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# Roots and Branches



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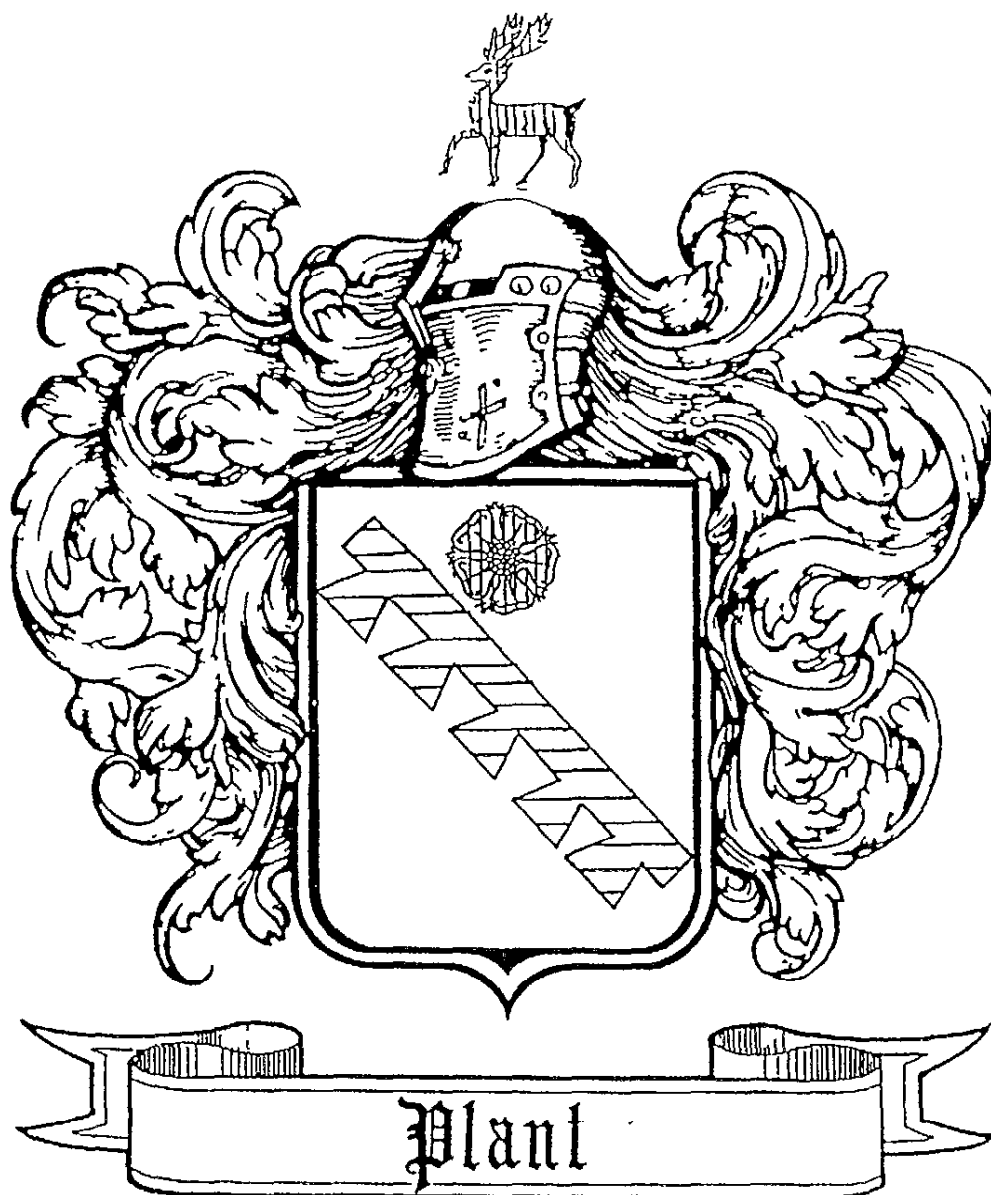
The Official Journal of

The Plant Family History Group

Issue No 15 January 98

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From information given by members of the group



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

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

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

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

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

"A RED STAG WALKING"

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## MEMBERS INTERESTS

<u>Membership No</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Interest</u>
1	Miss Linda Lowrey	e19c Macclesfield, Cheshire/m19c Hollingwood - Darwen Lancs/
4	Mr Colin W Plant	19c North Staffordshire/
6	Mr Michael Plant	Any period South Staffs/North Worcs/
10	Mrs Pamela Plant	e19c Stockport Cheshire/
12	Mrs Lois Webb	e19c Macclesfield Cheshire/m19c Hollingwood + Darwen Lancs/
13	Ms Helen Hill	e19c Ayrshire/m19c Rowley Regis Staffs/ L19c Cradley Staffs/
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/
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/
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/
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 Male 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	<del>L18c + e19c Brierley Hill/e18c Old Swinford/</del> <del>17c + 18c Rowley Regis/</del> 19c West Brom + Walsall Staffs/ L18c + e19c Brierley Hill / e 18c old Swinford
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/
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/
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/
147	Mr John Ronald Plant	Pre 1900 Stoke on Trent, Staffs/
149	Mr John Farmer Plant	19c Birmingham/
150	Mrs Stephen Ward	19c Leek, Staffs/
151	Miss Tessa Pilbury	18c + 19c Congleton, Cheshire/
152	Mrs Alma Joan Malpass	19c Sheffield/
153	Mrs Frances Plant	19c Leek Staffs/
154	Mrs Susan E Woods	19c Staffs/
155	Mrs Betty Pyman	e 20c Guildford, Surrey/
156	Mrs Christine Page	m 19c York, Yorkshire/Army/
157	Mr Nicholas Holmes	L 19c London/
158	Mrs Kerry-Ann Cook	L 19c West Bromwich/Barnsley, Yorkshire/
159	Mrs Pat Galloway	Any period, Shropshire/
160	Mrs Beverley Dronjak	19c Staffs/Pottery/

## EDITORS COMMENTS

Dear Fellow Members

Firstly let me wish you all a very Happy New year for 1998.

During 1997 a total of 11 new members joined the Group and on behalf of all members I would like to welcome these new members to the Plant Family History Group

Member 150, Stephen Ward of Derby, England joined in January, his specific interests being the Leek area (Lowe, Grindon, Waterhouses) pre 1860 a possible ancestor having the unusual christian name of Smith. His Great Great Grandfather was a Herbert Plant who married Sarah Elleby in Snelston, Derbyshire in 1877 moving to Derby in the mid 1880's For anybody interested in this family Stephen has a considerable amount of information on Herbert Plant which he is willing to pass on. His main problem, or was at the time of joining, was connecting Herbert to Smith Plant and any help would be appreciated

Talking about Grindon, which is a relatively small village in Staffordshire, I wonder if there is some connection between the Plant family of Grindon and the Plants of Elworth Hall, Sandbach Whilst looking through some unrelated records in Birmingham Library I came across information confirming that in 1802 Thomas Plant of Elworth Hall, Sandbach purchased some land in Grindon. Did the Plants of Elworth Hall (The first of the Plants to live at Elworth Hall was Thomas who took over the hall in 1790 on the death of the previous owner, John Hulse) return to his roots or had a member of Thomas's family moved to Grindon. I would love to find out Can anybody help. Incidentally, the story of Elworth Hall and the Plants who lived there up to the early part of this century was included in earlier Journals No's 1, 2, 3 and 5

The next member to join, Member 151 was Tessa Pilsbury of Saffron Walden in Essex whose Plant connection was through Sarah Plant who married Samuel or William White at Horton, Staffs in 1814. Tessa's father, Richard and his sister Margaret, together with their grandmother, Sarah Clowes Roberts (whose Grandmother was Sarah Plant) visited Congleton approximately 70 years ago from Stoke on Trent to visit their cousins.

One set of cousins lived at the Firs or Blackacres, Congleton and another family at 'Burtons' A cowhorn in the shape of a shoehorn said to come from Sarah Plant has been passed down through the family to Tessa. It would be nice to put Tessa in touch with any surviving members of the Congleton 'branch' Again I wonder if there is any connection with the Elworth Hall Plants

Emily (Emilia) Plant, the daughter of Thomas and Hannah Plant (see page 6 Journal No 5) bt 5 April 1832 married Ezra Harthan JP and lived at Blackacres, Sandbach One of their children, Agnes (1872-1939) married her cousin 'Burton' Plant (see page 16 Journal No 5) From the Elworth Hall family tree page 6, Journal 5 the eldest daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Plant was Sarah bt 19 Dec 1777 I wonder if this is the same Sarah as Tessa's Sarah - perhaps the marriage record in Horton P R. would solve this question If the connection can be made with Elworth Hall (and I am pretty certain that it can) then I have additional information, including the name of a descendant (living in Colchester) of Sarah's sister, Alice, which would be of considerable interest - over to you Tessa - if you think there may be some substance in this connection, please contact me

In early January I received a letter from the Corbet Study Group in Cornwall enclosing an enquiry from Joan Malpass of Western Australia relative to the name of Plant subsequently Joan became Member No 152 Her interest is specifically Sheffield, Yorkshire in the second half of the 19th century and I therefore suggested she liaise with Dr John Plant - Member 52 who has

specialised in this area. Whether they have been successful I know not - perhaps, if they have, details could be included in the next Journal

Having joined the East Surrey Family History Society our next new member, Mrs Frances Plant, received a call from an existing member Jean Walpole confirming the existence of The Plant Family History Group and subsequently Frances became Member No 153. Her interest was her husband's great grandfather, John Plant, who under his own name and a number of aliases served in the British Army. He was probably born in Leek Staffordshire (I wonder how many of us have connections in this area). There is no question that the main source of 'Plants' is South Cheshire/North Staffordshire.

As a result of Frances' researches she has forwarded to the Group the following information

Plant extracts Census 1851 Leek and surrounding area			
William Plant extracts Census 1861 Leek			
Plant extracts St Cath's	Births	Staffs	1837 to 1908
Wm Plant extracts St Cath's	Marriage	Staffs	1837 to 1845
Plant extracts St Cath's	Deaths	Staffs	1880 to 1904
<i>Index of Plant discharges from the Army early 19th century</i>			
Enrollment details Plants	3rd Stafford Militia		1861 to 1865

If any member thinks that the lists above may contain information useful to them in their researches please contact me

See also Frances' correspondence in the letters section

The next member to join was Susan Woods of Victoria, Australia who in May wrote to me explaining that after years of researching her own family she was now looking into her husband's Plant ancestors. The family have connections with Horton, Staffs (again). Any connections with Tessa Pilsbury I wonder? Susan became Member No. 154.

In early July I received a letter from Betty Pyman who had learnt of the Group from Tessa Pilsbury. Her specific interest was descendants of her cousin, Wilfred, who was born in Guildford in 1912. His father was Ralph Plant of Burslem, Staffs (again) who was killed in France in 1915. Betty has his Army records. Subsequently his son, Wilfred, joined his late father's regiment as a Boy Bugler eventually being demobed after W W II.

In an effort to obtain further information I wrote to an acquaintance of mine, Col Ian Swinnerton, who, as well as being a past President of The Federation of Family History Societies, specialises in Army records. However, he could offer little help as Army records after 1920 are still confidential and not open to public search. They can be accessed through the MOD but they will only deal with the next-of-kin and there is a search charge of £20.00. Betty is now Member No 155.

Whilst looking through a list of One Name Studies the next member, Christine Page, learnt of our Group and wrote to me relative to the birth of Eliza Jane Plant born in York 1858, dau of Robert and Emily Plant. Following further research, Christine established that Eliza Jane was born 6 December 1857 and that her father was, at the time of her birth, a Sgt in the 2 Dragoon Guards residing in barracks, Canterbury, Kent. Eliza Jane's mother was Emily Whitwell residing at 5 St James Terrace, Fishergate, York. Eliza's parents were married on 27 June 1857 at Canterbury Register Office, Kent.

See Christine's letter in the letters section of the Journal - can anyone help? If you can please contact her - she is member No. 156

Early July I received a letter from Nicholas Holmes of Porirua, New Zealand who had found out about our Group in the G.R.D. His mothers maiden name is Plant and was the daughter of Frank Walter Plant who married Florence Lilian Armstrong in 1939 at Tottenham, England. Now this is where it gets difficult Frank Walter Plant, Nicholas' grandfather was the son of Arthur Plant who in 1904 married Jane Beach at Southwark, London This Arthur was an orphan who, with his two brothers (one named Walter), grew up in Barnardo's in London and Nicholas is not sure which part of the country they originally came from The only information that is known at the moment is that their father was Edwin Plant Can anyone offer any suggestions? If so please contact Nicholas who is member No 157

Our next member, No 158, Mrs Kerry Ann Cooke, prime interest is West Bromwich, pre 1900 and Barnsley, Yorkshire mid 1850's Her interest in the Plants comes from her husband's side his Grandmother being Sarah Plant, one of nine children born to Aurthur Plant and Eliza Robinson who married in Barnsley 1 July 1877. Sarah had a brother, Albert, born 17 May 1896 in Barnsley

As a result of an article of mine some time ago in The Black Country Bugle, (a monthly publication dealing with times past in this area of the Midlands and obviously of great interest for anybody with antecedants in this area) Pat Galloway became member No 159 in November Her researches in this area of the county and her offer to help others with their researches is included in the letters section.

The final new member the past year is Beverley Dronjak who has an interest in Staffs (agam), particularly connected to the Pottery Industry, being decended from William Plant who died in New Zealand in 1884. William's father was Daniel Plant, a Potter, and William himself was born in Staffordshire in 1838 Further details and an appreciation of William Plant will be included in the next Journal

One of our members, Peter Johnson (No 18) is now on the Board of the Federation of Family History Societies - congratulations, if that is the right word, knowing the amount of committment that such a post entails.

On a personal note - I do not intend to continue as International Liaison Manager for the Guild of One Name Studies, though I do intend to remain a member of the Guild, having registered the Plant name as long ago as 1979 In order to spend more time on local history when I retire from full time employment in the year 2000 I may pass on my responsibilities for the name and for the Journal. By that time the Plant Family History Group will have been in existence 10 years and it is probably the right time for somebody else to take over with new ideas and a new approach However, thats a couple of years off yet and let's concentrate on the next two years which I hope will incorporate a Millenium 'get together' in June 1999, details of which are included elsewhere in this Journal

Some time ago one of our members, I think from the Stoke on Trent area, forwarded to me an Indenture in Ten parts made the 25th February 1811 between various Gentlemen and Merchants and including William Plant of Darlastone Mill and referring to John Plant of Betley. It is a very lengthy document and as time permits I have been endeavouring to sort it out The problem is I have lost details of who gave me the document in the first place Therefore if the document belongs to you please contact me and I will return same.

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Finally once again, best wishes for 1998 which I hope will be a healthy and prosperous year for us all Thanks to all of you who have sent contributions for the Journal - keep them coming

Best regards

*Keith*

Keith

## MILLENIUM GET TOGETHER

The suggested celebration is 'ON', weekend Saturday and Sunday, 19th and 20th June 1999 In what form I don't know - nothing finalised as yet but possibly

Saturday morning	All meet at Chelford Village Hall and introduce ourselves, photographs etc Local papers and possibly radio in attendance
Saturday afternoon	Visit and tour of Quarry Bank Mill followed by Coach tour of South Cheshire/North Staffordshire (The area of the UK from where the majority of Plants originated)
Saturday evening	Celebration Dinner
Sunday	Visit and tour of Tatton Hall

Further details will be included in the August 1998 Journal together with booking form, list of local accommodation, details of other local attractions for any members wishing to stay on for a few days, location information, approximate cost, details of attractions to be visited, etc

Some time in the next couple of months Catherine Sproston (member No 32 - my cousin) Brian Plant (member No 71 - my brother) will meet to draw up a detailed programme In the meantime, if anybody has any suggestions, please let me know.

