumultuous beginnings to Parliamentary Enclosure around Sheffield, with the 1779-88 Ecclesall Act (Chapter 11), which made way for Sheffield's expansion through into the so-called Industrial Age.

13.1.1 Sheffield's cutlers and Water Power

It seems that Sheffield's industrial roots date back at least to the 14th century. The English poet Geoffrey Chaucer wrote of the implements carried by the Miller of Trumpington with:

"A Sheffield thwitel baar he in his hose¹".

It is clear that it was the adoption of the water wheel, with grindstones from local quarries, that made possible the concentration of cutlery and edge-tool manufacturers in Sheffield². All

¹In modern English this becomes '*He had a Sheffield knife in his stocking*'.

²*Sheffield: Its Story and Its Achievements*, Second Edition, Mary Walton, 1949, p38.

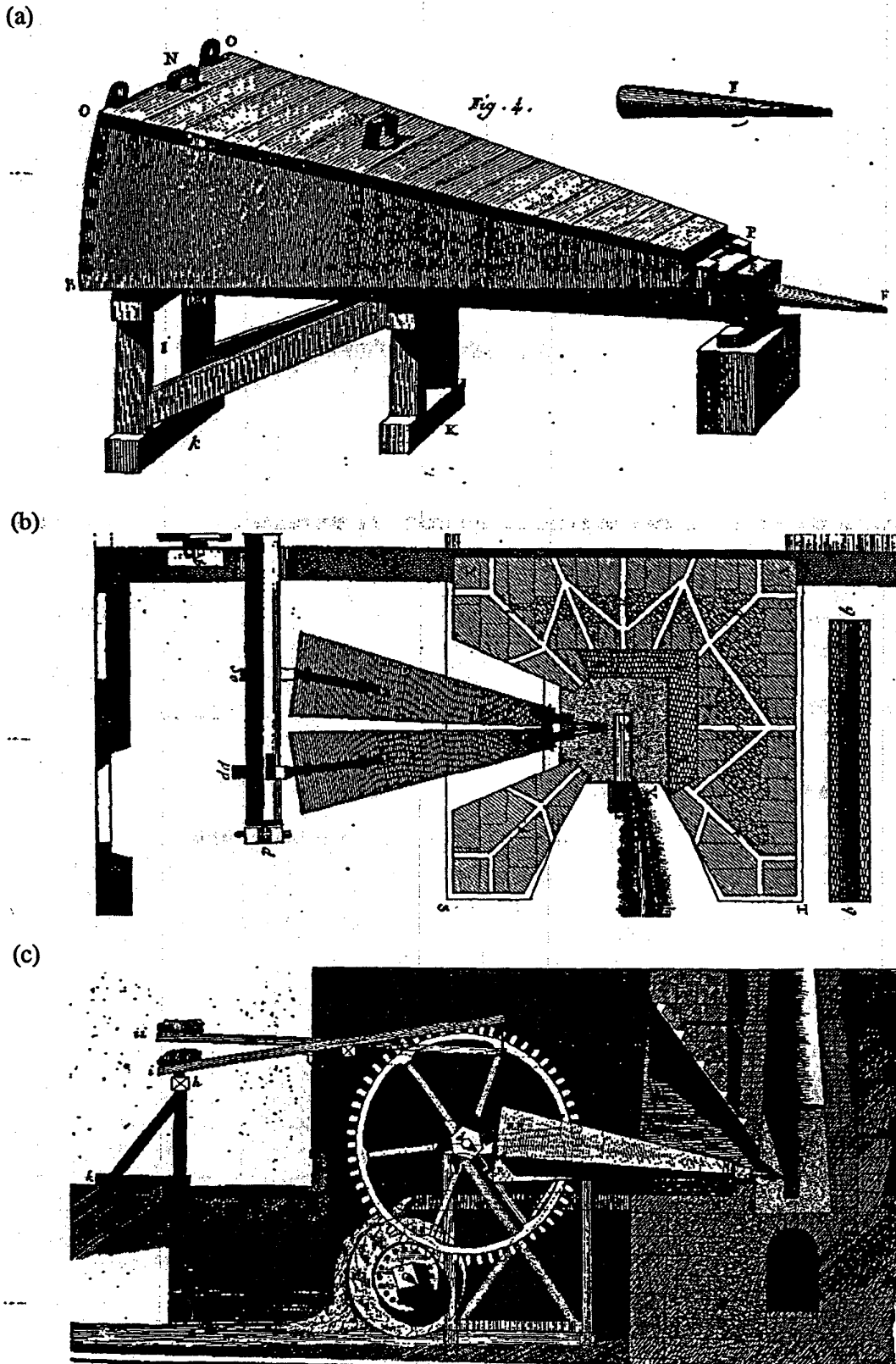


Figure 13.1: An 18th century iron forge: (a) bellows (approx 20ft long); (b) plan view of 2 bellows besides furnace; (c) spur-wheel drive for compressing each bellows in turn and counter-weights for raising bellows between compressions

Sheffield's little rivers have good falls of water and they are small enough to be easily diverted into goits and dams³. The Sheffield cutlers' use of water power reached its peak in the century after 1680. Most of Sheffield's Wheels are listed with troughs, indicating that they were used for grinding metal. The evidence for a major increase in water-powered grinding capacity, in 18th century Sheffield, raises the wider question of how the plant and equipment for forging and steel making were expanded to match. It is perhaps not surprising that, late in the 18th century, new water-powered *forges* appear in Sheffield and, in a few cases, these were conversions of Cutlers Grinding Wheels⁴.

13.1.2 Bellows for Iron and Steel

In the eighth edition of his 1755 Dictionary, Samuel Johnson defines bellows as *the instrument used to blow the fire* and illustrates this with a quotation from Dryden (1631-1700):-

*The smith prepares his hammer for the stroke,
While the lung'd bellows hissing fire provoke.*

It is clear however that, by *Ben(bellows)'s* times, metal working was carried out on a large scale in Sheffield, with water-powered bellows and tilt hammers replacing the smith's muscle-powered equivalents.

There is a separate heading *Bellows Makers* by 1797 in the Sheffield Directories, though the sole entries in this and the other two 18th century Directories are:-

John Linley bellows maker, Darnall, near Sheffield (1774); John Lindley, Norfolk Street (1787); Lindley, Widow & Son, 71, Broad Street, Park (1797); and

Benjamin Plant bellows maker, Coal-pit Lane (1774); Little Sheffield (1787 and 1797).

Figure 13.1 shows a spur-wheel mechanism for driving bellows, in one of several similar schemes for an 18th century iron forge⁵. In these illustrations, from a 1773 French Encyclopædia, it can be seen that the water wheel drives a large spur-wheel which has, near its axle, rotating 'feet'. Each 'foot' depresses the upper box of a bellows over its inner snugly-fitting lower box. Each upper box is raised between exhalations by the leverage of a counter-weight, with air being taken back into the bellows through a valve in the base of its shallow lower box.

13.1.3 Contemporary Iron and Steel production

By the second half of the 17th century, the Sitwell family of Renishaw (8 miles SE of Sheffield) had come to prominence as the iron masters of NE Derbyshire (the region to Sheffield's south). A High-Sheriff of Derbyshire, George Sitwell (1600-67), played a notably active role and the Sitwells have been associated with the early adoption of water power for iron forging⁶. It was subsequently George Sitwell's great great grandson, Francis Hurt Sitwell (1728-93), who built

³In Sheffield, the term *dam* meant the whole reservoir.

⁴David Crossley (1989) *Water Power on the Sheffield Rivers*, *ibid*.

⁵*Recueil de Planches, sur les Sciences, les Arts Liberaux, et les Arts Mécaniques, avec les explications*, Vol 4, 3rd Edition, 1773, *Forges 2^{me}* Section *Fourneaux à Fer* Fig 4 of Pl V; also 3^{me} Section *Un Fourneau en Marchandise*, parts of Pl 1 and 2. I am grateful to Martin Phillips of Keele Information Services for access to this rare archived 1773 French Encyclopædia.

⁶John Heath (1993) *An illustrated History of Derbyshire*, Breedon Books.

the substantial Mount Pleasant home of *Ben(bellows)*'s nephew, S.B.Ward, near the site of Plant's Yard in Little Sheffield.

Sheffield gradually took over from Newcastle, 130 miles to the north, as the main centre for steel production after Huntsman's 1741 invention of crucible steel. By 1751, Benjamin Huntsman had set up the first *crucible* steel works at Attercliffe (2 miles NE of central Sheffield). After perfecting crucible steel, the Quaker Huntsman turned his main interest to steel buttons, in preference to pursuing his ready opportunities for further wealth and honours. A century later, by around 1840, 90% of Britain's and some 50% of the world's steel production came from Sheffield.

The Plants' association with Huntsman can be explained by the fact that the uncle of *Ben(bellows)*'s sister-in-law was the Robert Asline who was Huntsman's partner. Huntsman and Asline were purveyors of steel at 84/0d per cwt in 1761. In 1771/2 a property in Attercliffe (Barn, Smithy and garden) was leased to Robert Asline, with Huntsman being a third party, and it is just possible that this was Huntsman's earlier Attercliffe works⁷. In the 1774 Sheffield Directory, the entries for Huntsman are (a) *Huntsman, Benjamin, cast steel maker, Attercliffe, near Sheffield* and (b) *Huntsman and Asline, button makers, John Street*. By 1797 the Sheffield Directory lists *Huntsman, William, steel refiner, Attercliffe* and this son and successor of the famous inventor of cast steel was at least an indirect associate of *Ben(bellows)*, at least in so far as their wives were known associates by 1805⁸.

