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Roots and Branches



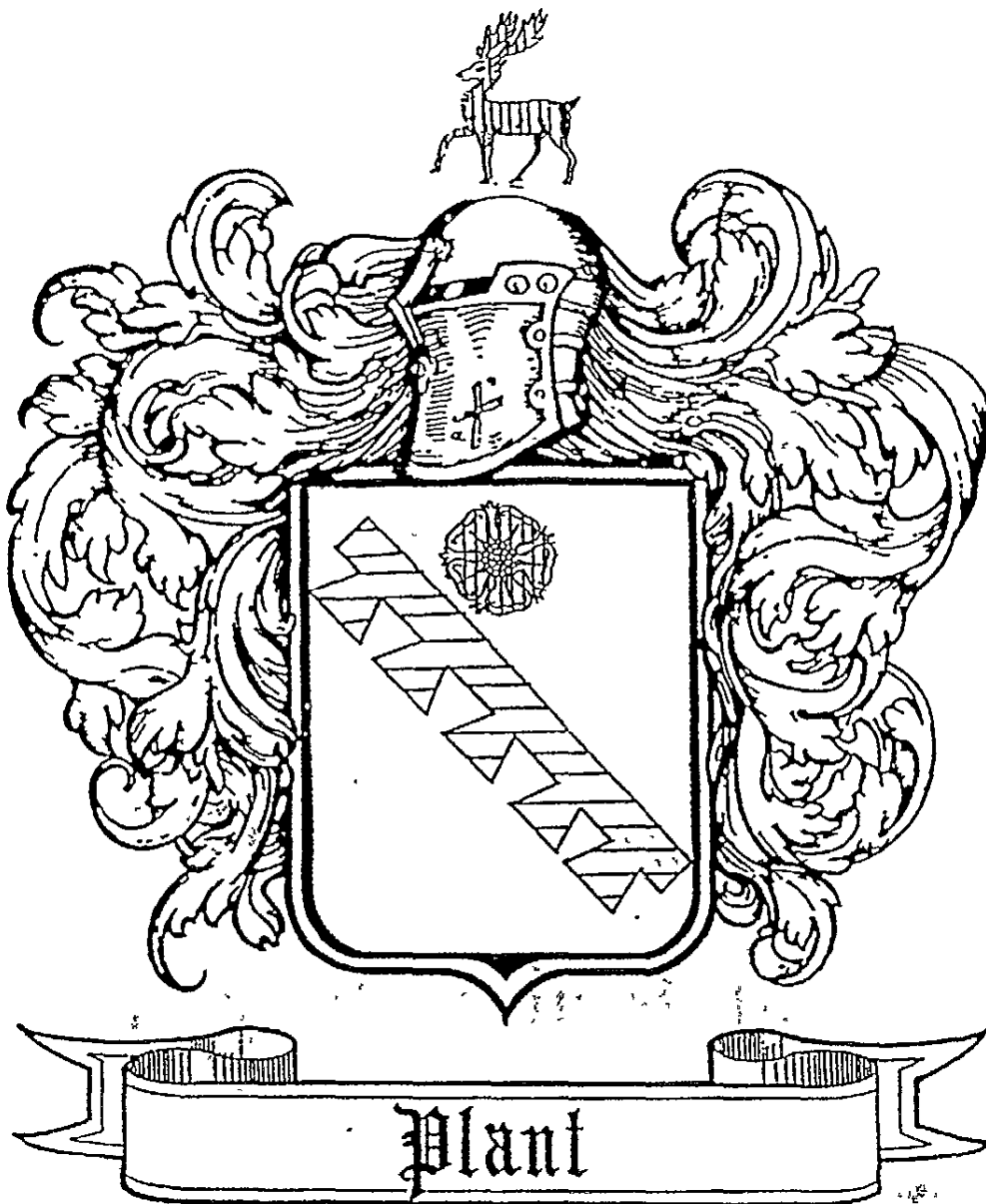
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The Official Journal of The Plant Family History Group

Issue No 16 July 98

Prepared by William Keith Plant
22 Chapel Croft
Chelford
Cheshire
SK11 9SO
Telephone No. 01625-860074

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 GULE."

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

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

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

"A RED STAG WALKING."