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

Piece No. 2171 covering

Aldersey	Aldford	Ashton (Chester)
Barrow	Barton	Boughton/Great
Broxton	Bruen Stapleford	Buerton (Aldford)
Burton by Torvin	Caldecott	Carden
Chester St John	Chester St Mary	Chester St Michael
Chester St Olave	Chester (Gaol & B'rks)	Chowley
Christleton	Churton by Aldford	Churton-by Farndon
Churton Heath (or Bruera)	Clotton Hoofield	Clutton
Coddington	Cotton Abbots	Cotton Edmunds
Crewe (Farndon)	Duckington	Duddon
Edge	Edgerey (Alford)	Elton (Chester)
Farndon	Foulk Stapelford	Golborne Bellow
Golborne David	Groftan	Handley
Harthill	Hatton (Tattenhall)	Hockenhull Stapleford
Horton by Malpas	Horton with Peele	Huntington
Huxley	Iddinshall	Kelsall
Kingsmarch	Lea Newbold	Littleton
Mouldsworth	Newton by Tattenhall	Prior's Hay (Tarvin)
Rowton	Saighton	Spittle Boughton
Stretton (Tattenhall)	Sutton Gullden	Tarvin with Oscroft
Tattenhall	Tilston	Waverton
Willington		

Piece No. Folio 170      Township Waverton      Village Huxley

6 Huxley      James Plant      Lodger Widr      68      Farm Labourer      bn      Huxley

In house of George and Mary Heaton      Clock Cleaner

Folio 174      Township Waverton      Village Huxley

36 Huxley      Samuel Plant      Head      M      47      Agr Labourer      bn      Huxley

                         Eliz. Plant      Wife      M      36           bn      Norbury

                         John Plant      Son           12           bn      Huxley

                         Mgt Plant      Dau           9           bn      Huxley

                         Eliz      Dau           7           bn      Huxley

                         Ann      Dau           5           bn      Huxley

                         Maria      Dau           2           bn      Huxley

Folio 175      Township Waverton      Village Huxley

43 Huxley      James Plant      Servant U      15      Farm Servant      bn      Huxley

In house of John Willis      Farmer



Folio 175					Township Waverton		Village Huxley	
46 Nr Huxley	Mill	Thomas Plant	Lodger Widr	60		Pauper former labourer	bn	Huxley
		In house of John and Sarah Jackson				Farm Lab.		
Folio 200					Township Newton			
15 ?		Sarah Plant	Servant U	17		House Servant	bn	Huxley
		In house of John and Eliz Walker				Farmer		
Folio 262					Township Faulk		Stapleford	
33 Hargrove	John Plant	Head	M	39		Ag Lab	bn	Huxley
	Hannah Plant	Wife	M	40			bn	Hargrove
	Mary Plant	Dau	U	12			bn	Huxley
	John Plant	Son		11		Scholar	bn	Hargrove
	Daniel Plant	Son		9			bn	Hargrove
	Moses Plant	Son		7			bn	Hargrove
	David Plant	Son		4			bn	Hargrove
Folio 330/1					Township		Tarvin Ashton	
73 Woodside	Joseph Plant	Head	M	46		Farmer of 86 acres	bn	? rettels Staffs
	Hannah Plant	Wife	M	37			bn	Horton Staffs
	Jane Plant	Dau	U	17			bn	Audley Chesh
	Mary Plant	Dau		14			bn	Acton Chesh
	Sarah Plant	Dau		12			bn	Acton Chesh
	Eliz Plant	Dau		8			bn	Tarvin
	George Plant	Son		6			bn	Tarvin
	Hannah Plant	Dau		4			bn	Tarvin
	Martha Plant	Dau		2			bn	Tarvin
	Letitia Plant	Dau		3 months			bn	Tarvin
		plus 2 servants						
Folio 344					Township		Tarvin	
11 Holme st	George Plant	Head	M	54		Farm Lab	bn	Barrow
	Lydia Plant	Wife	M	58			bn	Mollington
	Mary Plant	Dau		11		Scholar	bn	Tarvin
Piece No 2172 covering								
Aston (Hawarden)		Bache				Backford		
Bannel		Blacon Cum Crabhall				Bretton		
Bridge Trafford		Broad Lane				Broughton		

Capenhurst  
 Chester Holy Trinity  
 Chester St Oswald  
 Croughton  
 Eaton (Chester)  
 Ewloe Wood  
 Hoole  
 Kinnerton/Lower  
 Manor & Rake  
 Mollington/Great  
 Moston (Chester)  
 Pickton  
 Saltney  
 Sealand  
 Shotwick Park  
 Stanlow  
 Upton (Chester)  
 Woodbank

Caughall  
 Chester St Bridget  
 Chester St Peter  
 Doddleston  
 Eccleston  
 Hapsford  
 Ince  
 Lea (Backford)  
 Marlston Cum Leach  
 Mollington/Little  
 Newton by Chester  
 Poulton  
 Saughall/Little  
 Shotton  
 Stanney/Little  
 Stoke (Chester)  
 Wervin

Chester Cath. Precincts  
 Chester St Martin  
 Chorlton by Backford  
 Dunham on the Hill  
 Ewloe Town  
 Hawarden  
 Kinnerton/Higher  
 Mancott  
 Mickle Trafford  
 Moor (Hawarden)  
 Pentrobbin  
 Pulford  
 Saughall/Great  
 Shotwick  
 Stanney/Great  
 Thornton Le Moors  
 Wimbolds Trafford

Folio 23

Township St Oswald

Chester

46 Northgate	St Thomas Plant	Head	M	45	Inn Keeper	bn	Over
	Caroline Plant	Wife	M	29		bn	Wrexham Denbigh

plus 3 servants

*Thomas was born 31 7 1808 son of George and Mary Plant*

Folio 41

Township St Oswald

Chester

57 Lockups	William Plant	Prisoner	U	17	Labourer	bn	Chester
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43.

## STAFFORDSHIRE BURIAL INDEX

Katherine to Nancy

This list is an addition to that shown in Journal No. 8 Pages 28 to 30

	<u>Date</u>		<u>Forename</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Parish Church</u>
27	6	1762	Katherine	d/o Thomas	Uttoxeter
0	0	1773	Katherine	d/o Thomas & Eliz of Bishops Offley	Adbaston
3	11	1806	Laurence	of Hazlewood House	Meerbrook
28	1	1640	Law	of Leek	Leek
20	12	1646	Law	of Blackshaw Moore	Leek
29	11	1697	Law	of Red Earth	Leek
6	5	1705	Law	from Prestbury Co Cheshire	Leek
15	3	1750	Law	of Leek	Leek
18	11	1767	Lawrence		Leek
17	1	1785	Lawrence	of Hazlewood	Leek
16	1	1802	Louisa	d/o Stephen & Ellen of Barnfield	Swynnerton
3	2	1793	Lucy	pau. G.	Leek
20	2	1801	Lucy	d/o James	West Bromwich
3	11	1812	Lucy	d/o Jno & Mary age 2	Rowley Regis
6	1	1713	Lydia	d/o James & Mary	Leek
22	1	1750	Lydia	w/o Wm. paup	Stoke of Trent
6	1	1751	Lydia	inf of Leek Moor	Leek
5	12	1791	Lydia		Sandon
18	12	1622	Magdalen		Muckleston
12	10	1637	Marg	of Redearth wid.	Leek
3	5	1716	Marg		Leek
25	11	1716	Marg	inf	Leek
16	8	1558	Margaret	w/o Raphe.	Mucklestone
26	10	1766	Margaret	d/o William	Wolverhampton
14	11	1766	Margaret	d/o Thomas of Beech	Swynnerton
23	11	1802	Margaret		Standon
20	8	1805	Margaret	w/o William	Stafford, St Mary
23	1	1810	Margarett	aged 6 months	Cheadle
3	10	1578	Margarit		Swynnerton
12	5	1573	Margerie	d/o William & Margery	Mucklestone
12	9	1620	Margery	w/o John, blacksmith	Adbaston
15	3	1729	Margery	of Leek Moor age 70	Leek
14	8	1756	Margret	w/o Lawrence of Leek Moor	Leek
25	10	1619	Margrett	w/o John	Swynnerton
21	11	1655	Margrett	d/o John th , strangers	Uttoxeter
30	5	1768	Margt	w/o Edw of Knighton	Mucklestone
23	2	1692	Maria	ux Johannis	Swynnerton
12	1	1694	Maria	ux Johannis	Swynnerton
21	10	1715	Maria		Milwich
6	7	1718	Maria	fa Guhelmi de Swinnerton	Swynnerton
11	3	1796	Maria	d/o James & Mary	Rowley Regis
24	2	1735	Marjory	d/o James & Dor	Leek
28	12	1707	Martha	of Aston	Stope

3	2	1710	Martha	infant of Dunwood	Leek
7	9	1715	Martha	inf.	Leek
14	7	1722	Martha	inf.	Leek
24	3	1729	Martha	d/o Jos & Est	Kinver
21	7	1741	Martha	d/o John & Mary of Fulford	Stone
31	5	1747	Martha	d/o William & Martha	Quarnford
11	6	1752	Martha	a c/o Samuel	Longdon
18	12	1763	Martha	( and Elizabeth) ds/o Sarah Plant	Kingsley
22	5	1764	Martha	of Leek	Leek
1	5	1770	Martha	w/o John	Leek
22	1	1774	Martha	inf	Leek
18	9	1782	Martha	inf.	Stoke on Trent
8	1	1793	Martha		Norbury
9	3	1793	Martha	age 40	Leek
29	9	1796	Martha	w/o Robert	Gnosall
1	11	1796	Martha	d/o Robert	Gnosall
31	10	1799	Martha	of Alstonefield age 65	Leek
19	3	1812	Martha	p age 1	Leek
0	0	1637	Mary	Wid of John of Red Earth, Leek	Horton
18	1	1654	Mary	w/o John of Earnfield	Swynnerton
6	12	1655	Mary	of Blackshaw-moor-head Wid	Leek
13	10	1691	Mary	w/o Benjamin	Rowley Regis
1	6	1695	Mary	w/o John, glazier	Uttoxeter
4	10	1699	Mary Jocosa	of Blackshaw-moor Wid	Leek
26	11	1703	Mary	infant of Derby St	Leek
22	3	1703	Mary	of Mil St. Wid.	Leek
17	4	1707	Mary	of Abby Green	Leek
29	1	1707	Mary	infant of Red Earth	Leek
2	2	1709	Mary	of Leek	Leek
26	9	1713	Mary		Leek
13	5	1714	Mary	w/o John of Woot Lane	Mucklestone
22	10	1727	Mary	of Fettesworth	Leek
26	11	1727	Mary	inf of Block Moor	Leek
25	8	1731	Mary	inf of Blockshaw Moor	Leek
21	8	1737	Mary	of Knighton	Mucklestone
3	12	1737	Mary	of Bearson	Mucklestone
9	5	1738	Mary	w/o John of Blackshaw Moor	Leek
29	6	1740	Mary	d/o John	Rowley Regis
27	3	1741	Mary	of Stone, mother of Mr Thomas Plant	Swynnerton
2	6	1741	Mary	d/o James & Eliz of Leek	Leek
18	6	1741	Mary	infant of Leek	Leek
16	6	1745	Mary	of Gravenhunger	Mucklestone
22	9	1749	Mary	d/o Benj & Mary	Leek
6	2	1751	Mary	d/o Samuel	Longdon
13	6	1751	Mary	inf.	Norton Le Moors
17	8	1752	Mary	w/o Tho of Leek	Leek
9	12	1752	Mary	d/o John & Jane of Earnfield	Swynnerton
22	12	1752	Mary	wid	Madeley
29	3	1754	Mary	d/o Isaac	Walsall
11	2	1756	Mary		Kingsley
26	12	1757	Mary	infant d/o Wm	Stoke on Trent
24	6	1758	Mary	of Barnfield	Swynnerton

25	1	1763	Mary	w/o John Jnr of Earnfield	Swynnerton
3	3	1764	Mary	d/o William	Wolverhampton
18	11	1764	Mary	d/o William & Peggy of Darlaston	Stone
8	5	1766	Mary	of Leek	Leek
1	7	1766	Mary	of Hass Head Wid	Quarnford
6	6	1769	Mary	of Hazlewood Wid	Leek
3	7	1771	Mary	of Beech Wid	Swynnerton
8	6	1773	Mary	Wid	Leek
30	12	1773	Mary	w/o Tho of Cotes Heath	Standon
20	10	1776	Mary	w/o Joseph	Handsworth
15	12	1776	Mary		Uttoxeter
5	6	1777	Mary	of Crossgate Wid	Stone
30	6	1777	Mary	d/o Thomas	Uttoxeter
20	11	1778	Mary	d/o Isaac	Uttoxeter
4	7	1776	Mary	Wid	Uttoxeter
19	1	1780	Mary	w/o Humphrey	Gnosall
13	6	1780	Mary	d/o James of Gaudley	Longnoi
1	3	1785	Mary	of Swinnerton	Swynnerton
30	3	1787	Mary	No. 37/26 and 3 infs (see Ann & Francis) age 19	Walsall, Bath Street
21	4	1788	Mary	of Tongue Lane	Leek
3	9	1790	Mary		Lichfield, St Chad
6	2	1791	Mary	of Keele	Mucklestone
16	3	1791	Mary		Lichfield, St Chad
21	7	1791	Mary		Leek
13	2	1792	Mary	age 79	Leek
24	2	1793	Mary	age 50	Leek
6	12	1793	Mary		Sandon
10	7	1794	Mary	Wid	Brewood
22	2	1795	Mary	Wid	Stoke on Trent
30	7	1795	Mary	age 73	Ipstones
29	9	1795	Mary	w/o William of Stone Heath	Stone
5	12	1795	Mary	inf	Stoke on Trent
1	10	1797	Mary	d/o John & Ann	Gnosall
8	7	1799	Mary	age 24	Leek
3	1	1800	Mary		Stoke on Trent
18	2	1800	Mary	Wid	Uttoxeter
29	5	1800	Mary	inf	Leek
15	9	1800	Mary	age 9 months	Cheadle
18	11	1802	Mary	inf G	Leek
24	4	1803	Mary	age 35	Leek
0	0	1804	Mary	Benjamin & Catherine	Wednesbury
17	1	1804	Mary	of Newcastle age 80	Leek
2	5	1806	Mary	w/o Jno of Lawton Low age 61	Rushton Spencer
4	12	1807	Mary	d/o Edward & Mary of Stone Heath	Stone
17	1	1808	Mary		Leigh
31	1	1808	Mary	w/o William	Stafford, St Mary
27	11	1810	Mary	w/o Edward Plant of Sharpley Heath	Stone
14	4	1677	Matthias	faber ferrarius (blacksmith)	Leek
3	9	1699	Matthias	fs Matt & Katerine ux	Swynnerton
16	11	1706	Mathew	s/o John	Kingsley
27	3	1709	Matthew	s/o Edward Plant of Mafford	Stone
18	3	1710	Mathew	s/o Grace	Kingsley

3	5	1718	Matthew	s/o John of Redlyon	Uttoxeter
10	11	1724	Matthew	of Smithaniley (?) age 70	Leek
0	1	1727	Matthew		Horton
18	4	1738	Matthew	of Earnfield	Swynnerton
25	9	1741	Mat	inf of Blockshaw Moor	Leek
10	11	1742	Matthew	s/o John of Earnfield	Swynnerton
29	6	1743	Matthew	of Darlaston	Stone
29	9	1748	Matthew	s/o George of Earnfield	Swynnerton
21	10	1797	Matthew		Standon
21	10	1806	Matthew	inf G Bapt	Leek
18	8	1737	Michael		Mucklestone
1	11	1807	Mira	d/o Jas & Sarah	Rowley Regis
6	12	1721	Moses	s/o Rob & Ann of Upper Hulme	Leek
11	8	1785	Nancy	inf	Stoke on Trent
3	5	1808	Nancy	inf	Oldbury

## Chapter 15

# Possible Origins for the Sheffield Plants

### ASSESSING THE POSSIBILITIES FOR THE FIRST SHEFFIELD AREA PLANTS

This Chapter sets out Plant data which, with fuller study, might help to establish the likely origins of the first Sheffield area Plants. Though possible forefathers for Lawrence of Bakewell and Francis of Buxton seem few, there are more possibilities to consider when trying to identify the antecedents of the progenitor  $W^m(0)$  of the Duckmanton Plants. Two different schemes, in particular, are appraised in this Chapter. Possible schemes may be deduced from such sources as data for Plants at Great Longstone, 15 miles SW of Sheffield, as well as elsewhere such as further to the west near 17th century Staffordshire. As indicated earlier, Plants arrived, by 1725, at Duckmanton — some then travelled 10 miles NNW to Sheffield, where they became those who have been called the *Plant's Yard* Plants — many of their progeny remained there, such as the Sheffield shoemaker William (i.e.  $W^m(\text{shoe})$ ) who was one of the closest Plants to *Plant's Yard* by the times of the 1841 Census.

## 15.1 The changing distribution of English Plants

Gene-name genealogical investigations can often allow studies of family migrations. A family name travels sometimes with the relocation of whole families as well as with the male offspring who often move several miles before settling in marriage. It seems that, in such ways, the Plant name had migrated around the English midlands by 1700. The distribution of this name was not uniform however and there was a particular concentration of Plants at the far side of North Derbyshire from Sheffield, for example, on the border between North Staffordshire and East Cheshire.