13.1.4 *Ben(bellows)* and the advent of steam power

It may be relevant that *Ben(bellows)* came from Duckmanton (10 miles south of Sheffield) where the company Eb Smith & Co were the largest producers of iron in late 18th century Derbyshire. Eb Smith & Co owned the Calow iron works, the Griffin Foundry and the Adelphi Works at Duckmanton — amongst other things they manufactured steam pumping engines to the design of Boulton and Watt⁹.

History records that Huntsman was a friend of James Watt¹⁰. It is known moreover that, in 1782, Huntsman's traditionally-supposed rival, Samuel Walker, acquired a Boulton and Watt beam engine as a dry weather back-up to the water-powered blowing of his iron furnace at Holmes near Rotherham (5 miles NE of central Sheffield)¹¹.

There appears to be better documentation around 1800 for Sheffield's water-powered premises than for the adoption of steam power for the blowing of forges and furnaces. This is perhaps partly because steam power did not appear in rate books, as it escaped the specific assessments that were legally required for Water Wheels. There is in general a lack of evidence for the introduction of steam power at local Water Wheels until around the 1830's, apart from its *known* introduction at Sheffield's *Pond Forge* by 1805. An apparent connection between Benjamin Plant and the Pond Forge will be discussed later and, for the moment, it may simply be mentioned that *Ben(bellows)* leased property in Pond Lane which joined the Pond Forge

⁷*Benjamin Huntsman, 1704-76*, K.C.Barraclough, Sheffield City Libraries Local Studies Leaflet.

⁸Benjamin Huntsman invented crucible steel at Handsworth, 3 miles to the south east of Sheffield, in 1741, though it was slow to be adopted. Later, there is various clear evidence of associations between *Ben(bellows)*'s wife's family, the Wards, and the Huntsmans in *Peeps in the Past: being passages from the diary of Thomas Asline Ward*, edited by A.B.Bell, 1909.

⁹*An illustrated History of Derbyshire*, *ibid*.

¹⁰David Fine (1992) *Sheffield: History and Guide*.

¹¹*A guide to the Industrial History of South Yorkshire*, editor Derek Bayliss, Association for Industrial Archaeology, 1995.

to the Pond Tilt. It may be noted that the dams of Sheffield's many Water Wheels were potentially ready reservoirs for steam power and this might help to explain why the bellows maker Benjamin Plant can be associated with sites around various Water Wheels, in particular, along the Porter Brook.

The Porter Brook forms much of the northern boundary of Sheffield's sub-manor of Ecclesall, for which there are suitably early property records. Property evidence associates *Ben(bellows)* with the Spurr Wheel, the Stalker Wheel, and the Pond Tilt. The latter two Wheels are known to have been in the tenancy of his wife's family and their ancestors, the Wards and the Broomheads.

13.1.5 Around the Pond Tilt

Benjamin Plant's brother-in-law, the 1790 Master Cutler Joseph Ward, was the principal heir to Samuel Broomhead (1722-86) of Pond Lane in Sheffield. Pond Lane is shown running parallel and just to the west of the River Sheaf, near the right edge of Figure 13.2. It was apparently near Pond Lane that the Duke of Norfolk leased land to *Ben(bellows)* — such evidence first appears in rate books in 1794 with the mention of Benjamin's '*Dukes Allotment*' (Chapter 11). In his 1805 will, *Ben(bellows)* left property here '*in or near Pond Lane*' to Joseph Ward's eldest son, the 1798 Master Cutler Samuel Broomhead Ward, as will be detailed later in this Chapter.

At the time (1794) of *Ben(bellows)*'s leasing of this '*Dukes Allotment*', his brother-in-law, Joseph Ward, was a co-owner of the lease of the nearby Pond Tilt, near the confluence of the Porter Brook and the River Sheaf¹². The Pond Tilt is labelled as '*Tilt Hammer*' on a 1736 map (bottom right corner of Figure 13.2(a)) and it would no doubt have used water-power for operating large tilt hammers¹³. The uses of Tilt Hammers were various, though they were often applied to hammering together heated and softened pieces of blister steel to form faggots¹⁴. Their uses can be taken to suggest the likely presence of automated bellows at the premises and, by the late 18th century, such bellows would presumably have fallen in the technological province of the bellows maker Benjamin Plant. Benjamin's bellows, along with the associated drive mechanisms, were no doubt installed at various premises and, for example, the Wards also had an interest in the Wicker Tilt at the confluence of the Sheaf and the Don. A 1771 map (Figure 13.2(b)) indicates that the Pond Tilt became connected to Sheffield town after residential and factory developments took place (between 1776 and 1793) across Alsop Fields. The Pond Tilt had earlier (Figure 13.2(a)) been separated from *Ben(bellows)*'s Coal-pit Lane base by 0.3 miles of fields.

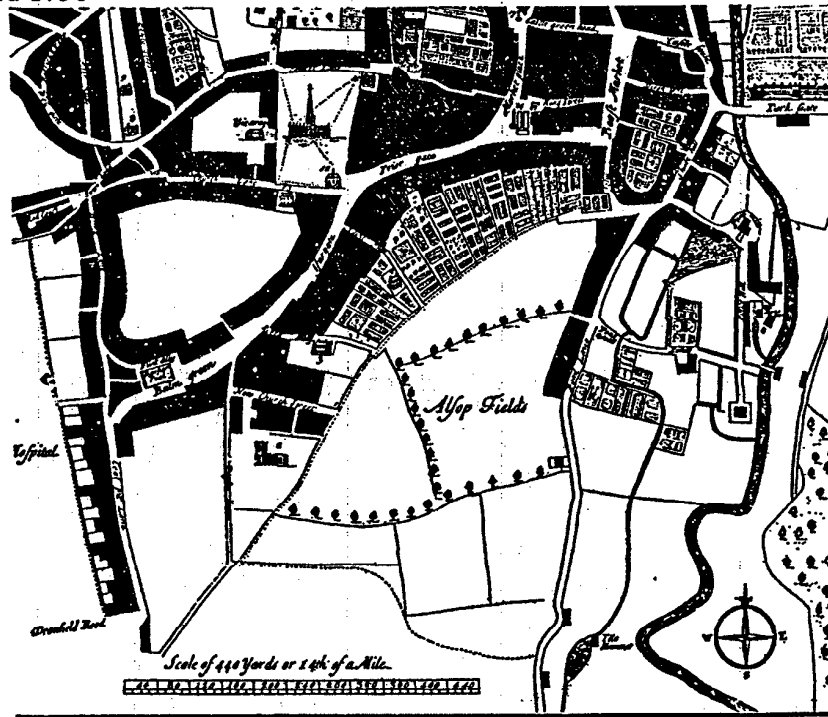
The Pond Tilt and Benjamin Plant's nephew S.B.Ward are mentioned in a letter dated 31 May 1824 from another nephew, T.A.Ward, to his friend Joseph Hunter. In this letter, T.A.Ward writes '*S.B.W. seems not very comfortable. He has set out for London, and perhaps another voyage to Paris. I believe he would not again act the part he did respecting the Pond Tilt, but rather because it is not so good a bargain as he expected than from any visitings of*

¹²The Wards obtained a half share of the Norfolk lease of this water-powered Tilt Forge in 1788, purchasing the works in 1807, and they remained associated with it until its closure around 1855. *Water Power on the Sheffield Rivers*, *ibid*.

¹³It seems that heavy tilt hammers were repeatedly levered upwards by a cam on a rotating shaft, being left to drop under their own weight.

¹⁴It can be added that a process of cold working by hammering and then annealing at high temperatures would help to homogenise the blister steel, which was the sole steel used before Huntsman's 1741 invention of cast or crucible steel.