ARMS	ARGENT, A LABEL IN BOND AZURE, IN CHIEF A ROSE GULES
CREST	A STAG, TRIPPANT GULES
MOTTO:	NUNGUAM NON PARARUS - NEVER UNPREPARED

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MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

No Name

Address

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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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 Stan Plant	e19c Denton Lancs/19c Leicester/ 20c Rounds Northants/
45	Mr David Johnson	19c Kidsgrove/
47	Mrs S Robson	General/
51	Mr Gerald Plant	m19c Goostrey Cheshire/L19c e20c Salford Lancs/
52	Dr John S Plant	19c Sheffield Yorks/e19c Clowne Derbyshire/
59	Mr Nigel Burroughs	L18c 19c Burslem + Longton Staffs/
65	Mr D J Plant	Any period Cheadle Staffs/

69	Mr Andrew Plant	M18c + M19c Little Bowden and Market Harborough/ 19c London
71	Mr G Brian Plant	Any period Cheshire/
74	Mrs Alice D Mercer	19c Leicester/L19c Nottingham/
75	Mr M J Plant	e19c Shropshire/e19c Cheadle Hulme Cheshire/
85	Mr John E Ransley	18c + 19c Staffordshire/
89	Mrs Denise F Weston	Any period Fenton + Cheadle + Longton Staffs/
90	Mrs M R Lake	m18c Suffolk/
95	Linda Shields Wheeler	17c Stafford/any period Connecticut USA/
98	Deanne Richards	19c Eckington Derbyshire/
104	Mrs Liz Plant	17c + 18c + e19c Wolverhampton/
108	Mrs Stella Kornfein	L19c Wisbech Cambs/L19c Battersea London/
110	Mrs Myrtle Reid	L19c + e20c Darlaston + Walsall + West Bromwich, Staffs/
111	Mr Malc John Plant	Any period Sibsey Lincs/
113	Mrs Heather Plant	L19c Hackney Middlesex/
114	Mr John Russel Ingamellis	18c Lincs/
115	Mrs Pat Herring	e19c Ashley Staffs/L19c Wheelock Cheshire/
116	Miss Joan Plant	e19c Bristol/
119	Mrs Florence Plant	L19c Staffordshire/
121	Kathy Compagno	19c West Bromwich + 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/
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/
151	Miss Tessa Pilsbury	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/
161	Mr Antony C H Farnath	19c 20c Black Country, West Midlands/
162	Aloa Dereta	Any Period pre 1860 Leek Staffs/ m 19c Sheffield, Yorks/
163	Mrs Joyce Thomas	m 18c L19c Lillishall, Staffs/ m 19c L19c Newport, Shropshire

164 Evelyn M Pitts

L 19c Barrow-in-Furness, Lancs/
m 19c Cradley Heath, Staffs/

165 Mrs Gillian Jenkins

m 19c Wolverhampton + West Bromwich, Staffs/

MILLENNIUM GET TOGETHER

The get together has been arranged for Saturday 9 June 1999 at Chelford Village Hall Full details of the programme and the booking form are enclosed

The original intention was to have the get together over two days but, after due deliberation by the organising committee, it was decided to have a concentrated one day event It was felt that to include two many visits would fragment the get together 'We have therefore changed from the original plan and will now only include one visit (a tour of Plant connections in South Cheshire and North Staffordshire) supplemented by a 'getting to know' you session plus a couple of relevant talks in the morning and a celebratory dinner in the evening We also plan to have on show in the Hall selections from the Libraries of the Family History of Cheshire, The Federation of Family History Societies and The Guild of One Name Studies

It was also felt that a single day event would enable visitors, particularly the ones from overseas, time to visit the various attractions of Cheshire. I have therefore included with this Journal a selection of leaflets covering principle attractions near to Chelford As a guide and from a personal opinion point of view, I would suggest that you take time to visit,

Quarry Bank Mill	Tatton Hall
Gawsworth Hall	The Telescope at Jodrell Bank
The town of Knutsford (Mrs Gaskell the author lived there)	
Arley Hall (The Plants had a farm on this estate.)	
Capesthorpe Hall	The Salt Museum at Northwich
The Silk Museum at Macclesfield	

All the above are within 30 minutes car drive of Chelford Slightly further afield is Chester (The county town of Cheshire and an old Roman city) and Manchester (The home of Manchester United and the centre of the Industrial Revolution) Both these cities can be reached with one hour from Chelford They are also accessible quite easily by train

For any of you wishing to stay over I have enclosed details covering accommodation in the area around Chelford If any assistance is required relative to booking please contact me

The programme for the Saturday is shown on the enclosed 'Flyer' and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible next year - bring the family

A map showing the location of Chelford Village Hall is shown on the reverse side of the Programme details.