### 15.1.1 Romance of the early Plants

Plants came to exist in Plantagenet times<sup>1</sup> It seems unlikely that the Plants descended from just a single Plant ancestor. The standard explanation, based on early linguistic and other studies, is that the surname denotes a gardener<sup>2</sup>. Such early forms as *Plantbean* and *Plantrose*, in East Anglia around 1200, are cited to support this interpretation. Such early metonymics as one for a 'Gardener' could, one might

<sup>1</sup>The Plant surname is thought to have come into existence before the mid 13th century, perhaps first near Essex and Norfolk (W.K.Plant (1990), *Roots and Branches*, 1, page 4).

<sup>2</sup>W.K.Plant (1990), *Roots and Branches*, 1, page 4.

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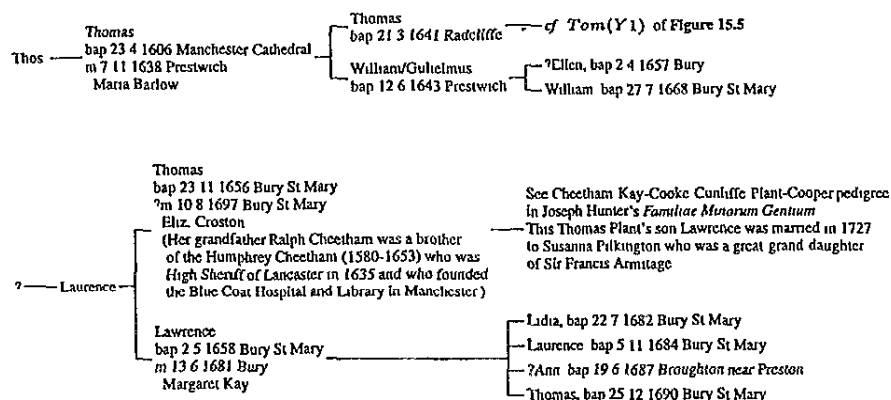


Figure 15.1: A scheme of 17th century Lancashire Plant records

think, have arisen in many places though it is not unknown for rare ones to be traced to a single ancestor in a particular place.

Plantagenets can be found around the NW of England<sup>3</sup> before the crown passed to the House of Lancaster at the end of the 14th century. The Plantagenet name derives from *planta genista* which has sometimes been thought to have symbolised ancient *fire brands* and authoritative<sup>4</sup> regeneration<sup>5</sup> (cf. pageants with torch<sup>6</sup> bearing soldiers). In his dictionary, Samuel Johnson defines *brand* as (1) a fire stick, (2) a sword, etc. It is only on the basis of anecdotes however, such as Chaucer's '*a Sheffield thwitel baar he in his hose*'<sup>7</sup>, that romantic pictures have occasionally been conjured of swords and knives being borne across mediaeval North Derbyshire, between Sheffield and Brand which is near the tip of North Staffordshire in the NW Midlands.

Plant has been described as a distinctive Staffordshire surname which may have originated in the NW in Lancashire (cf. Figure 15.1) and, like Salt<sup>8</sup>, it ramified<sup>9</sup> early in Staffordshire's adjoining counties<sup>10</sup>. Plant is thought to be a metonymic surname. There is evidence that locative surnames generally migrated southwards, in the centuries after their likely formation, from Lancashire through Cheshire to Staffordshire. The available Plant history seems compatible with this general pattern of an early southwards migration. It is known that there were Plants in North Cheshire (Flint) by 1301 and at Leek in North Staffordshire by 1381<sup>11</sup>.

<sup>3</sup>The 1984 version of the IGI for example lists that Eleanor Plantagenet married John Beaumont at Lancaster in 1339. It also includes the Lancaster births of Maud Duchess of Bavaria Plantagenet (b 4 4 1339) and Blanche Duchess of Lancaster Plantagenet (b 25 3.1345), both to Henry Duke of Lancaster Plantagenet and Isabel Duchess of Lancaster Plantagenet.

<sup>4</sup>The Latin word *planta* has two meanings, one being the sole of the foot.

<sup>5</sup>The other meaning of the Latin word *planta* is shoot for propagation, cutting.

<sup>6</sup>The Latin word *genista* means broom(-plant).

<sup>7</sup>Geoffrey Chaucer (?1341-1400).

<sup>8</sup>The surname Salt is said to be locative and to have derived from the village of Salt in North Staffordshire. The rarer Staffordshire surname Wedgwood may have derived from a single ancestor from the nearby village of Wedgwood.

<sup>9</sup>The word *ramified* means 'sent up shoots' and it may be compared both with the Latin word *planta* meaning 'shoot for propagation' and the Welsh word *plant* meaning 'a child'.

<sup>10</sup>This is based on analyses of the 1842-6 Death Indices, the 1666 Hearth Tax returns, and earlier records, by David Hey, Professor of Local and Family History, Sheffield University.

<sup>11</sup>W.K.Plant, *Roots and Branches*.



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SW Midlands		NW Midlands			NE Midlands	
County	Total	County	Total	Leading parishes	County	Total
Leicestershire	31	Lancashire	23	Prestbury (58), Macclesfield (41) Gawsworth (20)	Yorkshire	17
Warwickshire	7	Cheshire	153	Leek (124), Alstonfield (24) Mucklestone (28)	Derbyshire	31
Worcestershire	15	Staffordshire	227	Sheriff Hales (19)	Nottinghamshire	5
Gloucestershire	15	Shropshire	25		Lincolnshire	115

Table 15.1. Distribution of pre-1700 Plant records around the Midlands in the 1984 IGI

### 15.1.2 Plants in parish records by 1700

Table 15.1 is based on the numbers of pre-1700 Plant records in the 1984 version of the IGI<sup>12</sup>. Some extra Plants appear in the IGI's later versions and some, no doubt, did not baptise their children. Other Plants were, of course, outside this general region. However, despite these provisos, this Table shows a notable Plant cluster in the parish of Leek, North Staffordshire<sup>13</sup> and in the adjoining parish of Prestbury, East Cheshire<sup>14</sup>. These parishes lie some 35 miles to the WSW of Sheffield on the far side of Buxton and Brand. Table 15.1 indicates that the Plant name was concentrated in a few such parishes<sup>15</sup> in pre-Georgian times when, for example, Protestantism was becoming more fully established under King William III<sup>16</sup>. This was contemporary with an 'Age of Enlightenment', as for example 17th century science began to contribute its fluxion<sup>17</sup> to 18th century engineering, so laying a faith in determinism<sup>18</sup> for the coming 'Industrial Age'.

It has been estimated, on the basis of general population trends, that there could have been about 1650 Plants in the U.K. by 1700<sup>19</sup>. If we assume that their distribution throughout the UK was roughly the same then as now, we can estimate that there would have been about 1000 Plants, in 1700, in the counties that are included in Table 15.1. Perhaps there were more, as they could have been more concentrated at that time in those counties. This suggests that there might be a significant undercount of the Plant surname in Table 15.1, in which there is a total of only 664 pre-1700 Plant records<sup>20</sup>.

### 15.1.3 A rough outline of Midlands Plants up to Modern times

In modern times, the distribution of the Plant name retains some similarities with pre-Georgian times (Table 15.1). Though the estimated number of UK Plants rises

<sup>12</sup>International Genealogical Index, *ibid.*

<sup>13</sup>Table 15.1 lists evidence of 124 pre-1700 Plant records in the parish of Leek

<sup>14</sup>Table 15.1 lists evidence of 119 pre-1700 Plant records within the boundary of Prestbury parish, given that this boundary also envelops Macclesfield and Gawsworth.

<sup>15</sup>It should be noted however that some parishes are missing from the IGI on which Table 15.1 is based

<sup>16</sup>This was William of Orange, b 1650, reigned 1689-1702

<sup>17</sup>Historical change, or fluxion, was inspired for example by the '*method of fluxions*', or Newtonian calculus, which was invented by the great Cambridge scientist from Lincolnshire, Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727), who also provided monumental theories of mechanics, dynamics, gravity, and optics.

<sup>18</sup>Before Heisenberg's uncertainty principle of quantum theory (1925) all the great theories of Physics, from Newton's to Einstein's, had been *deterministic* allowing calculations of future, as well as past, behaviours. Thus, it was around 1700 that Newton's Laws of Motion for example (*i.e.* his *Principia* of 1687) firmly supplanted earlier beliefs in astrology; cf Sir Roger Penrose, *The Emperor's New Mind. concerning Computers, Minds, and the Laws of Physics*, Oxford University Press, 1989

<sup>19</sup>W.K.Plant (Dec.1990), *Roots and Branches*, Vol.1, pages 4-6.

<sup>20</sup>A sizeable fraction of these records are late 17th century baptisms

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from 1650 in 1700 to around 15,000 by 1980, there appears to be some remanence throughout this growth of Plants in particular places. In particular Plants still remain concentrated around the NW and West Midlands<sup>21</sup>

Without prejudice to future deliberations about the actual origins of the modern Plants, it can be noted for example that Stoke-on-Trent and Manchester are close to the aforementioned Leek-Prestbury cluster of pre-1700 Plant IGI records. This area remains the leading centre for UK Plants. It seems that perhaps around 20% of the UK Plants were in the Leek-Prestbury cluster in 1700<sup>22</sup>. There are now 12% living around Stoke-on-Trent (North Staffordshire), which developed into an Industrial City just to the SW of this cluster and 5% in South Manchester, for example, which is not far to this cluster's north. The pre-1700 Sheriff Hales Plant cluster in East Shropshire (Table 15.1) is similarly close to a 20th century concentration of Plants around Wolverhampton (South Staffordshire). Sheriff Hales accounts for around 3% of the known UK Plants in 1700 and 8% of the UK Plants now live nearby around Wolverhampton. Some of the early Wolverhampton Plants may have moved south from North Staffordshire for example. Further study could lead to more detailed information about how the distribution of English Plants has progressively developed down the centuries.

It already seems clear that some approximate similarities remain today with the Plant distribution before 1700 in the NW and W Midlands in particular. In the E Midlands nearer East Anglia, on the other hand, an early Lincolnshire cluster (Table 15.1) has declined. Plants also now appear to be concentrated a little further to the NE than they were before 1700, in as much as 4% of the modern UK Plants are now in the vicinity of Sheffield.

### 15.1.4 North Derbyshire and Sheffield Plants

An 18th century Sheffield Plant forefather has been associated with '*Branside, Prestbury*' which might mean the Prestbury (Cheshire) side of the high ground around The Roaches, Wincle Minn, and Axe Edge (Brand)<sup>23</sup>. Brand, as perpetuated in the modern place name Brand Side (NW Derbyshire), may have in general referred to the high ground at the western edge of the High Peak Hundred of NW Derbyshire and perhaps sometimes also to adjoining high ground in N Staffordshire and E Cheshire. It has been mentioned in earlier Chapters that the surname Plant is occasionally corrupted to *Bland* in early Sheffield records though there is no sound evidence that this derives from that early Plant homeland called *Brand*. It is thought that the rare Staffordshire surname *Brund* derives from that place.

Midway along the North Derbyshire route from 'Brand' (near Buxton) to Sheffield lies Ashford, which neighbours both Great Longstone and Bakewell (bottom left corner of Figure 15.2). Plants had already settled as near as this to Sheffield, at least by the times of the 17th century (Figures 15.3 and 15.4).

Edmund Plantagenet was a brother of King Edward II (1284-1327) and he owned

<sup>21</sup>WK Plant (Dec 1990), *ibid*

<sup>22</sup>An estimate of 22% arises from Table 15.1 after adjusting the value (37%) given by that Table for the estimated number of Plants elsewhere in the UK

<sup>23</sup>A modern location for a 'Brand Side' is on the Derbyshire side of Axe Edge. *Branside* could more generally imply however 'on the side of' the high ground around Axe Edge (Derbyshire), The Roaches (Staffordshire) and Wincle Minn (Cheshire) which could likely have been strategic sites for a fire beacon (Brand)

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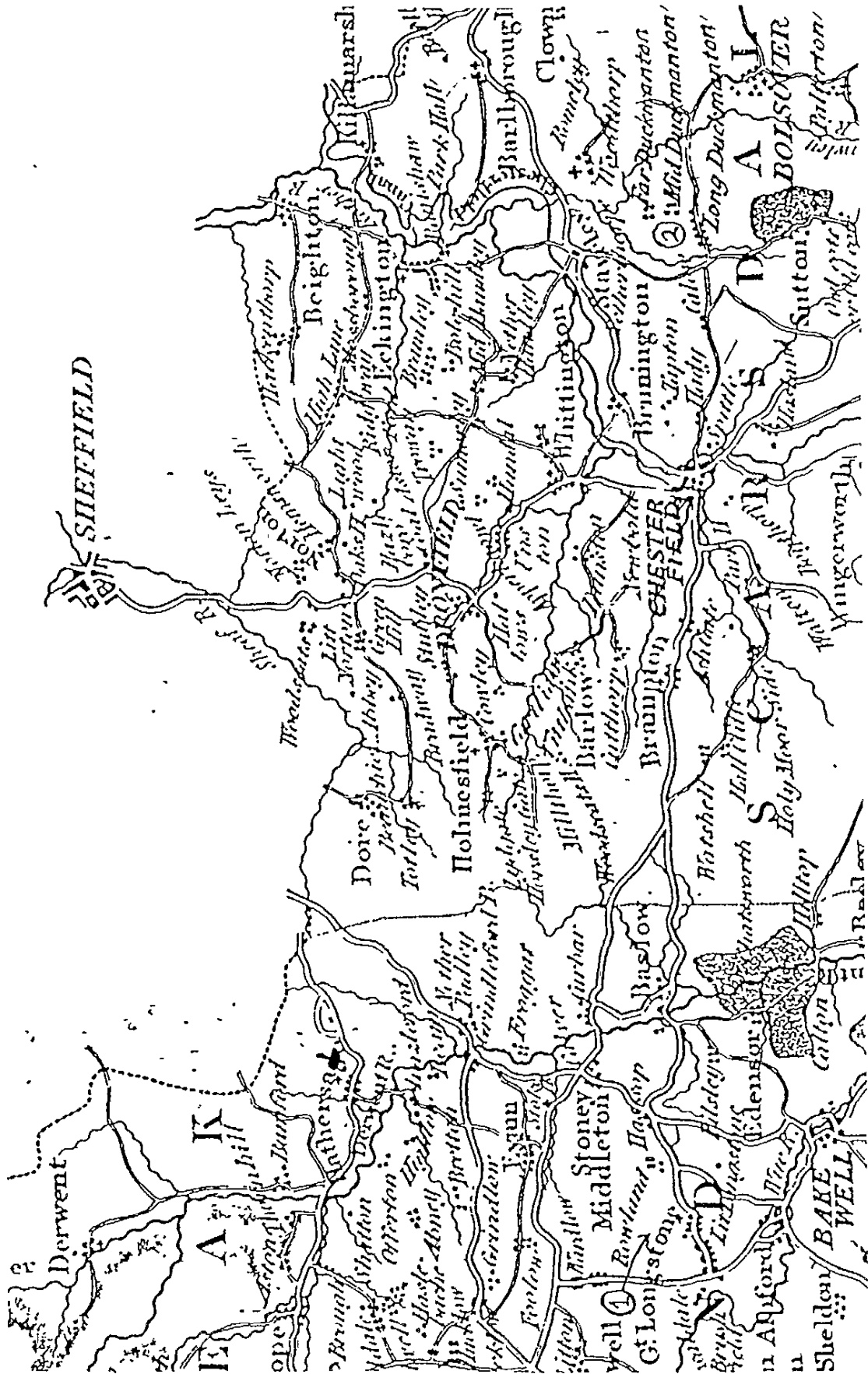


Figure 15.2. NE Derbyshire by 1817 (from Magna Britannia, Loysons and Lysons, 1817) showing (1) Great Longstone just north of Bakewell (bottom left corner) and (2) Duckmanton (bottom right corner 5 miles each of Chesterfield)

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a fortified house at Ashford. Ashford, which is recorded by 926AD, was a noted North Derbyshire crossing point of the River Wye. Nearby at Bakewell in 1538, a Christopher Plant was apparently Gell's bailiff (Chapter 11) and certainly there are further known Plants nearby at Great Longstone when its parish register begins in 1639. A bridge is marked at Ashford on Christopher Saxton's 1577 map and, when Edward and Thomas Browne reached there in the autumn of 1662, they had to choose 'Whether wee would swim our horses through an overflown ditch or ride over an extream narrow bridge'<sup>24</sup>

It can be noted that the first known arrival of Plants 15 miles to the NE of Ashford at Sheffield was in 1737, just before some momentous events in this town's Industrial History. It was in the early 1740s that Thomas Bolsover first discovered the basic processes for forming Old Sheffield Plate and that Benjamin Huntsman first developed, near Sheffield, the new plant and processes needed for his newly invented crucible steel

### 15.1.5 Some ancestral schemes for the Sheffield area Plants

The available evidence for around 1700 is somewhat scant and the reconstruction of likely genealogies for those times is accordingly dogged by elusive data and by uncertain relationships between possibly related Plants. However, a first step is to postulate some ancestral schemes which can then be used as possible working hypotheses or, in other words, as grounds for further study. Indeed some such hypotheses, for the first Sheffield area Plants, can be judged on the evidence of this Chapter to seem rather more plausible than others.