(a) Map dated 1736



(b) Map dated 1771

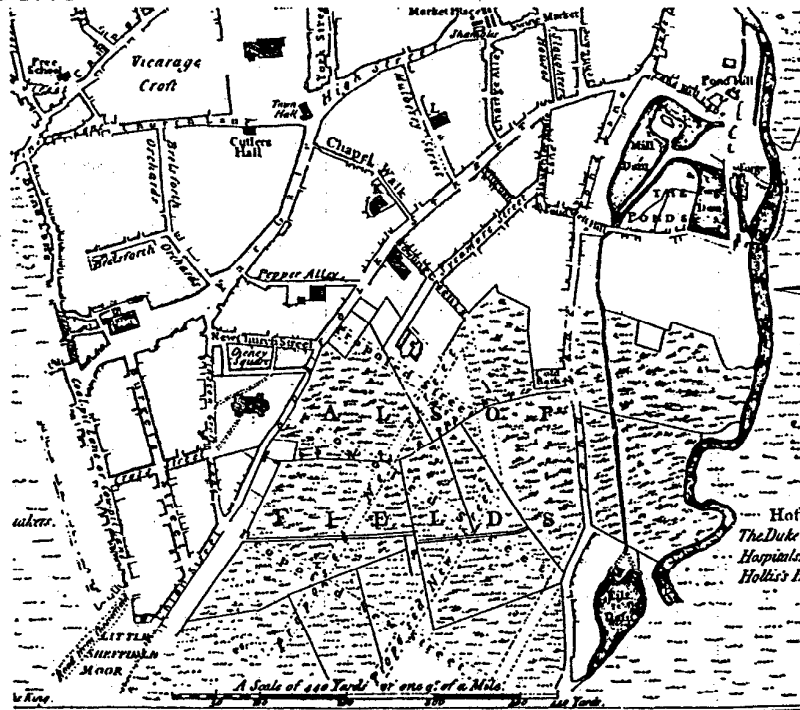


Figure 13.2: The south half of Sheffield town, showing Coal-pit Lane towards the bottom left, the Cutlers Hall and Parish Church towards the top centre, and the Pond Tilt towards the bottom right

conscience.¹⁵ Fuller reading suggests that this reference to *conscience* related to disputes with the 'tilters' (i.e. tilt hammer workers) who were no doubt aggrieved with new techniques and working practices, which were perhaps partly necessary because of the progressive adoption of Huntsman's cast steel. It hence seems that Benjamin Plant's Ward nephews were, in the early 19th century, responding to technological innovations which dated back to the times of their father's step-father, Samuel Broomhead, and to their uncle Benjamin Plant.

13.1.6 Some contemporary social detail

The recorded history of *Ben(bellows)*'s wife's family enables us to add some social detail. The guest list for the Cutlers Feast of the 1790 Master Cutler, Joseph Ward, included amongst many others the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, the Duke of Norfolk, William Wilberforce MP, William Huntsman, Robert Asline, John Kenyon, William Hoyle, Joseph Ibberson and Peter Spurr, as well as Mr and Mrs Benjamin Plant and Mr and Mrs John Plant¹⁶. Some of these names will appear again later in this Chapter as business associates of the Plants, providing apparent illustrations of the Plants' workplace activities.

We can also add some biographical narrative concerning an incident involving *Ben(bellows)*'s sister-in-law, Sarah Asline, who was rescued by her husband, Joseph Ward, from the water near the Pond Forge on 25 Oct 1795¹⁷. This is told in a letter from Mrs Elizabeth Girdler who, along with the historian Joseph Hunter, was related to the Coal-pit Lane neighbour, Joseph Fletcher Smith, of Benjamin Plant¹⁸. The letter states "*Mrs Ward, she that was Miss Asline, had the misfortune to be blown into the water yesterday at Boardman's Bridge. She had been at church and was returning to their house in the country to dinner. She was talking to a lady, and a sudden gust of wind took her over the low wall of the bridge into the water which was two yards deep. Mr Ward was present. He immediately jumped in and got her out. She was taken to a house there was near and put into a warm bed.*"¹⁹.

13.2 Ecclesall Plant property records of around 1800

By 1790 some of the Ecclesall property records are more detailed than earlier and, though still scant, there are unusually long lists of property associated with *Ben(bellows)* in Ecclesall rate books for example. Such property records show, for example, that *Ben(bellows)* held property at his early Coal-pit Lane base up to the time of his death, as well as keeping property at his later-life Little Sheffield base. There are also some indications, in his property records, of *Ben(bellows)*'s industrial connections.

¹⁵*Peeps into the Past*, *ibid*, pps 279-81.

¹⁶*History of the Company of Cutlers*, Vol II, Robert Eadon Leader, 1909.

¹⁷This incident was at Boardman's Bridge near the Pond Forge which was near the other end of Pond Lane from the Pond Tilt. The Wards' country villa on Park Hill was less than a mile to the east of Boardman's Bridge, which led from central Sheffield towards Park Hill ('Park Gate', which led to Park Hill, is shown near top right corner of Figure 13.2(a)).

¹⁸Mrs Elizabeth Girdler was the grandmother of Joseph Hunter, the celebrated author of the 1819 '*Hallamshire*' history, and also a great aunt of Benjamin Plant's Coal-pit Lane neighbour, the 1796 Master Cutler Joseph Fletcher Smith, who had signed the much vaunted document allowing Joseph Hunter '*Freedom of the Company of Cutlers*', a document which has long been on permanent display in the Cutlers Hall.

¹⁹*Peeps into the Past*, *ibid*, p 181.

Owner	Occupants	Land Tax Assessed and Exonerated
Joseph Ibbotson	Benjamin Plant & oths	6/8 $\frac{3}{4}$
Benjamin Plant	John Ogley	7/9 $\frac{1}{4}$
John Plant	Self & oths	2/1 $\frac{3}{4}$

Table 13.1: Ecclesall Land Tax records (1836-93)

13.2.1 The nature of the Ecclesall property information

Information from deeds, in particular from some deeds that just predate *Ben(bellows)*'s 1805 will, can be supplemented with information from some Ecclesall rate books and Land Tax records.

Rather oddly, clues relating to 18th century Plant properties are contained in 19th century Ecclesall Land Tax records. It seems clear that the information in *these* records was copied onwards down the decades and there is accordingly some difficulty in establishing the precise dates from when this information originated²⁰. A few of the later records (nominally dated 1894, 1896, 1897, 1898) are more complete and they include entries under '*Names and descriptions of Properties charged*' (Table 13.4). Despite the nominal dates of these records, it seems clear that they relate to some of the properties of the bellows maker Benjamin Plant and the bricklayer John Plant who were in Ecclesall Bierlow up to 1806 and 1816 respectively.

Some of the late 18th century *rate book* information corresponds with this Land Tax information and this helps to provide more accurate dates. The items that are *listed under* Little Sheffield (such as Broomhall Land, Barn and Dukes Allotments) remain essentially unchanged in 1799 rate books (Table 13.3(a)) from the entries of 1795 (Table 11.4(b) of Chapter 11). However the 17 properties that were listed under Coal-pit Lane, whose rates were still being paid by Benjamin Plant by 1795, no longer appear under his name by 1799 though it seems clear that Benjamin still retained the ownership of (some of) these properties, as is indicated below.

13.2.2 Coal-pit Lane

Directory information indicates that *Ben(bellows)* had moved his main base from Coal-pit Lane to Little Sheffield by 1787. By the time of the Ecclesall rate book for 29 Oct 1799, the evidence for *Ben(bellows)*'s Coal-pit Lane rates payments had eventually diminished to a note '*1800 January the 3 Recd 1:16:11 for 2 Houses in Coalpit Lain*' which is written alongside

²⁰Remarkably constant entries appear in these records throughout the whole of the 63 years (1836-98) for which they are available. Some entries, relating to the name Plant, are shown in Table 13.1 for 1836-93 — these entries remain unchanged apart from occasional corruptions of the name Ibbotson to Ibberson, Plant to Bland, and Ogley to Oxley or Ogle. It seems impossible to identify names with individuals in these records that span 63 years *unless* we assume that the names were perpetuated beyond the lifetimes of the individuals from whom they originated. This supposition is reinforced by the evidence that some of the names in the full set of records were sometimes qualified with '*late*' but then subsequently perpetuated without being so qualified.

Benjamin Plant's Little Sheffield entries. Moreover the same sum £1:16:11 is written alongside his entries for 18 May 1802. In the rate books of around 1804-7 (recorded rate of 12p in the £) the Plant entries listed under Coal-pit Lane itself have diminished to just a single mention in the form of an entry '*Plant Shop 6d ?Emte*'. However, subsequent evidence shows that *Ben(bellows)* and his Plant heirs remained associated with Coal-pit Lane in property deeds dating well into the 19th century. It is clear that those who were, by 1800, paying the rates for this Coal-pit Lane property were the *occupiers* in place of *Ben(bellows)* who still *owned* (at least some of) the property.

On a modern note we can add that Coal-pit Lane is now called Cambridge Street and that it lies amidst modern Department Stores at the shopping heart of a busy central Sheffield. Anachronistically, some old property survives on the west side of this street and this comprises the listed 1870's buildings that became known late in the 19th century as *Leah's Yard*. A range of 3 storey buildings lines the north side of this Yard and these buildings lie at the site that is shown on an 1850 map to be the *Coalpit Lane Horn Works*. The 1774 Sheffield Directory lists John Hollingworth as a horn button maker and he is earlier stated to be a '*Coalpit Lane scissor maker*' when in 1768 he became the apprentice master of James Plant, son of William²¹. Thus the evidence suggests that *Ben(bellows)* can be associated, through his apparent brother James Plant, with a Coal-pit Lane horn button maker by 1768 and, hence, it seems possible that this horn button maker may have had a base near the site of the 1850's Coal-pit Lane Horn Works. This base would apparently have been near the site of *Ben(bellows)*'s late 18th century property which seems *likely* to have been near the surviving buildings of the subsequent *Leah's Yard*. This *likely* location for *Ben(bellows)*'s Coal-pit lane property can be judged partly from two 1805 deeds, which are in the name '*Benjamin Plant of Little Sheffield Bellows Maker*' and which refer to property '*on the west side of the Cowpit Lane²² called Balm Croft alias Garlick Croft*'. The 46 yard strips of land in these deeds no doubt extended between Coal-pit Lane and Back Fields Lane, which is shown in outline to the west side of Coal-pit Lane in Figure 13.2²³. As indicated in Chapter 11, it seems *likely* that the strips of land in these *Balm Croft* deeds were near the *Balm Green* end of Coal-pit Lane and hence most probably formed a part of the current large site of *Leah's Yard*²⁴.