Let's make it a celebration - after all, it will be a further 1000 years before the opportunity occurs again I would like to think that in the year 3000 the Plants will be holding the next Millenium possibly trying to imagine what it was like to live in the year 2000 and thanking us for establishing the basis for a 'Plant' dynasty. If you consider the changes that have occurred since the year 1000 and the fact that change is occurring at an ever increasing rate, it is not possible to comprehend what life will be like at the end of the next 1000 years One thing is certain however, and that is that you cannot change the past and together with our ancestors we have created the present (for good or bad) I feel quite proud of the Plant name and hope that in some small way we, as a family, have helped to improve the way of living over the last 1000 years since the name was formed.

Best regards

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Over the past six months five new members have joined the Group

Firstly, Antony Farnath of Wolverhampton in the West Midlands whose interest in the Plant family is as a result of his son marrying a Judith Mary Plant whose father was born in the 'Black Country' area of the West Midlands. Antony was already an experienced researcher being a member of The Guild of One Name Studies for the name of Farnath. I understand that his in-laws have connections with the area around West Bromwich and is interested in hearing from members with similar interests. Antony is member No 161.

Early in January I received a telephone call from Aloa Dereta who was spending some time in the UK researching her ancestors including the Plants of Leek in Staffordshire and Sheffield in Yorkshire. The connection between Leek and Sheffield is from an Edward Lazarus Plant who was a Silk Twister born 1 April 1833 in Leek and who married a Charlotte Evely Garland (born Doncaster) in Sheffield in 1853. Their son, Cornelius, was born 2 February 1856 in Sheffield moving to Salt Lake City, Utah where he married Eliza Louisa Watson. Cornelius and Elizer's daughter, Frances Minnie, who was Aloa's grandmother was born in 1882 in Kaysville, Davis, Utah. Details of Cornelius and Eliza Louisa were included in Journal No. 13, page 18, from information submitted by Member 121, Kathy Compagno, who obtained the details from the Family History Library Catalogue of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Edward Lazarus Plant was the great, great grandfather of Aloa, Edward's parents being William Plant and Ann Cunnington. William and Ann and their family became affiliated with the Latter-day Saints Church in 1838 but did not emigrate until 1863. They moved for a time over to Old Brompton near Chesterfield, Derbyshire and then returned to Leek where they lived until sometime after 1851. According to Aloa they went to America on the ship Amazon, a passenger on the ship being Charles Dickens who wrote about the trip in one of his essays. Aloa, eventually became member No. 162, has now returned to the USA after spending 18 months in the UK.

As mentioned previously, Aloa's main researches centred around the Leek area and she has made available a complete list of all Plant references in the Leek Parish Registers covering the period 1634 through to 1850. If you think that the information listed in this record may be of assistance please contact me.

The next member of the Group, Member 163, is Joyce Thomas who has just commenced her investigation into her roots and is looking for information relative to a Thomas Plant, a saddler, who lived in the Lillishall Staffs or possible Newport, Shropshire, area in or around 1830 - 1890. If anybody has information on Thomas please contact Joyce direct.

As a result of information on the Internet, our next member, Evelyn M Pitts wrote to me requesting details of the Group. Her main interest at present is in the Cradley Heath, Staffordshire where her great grandfather, Benjamin (Cabbage) Plant was born on 5 September 1851. Benjamin was a Steel worker and married a Nancy Christine Hingley on 6 May 1875 at St Georges, Barrow-in-Furness, Lancashire. They had a number of children.

John b 23 June 1878 believed to have been banished to Australia for stealing
Rosehannah b 15 Jan 1880 in Barrow-in-Furness m George Henry Fleming
Phyllis b 30 March 1882 in Barrow-in-Furness m Benjamin Arthur Rogers
Edith (Edie) b 28 May 1884 in Barrow-in-Furness m Edgar Heath

Mary b 1 Mar 1885 in Barrow-in-Furness

Robert Henry b 19 Feb 1890 in Barrow-in-Furness m Gertrude Glover

According to Evelyn, Benjamin (Cabbage) Plant's father was Joseph Plant and it is this Joseph that Evelyn is particularly interested in. I know that there are a number of members with specific connections with Cradley Heath which I think was the chain making centre of the Black Country Industry. If you think you may be connected 'way back' please contact Evelyn. One other suggestion Evelyn, is to place an advert in the Black Country Bugle which is a monthly paper dedicated entirely to matters past in the Black Country area of the West Midlands, England. The address of the paper is

Black Country Bugle, Bugle House,
41 High Street, Cradley Heath,
Warley, West Midlands, B64 5HL

Evelyn is Member No 164

The last member to join is No 165, Mrs Gillian Jenkins who, when looking through the Genealogical Research Directory, found the Plant Family History Group. She subsequently wrote to me requesting information on David Plant who married Ann Lambert on 17 July 1843 in Wolverhampton. They had a daughter christened Hannah Lambert Plant in 1855 when living in Dartmouth St West Bromwich. Hannah married Richard Crowcroft having seven children, one of which, Elizabeth Ann Crowcroft, was Gillian's grandmother. In view of the West Bromwich connection I put Gillian in touch with Member No 121, Cathy Compagno, and, yes, you may have guessed, they are related way back. They are now busy exchanging information, photographs etc. It's nice to know that the Group can connect various members' researches. Apart from anything else, it can save a lot of research time.