Various possible schemes have already been outlined for the origins of the Sheffield *Plant's Yard* Plants (Chapter 14) with, for example, one local scheme for around 1700 supposing that there may have been a confusion between the calligraphically similar names *Rent* and *Plant*. However, the less local schemes of this Chapter involve more simply just the surname *Plont* or *Plant* or *Plante*. As described earlier, there are already 7 known baptismal possibilities for the progenitor of these Plants,  $W^m(0)$  of Duckmanton, within 50 miles or so of Duckmanton (Chapter 14) — 5 of these are amongst the base data that goes towards formulating the ancestral schemes for him that are considered in this Chapter.

Such ancestral schemes relate in particular to the possibility that the first Sheffield area Plants may have descended from those around Great Longstone (near Ashford) As already indicated this lies towards the High Peak Hundred of NW Derbyshire which lies in the direction of the aforementioned pre-1700 Leek-Prestbury Plant cluster beyond Brand. It is found in later versions of the IGI that there were a few more Plants by 1700, around this area, than appear in Table 15.1<sup>25</sup>.

This chapter accordingly considers, for example, two distinct schemes in which the forefather  $W^m(0)$  of the Duckmanton Plants is taken to have descended from a 17th century Plant family at Great Longstone, near Ashford, some 15 miles to the SW of Sheffield. Whereas the first scheme involves a possible baptism for  $W^m(0)$  away to the north in mid-Yorkshire, the second restricts his baptism to 3 out of the 4

<sup>24</sup>David Hey (1980), *Packmen, Carriers and Packhorse Roads. Trade and Communications in North Derbyshire and South Yorkshire*, Leicester University Press

<sup>25</sup>The records of the 1984 version of the IGI were used as a basis for Table 15.1 with later versions being checked for extra Plants for the purposes of most of the Figures in this account

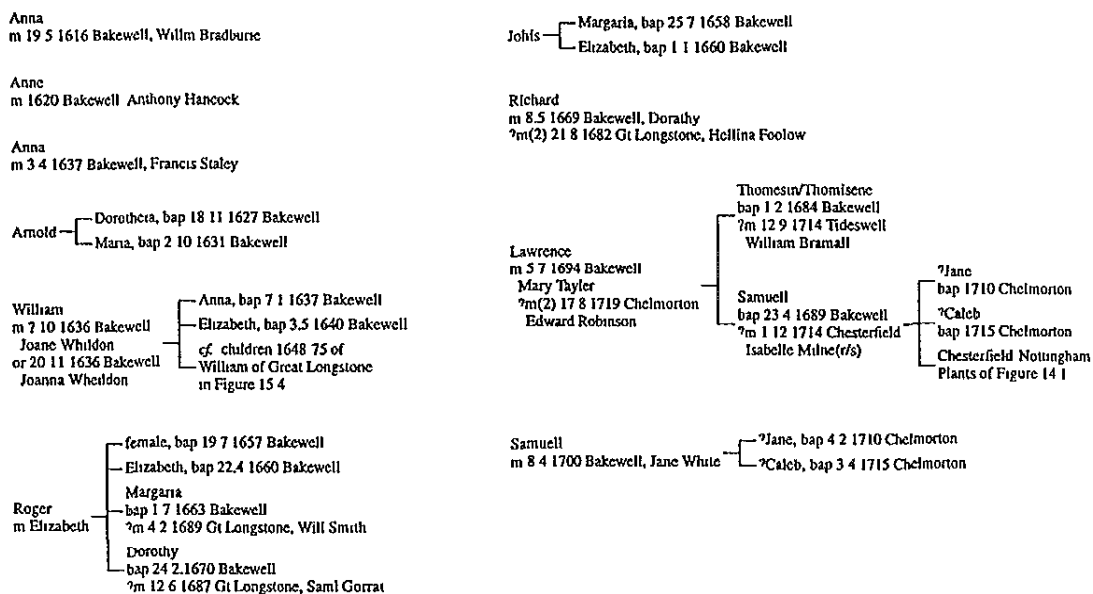


Figure 15.3: Bakewell area Plants: (I) some 17th century Bakewell paish records

known possible baptisms near Buxton and Brand, which are about 10 miles or so to the west of Great Longstone which, in turn, is about 15 miles west of Duckmanton.

## 15.2 A ‘Yorkshire’ hypothesis for Wm(0)’s ancestry

It helps to clarify the arguments if we begin with a ‘Yorkshire hypothesis’ for  $W^m(0)$ 's ancestry. This hypothesis relates to the local north Derbyshire history of the English civil war. The disruptions of this war may be used as one possible explanation for the existence of a mid-17th century Plant family in mid-Yorkshire. One might also wonder, though this is not considered here, if the decline of the pre-1700 Plant cluster in Lincolnshire (Table 15.1) related in any way to the impact of Cromwell’s raised forces there<sup>26</sup>.

### 15.2.1 The Civil War in north Derbyshire

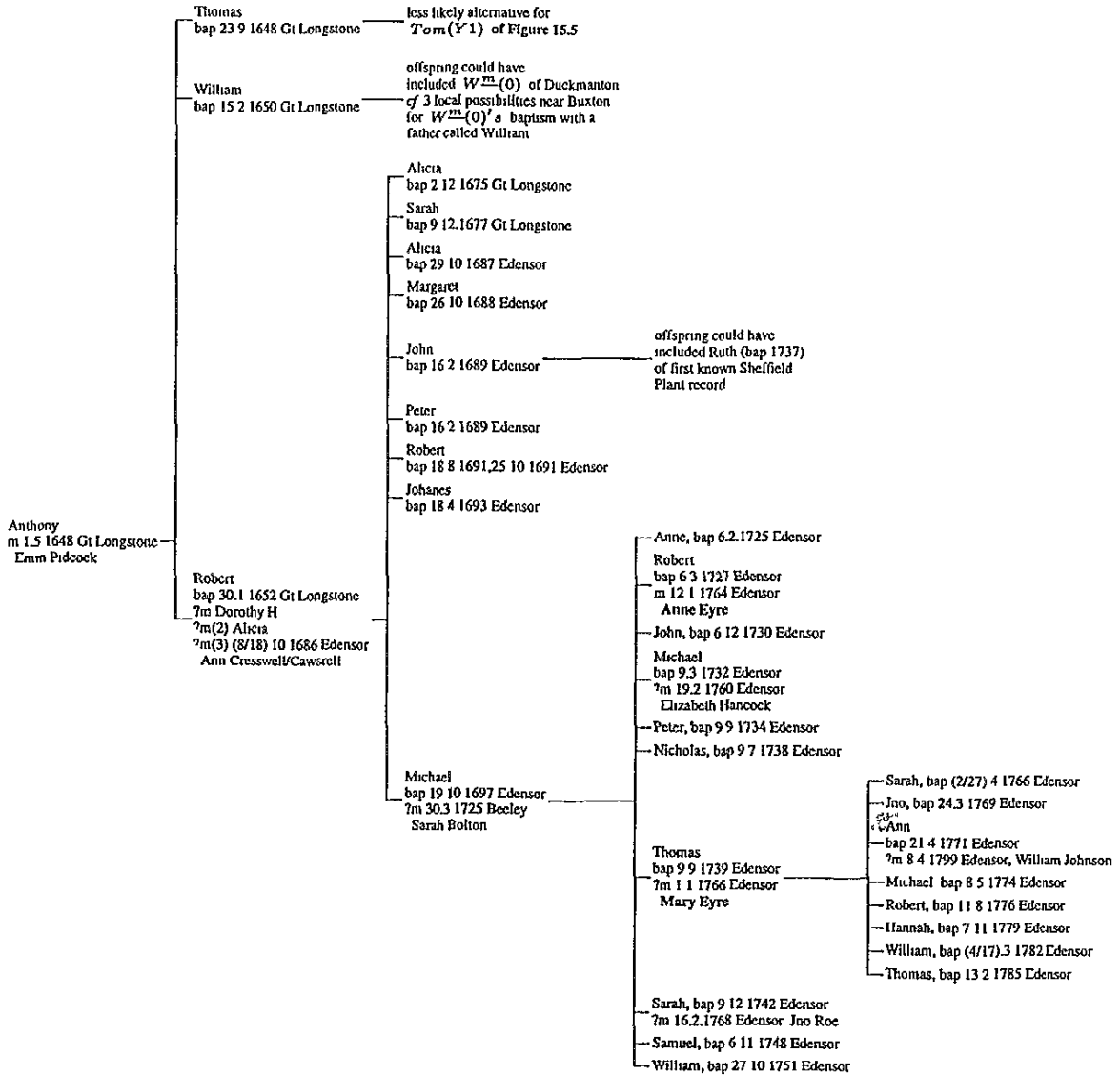
History records that Sir John Gell raised his Parliamentary forces at Chesterfield, not far from Great Longstone, to defeat Colonel Eyre at Derby and that he also held Sheffield castle (1642-3). The area around York (40 miles to Sheffield’s north) was being held temporarily by the Royalist Earl of Newcastle. Sir John Gell’s army from NE Derbyshire had joined Cromwell at Nottingham on 2 June 1643, with a view of a march into Yorkshire. At the 1644 Battle of Marston Moor (near York), the Roundheads defeated the Royalists and thereby extended their control from SE England to the north of England. It was not unusual for women and children to

<sup>26</sup>Alternatively, the early Lincolnshire Plants may, for example, have joined a general trend of southwards migration towards London.

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Richard  
 m 10 9 1640 Gt Longstone, Elizabeth Higgins ----- Thomas  
 ?m(2) 15 11 1645 Gt Longstone, Ellen Shawe bap 18 7 1641 Gt Longstone ----- of Tom (Y1) of Figure 15.5

Robert ----- Anthony bap 15 11 1648 Gt Longstone  
 ----- William, bap 15 11 1648 Gt Longstone



Daniel ----- William, bap 19 7 1650 Gt Longstone  
 ----- Thomas, bap 25 7 1652 Gt Longstone

William  
 ----- William bap 3 9 1648 Gt Longstone  
 ----- Margaret, bap 21.2.1650 Gt Longstone  
 ?m 27.5 1673 Gt Longstone, Robert Cook  
 ----- Jane, bap 7.5 1654 Gt Longstone  
 ?m 1 7 1684 Bakewell, Arthur Needham  
 ----- Joan bap 7 12 1656 Gt Longstone  
 ?m 29 6 1676 Gt Longstone, Henry Boam  
 ----- Elizabeth, bap 3 10 1659 Gt Longstone  
 ----- female, bap 18 5 1662 Gt Longstone  
 ----- Mary bap 19 9 1664 Gt Longstone  
 ----- William, bap 18 8 1667 Gt Longstone  
 ----- female, b 6 5 1673 Gt Longstone  
 ----- Elizabeth, bap 9 1 1675 Gt Longstone  
 ?m 8.4 1700 Thomas Boam

Figure 15.4: Bakewell area Plants: (II) Plants from Great Longstone (ca.1640-1680)

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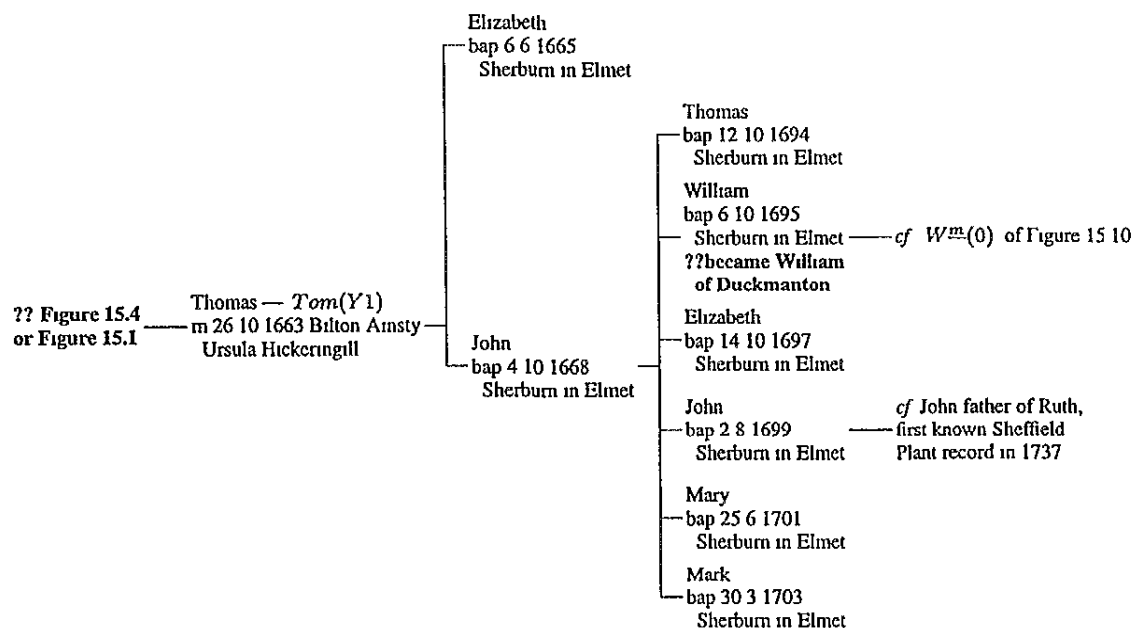


Figure 15.5 The ‘Yorkshire’ ancestral hypothesis for the Duckmanton Plants

accompany the army and indeed it is known that they accompanied Sir John Gell to Alcester in 1645. Moreover the relocation of families was not unusual throughout the unsettled times of the ensuing Commonwealth period (up to 1660) and on into the late 17th century.

15.2.2 An associated hypothesis for the Yorkshire Plants

Such historical records may hold some clues for answering the questions of how a Plant came to be, by 1663, at Bilton Ainsty near York. It may be noted that the parish of Bilton Ainsty (1571) adjoins that of Long Marston (1648) which was the site of the aforementioned 1644 Battle of Marston Moor

Certainly *Tom(Y1)* of Figure 15 5 married in 1663 at Bilton Ainsty, which is about 10 miles to the west of York<sup>27</sup>. It was then apparently thus Thomas Plant’s son John who was subsequently baptised at Sherburn-in-Elmet, which is just 12 miles south of Bilton Ainsty. *Tom(Y1)* and his son John fathered several children at Sherburn-in-Elmet including a William Plant.

Thus, in an associated scheme which is outlined at the top of Figure 15.4, it is conjectured that *Tom(Y1)*’s father could have been the Richard Plant who married at Great Longstone in 1640<sup>28</sup>. At some time during the subsequent Commonwealth

<sup>27</sup>It may be noted that *Tom(Y1)* of Bilton Ainsty would seem to have been more likely the age of the Thomas Plant baptised at Great Longstone (NE,Derbyshire) in 1641 (Figure 15.4) than the one who was baptised there in 1648 This derives from the supposition that, in the data of Figure 15 5, *Tom(Y1)* married at Bilton Ainsty in 1663 and he would have been rather young (15) even for those times if he had been baptised at Great Longstone in 1648 instead of in 1641.

<sup>28</sup>This Richard Plant may have been (back) in Great Longstone for a second marriage in 1645. It is unclear, however, whether this was the same Richard as the one who later married a Dorathy at Bakewell in 1669 (Figure 15 3) — it can be added that a Richard and Dorothy Plant had children at Leek in 1670 and 1682.

disruptions, this Richard's son Thomas Plant (bap 1641 at Great Longstone) may have found his way from Great Longstone to Bilton Ainsty near York. In the so-called 'Yorkshire' ancestral hypothesis, it is then romanticised that the grandson William of  $Tom(Y1)$  became  $W^m(0)$  of Duckmanton (i.e.  $W^m(0)$  of Figure 15.10)

### 15.2.3 Critique of this Yorkshire hypothesis

Amongst various reservations about the Yorkshire hypothesis, it may immediately be noted that  $Tom(Y1)$  of Yorkshire (Figure 15.5) could have been, for example, either from Radcliffe in Lancashire (Figure 15.1) or from Great Longstone<sup>29</sup>. Alternatively this could be an isolated manifestation of a Plant family that had arrived near York sometime earlier. It is essentially just the 'proximity' of Great Longstone to Duckmanton that forms a basis for supposing that  $W^m(0)$ 's ancestors may have come from Great Longstone and that he may then have 'returned' from mid-Yorkshire to NE Derbyshire<sup>30</sup>. In attempting to add some justification to the Yorkshire hypothesis, it might be proffered that the north Derbyshire Plant, Samuel, who apparently moved from Bakewell to Chesterfield (Figure 14.1) concurrently with the arrival of  $W^m(0)$  in nearby Duckmanton (Figure 15.10), could have been one of  $Tom(Y1)$ 's nephews. If so, this would imply that  $W^m(0)$  could have 'returned' some 40 miles from mid-Yorkshire, after 60 years, to live near a nephew Samuel of his supposed grandfather ( $Tom(Y1)$ ). As yet, the available evidence suggests however that  $Tom(Y1)$  was not as close as a brother to the apparent Bakewell father, Lawrence, of Samuel (Figure 15.3). In short, these conjectures of Plant family relationships have to be judged, on the basis of the available evidence, as doubtful.