The first of the two 1805 deeds lists the former and current occupants of a 13 yard wide part of *Ben(bellows)*'s Coal-pit Lane property (Table 13.2). These include Elkana(h) Roberts, which name (presumably Elkana Roberts the Elder) is associated with the first known 'patent record' (1704-5) of the Company of Cutlers (Chapter 12) and which name (presumably the Younger) is adjacent to Benjamin Plant's in property records dating back at least to 1772 (Chapter 11). The 1787 Sheffield Directory lists Elkana Roberts as a Coal-pit Lane baker and the corresponding 1805 deed (18 Sep 1805, EX-28-40) is between Benjamin Plant and baker Edward Middleton who, by 1805, had replaced Elkana Roberts the Younger as a current occupant of the property (Table 13.2)²⁵. This 1805 deed concerns the same Coal-pit Lane property as that described in other available deeds, of 1784 and 1794 (Chapter 11), and this property is described as '*thirteen*

²¹*History of the Company of Cutlers*, Vol II, *ibid*.

²²Cowpit Lane, as indicated for example in Figure 13.2, was another name for Coal-pit Lane.

²³The deeds mention a 13 and an 11.5 yard wide strip though, as strips of about this width are shown all along the west side of Coal-pit Lane in Figure 13.2(a), this provides little immediate help in identifying the precise location of this property.

²⁴Balm Croft, which is given as the name of Benjamin Plant's Cowpit Lane property in these deeds, may have been near Balm Green. The *exact* location of even Balm Green is unclear however, as it is written on the map in Figure 13.2(a) to be in front of Barkers Pool (Sheffield's main drinking water supply) and it is shown instead to be an adjacent continuation of Coal-pit or Cow-pit Lane in Figure 13.2(b).

²⁵The name Middleton appears adjacent to Benjamin Plant's in property records dating back to 1772 (Chapter 11).

(a) 1784 deed (CQ-240-350)

heretofore	afterwards	now
Elkanah Roberts the Elder	Elkanah Roberts the Younger	Elkanah Roberts the Younger
Elkanah Roberts the Younger	Richard Watson	Joseph Brierly
Joseph Wilcockson	Joseph Brierley	John Sheldon
	George Hawkesworth	James Bennet
	John Sheldon	

(b) 1805 deed (EX-28-40)

heretofore	now
Elkanah Roberts the Younger	Edward Middleton
Joseph Brierly	John Prince
John Sheldon	Joseph Gillot
James Bennet	Richard Baxter

Table 13.2: Occupants of the 13 yards part of Benjamin Plant's Balme Croft property

yards of the said croft from north to south measured by the line of the hedges on both sides and forty six yards east to west'. The second of the two 1805 deeds apparently concerns nearby property, which is described as 'eleven yards and a half down the said Close to be measured by the hedges on both sides from that part heretofore demised to Joseph Downes and all the erections and buildings thereon made ...'. The property in the first deed includes '...the house of the said Joseph Downes and also all those three tenements or dwelling houses thereon erected ... together with the Garden and yard thereto belonging'. The ground in this first deed is said to adjoin 'the lands late of Joseph Downes on the south and the lands late of Benjamin Downes on the north'. This Joseph Downes was no doubt the 1690 Master Cutler. Moreover there is a 1707 will for the Coal-pit Lane cutler Benjamin Downes which indicates that he was amongst those, probably just the few around Sheffield, who had a 3 storey dwelling — this dwelling had a house (i.e. living room), kitchen, parlour, chambers over house, kitchen and parlour, near garret, and far garret²⁶.

13.2.3 The Little Sheffield site of Plant's Yard

It seems that *Benjamin Plant of Sheffield Moor* moved his main base from the head to the foot of the Moor by 1787, from Coal-pit Lane to Little Sheffield to where his brother, John Plant from Rotherham, is known *also* to have been based by 1787. Little Sheffield was separated from Sheffield by (Little) Sheffield Moor, until this Moor was developed into mixed residential and commercial property after its enclosure as part of the 1779-88 Ecclesall Enclosure Act. Figure 13.3 (dated 1795) shows a triangle of new development splaying out down (Little) Sheffield Moor and this led south west from central Sheffield town towards the town's new frontier at Little Sheffield²⁷. Evidence for the extents of the Plants' holdings at Broom Close in Little Sheffield is contained in property deeds for around 1800 and these make it clear that Benjamin Plant's part of this site was 0.4 acres and John Plant owned a further 0.5 acres to

²⁶The will of this Benjamin Downes mentions two brothers and a brother-in-law (*How they lived in Old Ecclesall 1600-1800*, Mary M Bramhill, 1986, page 41).

²⁷The Broom Close land of Plant's Yard was sited on the left of the bend in the road, which can be seen near the centre bottom of Figure 13.3.

the south. The detailed measurements indicate that these adjoining Plant lands at Broom Close extended over and beyond the site that became widely known in 19th century Sheffield as *Plant's Yard*. The surviving remnants of the pentagon marking Plant's Yard (Chapter 10) extend about 45 yards to the west of the road and a similar distance north to south, though the actual frontage onto the road is under 30 yards, whereas John's and Benjamin's lands at Broom Close reached about twice as far as this to the west of the highway and, taken together, somewhat further (64.5 yards) along it.

13.2.4 Some business and family connections

The date of the Plants' purchase of their Little Sheffield *Plant's Yard* base is (as yet) unknown but it seems likely to have been before 1787. It seems probable that the previous owner of the Little Sheffield site of Plant's Yard was the same Edward Shepherd as he who, in 1749, acquired the Porter Wheel (now the Shepherd Wheel Museum) under Greystones Cliffe and he retained this Wheel until his death in 1794²⁸. The allotments that were awarded to Benjamin Plant in the 1788 Ecclesall Enclosure Act (Chapter 11) were near this Shepherd Wheel. Table 11.3 of Chapter 11 also contained a reference to an allotment number 320 (7 square perches on Sharrow Moor) which was allotted to John Plant and which lay roughly amidst the 2 miles between the Shepherd Wheel and Plant's Yard. A deed dated 6 Nov 1804 (registered 25 March 1805, Wakefield Deeds Office, ET-371-181) shows that John Plant's Sharrow Moor allotment, number 320, was bounded to the south by a slightly larger allotment (number 321 of 1 rood and 17 square perches) which lay between it and the turnpiked road to Manchester. This 1804 deed indicates that the allotment 321 had passed from its original 1788 allottee, John Wright, to John Plant and his wife Dorothy's brother, William Needham. This makes it clear that this John Plant in Ecclesall was the bricklayer John Plant from Rotherham, where he had married Dorothy Needham and, for reasons that will be discussed further in Chapter 14, it is clear that this bricklayer John was *Ben(bellows)'s* brother.

An 1805 deed for the Little Sheffield site of *Plant's Yard* (EX-153-206) is in the names of '*Benjamin Plant bellows maker*' and William Hoyle '*Gentleman*'. This William Hoyle is presumably he who, by 1806, owned both the Upper and Nether Slack Wheels near the confluence of the River Loxley with the Don, just to the immediate NW of Sheffield. William Hoyle had acquired the tenancy of these Wheels from *John Senior* in 1784 and this no doubt relates to the John Senior who is recorded to be an occupant at the Little Sheffield *Plant's Yard* site by the 1790's. It is also known that, when James Cam took a part share in this William Hoyle's '*Houle's Wheel*' in 1793, it had recently been converted into a forge²⁹.

There is also another deed which relates the *Plant's Yard* Plants, albeit indirectly, to forges and, in particular, to the introduction of steam power at the Pond Forge by 1805. The second of the two aforementioned Coal-pit Lane deeds (7 Oct 1805, EX-152-205) is between Benjamin Plant and a surviving executor, John Kenyon merchant, of a silversmith John Winter deceased. This is quite surely the John Kenyon of the Pond Forge, at the other end of Pond Lane from the Pond Tilt, as well as of Middlewood Forge and Rolling Mill on the nearby River Don. The 1797 Directory lists *Kenyon, Frith & Co., iron masters, Forge Street* and Forge Street adjoined the Pond Forge. This Directory also lists *Kenyon, John, merchant, filesmith, and sawmaker, 9 Hollis Street*, which apparently refers to the premises for Kenyon's end products. Kenyon,

²⁸There is only one Edward Shepherd in 18th century Sheffield Directories and this is in the 1787 entry *Shepherd, Edward, factor, and manufacturer of cutlery wares, Far-gate*.

²⁹*Water Power on the Sheffield Rivers*, *ibid*.

Frith & Co are known to have acquired a steam engine for the Pond Forge by the time of this 1805 deed with *Ben(bellows)*³⁰.