### 15.2.4 Some other possible links for the North Derbyshire Plants

The available evidence, which will be outlined below, is in fact more directly amenable to separate ancestral connections of both the aforementioned Lawrence and  $W^m(0)$  to other Plants near Brand. Brand (near Buxton<sup>31</sup>) is only around 15 miles to the west of Great Longstone and it is the possibilities of Plant family connections with that area that will be examined further in this and subsequent Chapters. It was indicated earlier that the available evidence suggests that  $W^m(0)$  had a connection with 'Branside, Prestbury' and, instead of favouring such schemes as the above 'Yorkshire hypothesis', this and further evidence tends to attract attention to contemporary Plants beyond Buxton. In other words, it can be considered that there may have been connections between the various known Plants around Buxton and these were, in particular, in the parishes of Great Longstone (N Derbyshire), Prestbury (E Cheshire), and Leek (NE Staffordshire).

<sup>29</sup>Figure 15.1 shows another possible baptism for  $Tom(Y1)$  at Radcliffe in Lancashire. The year of the baptism at Radcliffe (1641) is the same as that at Great Longstone and so both of these recorded baptisms are similarly well suited to the apparent age of  $Tom(Y1)$ . Furthermore Radcliffe is also a similar distance from Bilton Ainsty, being about 50 miles to its WSW whilst Great Longstone is about 50 miles to its SSW.

<sup>30</sup>It is no more than the fact that Great Longstone is 15 miles west of Duckmanton that forms a basis for supposing the 'return' of  $Tom(Y1)$ 's grandson William from mid-Yorkshire, which is some 40 miles away, to NE Derbyshire and it needs to be added that this return was to a different location, 15 miles away, in NE Derbyshire.

<sup>31</sup>There were Roman baths at Buxton (Aqua Arnemetiae) and it may not have been unknown to the Romans that there were coal outcrops nearby on Axe Edge.



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Figure 15.6 NW Derbyshire by 1789 (from an Actual Survey by P.P. Burdett 1789) showing (1) Brand Side near (2) the triple point joining the counties of Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Cheshire (bottom left corner) and (3) Chelmorton *en route* to Great Longstone north of Bakewell (bottom right corner)

### 15.3 Sheffield area Plants from beyond Buxton

Three different, early Sheffield-area Plant forefathers were identified in Chapter 14. The possible origins of two of them, Lawrence of Bakewell and Francis of Buxton, are outlined below in conjunction with known information about the third, the stirp  $W^m(0)$  of the Duckmanton Plants. The Sheffield area Cutlers' Apprenticeship records and other information suggests that it may well be appropriate to look around 18th century Buxton for the origins of all three of these apparent early Sheffield-area Plant forefathers.

#### 15.3.1 Buxton around 1700

It is relevant to note that, though Buxton was developed into a fashionable Spa Town in the late 18th century<sup>32</sup>, it was less of a commodious centre around 1700. Though the 6th Earl of Shrewsbury had erected a capital mansion early in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I 'near the auncient Bathes of Buckstone' 'for the reception of strangers who then began to resort thither from distant parts of the kingdom'<sup>33</sup>, this mansion was taken down in 1670 by the Earl of Devonshire. By 1697, Celia Fiennes found 'the lodgings (at Buxton) so bad, two beds in a room, some three beds, and some four in one room .... and sometimes they are so crowded that three must lie in a bed'.<sup>34</sup> On her way there from Haddon Hall (near Bakewell) she had noted 'Its very difficult to find the wayes here for you see only tops of hills and so many roads by reason of the best wayes up and down that its impossible for Coach or Waggon to pass some of them, and you scarce see a tree and no hedges all over the Country, only dry stone walls that incloses ground no other fence'. Part of this route from near Ashford to Brand may have been along the old Roman road which was then followed quite exactly from Chelmorton to Buxton. Oral tradition at Chelmorton preserves the memory of long trains of packhorses standing in the village street and stretching back to the lead mine, waiting to take their panniers full of ore to the smelters<sup>35</sup>.

#### 15.3.2 A possible scenario for the nearby Plants

It would not be surprising if the 17th century Great Longstone Plants of N Derbyshire had connections with the area west of Ashford through Chelmorton to Buxton and beyond. Any Plants who travelled west from Great Longstone may have paused little in the High Peak Hundred of NW Derbyshire before they passed by Buxton to reach the lower lands of East Cheshire and North Staffordshire. Similarly, any who travelled east from Leek parish (NE Staffordshire) or Prestbury parish (E Cheshire), may have settled little in the higher, more desolate lands of the Staffordshire Moorlands and the Derbyshire Peak District, before they arrived around 15 miles to the east in the vicinity of Bakewell town and nearby Great Longstone (cf. Figure 15.6). Before the late 18th century, it seems likely that some of the pack horse trails from the Cheshire plains and from Leek parish passed by Brand and Chelmorton

<sup>32</sup>It was not until 1780 that the 5th Duke of Devonshire built Buxton Crescent with its former ballroom which now houses the town library. The seat of the Dukes of Devonshire was (and is) at the Chatsworth House estate, about 15 miles to the east, which is shown as the shaded area just east of Bakewell in Figure 15.2

<sup>33</sup>Joseph Hunter, 1819, *Hallamshire*, *ibid*, page 60

<sup>34</sup>John Heath (1993) *An Illustrated History of Derbyshire*.

<sup>35</sup>David Hey (1980), *Packmen, Carriers and Packhorse Roads*, *ibid*, pages 31, 51, 121.

## CHAPTER 15. POSSIBLE ORIGINS FOR THE SHEFFIELD PLANTS

en route to Great Longstone. This can be considered alongside the evidence that the two Chesterfield area Plant forefathers of around 1700,  $W^m(0)$  and Lawrence's son Samuel, have already been tentatively connected in records (Chapter 14) to *Branside, Prestbury* and Chelmorton<sup>36</sup> along the general course of this ancient, cross country route (cf. the somewhat altered road pattern by 1789 in Figure 15.6).

It might be misleading to suppose that the Brand Side now found in the north part of Hartington parish (NW Derbyshire) is that *Branside, Prestbury* which has been connected to  $W^m(0)$  of Duckmanton. However we can consider, for a moment, a hypothetical family at that place that is now called Brand Side. Before 1700, such a family might have considered baptising their children (if at all) somewhere other than at their parish church of Hartington (8 miles SE). They might, for example, have considered availing themselves of the parish records of Gawsworth (8 miles W), Leek (8 miles SSW), Longnor (5 miles SE), or Chelmorton (5 miles E) for example. Before Buxton (1718), the dates when the parish records of the surrounding churches began were Alston Field (1538), Leek & Lowe (1634), Longnor (1694), Gawsworth (1557), Macclesfield St Michael (1572), Hartington (1610), and Chelmorton (1580). Nearer to Gawsworth there was, for example, a known Plant family at Wincle. Though we do not consider them in detail in the Chapter it is relevant to note that they, for example, could fit with the aforementioned description *Branside, Prestbury* that has been associated with  $W^m(0)$  of Duckmanton. Wincle is just in Prestbury parish (East Cheshire) over the border from Leek (North Staffordshire) and it lies on the side of high ground about 3 miles NW of The Roaches. A Plant family at Wincle might have considered baptising their children at Leek (6 miles S), Gawsworth (5 miles NW), or Macclesfield (6 miles NNW) for example, which were nearer than their main parish church of Prestbury (8 miles NNW).

### 15.3.3 Lawrence Plant of Bakewell

As already noted, one of the Sheffield area Plant ancestors was quite feasibly the father, Lawrence, of a Samuel Plant who was of the large parish of Bakewell (North Derbyshire) and then of Chesterfield (NE Derbyshire)<sup>37</sup>. If we assume that this Chesterfield Samuel's father was indeed called Lawrence Plant<sup>38</sup>, we may then proceed to remark that Lawrence's quite uncommon name suggests that he may have been the one who was baptised in the large parish of Prestbury (E Cheshire), which surrounds Macclesfield and Gawsworth, (Figure 15.7(a)), or that he may have been a different, contemporary Lawrence who was baptised in the parish of Leek (NE Staffordshire) which adjoins it to the south (Figure 15.7(b)).

It then follows that it may have been a son Samuel of a Lawrence from the far side of the High Peak Hundred (NW Derbyshire) who arrived near Chesterfield (NE Derbyshire) in the years around 1700. This is about the same time as when  $W^m(0)$

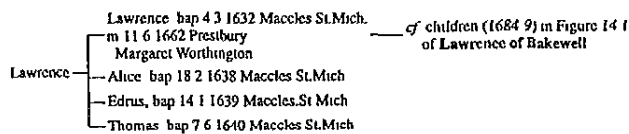
<sup>36</sup>As indicated in Figure 15.3, it is not entirely clear how a ?1700 Bakewell marriage, between a Samuel Plant and a Jane White, fits into the scheme of one or more Samuel(s) at Bakewell, Chelmorton, and Chesterfield.

<sup>37</sup>It was mentioned in Chapter 14 that the available information could be taken to indicate that this Lawrence's son Samuel had a connection with Bakewell's chapelry of Chelmorton (near Buxton) around 1710-15.

<sup>38</sup>It should be noted that some additional information in Figure 15.3 leaves some uncertainty about whether there may have been another Samuel in Bakewell parish. The Bakewell records contain a marriage for a Samuel just 11 years after the baptism of a Samuel to Lawrence.

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(a) Macclesfield St Michael in the parish of Prestbury (Cheshire)



(b) Leek (Staffordshire)

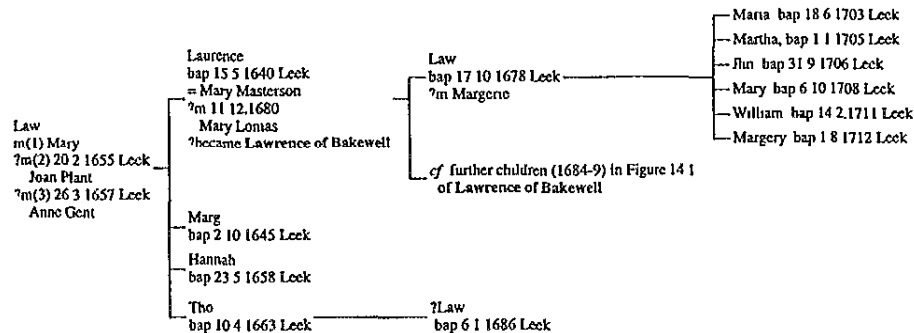


Figure 15.7 Possible origins of the Sheffield area Plant forefather *Lawrence of Bakewell*

also arrived near Chesterfield, at Duckmanton. This can be set against a background of developing trade and communications at that time between the counties beyond Brand (Cheshire and Staffordshire) at the far side of north Derbyshire and the Sheffield-Chesterfield area<sup>39</sup>.

In short, the available parish and apprenticeship records relating to their origins (Chapter 14) suggest that both Lawrence and  $W^m(0)$  may have originated from near Buxton (NW Derbyshire) or beyond, near the Cheshire-Staffordshire border. Provided that we assume that  $W^m(0)$  of Duckmanton was indeed he who was of *Branside, Prestbury*, essentially all the known possibilities for his and Lawrence's baptisms occur within the boundary that contains the two adjoining (large) parishes of Leek (NE Staffordshire) and Prestbury (E Cheshire). No other possibilities are (as yet) known (cf. Figure 15.1) for Lawrence in particular and, in a wide region of several counties around Brand, there are no other known possibilities for  $W^m(0)$ 's baptism<sup>40</sup>.

<sup>39</sup>The accounts for the 'Attercliffe group' of ironmasters (near Sheffield) show that their trade was starting to extend to Cheshire around 1700, with consignments being sold to the Cheshire market towns of Chester, Knutsford, and Nantwich in the first 15 years of the 18th century. Certainly, by 1749, the adjacent Staffordshire township of Leek was indicted in the quarter sessions for not repairing 'a great carriers' road . chiefly used by packhorses who carry salt out of Cheshire . and bring back malt ... upon a modest calculation above 100 packhorses loaded with salt pass weekly ..' — this route led to Chesterfield, near Duckmanton, though it passed through Hartington and Matlock some distance to the south of the Plants at Great Longstone.

<sup>40</sup>The known possibilities for  $W^m(0)$ 's baptism are at Gawsworth and Leek. The possibility at Gawsworth is for 1696 (Figure 14.4(d)). The small parish of Gawsworth, which contains Gawsworth Hall, is surrounded by the parish of *Prestbury* (East Cheshire). There are also three possible baptisms for  $W^m(0)$  at Leek (Figure 14.4(e)) dated 1698, 1702 and 1706. The latter date, for example, would imply that  $W^m(0)$  would have been aged 19 at the time of his 1725 marriage to Ann Webster at Ault Hucknall, at which he is described as 'William Plant of Duckmanton' (Chapter 9). The earliest known possible baptism, at Gawsworth, would imply that  $W^m(0)$  would instead have been aged 29.

### 15.3.4 Francis Plant of Buxton

Similarly, as for Lawrence, there are few known possibilities for the similarly uncommon name Francis Plant. This name appears in the parish records (Figure 15.8(a)) for Sheriff Hales (East Shropshire) and Seighford (West Staffordshire) which are around 20 miles SSW of Leek.

The Sheffield area apprenticeship records (Chapter 14) indicate that Francis Plant's son John arrived near Sheffield rather later than the other apparent Sheffield area Plant forefathers,  $W^m(0)$  and Lawrence's son Samuel. It also seems that this Francis may have come from further to the SSW near Sheriff Hales. By those times, the industry of the East Shropshire coalfield near Sheriff Hales was passing its peak and early skills from that area were in demand in the developing NE Derbyshire and S Yorkshire coalfield of Sheffield's Hallamshire. Though this was quite far, it can be noted that trade links were improving to that area by that time. By 1787, Birmingham could be reached twice weekly by Sim's cart for example as these Sheffield carriers ran a service over the hills via Ashford, Leek, and Newcastle-under-Lyme. Thus, it is not inappropriate to note that the parish records of Sheriff Hales contain in particular a Francis, with a son John Plant of just the required age (14) for matching a 1776 apprenticeship record for near Sheffield. This Cutlers' apprenticeship record mentions John Plant, son of Francis Plant of Buxton, which may suggest that, by 1776, this Francis may have travelled about 35 miles NNE from Sheriff Hales to near Buxton and that his young son John may then have travelled on to near Sheffield to take up an apprenticeship as a filesmith.

These different dates, together with their apparently different origins, might be thought to suggest a lack of connection between this Francis and the other supposed early Sheffield area Plant forefathers. We may note however that there were some parallels between the early Plants of East Shropshire and those arriving in NE Derbyshire in as much as their contemporary environments, both near Sheriff Hales and near Duckmanton, had been nurturing industrial developments that were to be of an utmost historical significance.