13.2.5 Benjamin and John Plant's Broom Close deeds

The available information, around 1800, for Benjamin and John Plant's parts of their Little Sheffield *Plant's Yard* base can be detailed further as follows. The aforementioned 1805 deed for Benjamin Plant's part of Broom Close refers to premises described as '*... being part of a certain close or parcel of ground called Broom Close situate at Little Sheffield ...*'. This site is described as '*... late in the possession of Edward Shepherd ...*', bounded on the north and west by '*lands of John Rotherham esquire*', on the south by '*another part of the same close belonging to Mr John Plant*', and on the east by '*the highway from Sheffield to Chesterfield and a certain footway*'. The mention of the footway in particular suggests that this ground may have contained the subsequent pentagon of *Plant's Yard* (Chapter 10)³¹. A similar description is given for John Plant's adjacent land to the south. A property deed dated 22 Feb 1798 (DZ-319-424³²) is in the name of '*John Plant late of Rotherham ... bricklayer but now of Little Sheffield*'. This relates to '*that piece or parcel of ground being part of a certain close or parcel of ground called Broom Close situate at Little Sheffield in the parish of Sheffield aforesaid heretofore in the possession of Edward Shepherd...*'. This piece of ground is described as '*... adjoining to another part of the same close sold to Mr Benjamin Plant on the north ...*' and it is stated that to the east was the Sheffield to Chesterfield highway, to the south another part of the same close, and to the west '*the land of John Rotherham Esquire*³³.

The specified property of John Plant in this 1798 deed comprises '*those four several messuages tenements or dwellinghouses on the said close ... now in the several tenures or occupations of the said John Plant, Sarah South, Widow Beard and John Senyor*'. These same names are listed adjacently in 1799 rate books (Table 13.3(a))³⁴. Another reference to *Jno Senior* appears in Land Tax records in connection with land that was occupied by '*Self W Smith Jno Senior & anth*' and which is stated to have been *owned* by John Plant. It can be added that these 4 households were apparently contained within the Land Tax description '*2 Messes & a small piece of land*' (Table 13.4). These '*2 Messes*' would tally with 2 large buildings which, on a map dated 1808 (Chapter 10), are to the south of the subsequent pentagon of *Plant's Yard* and hence apparently on the area of John Plant's land. The corresponding rate-book entries indicate that John Plant was paying a larger rate (4/- in Table 13.3(a)) than each of the other 3 occupants, who were paying 4/6 in total. It hence seems likely that the bricklayer John Plant was occupying the whole of one of his two messuages at Broom Close while the other message was being occupied as 3 '*dwellinghouses*' by his specified tenants.

³⁰*Water Power on the Sheffield Rivers*, *ibid.*

³¹The ground in this deed is stated to measure: 91 yds 12 ins on the north, 96 yds 27 ins on the south, 7 yds on the west and 37 yds 18 ins on the east '*containing in the whole one thousand nine hundred and seventy four superficial square yards or little more or less*'.

³²These reference numbers for deeds apply to the referencing scheme of the West Yorkshire Archive Service, Wakefield Headquarters, Registry of Deeds, Newstead Road, Wakefield WF1 2DE.

³³John Plant's parcel was measured as '*two roods be the same more or less*' being 94 yds on the north, 81 yds 32 ins on the south and 27 yds 5 ins on both the west and the east.

³⁴For example, the name of the occupant *John Senyor*, in the 1798 deed, appearing spelled quite similarly as in the rate book entries (*John Senier*) of Table 13.3(a). This seems to indicate that John Senior was a resident of John Plant's part of the Little Sheffield site of *Plant's Yard* and indeed the name *John Senior* still appears in an 1816 property deed in connection with a garden on Benjamin Plant's adjoining part of the site of *Plant's Yard*, as will be described in Chapter 14.

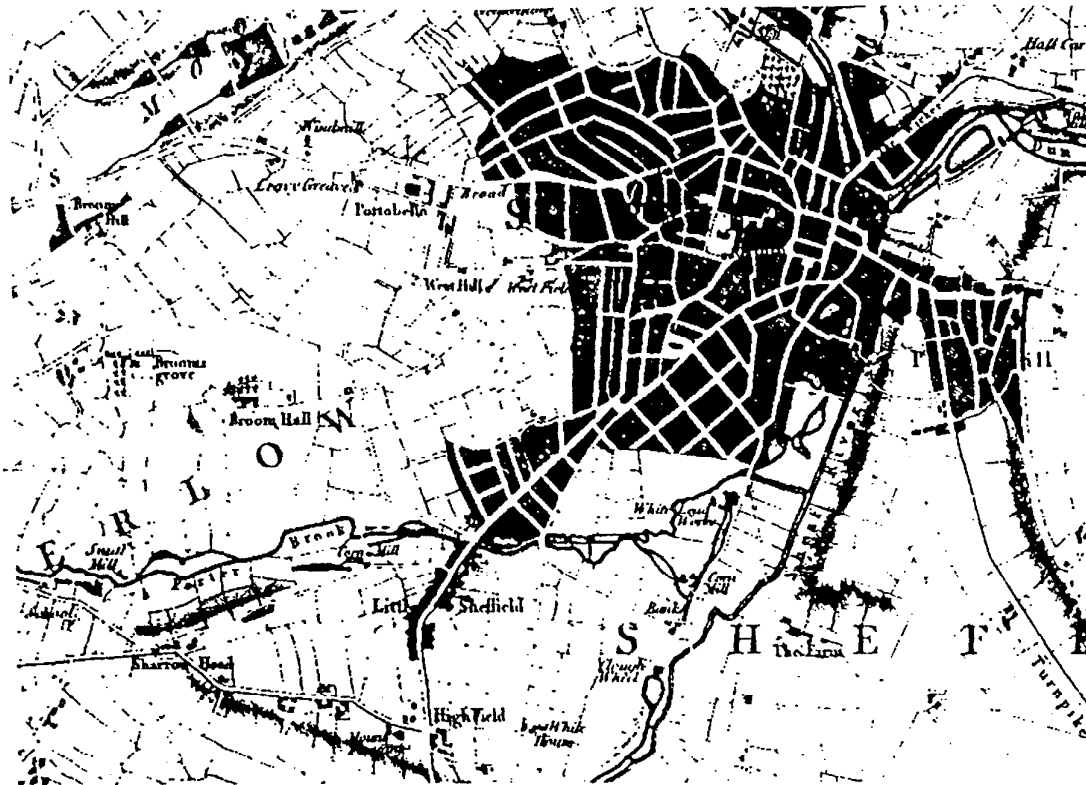


Figure 13.3: Sheffield by 1795, showing a triangle of development splaying out SW across (Little) Sheffield Moor from Sheffield town (top right) towards Little Sheffield (bottom centre)

13.2.6 Land near the Broomhall Wheel

The Broomhall Wheel was on the Porter Brook just to the NNW of John and Benjamin Plant's Broom Close base in Little Sheffield (Figure 13.3). A '*Land near Broomhall Wheel*' entry first appears under *Ben(bellows)'s* name in 1794 rate books and it is replaced in 1799 (Table 13.3(a)) by '*Stalker Wheel land*' with an exactly doubled payment. This suggests, as the rate had doubled, that these two descriptions refer to the same land. It hence seems probable that this land lay between the Stalker Wheel and the adjacent Broomhall Wheel. The Stalker Wheel was in the tenancy of Benjamin Plant's brother-in-law, Joseph Ward — the dam and goits of the Stalker Wheel, which was on the north side of the Porter Brook, appear just downstream (to the right) of the Snuff Mill which is shown near the lower left edge of Figure 13.3. The dam of the next Wheel downstream from the Stalker Wheel, the Broomhall Wheel, is on the south side of the Brook and it appears just upstream of the smaller dam of the Corn Mill, which is shown just to the NNW of Little Sheffield in Figure 13.3. The Broomhall Wheel belonged to the Newbould family who are known to have been close associates of the Wards and the Plants (Chapter 11).

13.3 Benjamin Plant's 1805 will

As well as providing for his wife and daughter, Benjamin's 1805 will provides for a 'widow Bradley', a Ward nephew (S.B.Ward) and potentially three Plant nephews. Two of these Plant nephews were sons of the second trustee of the will, the yeoman James Plant, who was one

(a) 1799: 24d in £		(b) 1802: 24d in £	
Joseph Smith		...	
John Bennett	charged	...	
John Hobson	before	Plant Benjn	4/9
Benjn Plant for Hos	1/9	do Barn Empty	6
do for Barn	6	do Stalker Wheel Ld	6/7 $\frac{1}{2}$
do for Broomhall Land	6/5 $\frac{1}{2}$	do Dukes Ld	7/6 $\frac{1}{2}$
do for Ibberson Land	7/11	do Hos & Land	1/9
do for Stalker Wheel Land	6/7	Broomhall Ibbn Ld	7/11
do for Dukes	7/6 $\frac{1}{2}$	do Spurr Whl	17/6
Widow South for Hos	1/3	do Jn Wood	1/6
John Plant	3/6	Biggin Andrew	1/3
do for Land	6	South Widw	3/6
?Wm Beard ?Ernte	1/7 $\frac{1}{2}$	Plant Jno Allt	6
John Senier	1/7 $\frac{1}{2}$...	

Table 13.3: Some Ecclesall rate book entries around 1800

of Benjamin Plant's brothers. This James Plant, who is no doubt he who can be associated with Coal-pit Lane through his 1768 apprenticeship record, was buried 10 miles to the south at Duckmanton near Chesterfield some 20 years later in 1825.

13.3.1 The testator's trustees and properties

In his 12 Nov 1805 will (under £450, administration 10 July 1806, proved 16 Aug 1806), the testator is described as '*Benjamin Plant of Ecclesall Byerlow in the Parish of Sheffield in the County of York Bellows-maker*'. The trustees are described as '*my Friend Samuel Broomhead Ward of Sheffield aforesaid Merchant and my Brother James Plant of Calow³⁵ in the Parish of Chesterfield ... Yeoman*'. The specified property bequeathals to the trustees suggest that Benjamin Plant held some other properties, in nearby parishes, besides those which have been investigated in detail for Ecclesall³⁶. The 'bequeathals in trust' continue with '*... And also my five sittings in Trinity Church in Sheffield*' but some property is excluded by the statement '*... (except for the Rent of a House in Pond Lane in Sheffield ... and of a House intended and directed to be built for Ann Bradley Widow)*'.

³⁵As mentioned earlier in this Chapter, Calow was the site of Eb Smith & Co's iron works near Duckmanton.

³⁶The trustees are bequeathed '*All my Freehold and Leasehold Messuages Lands Tenements Tithes and Hereditaments situate and being in Sheffield and Ecclesall Byerlow or elsewhere in the Parish of Sheffield aforesaid and at Apperknowle in the Township of Unston and Dronfield in the Parish of Dronfield ... and all and singular other ... whatsoever and wheresoever ...*'.

13.3.2 Widow Bradley

It later becomes apparent that the aforementioned widow Ann Bradley was to be bequeathed accommodation near Benjamin's home³⁷. The will contains '*... bequeath unto Ann Bradley the widow of Abel Bradley deceased ... yearly sum of Ten Pounds ... and direct my said Trustees do and shall with all possible speed convert the Laith adjoining to the House I have let to Robert Swift near to my own dwelling house into a convenient Tenement or Dwelling ...*'.

13.3.3 Wife, daughter, and nephews

The will includes '*I do hereby give and bequeath unto my dear Wife Hannah Plant yearly ... Forty Pounds ... Also ... Five Pounds to be paid to her immediately after my decease and also the choice of either of the Houses in Pond Lane aforesaid ...*'. These Pond Lane houses would have been quite near to the Howard Street house of Hannah Plant's brother, Joseph Ward, and to this extent they were perhaps thought to be more convenient to her as a town house than the dwellings at the Plants' Little Sheffield base.

The only offspring mentioned is '*my daughter Mary Ward Hancock ... and ... her Husband Timothy Hancock of Sheffield Cutler*³⁸' who eventually in stages, if she outlived her mother and husband, was to receive Fifty Pounds yearly.

Following the deaths of his wife and daughter the estates were to be divided amongst Benjamin Plant's nephews. The only Ward nephew mentioned is S.B. Ward as follows. '*I Give devise and bequeath all my Leasehold Messuages Lands and Tenements situate in or near Pond Lane in Sheffield aforesaid which I hold by Lease under the Norfolk Family with the appurtenances unto the said Samuel Broomhead Ward ...*'. Further property rights that were to be reserved for Samuel Broomhead Ward are subsequently clarified to be '*Tithes arising ... out of certain Lands belonging to Dronfield School and to Joseph Ward in the Parish of Dronfield aforesaid and now in the possession of John Folds and also an annual Fee Farm rent of threepence issuing out of the said Lands of the said Joseph Ward*³⁹ ...'.

The remaining estates are bequeathed '*unto my Nephew Benjamin Plant Son of my Brother the said James Plant ... and after the decease ... unto the eldest or only Son ... and the heirs male ... and for default of such issue ... unto my Nephew Joseph Plant another Son of my said Brother James Plant ...*'. A further bequest of Ten Pounds is made '*unto my Nephew William Plant*⁴⁰ *Son of my Brother Thomas Plant*'.

Further provision includes the choice to Benjamin's wife of up to half of his '*Household Goods and Furniture Plate China and Linen ...*'. There is also an allocation of £20 and expenses to each of the Trustees.

³⁷Though no details have been established about Bradley family relationships, it is interesting to note that some thirty years later (in 1833) a J. Bradley was miller at the Broomhall Corn Mill, which was just NNW of Little Sheffield (Figure 13.3). Although the precise locations of *some of* Benjamin's properties remain uncertain, it seems possible for example that the accommodation to be granted to Ann Bradley might have related to the '*Land near Broomhall (or Stalker) Wheel*' that is mentioned in rate books. This was near the Broom Close site of Plant's Yard in Little Sheffield which appears to have been the site of Benjamin's home. Alternatively, this accommodation could have been on part of *Broom Close* itself.

³⁸There is a 1797 Directory entry *Hancock, Timothy, Springknife cutler, 41, Broad Lane*.

³⁹This was no doubt Benjamin's brother-in-law, the 1790 Master Cutler Joseph Ward.

⁴⁰This is no doubt *W^m(1)* of Chapter 9.

13.3.4 Benjamin's finally listed properties

The assessed value of the will only corresponds to around £8000 at 1985 prices (after allowing for the *negative* inflation of the early nineteenth century as well as the more significant positive inflation of the twentieth century). This was still a significant amount however, since the assessed values of wills before 1858 were calculated only on the *personal* estate that they contained, which was usually minimal⁴¹. There is moreover evidence to suggest that Benjamin had already disposed of some of his property by the time he made his 1805 will. Thus the evidence for Benjamin's wealth lies rather more in the earlier indications of widespread properties (and influential connections) than in the will, which shows that Benjamin Plant had retained until his 1806 death just £450 of (taxable) '*personal*' estate.

By 1804 the number of properties listed in Ecclesall rate books under *Ben(bellows)*'s name was dwindling and, listed under Little Sheffield, there is by then just a single entry '*Plant Benjn 6/6*'. This charge reduces to '*4/9*' in the 16 July 1805 book. In the 21 April 1806 book the name '*Benjn*' is crossed out and '*W^o*' is written alongside. This no doubt indicates that Benjamin's widow continued to make the rate payments on his Little Sheffield property (presumably at the Broom Close site of Plant's Yard) after Benjamin's death on Jan 3 1806. An entry '*Plant W^o 4/9*' continues at least as far as the 7 March 1807 rate book, by when Benjamin's widow is known to have been a regular visitor, for Sunday lunch, at her brother's Howard Street home (Chapter 12)⁴².

The evidence suggests that Benjamin Plant had disposed of some land in the vicinity of the Spurr Wheel at Greystones before making his 1805 will. From 1804, up to the 1 July 1806 rate book, there appears an entry '*Smith Thos 5/4/0*' followed by '*do Late Plant Ld 7/6*' in an area that appears to be near Greystones, about 2 miles to the west of Little Sheffield. Almost the nearest property to the Spurr Wheel, about 0.5 miles to the east in the direction of Plant's Yard, is shown on an 1850 map to be the '*Rustlings*' which has already been discussed in association with the allotments that were awarded in the 1788 Ecclesall Enclosure Act to Benjamin Plant (Chapter 11). It has been mentioned that these allotments apparently gained a barn in 1793⁴³. We can thus suppose that the land described as '*Land premises & hereditaments & Barn*' in the Land Tax records of Table 13.4 might perhaps apply to a large piece of land that included Benjamin Plant's small 1788 allotments near the Rustlings. The Land Tax and other records accordingly suggest that the bellows maker Benjamin Plant *owned* this moderately large piece of land and that he was also *leasing* nearby land around the Spurr Wheel. It seems unlikely that these Greystones lands were part of the unspecified 'freehold' and 'leasehold' possessions that are mentioned in *Ben(bellows)*'s 1805 will. It seems that, instead of being passed on to the will's principal Plant beneficiary (*i.e.* *Ben(carp)*), this freehold land in particular may have passed *in some sense* into the hands of another of *Ben(bellows)*'s nephews, the '*Ag.Lab*' William Plant (*i.e.* *W^m(1)*). *W^m(1)* was the oldest son of the farmer Thomas Plant of Clowne and it is not inconceivable that *Ben(bellows)*, who had no sons or grandchildren of his own, may have been holding this rural land at Greystones *in some sense* '*on behalf of*' his nephew *W^m(1)*. The widow, for example, of this *W^m(1)* can be found with her son-in-law

⁴¹Real estate belonged in theory to the King, unlike personal estate which belonged to God, and it was hence the convention that only the value of personal estate was assessed for wills, which were administered up to 1858 by the Church Courts. Personal estate comprised leasehold and household goods and the assessed value of Benjamin's will would not include the '*Freehold ... Messuages Lands Tenements Tithes and Hereditaments*' that it mentions.

⁴²Howard Street lies across the *Alsop Fields* developments shown in Figure 13.2(b) and it is the '*Proposed Street*' there that leads from the Tilt Dam to the '*New Church*' (St Pauls) near Cheney Square, which lies just to the east of Coal-pit Lane.

⁴³This is apparent in rate books and confirmed in an 1800 deed.