### 15.3.5 Plant brick men

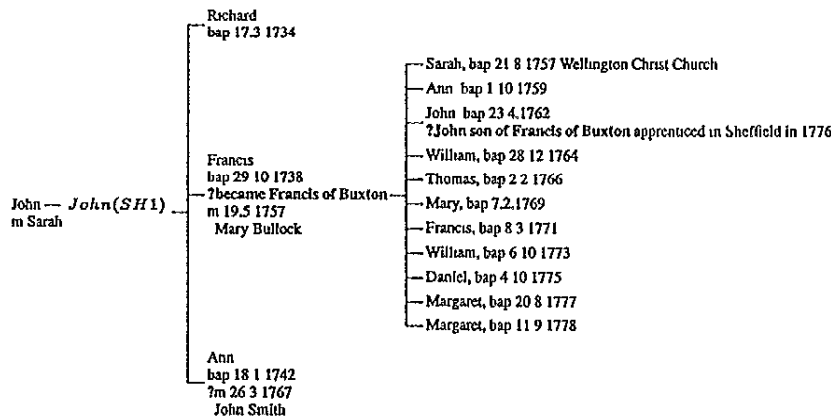
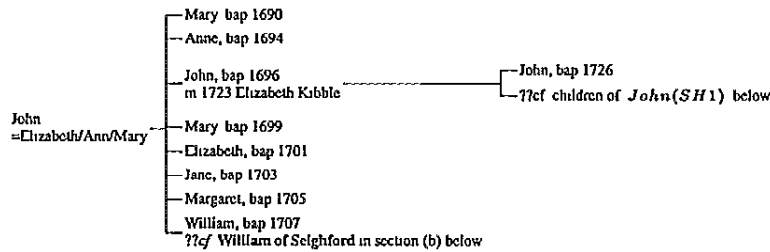
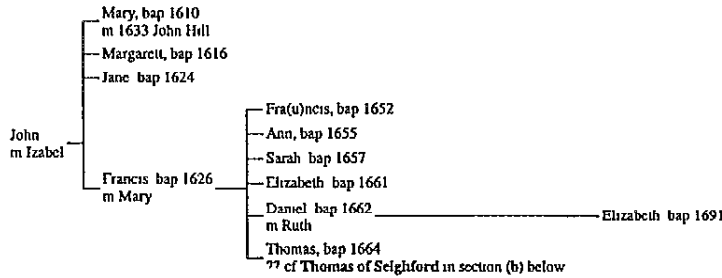
Figure 15.8 suggests that a branch of the Sheriff Hales Plant family may have travelled a further 10 miles south to around Pattingham and Seisdon (near Wolverhampton). At Seisdon, there are records<sup>41</sup> of two brick men, Plant and Price in the mid 1750s. It may be noted that these Seisdon brick men were presumably brickmakers and that they were contemporaries of the brickmaker  $W^m(0)$  of Duckmanton, which is near Sheffield about 55 miles to the NE.

We can accordingly note that the aforementioned Seisdon Plant brick man, who may have been from the Sheriff Hales family, was close by Abraham Darby's historic iron-making developments in East Shropshire. Sheriff Hales is now a pleasant, secluded village with a fine Manor House. In the early 18th century, it adjoined the now-abandoned East Shropshire coalfield<sup>42</sup>. It was in this coalfield, at Coalbrookdale, that Abraham Darby first successfully used coke in a brick-built blast furnace for

<sup>41</sup>The Victoria County Histories of England Staffordshire, Vol.20, page 192

<sup>42</sup>This historically important coalfield extended 3 miles east to west and 10 miles from Lilleshall, just NW of Sheriff Hales, to just south of Coalbrookdale

(a) Sheriff Hales (Shropshire)



(b) Seighford and Pattingham (Staffordshire)

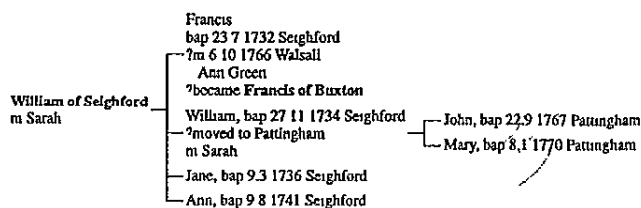
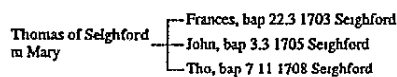


Figure 15.8: Possible origins of the Sheffield area Plant forefather *Francis of Buxton*

smelting iron<sup>43</sup>. It is reputed that common bricks had been made in East Shropshire long before 1750 though it was probably not until around that time that fire-bricks were made there<sup>44</sup>. Certainly by the late 18th century, fire-bricks were made from coal-baked fireclay from 3 clay strata near Wombridge, which is just 4 miles west of Sheriff Hales.

It seems that the brickmaker William Plant of Duckmanton may have originated around 1700 as a carpenter at *Branside, Prestbury*, which is some 35 miles NNE from Sheriff Hales. It may hence be no more than coincidence that, after settling at Duckmanton, this brickmaker *W<sup>m</sup>(0)* was also nearby a historic development in the production of iron and steel. It is known that *W<sup>m</sup>(0)* had a family connection with the famous Benjamin Huntsman, who was using coke in brick-built furnaces for his newly-invented crucible steel. When *W<sup>m</sup>(0)* arrived at Duckmanton by 1725, there was already industrial activity in that area. At Chesterfield near Duckmanton in 1697, Celia Fiennes saw '*coale pits and quarraes of stone all about*' and there were also iron works and potteries<sup>45</sup>. Nearer to Duckmanton, the inhabitants of Calow had protested in 1650 that '*the many carriages of Coale, leade, and milne stones*' were destroying their roads<sup>46</sup>. Ten miles to the north, bricks apparently first reappeared in Sheffield (since Roman times) in 1696, just before the arrival of the brickmaker *W<sup>m</sup>(0)* at Duckmanton. It is known that, by the late 18th century, this 'first' Sheffield brick building was being used by a step-uncle-in-law of the brickmaker *W<sup>m</sup>(0)*'s son Benjamin.

## 15.4 A supposed Great Longstone connection

The first known arrival of a Plant in Sheffield is in 1737 — there is a 1737 baptism of a Ruth Plant to a John Plant. The father John in this Sheffield baptism record could have been a John Plant from Sherburn-in-Elmet in mid-Yorkshire (30 miles north of Sheffield, Figure 15.5) or from Great Longstone in north Derbyshire (15 miles SW of Sheffield, Figure 15.4). By assuming that it was the latter, rather than the former, a *glimmer* of a picture begins to emerge of possible Plant relationships between Great Longstone and Sheffield and this picture is not incompatible with the baptismal possibilities for *W<sup>m</sup>(0)* away near Brand.

The contention is thus that there could have been a link between a John Plant who went to Sheffield by 1737 and *W<sup>m</sup>(0)* who, if it is the same William, apparently came from *Branside, Prestbury* to Duckmanton by 1725. It can hence be supposed that a decade or so after *W<sup>m</sup>(0)*'s baptism, which was quite likely near Brand, around 15 miles or so WSW of Great Longstone, a John Plant (Ruth's father) could have travelled 15 miles NE from Great Longstone to Sheffield. Thus, these contended links portray a plausible picture of Plants moving within a realistic circle of 10 or 20 miles around a Plant home base at Great Longstone.

<sup>43</sup> Abraham Darby came from Bristol to Coalbrookdale and rebuilt the then-derelict blast furnace with brick and giant bellows to successfully smelt iron ore with coke in 1709. It was nearby at Horsehay, 6 miles SW of Sheriff Hales, that his son Abraham Darby II and his partner established that coke was commercially superior to charcoal for the smelting and forging of iron (*The Industrial Revolution in Shropshire*, Barrie Trinder, 2nd Edition, 1981).

<sup>44</sup> Fire bricks had earlier been imported to East Shropshire from Stourbridge (Barrie Trinder, *The Industrial Revolution in Shropshire*, *ibid*).

<sup>45</sup> John Heath (1993), *An Illustrated History of Derbyshire*.

<sup>46</sup> David Hey (1980), *Packmen, Carriers and Packhorse Roads*, *ibid*, p 122.

### 15.4.1 A possible relationship between $W^m(0)$ and John

Including baptism data from near Brand (Chapter 14) enables the formulation of a simple scheme, if we adopt a hypothetical set of Plant family relationships that centre on Great Longstone. This scheme extends to Great Longstone's west, to Prestbury parish beyond Brand, and a similar distance to its east, to Duckmanton. The closest known Great Longstone relationship, by which we can connect  $W^m(0)$  of Duckmanton to John (father of Ruth) of Sheffield, is that they could have been cousins. This is apparent from the existing Great Longstone schemata of Figure 15.4.

In the Yorkshire hypothesis, which was considered earlier in this Chapter, Ruth's father John Plant in Sheffield could instead have been  $W^m(0)$ 's brother from Sherburn-in-Elmet (Figure 15.5). As has been indicated above however, there is more persuasive evidence (Chapter 14) for a link of  $W^m(0)$  to 'Branside, Prestbury' and this does not fit easily with a more distant Yorkshire hypothesis.

For the purposes of describing a simple Great Longstone contention for  $W^m(0)$ 's ancestry, we can accordingly begin by noting that the brickmaker  $W^m(0)$ 's father could also have been called William Plant. Three out of the four known possible baptisms for  $W^m(0)$  beyond Brand were to a father called William<sup>47</sup> (Chapter 14). The general evidence is amenable to an exploratory contention that  $W^m(0)$ 's father could have travelled 15 miles or so west from Great Longstone to around Brand (beyond Buxton), in accord with the evidence of the Cutlers' Apprenticeship records. From there, he could have had his son  $W^m(0)$  baptised (circa 1696-1706) nearby at Gawsorth (Prestbury) or Leek, where there are three suitable baptisms.

It remains to be considered, in later Chapters, whether or how the Great Longstone Plants might have related to early Plants who had long been based beyond Brand, such as at Wincle near the Leek-Prestbury border. It is already possible to consider below, however, the implications of the above contention that the Sheffield *Plant's Yard* Plants could have originated, via 'Branside' and Duckmanton, from a 'central' Plant family base at Great Longstone.

### 15.4.2 Implications for the Plant's Yard Plants

By adopting the above contention that pertinent North Derbyshire Plant relationships were centred on Great Longstone, we arrive at an implication that  $W^m(0)$ 's sons, *Ben(bellows)* and James, perhaps when they were in their teens before 1760, could have gone from Duckmanton to Sheffield in the wake of an elderly cousin, John Plant from Great Longstone, of their father. As indicated earlier, both *Ben(bellows)* and (apparently his brother) James went to Coalpit Lane near Broom Hall and, since the younger *Ben(bellows)* is known to have held many properties in Coalpit Lane around 1790, it has been supposed that this could have been a likely site for the '*Late Plant yard*' that is mentioned in local rate books of around 1780. The designation '*Late*' might mean that *Ben(bellows)* had disposed of a '*Plant yard*' of his own by 1779<sup>48</sup>. It is interesting, however, to speculate that such a yard could instead have

<sup>47</sup>Amongst various possibilities, this father William could have been Anthony's son William (bap 15.2.1650) of Great Longstone. Moreover this William could have been the uncle of the John Plant who first went to Sheffield (Figure 15.4) to become, in 1737, the father of Ruth Plant.

<sup>48</sup>It is quite conceivable that he could have acquired and then sold a yard of his own by that time, since he had married into a leading Sheffield family in 1766 and he is known to have been a bellows maker by the time of his daughter's baptism in 1768.



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been established earlier by his father  $W^m(0)$  of Duckmanton (bur 1769) or, in this simple 'Great Longstone contention', by  $W^m(0)$ 's cousin John Plant from Great Longstone (bap 1689) If this were so, it could follow that further (time consuming) examinations of the 18th century property records for Sheffield (cf Chapter 13) might eventually uncover some further clues.

### 15.4.3 Implications for a Plant-Eyre connection

It was commented in Chapter 11 that it may have been more than just coincidence that, around the time when  $W^m(0)$ 's sons arrived near Broom Hall, two NE Derbyshire Plants from near Great Longstone married into the Eyre family. This might imply for example that further information about the Eyre family could be relevant, at least to the circumstances of the Great Longstone Plants. Such information might moreover provide some clues that could then be related to the contention that there may have been a close family relationship between the Great Longstone and Sheffield Plants

Certainly, there is clear evidence for an Eyre-Plant connection near Great Longstone. This can be considered together with Eyre family data from the 1984 IGI<sup>49</sup> which suggests that the two Eyre brides of the Great Longstone Plants may have been sisters who had come from Chelmorton<sup>50</sup> (Figure 15.9(b)). Like other Eyre gentry, this Eyre family might have had an interest in lead and it may have been this that took them, perhaps temporarily, to Chelmorton with its lead mine. These Eyres from Chelmorton twice married into the Great Longstone Plant family at Edensor, near Great Longstone on the Duke of Devonshire's Chatsworth House estate (Figure 15.2). A brother of these brides, Solomon Eyre, had apparently moved by the time of his sisters' marriages from Chelmorton to the Plant bridegrooms' home parish of Great Longstone.

The activities of the Eyre gentry perhaps help to reveal the nature of the NE Derbyshire region over which Plant interests may have extended. The Eyre family had long held lead mines at Calver and Hassop (near Great Longstone). They also had a long-held interest in lead smelting mills at Dore and Totley, midway between Great Longstone and Sheffield, and at Barlow, midway between Great Longstone and Duckmanton (Figure 15.2). The Old Hay lead mill at Totley, for example, was built in 1585 and in 1589-90 the Earl of Shrewsbury leased it to Rowland Eyre of Hassop (near Great Longstone) in return for Eyre ceasing to claim the manor of Barlow<sup>51</sup>. In 1586, Rowland Eyre's lease of the Barlow smelting mills granted free passage to his '*servants, workmen carriers and jagers with horses and oxen waynes cart and carriages ... for bringing and carieing of lead ore*'<sup>52</sup>.

As well as at Great Longstone, there appears subsequently to be a close proximity between the Eyres and the Plants at Broom Hall, in Sheffield's SW chapelry of Ecclesall. The evidence for a possible Plant-Eyre connection near Broom Hall is simply as follows. It is known that  $W^m(0)$ 's son *Ben(bellows)* was to be found, at least by the time of more detailed 1790s records, with 'Broom Hall land' and based at nearby sites (Chapter 13). Broom Hall, near (Little) Sheffield Moor, had been inherited by

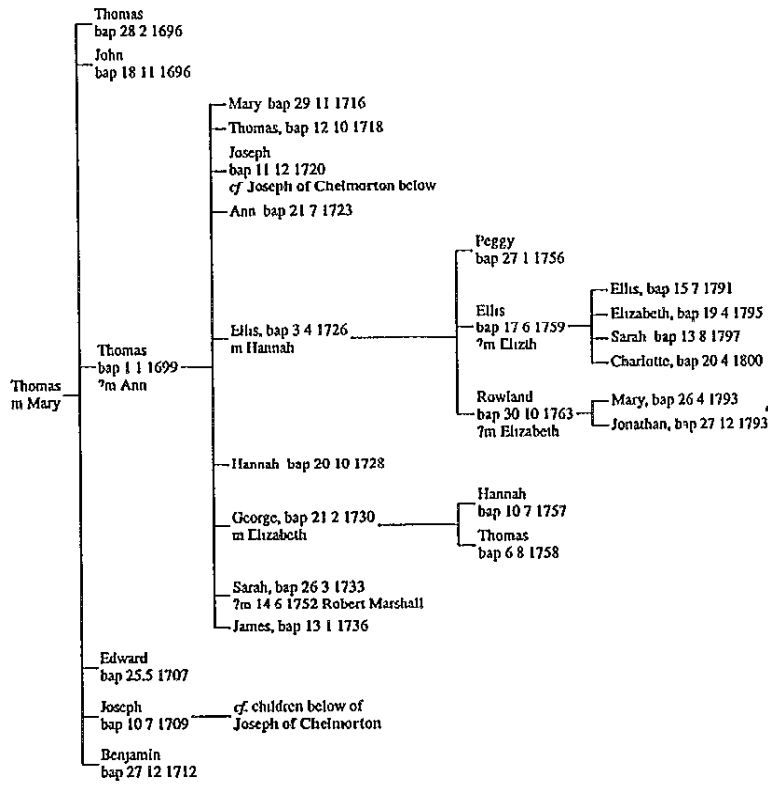
<sup>49</sup>International Genealogical Index, *ibid*.

<sup>50</sup>Chelmorton has been mentioned already in connection with  $W^m(0)$ 's Chesterfield contemporary, Samuel Plant

<sup>51</sup>David Crossley (1989), *Water Power on the Sheffield Rivers*, *ibid*, p 92.

<sup>52</sup>David Hey (1980), *Packmen, Carriers and Packhorse Roads*, *ibid*, pps 120-1.