Owner	Occupiers	Properties	Exonerated
Ibberson Jos	Self and B Plant	Land, Spur Gart wheel & woods	6/8 $\frac{3}{4}$
Plant Benjn	Jno Ogle, W Banks & others	Land premises & hereditiments & Barn	7/9 $\frac{1}{4}$
Plant Jno	Self W Smith Jno Senior & anth	2 Messes & a small piece of land	2/1 $\frac{3}{4}$

Table 13.4: Ecclesall Land Tax records (nominally 1894-8)

at the Rustlings in 1851.

13.4 Around the Spurr Wheel

The 1781 Master Cutler, Peter *Spurr*, can be associated with the *Spurr* Wheel through an apparent connection with Benjamin Plant who is *known* to have been the rate-payer for the '*Spurr Whl*' in 1802 (Chapter 12). There is also evidence of an association between Peter Spurr and a Joseph Ibberson, who also can be associated with this Wheel (Table 13.4).

13.4.1 The Spurr and Ibberson connections

The cutlery trade's apprenticeship records⁴⁴ show that Peter Spurr was apprenticed to Joseph Ibbotson in 1748, becoming a Freeman in 1758. Moreover, the father Timothy Hancock of *Ben(bellows)'s* son-in-law was also apprenticed to an Ibberson, to a John Ibberson in 1772 becoming a Freeman in 1784. The preserved guest list for the 1771 Cutlers Feast provides some clarification as it lists Joseph *jnr* along with John, and Joseph *snr* who is described as '*Joseph Ibberson, MC 1759, Town Trustee 1770-5, Town Collector until his death in 1775*'. No doubt it was subsequently Joseph Ibbotson *jnr* who was to be found at the Spurr or Spurgear Wheels though the 1774 Sheffield Directory entry is apparently in the name of Joseph Ibbotson *snr*, just before his death, and it takes the form *Ibberson Joseph, and Sons, cutlers, Norfolk Street*.

Thus, it is presumably this Joseph Ibbotson *jnr* who was the *tenant* of the *Upper* Spurgear Wheel from 1775, before he held its freehold between 1817 and 1826. Ibbotson's *presence* at the *Spurr* or *Nether* Spurgear Wheel is apparent in rate book entries of 1774 and 1793⁴⁵. We can add that the Land Tax records seem to suggest that Joseph Ibbotson *jnr* became the *owner* of the *Nether* Spurgear Wheel, perhaps around 1800, before he obtained the freehold in 1817 of the adjacent *Upper* Spurgear Wheel.

It seems that this Joseph Ibbotson *jnr* had sufficient wealth, perhaps inherited from the 1759 Master Cutler Joseph Ibbotson *snr* (Chapter 12), to become a shareholder of the Tontine Inn

⁴⁴*History of the Company of Cutlers, Vol.II, ibid.*

⁴⁵*Water Power on the Sheffield Rivers, ibid.*

in 1782. Other shareholders of the Tontine included the Broomheads and Jonathan Watkinson, who have been mentioned earlier (e.g. in Chapter 12) in association with Benjamin Plant⁴⁶. The shareholder Samuel Broomhead was no doubt the step-father of Benjamin Plant's wife, Hannah, whilst the other Broomhead shareholders would have been her step-uncles. The shareholder Jonathan Watkinson was no doubt the ill-famed 'W—' who was the first father-in-law of Benjamin Plant's nephew S.B. Ward. It seems that the shareholder Joseph Ibbotson *jnr* was based in Little Sheffield, near Benjamin Plant, as can be judged for example from the 1797 Directory entry *Ibbotson, Joseph, weavers' knife maker, Little Sheffield*.

An indirect connection between Benjamin Plant and the Spurr is apparent in the early 1790's when Benjamin Plant's Coal-pit Lane property is listed in close proximity to that of Thomas Tillotson (MC 1790), whose wife was Peter Spurr's sister. At this time, Benjamin Plant's brother-in-law, Joseph Ward (MC 1791), was a fellow officer in the Company of Cutlers of Tillotson (MC 1790) and it seems that Joseph Ward's succession as 1791 Master Cutler *may have* had some connection with *Ben(bellows)'s* being Tillotson's neighbour. Subsequently in 1812, 1814, 1816 and 1824, there are references to the Spurr, as social acquaintances, neighbours and fellow administrative officials, in the diary of Benjamin Plant's nephew T.A. Ward⁴⁷.

13.4.2 The Spurr or 'Spur Gart' Wheel

The 17/6 rate payment by Benjamin Plant for the '*Spurr Whl*' in 1802 is precisely twice that paid by Josh Ibberson in 1793 for '*Spurr Wheel, Dam &c*' and, since the rate had doubled, these two descriptions presumably apply to the same property. Between 1799 and 1802 (parts (a) and (b) of Table 13.3) Benjamin Plant's rate book entry '*Broomhall Land 6/5½*' is replaced by two entries '*do Spurr Whl 17/6*' and '*do Jn Wood 1/6*'. This suggests that Benjamin may have forfeited this '*Broomhall Land*' (though the rate book entries show that he retained the nearby Stalker Wheel land) when he acquired instead the tenancy of the Spurr Wheel, which was just under 2 miles to the west of the Little Sheffield site of Plant's Yard (upstream on the Porter Brook off to the left of Figure 13.3).

The reasoning behind identifying the names '*Spurr Wheel*' and '*Spur Gart Wheel*' with the Nether Spurgear Wheel can be summarised as follows. Both of the names '*Spur Gart*' and '*Spurr*' appear in Ecclesall records and, unlike the Upper Spurgear Wheel, the Nether Spurgear Wheel was on the Ecclesall side of the Porter Brook boundary⁴⁸.

The various names '*Spurr*', '*Spur Gart*' or '*Spurgear*' for these Wheels hold some interest in so far as they apparently relate to the mechanics of these water-powered premises. W.T. Miller⁴⁹ comments on the recorded 1794 name '*Upper Spurgaire*':-

⁴⁶The Tontine Inn was completed in 1785; it was a type of stately English inn of the great days of coaching, the Post House and main transport centre of Sheffield, as well as being the scene of many social, business and political meetings. At a meeting on 1 Nov 1782, it had been decided to issue shares in the form of a tontine, whereby the shares of subscribers who died were to be added to the profits of the survivors. From the more prosperous townspeople, 39 had taken 48 £100 shares, including The Earl of Surrey (4 shares), Vincent Eyre (2), Samuel Broomhead, Benjamin Broomhead, Joseph Broomhead, Jonathan Watkinson and Joseph Ibbotson.

⁴⁷*Peeps into the Past*, *ibid*, pages 196, 212, 216, 233, 280, 284.

⁴⁸Both the Upper and Nether Spurgear Wheels are described in *Water Power on the Sheffield Rivers* edited by David Crossley. According to this text, the Upper Spurgear Wheel was at first called the New Wheel, after its inception in 1754 and then the Cutlers Wheel in the 1760's, before Joseph Ibbotson became its sole tenant in 1775, whereafter it became known as the Ibbotson Wheel. The description of the Nether Spurgear (Third Endcliffe) Wheel in this book does not mention that it was apparently also called the Spurr Wheel. For the Nether Spurgear Wheel it is merely mentioned that a John Ibberson had obtained a Norfolk lease in May 1749 to build a weir above Smith Wood, to convey water to a cutlers wheel to be built on lands of Montague Wortley, opposite Smith Wood.

⁴⁹W.T. Miller, *The Water Mills of Sheffield*, Second Issue (1947),

'Perhaps spur-gearing was something of a novelty in this district as compared with the more common bevel-gear drive'.

though this 1947 published explanation omits to mention the additional information that there was apparently a connection with Peter Spurr.

Land associated with the '*Spur Gart wheel*' in Land Tax records is stated to have been owned by Joseph Ibberson (often recorded as Ibbotson) and to have been occupied by '*Self and B.Plant*' or '*Benjamin Plant & oths*' (Tables 13.1 and 13.4). The property is described in these records as '*Land, Spur Gart wheel & woods*' and the woods in this description were presumably those shown on an 1850 map, on which the Upper Spurgear Wheel is called the Ibbotson Wheel with the Ibbotson Woods lying between it and the Nether Spurgear Wheel⁵⁰. It can be added that woods were often cultivated for charcoal. This might help to explain *Ben(bellows)*'s interest in his Greystones lands since charcoal was used in forges, though higher-temperatures were obtained with coke which was used by Huntsman for completely melting blister steel to form his high quality cast steel. Woods were also no doubt a source of the timber for the bellows and other mechanical plant which was installed to operate Sheffield's developing forges (cf. Figure 13.1).

13.4.3 Benjamin Plant's possible role at the Spurr Wheel

Around the time of *Ben(bellows)*'s appearance as the rate-payer for the *Spurr Whl*, this *Nether Spurgear* Wheel was sold, in May 1802, to Daniel Brammall who enlarged the dam. Daniel Brammall, who was a filesmith, lived in the White House on Brammall Lane which was close to the Little Sheffield site of Plant's Yard and which was just 0.2 miles to the east of the Mount Pleasant home, at Highfield, of Benjamin Plant's friend and nephew Samuel Broomhead Ward⁵¹.