(a) A scheme of Edale Eyres



(b) An Eyre family from Chelmorton

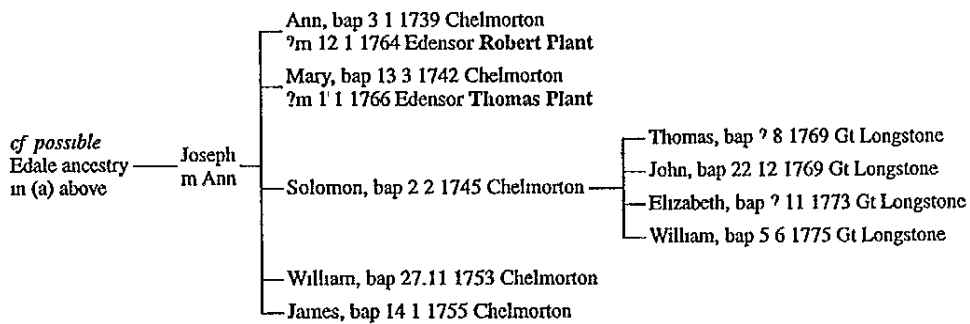


Figure 15.9: Possible ancestry of the Eyre brides of the Plants

## CHAPTER 15. POSSIBLE ORIGINS FOR THE SHEFFIELD PLANTS

a member of the Eyre gentry of High Low (Chapter 11). It may hence be of some relevance to note that Sheffield History<sup>53</sup> records that, around those times, it was 'the daughters of the Shores, the Eyres, the Steers, and the Batties' who were judged fit to be the queens of the Sheffield balls. This was around the time when  $W^m(0)$ 's son *Ben(bellows)* is known to have married into one of Sheffield's leading families

The detail of this evidence is such that it remains just a plausible contention however, for future consideration, that the Duckmanton Plants arrived at Sheffield in the wake of a Great Longstone Plant interest in Broom Hall, which had recently been inherited by the Eyre family of High Low (alias the Gell family of Hopton). Certainly, it is fitting to note that Great Longstone was just 5 miles south of the High Low home of the Eyres who had twice married into the Jessop family of Broom Hall<sup>54</sup>. It is necessary, however, to stress a proviso that, though there is clear evidence of a close family relationship between the Plants of Great Longstone and some nearby Eyres, there remains some uncertainty about the precise extent of the relationships between the Eyres who married into the Great Longstone Plant family and the nearby High Low Eyres, who inherited Broom Hall. The Eyres of High Low were the leading Catholic family of Derbyshire and they do not themselves appear in the 1984 Derbyshire IGI. There hence remains some uncertainty about the precise details of the relationships between the Eyres of Chelmorton, Great Longstone and Broom Hall, just as some uncertainty remains about that relationship between the Great Longstone Plants and those Plant's Yard sons of  $W^m(0)$  of Duckmanton who moved to near Broom Hall in Sheffield.

### 15.5 The arrival of Plants around Little Sheffield Moor

**D**'eliberationf in this Chapter indicate that it is quite feasible that  $W^m(0)$  of Duckmanton came from a region near Brand near Buxton. This agrees with the mention of '*Branside Prestbury*' in a Sheffield area Cutlers Apprenticeship record for a Willam who may well have been the same Willam as he who was the progenitor  $W^m(0)$  of the Duckmanton Plants. Both Williams had sons at Coalpit Lane near Sheffield and it seems likely that both these sons were sons of the same William, in fact of  $W^m(0)$  of Duckmanton who is known to have had sons called Benjamin and James<sup>55</sup>. There is also a possible scheme of Plant family relationships to illustrate the feasibility that Plants at Great Longstone, midway between Brand and Sheffield, can be tied into the origins of these Duckmanton Plants. There is thus a possibility that  $W^m(0)$ 's father may, for example, have originated from Great Longstone, which was the nearest known contemporary Plant base to Sheffield and Duckmanton. Such a possibility will remain a subject for further consideration.

The subsequent history of the Duckmanton Plants who came to Sheffield is better established than the 'hypotheses' and 'contentions' that have been outlined in this Chapter. A relatively detailed record for  $W^m(0)$ 's Sheffield descendants, through late Georgian and Victorian times, has already been uncovered. It accordingly seems quite clear that some descendants of  $W^m(0)$  of Duckmanton settled near (Little) Sheffield Moor, which adjoined Broom Hall. A particular source of information relates to

<sup>53</sup>Mary Walton (1948), *Sheffield its Story and its Achievements*, p104.

<sup>54</sup>Barbara Eyre of High Low near Hathersage had married into the Jessop family of Broom Hall in 1664 and John Eyre of High Low (alias John Gell of Hopton) married Isabella Jessop of Broom Hall in 1721

<sup>55</sup>Some further relevant evidence, for James for example, was outlined in Chapter 14

CHAPTER 15. POSSIBLE ORIGINS FOR THE SHEFFIELD PLANTS

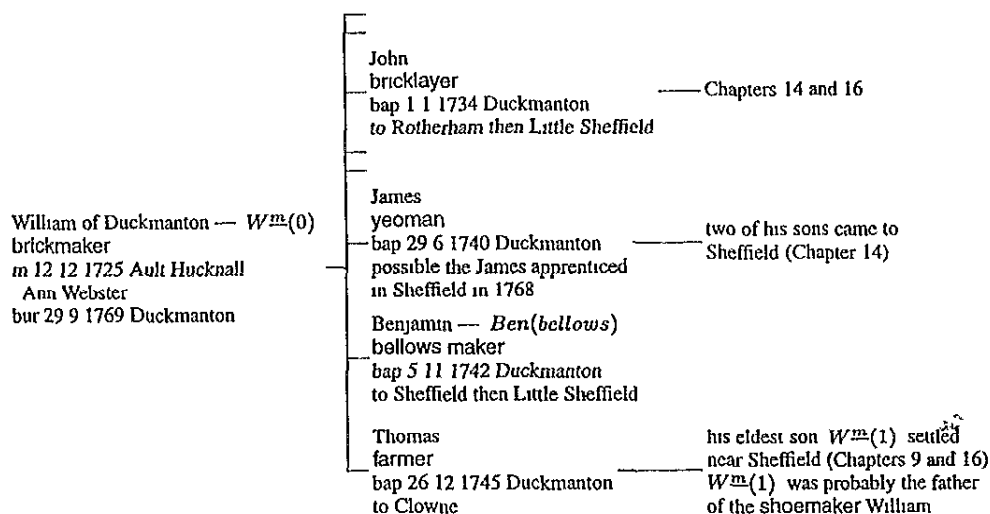


Figure 15.10. Duckmanton ancestors of the Sheffield (Plant's Yard) Plants

$W^m(0)$ 's son *Ben(bellows)* who is known in a standard book on Sheffield's history<sup>56</sup> as 'Benjamin Plant of Sheffield Moor'. An associated 'Late Plant yard', for which there are records by 1779, has been supposed to have been at or near *Ben(bellows)*'s Balme Croft property (Coalpit Lane) at the SW edge of Sheffield town (Chapter 13), though it might have been elsewhere within Sheffield's quite small SW chapelry of Ecclesall. It is not as yet clear whether this 'Late Plant yard' originated from an earlier generation of Plants.

*Ben(bellows)*'s Balme Croft property (Coalpit Lane) was near the head of Little Sheffield Moor. The Little Sheffield site that was subsequently to become widely known as Plant's Yard was about a mile to the south near this Moor's foot (Chapter 10). These two early Sheffield Plant family sites were evidently involved, in the late 18th century, in Industrial Forge conversions (Chapter 14). It may hold some Plant family significance that Eyre links to earlier Lead Smelting Mills, such as on the Barlow Brook midway between Great Longstone and Duckmanton, can be offered as an apparent central force in the early local expertise<sup>57</sup> for mechanised (giant bellows-driven) ore smelting and forging<sup>58</sup>.

In the 18th century Alsops Fields, at the southern edge of Sheffield town, extended eastwards from St Paul's Church, near the head of Little Sheffield Moor, down towards the Pond Tilt and the Pond Forge. These were near the confluence of the Porter Brook and the River Sheaf, which combined their wheel-turning flows at the eastern edge of Sheffield town. A mixed residential and factory area was planned across these fields by the Duke of Norfolk's steward, Vincent Eyre, and the plan was carried through, between 1776 and 1793, by Sheffield's most famous surveyor William Fairbank; pleasant houses lined the new streets. It was in the adjoining Pond Lane

<sup>56</sup>*Peeps into the Past*, *ibid.*

<sup>57</sup>Lead production centred on North Derbyshire from prehistoric, Roman, and mediaeval times — it is the only county specified as lead producing in the Domesday Book, with mines at Ashford, Bakewell, Crich, Matlock and Wirksworth. In the 16th and 17th centuries the riches of the North Derbyshire Gell and Eyre families depended on it until most of the ore was exhausted. Lead production involves crushing the ore, roasting it, and placing it in an air-blown furnace with coke and limestone.

<sup>58</sup>Lead ore and limestone were abundant in NW Derbyshire and iron ore and coal in NE Derbyshire

## CHAPTER 15. POSSIBLE ORIGINS FOR THE SHEFFIELD PLANTS

that Hannah Plant was bequeathed in the 1805 will of her husband ( *Ben(bellows)* ) the choice of either of two houses not far from the Howard Street home of her brother, Sheffield's 1790 Master Cutler, Joseph Ward.

Another beneficiary of *Ben(bellows)*'s will was *W<sup>m</sup>(1)* who was quite surely the eldest son of *Ben(bellows)*'s brother, the farmer Thomas Plant of Clowne (Figure 15.10); Clown(e) appears at the right edge of Figure 15.2 It was almost certainly this same *W<sup>m</sup>(1)* who was the father of the Sheffield shoemaker William Plant (1803-48). At least in the final decades of his life, this shoemaker lived near the foot of (Little) Sheffield Moor which was no longer wild moorland to the south of Sheffield town as it had, at the end of the 18th century, been enveloped by Sheffield's spreading buildings

Sheffield became in the 20th century the fifth leading city of Britain, both in terms of its total and its Plant populations. Even by modern times, some of the shoemaker William's descendants were still living near the first sites of the Plant forefathers who came to Sheffield (Chapter 17). Though (as yet) the detail is scant, it seems that it is possible to catch at least a few glimpses of an arrival in 18th-century Sheffield of the first (known) Sheffield Plant forefathers of these persistently Sheffield-based Plants. Some of the shoemaker William's descendants moved only slightly southwards with Sheffield's spreading outskirts to live on ex-NE Derbyshire land, which was annexed to South Yorkshire's expanding city of Sheffield<sup>59</sup>. The likely origins of the Sheffield Plants, along with the Sheffield Plant family descendants of the shoemaker William (1803-48), will be considered further in the next Chapters.

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<sup>59</sup>There were significant annexations of Derbyshire land to Sheffield in 1928, 1933, and 1967.

## THE BRIGHTSIDE PLANTS

by Jean Ray - Member No 138

I use the title "The Brightside Plants" for my branch of the Plants for that is the title given to us by Dr J S Plant who is doing extensive research into all the Plant families of Yorkshire and nearby counties

Grandfather PLANT, who was married to Annie CATCHPOLE and fathered Ernest, Percy and Edith, was George Alfred Plant, the second child of Joseph and Jane Plant. He was born on the December 1872 at Brightside. His father Joseph was born in 1846 also at Brightside and was an Engine Tenter by trade. Jane, his mother, was born Jane Steel in September 1848 along with her twin sister, Ann, to George and Eliza Steel (nee WILD) of Wincobank. When George Alfred was born, the family were living at the back of Dearne Street, Brightside. The family consisted of Joseph, Jane and their children, John H. born 1871 and George Alfred. By 1896 the family had moved to Owlter Lane, Brightside, for it was from there that George Alfred married Annie Catchpole, the oldest child of Sarah and John Catchpole of Darnall. They were married in December 1896 at Norfolk Street Chapel, Sheffield. George worked as a Master Butcher at Woodbourn Road, Attercliffe where the family lived over the shop, for George and Annie had three children, Ernest born 1897, Percy born 1899 and Edith born 1902. How George came to be a Butcher, a trade not followed by any other member of the family, I do not know. By 1933 George had retired from business and had moved to live at Handsworth, Sheffield. Both he and Annie continued to live there until their deaths, George in 1938 and Annie in 1941. They are both buried at Darnall.

Joseph PLANT and Jane STEEL were married in December 1869 at Brightside Parish Church. They had a further three children after George Alfred, Edith born 1875, Albert born 1877 and Annie born 1879 all at Brightside.

Joseph was the sixth of seven [possibly eight] children of John and Elizabeth PLANT [nee BARKER] who were married on the November 1829 at Wadsely. The children were -

William	born 1829	
Mary Ann	born 1832	
Elizabeth	born 1838	all at Brightside
Sarah	born 1840	
John	born 1843	
Joseph	born 1846	
Harriet	born 1849	
[George	born 1853]	----- see note below

Of these children, William married Ann SHARP at St Georges Church on Christmas Day 1851 and was a Steel Roller by trade. He was living at Spring Street at the time of his marriage. Ann Sharp was living at Glossop Road but was originally from Worksop where her father, Thomas, was a Farmer. I have traced five children of William and Ann, all born at Brightside except the first Thomas who was born at Masbrough, Rotherham. In the 1871 Census William and Ann are found living at the back of Orchard Road [near West St I think] with Thomas and John both working in the Steel works, and Harriet and William. There is no sign of Evangeline but at 16 years she could be working and 'living in' or visiting?

Harriet married Thomas SAXTON, an Engine Fitter, on the 25th July 1868 at St Thomas's Church, Brightside. They had three children by the 1881 census and were living at Station Road, Brightside.

There is a record of a marriage of Mary Ann Plant on May 1857 in Sheffield in the I.G.I. which could be Mary Ann. Unfortunately no spouse is given.

In the 1881 Census there is a George Plant, born at Brightside in 1852, living with his widowed mother, Elizabeth, who was born in the Ecclesfield area [inc. Wadsley] in 1810/9. She was formerly a servant and he was an Engine Tenter. This could be another child of John and Elizabeth.

Sarah could be the 'Sister Sarah' from Brightside who in the 1861 Census is living at 201 Cemetery Road in the household of Corn Merchant, William Plant, and his brother, John, a Draper and Tailor, working as a General Servant and aged 20 years. Also in the household was a sister of the brothers, Elizabeth, acting as the Housekeeper, for all three were unmarried and had been born at Shireoaks.

John Plant, the father of Joseph, was born on August 1804 at Adwick-on-Deerne. His parents were William and Ann [nee ASKEW]. He worked as an Agricultural Labourer at the time of his marriage though this occupation must have become increasingly precarious, living at Brightside as the family were, as the area became more and more industrialised. He later worked as a watchman. Elizabeth Barker, whom he married, was from Wadsley and was born in 1809.

William and Ann Plant of Adwick, were married on November 1803. They had one other child, Elizabeth, apart from John. Elizabeth Plant was born in January 1807, shortly after her father's death in November 1806. In the I.G.I. records there is a marriage of an Elizabeth Plant and Charles Wigfield, January 1830 at Wath-on-Deerne which could be the marriage of this Elizabeth. I have not been able to find a possible marriage for her at Adwick, ----- and a marriage of Ann Plant and John MORTON, in December 1822 at Adwick. I think that this Ann could be the widow of William remarrying. Both Wath and Adwick were very small communities with not many 'Plants' in residence. Ann Askew was born April 1780 at Adwick to John and Ann [nee Newsom], who were married at Adwick, October 1771.

William Plant, when he married Ann Askew, was described as 'of this parish' but there does not appear to have been a resident group of Plants at Adwick around this time or earlier. It would seem that William must have moved to Adwick from elsewhere, but where? I have found one record of a birth which could be William's, that of a son, William, b February 1777 to Mary Plant is recorded at St Georges, Doncaster.

The move of the 'Plants of Adwick' to Sheffield could have happened about 1828 for their mother, Ann, had died in 1827, John had met and married Elizabeth Barker in 1829 and his sister, Elizabeth, was probably married to Charles Wigfield by 1830.

The story of my Plants seems to be one which is typical of many of its period when families were moving away from the land and agricultural work to find a 'better' life in the developing of the Don Valley.





## MEMBER'S LETTERS

From Helle McLelland

Dear Mr Plant

The Journal of the Victoria Genealogical Society (of which I am a member) reports (February 1997) details of the Plant Family History Group

I felt I must write and tell you about the most delightful "pair of Plants" my husband and I knew in the 1950's

Mr Harold Plant (I think Harold was his given name) and his wife were our landlords when we lived at 3 Percy Street in Liverpool (we had the top floor of a delightful Georgian House, and Mr and Mrs Plant had the rest of the house, which they owned, together with, I believe, a couple of others in Percy Street) Mrs Plant was Belgian, and an antique importer. She once offered us the chance of coming "in" with her, so that our name would be on her bills of lading and she could thus import/export greater quantities. Alas, we were young, and my husband was a student, and we dared not take the risk. Mrs Plant exported to Canada and the US - and we eventually emigrated to Canada - what a chance we missed - we could have been "in on the ground floor" of the burgeoning antique trade of this country perhaps!! She also at one time offered us a fourteenth century oak chest for eight pounds, but we felt we could not afford that either. Mrs Plant seemed to live permanently in her dining room, which was at the front of the house on the ground floor - with sliding doors leading into a magnificent drawing room. She seemed to be a permanent fixture at her round table, which was piled with documents, and usually a place of crab legs, upon which she apparently lived. We never knew quite what to find when we arrived home, as often her hallway was blocked by enormous packing cases, and I remember particularly a magnificent crystal chandelier, which she eventually managed to get hung in her drawing room - it must have come out of a palace

However, she was, of course, a "Plant by marriage" and it is Harold whom you may be interested in. He was always dressed stylishly, with a black Homburg hat worn at a rakish angle. What he did, I am not sure, but we thought he was retired. He was always extremely courteous, greeting us with a half bow, his white moustache bristling dashingly. He also had a partiality for visiting a local public house - a practice discouraged by his wife. However, he had found the ideal solution to the problem of reaching this destination without incurring the wrath of "Mrs P" (as she was known to the students who rented rooms or flats in her houses). Immaculately attired, Mr Plant would arrive at his front door, calling to his wife that he was "needed across the street", and would thereupon hurry across to the opposite house, occupied by a family known to us (and, presumably, owned by Mrs Plant). They came to expect his arrival, and it became such a custom that he would enter their front door, greeting them courteously as he went straight through to - and out of - their back door on his way to his favourite hostelry! (Now I come to think about it, I believe "Mr P" used to "fix things" for tenants)

Mrs Plant furnished the students "digs" with all manner of furniture, and her basements were known for their treasure trove, which she did not seem to mind students making off with - so long as she knew where the pieces had gone. It was, however, not uncommon, for someone to come home to find their chest of drawers, or dining table to have disappeared, as "Mrs P" had remembered where it was, and needed it for some deal or other. So long as you looked after it, Mrs Plant did not mind whether you "acquired" a fabulous Buhl piece, or a common or garden deal table.