A 1794 description of the Upper Spurgear Wheel mentions 11 troughs and, by 1830, 17 troughs are mentioned for the Nether Spurgear Wheel⁵². The adjacent Shepherd's Wheel Museum, whose origins can be dated back to 1566 but whose current buildings date back to the late 18th century, has 10 troughs in 2 grinding hulls or ends (*i.e.* separate workshops) — the grinding wheels in both these ends are driven through plant that comprises wheels and leather belts, from a *crown wheel* which has teeth on the side (*i.e.* on the vertical face) of its rim. This contrasts with a *spur gear*, for which the teeth form extremities projecting radially outwards beyond the wheel's rim⁵³.

The precise function of the Spurr Wheel around 1800 is not entirely clear though the mention of 17 troughs by 1830 might lead us to deliberate whether Benjamin Plant may have been employing jobbing grinders here, around 1800. Perhaps more likely however, we may contemplate whether the bellows maker Benjamin Plant may have been active here, around

⁵⁰The Upper Spurgear Wheel dam remains, with water fowl, at the foot of Bingham Park. The building was demolished around 1950, despite suggestions around 1930 that it could be preserved as an Industrial Museum along with the adjacent Shepherd's Wheel, which is a Museum (*Water Power on the Sheffield Rivers*, *ibid*). The dam of the Nether Spurgear Wheel also survives, with rowing boats, at the western end of Endcliffe Park.

⁵¹The White House is shown near the bottom centre of Figure 13.3. Subsequently, a grandson of Benjamin Plant's nephew *W^m(1)* was living here, in 1871 (Chapter 16).

⁵²The mention of 'troughs' implies grinding troughs whereby water in the each trough would moisten a stone vertically-spinning grinding wheel to cool it and, incidentally, this would also limit the dust which is now known to have been a serious health hazard.

⁵³A large oak-toothed *spur wheel* can be seen in the Tilt Forge of the *Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet* museum on the nearby River Sheaf.

1800, in the installation of suitable bellows prior to Daniel Brammall's interest in the Wheel, perhaps as a file forge. Though there is no known direct evidence, it seems possible that new 'spur-gear' mechanisms could have been demonstrated here by the 1758 apprentice, Peter Spurr, of Joseph Ibbotson *snr* with *Ben(bellows)* perhaps, around 1800, using robust gearings at these premises of Joseph Ibbotson *jnr* for the activation of powerful, perhaps even cylinder (steam) bellows.

13.5 Sheffield Plants and the Industrial Revolution

Various Plant properties have been described in this Chapter for around 1800. Some, such as the Spur Gart Wheel, are of interest for their possible technological significance. *Ben(bellows)'s* 1770's Coal-pit Lane base is a site of particular surviving interest, though the available evidence for its *precise* function in the late 18th century seems (so far) somewhat unclear.

It seems possible that extensive residential and working property here may have been broken down into smaller units after the times when two large dwellings were occupied by the cutlers (and Master Cutlers), the Downes. Deeds indicate, for example, that the number of occupants in a particular 13 yard strip here of *Ben(bellows)'s* property did not change much, apparently since soon after those times. *Ben(bellows)'s* ownerships of these properties may date from around the times when he is stated to be a bellows maker in the 1768 Sheffield baptism record for his daughter (Chapter 12). Early Ecclesall Land Tax records (Chapter 11) appear to place him amongst Coal-pit Lane neighbours by 1772 and, certainly, a 1774 Directory lists this bellows maker here. It seems that the 1779 site of 'Late Plant yard' may have been here, in Coal-pit Lane, and, indeed, perhaps this was the site that was left as 17 properties after *Ben(bellows)'s* moved his main base to Little Sheffield. The 3 shops amidst *Ben(bellows)'s* 17 houses and shops in Coal-pit Lane, as listed in 1790's rate books (Chapter 11), may have included such working shops as a bakery — this is suggested by the listed occupants in the corresponding property deeds. The 1790's rate books also list, amidst *Ben(bellows)'s* Coal-pit Lane payments, other payments by the Coal-pit Lane cutler and 1796 Master Cutler, Joseph Fletcher Smith, suggesting the *possibility* of some shops here of a rather different nature.

The Stalker Wheel was just to the NW of Little Sheffield. At least by 1793, Benjamin Plant was paying rates for land near the Stalker Wheel, which was by then in the tenancy of his wife's brother though, in 1780-1, it had been in the tenancy of *Ben(bellows)'s* wife's step-father when this tenant was subjected to threats that have been cited as an early indication of rattening⁵⁴. *Ben(bellows)* and his brother John Plant apparently bought their nearby Little Sheffield base by 1787 from Edward Shepherd. This Little Sheffield site is known later to have been *universally* called *Plant's Yard* and the Edward Shepherd, from whom it was bought, is quite surely he who was the tenant of the Shepherd Wheel (now an industrial museum) 2 miles to the west of Little Sheffield.

The Shepherd Wheel was near the Spurr Wheel for which, by 1802, *Ben(bellows)* is known to have been the ratepayer. The *possibility* has been mentioned in this Chapter that *Ben(bellows)'s* activities at the Spurr Wheel may have involved the use of Spur-Gearing to better mechanise his bellows, which were presumably much in demand at that time. He had been leasing apparently-nearby *Ibberson Land* at least by the time of the more detailed rate book entries of 1793 and it may also be relevant to mention that there is a 1786 rate book

⁵⁴These threats and their possible significance are described in *Peeps into the Past*, *ibid*. Rattening is defined as 'the molesting of a workman or employer by abstracting or injuring tools or machinery in a dispute (OED).

entry 'Plant 3½ Unwin 6½ 1/8d' since it is known that an Elizabeth Unwin was leasing Duke of Norfolk land near the Shepherd Wheel in 1754.

The late 18th century is remembered mostly around this area as an historic time of industrial advance following on from Arkwright's horse-driven cotton mill in Nottingham. It was 1771 when Sir Richard Arkwright, who is sometimes called the *Father of the Industrial Age*, adopted water power and set up his first successful cotton mill in Cromford, 20 miles south of Sheffield. Little appears to be known about the detailed history of contemporary mechanical developments at Sheffield's ancient Water Wheels, or about the introduction of newer steam-powered (cylinder) bellows. However, rarely were advances more needed than they were in the late 18th century, such as for forging and for obtaining the higher temperatures (1600°C) needed for melting Huntsman's new cast steel. With hindsight, one might comment that providing the means whereby local metal workers could progress from their tradition of cutlery and edge tool grinding, as well as lead and silver crafts, towards more specifically the forging of wrought-iron and Huntsman's new steel, was a *crucial* step in Sheffield's advance towards eventually becoming known as *Steel City*.

There is direct evidence in Plant property deeds to connect the Plants of *Plant's Yard* with John Senior, William Hoyle and John Kenyon and we can accordingly associate the Plants' business activities with those who were involved in converting the Slack Wheels to a forge by 1793 and introducing steam power to the Pond Forge by 1805. It seems that the Plants' brief could have been to meet the furnace and forge masters' requirements for what may be described as a *bellowing white heat*⁵⁵. We can hence comment that *Ben(bellows)'s* property records appear to place him at an archetypal hearth — his historic place appears to be where his bellows blew oxygen into the hearths of those particular iron and steel forges that signalled the future direction Sheffield's industry. The blast from Benjamin Plant's bellows would then have been drawn into appropriate flues, which may have been supplied by his bricklayer brother John Plant. We can accordingly consider that it may have been largely through *Ben(bellows)'s* mechanised bellows, with his brother's accompanying constructions, that the Plant name became known throughout Sheffield. Such a contention might help to explain why their Little Sheffield base became *widely* known in 19th century Sheffield as *Plant's Yard*. We may wonder whether there were any industrial connotations for the word *Plant* as early as, for example, the times of the 1779 Ecclesall rate book entry *Late Plant yard*. Johnson's 1755 Dictionary defines *plant* as:

1. Any thing which comes from seed; any vegetable production.
2. A sapling.
3. The sole of the foot.

There is little or no hint here of the modern meanings *fixed machinery* or *factory* though this word may *perhaps* have begun to acquire some industrial connotation in such an area as Sheffield, perhaps starting from around these times. It may have been around these times of the Industrial Revolution that the Spurr and Plant names began to attain their respective associations with the *spur-gearings* and new *plant* by which Sheffield forged its metallurgical ascendancy. To this extent the Plants' portfolio of known properties described in this Chapter apparently provides evidence to relate the *Plant's Yard* Plants to the advancement of Sheffield's late 18th century '*Plant Base*' — this seems to be true for more than one meaning of these ambiguous words —

⁵⁵An ancient definition of the four elements was wind, water, earth, and *flogisten* with the latter denoting fire, light, and heat. In crucible furnaces, for example, such roaring 'flogisten' was drawn through cavities around the high-temperature crucible pots.

for the meaning '*industrial plant base*' by which Sheffield developed into a major industrial city as well as, more clearly, for the meaning '*Plant property base*' around which the *Plant family* gathered in Sheffield.

The demise to various Plants of the property of *Ben(bellows)* and his brother John provides a link that leads through into the mid-nineteenth century. This will be described further in Chapter 14, along with the possible origins of this Plant family.