What a charming and marvelous couple they were - and how nostalgic it is thinking back to those days as I march firmly into my seventies!

I am interested in The Guild of One Name Studies, as I have been trying to trace my Hinson family (not very hard yet, I have to admit) - could you sent me any literature you have about the Guild?

Many thanks

Yours very sincerely

Helle McLelland  
829 Transit Road  
Victoria  
British Columbia V8S 4Z7  
Canada

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From Christine M Page

Member No 156

Thank you for your letter and the journals They make very interesting reading

Since my original contact with you I have made a little headway with my research of Eliza Jane Plant I now have her birth certificate and her parents marriage certificate Information is

Eliza Jane Plant born 6 December 1857 York her parents were  
Robert Plant Sgt 2 Dragoon Gards - residing in barracks Canterbury, Kent.  
Emily Whitwell - residing 5 St James Terrace, Fishergate, York  
Married on 27 June 1857 - Canterbury Register Office, Kent

Robert's father was Thomas Plant, deceased at time of the marriage, he was a gardener.

I still have no idea where Robert Plant was born It would seem that Emily travelled to Canterbury to be married as she was pregnant

I do hope a member will be able to see some contact from this info

I look forward to hearing from you again

Yours sincerely

---

From Pat Galloway

Member No 159

Are there any members of the Dynasty out there who descended from William Henry (Harry) Plant and Sarah Jane Dunkey both of Old Park, Dawley, Shropshire married around 1881 They had 14 children in all who scattered far and wide, from Sheffield to Canada in one direction and Bournemouth in the other, this being the only bit of information I have got

Children of Harry and Sarah Jane

Thomas - killed in action 15th August 1916  
 William Henry  
 George Gordon born 24th January 1885  
 Robert Cadman born 11th July, 1886  
 Bertha (my grandmother) died 13th November 1918  
 Elsie Lilliam born 18th July 1889  
 Sarah Helen  
 Leonard born 21st October 1892  
 Alice born 26th February 1894  
 Benjamin c. 3rd September 1895 died 21st March 1957  
 Eva born 27th January 1897  
 Sarah born 14th May 1898  
 William Gatica  
 James Cecil

Although my branch fell off the tree after the untimely death of my grandmother, I have got the family bible, why it fell into my hands I do not know when grandmother had older brothers I would dearly love to hear from anyone of this linneage but in particular descendants of Gertrude Annie born 13th April 1908.

I have done a lot of research into the ancestry back to Benjamin Plant who married Mary Cludd 2nd February 1743 at Meole Brace, Shrewsbury, (suggests he was a soldier, she was of military family) They lived in Little Wenlock Parish, under the Wrekin as we Salopians refer to it. As I have never managed to find a suitable birth for Ben- perhaps someone has a spate Benjamin born early 1700's I have also researched the Dunkeys, Cadmans, Hydes, Powis', etc. - my aim in life is to produce a complete history of both myself and my husband - tall order.

I shall be very happy to share my information with anyone to whom it is of interest, or indeed help anyone out with the Wolverhampton and Dudley areas which are easily accessible to me.

---

From Judith Kirkby

Member No 139

Dear Keith

Well, you did say you were short of info. for the magazine! This list was copied out for me by a friend who was researching male surnames in the index'

PLANT frmale entries in Bertram Merrell's marriage index, 1756-1800, male surnames A and B

16 8.1795      Thomas Allen m Nancy Plant Lower Peover  
 26 1 1768      William Benbow m Anne Plant. Audlem

16 10 1799      George Bostock (joiner) m Elizabeth Plant (widow)  
 Bartholomey/Macclesfield (two entries for the above, with slight variations)

5 1 1772 Daniel Barlow (servant m. Sarah Plant Prestbury  
 28 2 1769 William Berrington (widower, farmer) m Anne Plant Wynbury  
 29 3 1799 James Burgess (Prescot, Lancs) m Alice Plant Sandbach  
 21.1 1761 Robert Birchall m Elizabeth Plant Bartholomey  
 18 9 1759 William Bickerton m Abigail Plant. Acton  
 30 1.1800 William Bowden Burgess m Mary Plant Astbury

WKP note I have extracted all male Plants from Bertram Merrell's Marriage Index for Cheshire 1701-1755 and will include details in one of the forthcoming Journals

From Judith Kirkby

Member No 139

Dear Keith

You were asking recently for more information of any kind, relative to the Plant ancestry, which could be included in the Roots and Branches magazine for members of the Plant Family History Group. My own interest in the family stems from George Plant of Burbage, Derbyshire, lime burner and labourer, who married Sarah Bagshaw at Earl Steindale, Derbyshire, on 12 11.1814 Sarah was the middle child of a family of five She was born on 7 9.1788 to George Bagshaw of Leek and his wife Ann (nee Holmes) Sadly, I know no more about George Plant himself

However, George and Sarah had several children. Edward 1817, Ann 1819, twins Mary and Martha 1822 (I believe the date to be early January), Sarah, also 1822, Hannah 1826, Margaret 1829, Betty 1831, and Ellen 1833 With a large family such as this, even allowing for infant mortality (and especially bearing in mind the apparent fact of three children being born in one year), there must be many people who are descended from one or other of the family, but so far I have had no response to requests for information

Martha (who was at the time living at Sutton in Cheshire) married Jonathan Jackson on 27.12 1840 at Prestbury - where so many of my ancestors married Martha and Jonathan were my great great grandparents, on my paternal grandmother's side, and the parents of William Yarwood Jackson, a member of the farmer/butcher family which seems to have been well known around the Bollington region I have a considerable amount of information now about the Jackson family, thanks to some very kind distant cousins, but there is very little about the Plant connection. Any information would be gratefully received, and could then be circulated to the cousins by way of reciprocation

Last week I paid my first visit to Somerset House in London, and can thoroughly recommend this to anyone interested in finding more information about ancestors - tying up links between isolated names, for instance. The registers are freely available from 1858 almost up to the present day, divided into years, the names listed alphabetically The actual register gives quite a lot of information In the case of a woman, for instance, it may say whose wife or widow she is The people who prove the will are sometimes identified as family members, which could be useful in clarifying or confirming existing information

After finding an interesting entry in the register (and noted the details), the researcher can then pay a small fee (25p I believe) to be shown the will, or can arrange to have a photocopy

produced later in the day or sent on by post for a flat rate of 75p for a will and 25p for a simple administration document

While I was looking through the registers and ordering relevant copies for myself, I realised that the name Plant was more common than I had thought. I felt it might be helpful to other members of our group to have some of these details, and consequently spent most of the day, in the end, copying down Plant information, which I enclose for your use in any way you think fit. Unfortunately, I may have missed an occasional small detail, but I hope this will not detract from the usefulness of the list. It could be a start for somebody's research, perhaps, or another pointer for those who are stuck for want of a little more information somewhere. Years 1859, 1860, 1872, 1873, 1874 and 1875 covered

Another short piece of information. In a book entitled The History of Swineshead (Lincs) there is reference to Richard Plant, who in 1855 was the druggist, postmaster and receiver of the mail

Many thanks to the society for the amount of interesting information produced. I would be interested in a Plant family reunion at some time, (work, income and health permitting), but I feel I should know a little more about my own Plant ancestry first!

Kind regards

Yours sincerely  
Judith Kirkby

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WKP note      The register of wills mentioned in Judith's letter showing the information she refers to will be included in one of the forthcoming Journals. They include:

1859 Elizabeth Plant of Bromley, Kent  
1859 Henry Plant of Ipswich, Suffolk  
1859 James Plant of Cheadle, Staffs  
1859 John Plant of Leek, Staffs  
1859 John Plant of Stone, Staffs  
1859 Thomas Plant of Congleton, Cheshire  
1859 William Plant of Roydon, Norfolk  
1859 Ann Plant of Liverpool, Lancs  
1860 Eli Plant of Leek, Staffs  
1860 Elizabeth Plant of Loughborough, Leics  
1860 James Plant of West Bromwich, Staffs  
1860 James Plant of Macclesfield, Cheshire  
1860 John Plant of Ashborne, Derby  
1860 Joseph Plant of Cheadle, Cheshire  
1860 Reuben Plant of Kingwinford, Staffs  
1860 Robert Plant of London  
1860 Sarah Plant of Holmes Chapel, Cheshire  
1860 Thomas Plant of Holmes Chapel, Cheshire  
1872 Allen Plant of Shrewsbury, Shrop  
1872 Anna Plant of Hammersmith  
1872 Edward Plant of The Graving Duck Tavern  
1872 Edward Plant of Gloucester  
1872 Henry Plant of Over Peover, Cheshire

1872 James Plant of Wolverhampton  
 1872 James Plant of Manchester  
 1872 John Plant of Thornccliffe, Staffs  
 1872 Jonathan Plant of Davenham, Cheshire  
 1872 Mary Ann Plant of Bardwell, Suffolk  
 1872 William Plant of ?  
 1873 Catherine Plant of ? Staffs  
 1873 Henry Wm Cordwell Plant of Burley Fields, Staffs  
 1873 John Plant of Silverdale, Staffs  
 1873 William Plant of Lilleshall, Shrop  
 1873 William Simpson Plant of Warlingworth, Suffolk  
 1874 Elizabeth Plant of Heaton Norris, Lancs  
 1874 James Plant of Trowse Newton, Norfolk  
 1874 John Plant of Bristol  
 1874 Joseph Plant of Gnoshall, Staffs  
 1874 Mary Catherine Plant of Sheffield  
 1874 Robert Plant of Blackley, Manchester  
 1874 Samuel Plant of Hyde, Cheshire  
 1874 Thomas Richard Plant of East Hammersmith, London  
 1784 Ann Plant of Stoke on Trent, Staffs  
 1875 Ann Plant of Heaton Norris, Lancs  
 1875 Benjamin Plant of Cheadle, Staffs  
 1875 Edwin Plant of East/West Retford, Notts  
 1875 Emma Plant of Leek, Staffs  
 1875 George Thomas Plant of Brierley Hill, Staffs  
 1875 James Plant of Doncaster, Yorks  
 1875 Joseph Plant of Wolverhampton  
 1875 Joseph Plant of Wheelock, Cheshire  
 1875 Maria Plant of Chelsea, London  
 1875 Rebecca Plant of Oldbury, Worcs  
 1875 Richard Plant of Bath Farm, Suffolk/Stoke Prior, Worcs  
 1765 Susannah Plant of Twyford, Bucks  
 1875 William Plant of Nantwich, Cheshire  
 1875 William Plant of Dresden, Trentham, Staffs  
 1875 William Dean Plant of Sandbach, Cheshire

I am now looking for some 'kind sole' who would be prepared to collect information from the registers for the missing years

~~~~~

From Gwenda Gorley

Dear Mr Plant

After reading about your group in the Oct issue of the N Z Genealogist magazine, I thought you might like to hear about an Emma Plant who played a part of my mothers working days before her marriage in 1926

My mother, Ivy Reid, was born in 1904, the youngest child of George and Alice Reid of "Parawai" Thames, New Zealand

When she was about 15-16 years of age was apprenticed to her mother's favourite dressmaker, a Miss Emma Plant of Mary St Thames N Z

Emma Plant was a beautiful sewer, an expert cutter and made only very high quality garments

My mothers wedding gown, and much of her trousseau was Emma's work, indeed most of my mothers tray claths, supper cloths and doillies that graced our early home was Emma Plant hand work

As a small child I remember visiting Emma Plant's shop in Mary St, being made a great fuss of and being given a biscuit while my Granny Reid had a dress or coat fitted

I also remember going out the back of her shop and being shown her wonderful fern and aquilegia flowers.

Emma Plant was deaf and had a job speaking but her skills taught to my mother made such a difference in our growing up years.

I do hope this might be of interest to someone in your group, Emma Plant would have been buried at Shortland Cemetary, Thames, New Zealand.

Regards  
Gwenda Gorley  
1146 New North Road  
Mt Albert 1003  
Auchland  
New Zealand

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From Jean Ray

Member No 138

Dear Keith

Thank you for the latest Journal, as usual it makes most interesting reading

You ask about support for the idea of having a 'family' gathering for the Millenium It sounds like a very good idea to me I would certainly want to support it and will encourage others of my family to do so

Could I request through you if there is anyone in the Group who has information on one of my 'lot'? He is WILLIAM PLANT, living in Adwick-on-Dearne, Yorkshire at the time of his marriage in 1803 to ANN ASKEW He died at Adwick in 1806 but where was he born? I can find no evidence that his parents were an Adwick family I think his father was called John

Best Wishes

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From Betty Pyman

Member No 155

Dear Keith

I don't know if the following is the sort of request you print in 'The Plant Family History Group'. I am trying to trace my cousin Wilfred Plant or any descendants of his. Wilfred was born in Guildford, Surrey on 31 October 1912

Father Ralph Plant (Burslem, Staffs)  
Mother Lily Brooks (Guildford, Surrey)  
Married 8 July 1905 Stoke next Guildford

Ralph Plant was killed in France 1915. I have his Army records. Lily died December 1912 when Wilfred was only two months old. It appears that Ralph remarried before going to France. This marriage obviously fell apart when Ralph was killed and Wilfred was put into an orphanage in Wiltshire. At the age of eight or nine he was sent to the Duke of York's Military School, Dover, Kent. As a soldier's orphan this was made possible. I have had this confirmed. In 1927 Wilfred joined his late Father's regiment, the R O Y N I's as a Boy Bugler. This also has been confirmed. It appears that Wilfred survived W.W.II when and where he was demobilised I cannot discover. As I don't know his Army number I find it difficult to trace him through his Army records. I contacted his regiment at Minden House, Pontefract but unfortunately they couldn't give me much help. I also wrote to the DHSS but they no longer pass on any letters to anyone receiving a pension. Wilfred had two sisters

Emmie born 1906  
Alice born 1909

It is possible there was another son born 1911 with the name of Ralph. This hasn't as yet been confirmed. I would be most grateful for any help or advice you could offer. Any letters etc., would be answered.

Many thanks  
Yours sincerely



Betty Pyman

From Frances Plant

Member No 153

Dear Keith

I am including a few bits and pieces I have gathered over the last few months regarding the 'Plant's' which I hope may be of interest to somebody

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Sutton Library 19 8 97  
Bookshelf  
The East Norfolk Poll and Register 1835



Names of electors with their places of abode arranged under the Parish where property is situated

Henstead Hundred, Trowse Newton  
PLANT John

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Family Record Centre Census information

1851 Paddington H0107 1467 29  
7 Channond Place? St James Marylebone Paddington  
PLANT Martha 40 Nursemaid from Suffolk Okley?

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Guildhall- index to Fire Insurance claims 1776-1787  
PLANT George Little Windmill St. 30 Grinder  
437263 11936/288  
PLANT Thomas Nr Arundell St, Water ST  
(coachmaster, stablekeeper) 415978 11936/276

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London Record Archives (GLRO)  
08 07.1816 Marriage PLANT Charles St Mary's Islington  
24 9 1873 Christening PLANTE Helen Louise Mary  
St Stephens Shoreditch;  
Father = Stuart Blachford? [shipping agent]  
Mother = Helen Louise Mary  
9 Albert Terrace, Grove St Road S Hackney

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I have also been given a copy of a conveyancing indenture from 1863, whereby Miss Eliza PLANT (living in Dorking, Surrey) bought 3 properties in Park Road, LEEK for £250 from James WHISTON, William GATTON and Joel BALL. If anyone is connected to Eliza, I would be happy to send a copy

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Thanks for the work you do for the society.

Frances Plant