Information from the Staffordshire Burial Index is now nearly complete (I have just received the last batch of details and a full print out of all the Plant extracts) and I am at present negotiating a rate with the B.M.S.G.H. covering a similar set of records from the Staffordshire Marriage Index. This listing will follow on in the Journals after completion of the Burial Index.

This Journal includes a new theory by Dr John Plant relative to the origin of the Plant name - possibly originating from the Plantagenets. My father, who died in 1962 was in the habit of saying that we were descended from the royal line and passed on to me claims relative to this connection made by a member of the Plant family early in the 19th century. The claim was included in a newspaper article published in, I believe, the Manchester Guardian, sometime before the second world war. The article in its entirety is as follows

"Queries

(1593) THE PLANTAGENETS The late Mr Shirley was in the habit of saying that the descendants of the Plantagenets must now be looked for among the humbler classes of Englishmen named Plant; and I think that the review of a genealogical book in the TIMES said that a turnpike collector of that name, in Buckinghamshire, had derived a lineal descent from the Royal family in the Plantagenet lines. In an old document now before me, I see the name of William Plant, of Winsford, in Cheshire, who also claimed a royal ancestry, and he had a son, Samuel Plant, who lived a hundred years ago at a place called Lach-Dennis, near Northwich, but who afterwards removed to Wincham. His fifth son, Uriah Plant, published in 1829 a curious volume of "The Principal Events" in his own life, a book rarely met with in these days, for it was of no public interest, although noticeable as having been printed in Middlewich. He refers in its pages

to a Rev Richard Jones, who was curate at Great Budworth, and I should be glad if any of your readers could give some account of this reverend gentleman, and of some small things which he is said to have carried through the press. What became of the Plants I know not, but if there are genealogical incidents connected with them, it must be interesting to hear some record of them

A Bookworm”

So there you are - maybe we are the descendants of the Plantagenets and our forebears were repeating information that may have been passed down from generation to generation

Incidentally, after extensive research I managed to locate a copy of Uriah's book. The book is a fascinating account of Uriah's life with many references to other members of the family. As a result of lending £2,000 (a lot of money in those days) to a member of his family and never being repaid, Uriah went bankrupt and had a number of difficult years before establishing himself as a Salt Agent. In his book he will not name the relative to whom the money was lent, referring to him as AB. Uriah does say, however, that AB was a flour dealer in Stockport and by looking through the commercial directories for Stockport for the period in question I have managed to establish the identity of AB. A mystery solved after nearly 200 years. Uriah himself was very involved right through his life with the Wesleyham Methodist Society. If time permits, I will include extracts from his book in one of the forthcoming Journals.

I hope the contents of this latest Journal are of interest to you and please keep on forwarding information that can be included in our Journals.

PS Don't forget to return your Booking Form for the Millennium Get Together if you intend to attend.

Chapter 16

Origins of the Plant name

A VIEW WITH PARTICULARITY TO ITS MEANING IN NW ENGLAND

The deliberations of this Chapter consider the origins of the Plant name. Supplementary theories are formulated beyond those that have traditionally been recognised. It seems that the Plant name could have developed mostly near medieval Lancashire — this appears to have implications when choosing a theory to be judged the most appropriate for the early meaning of the name.

16.1 Theories of Plant origins

Traditional theories for the origins of the Plant name do not take explicit account of Plants in the north west of England. It is known that Plants existed in north Staffordshire by 1381, and near the border between Flint and NW Cheshire by 1301¹. Before then, it has been contended that most Plants could have originated in Lancashire to Cheshire's north². This takes the ancestral course back to theories of the Plant surname's likely origins, a topic that is fraught with difficulties in as much as the scant data is open to various interpretations.

Despite the uncertainties, a fuller debate of the possibilities will be presented in this Chapter, as this is no doubt of interest to most who have mused on the name. The recent evidence seems to imply a need to reappraise the traditional theories. Amongst the conjectures that are assembled here are ones of opposing meanings for *Plant* and, indeed, such counterpoised debate impinges on major issues at the heart of medieval 'English' history³.

16.1.1 Traditional theories for the Plant surname

Various suggestions have been made for the origins of the Plant name. The mention of John de la Plaunt in the 13th century Patent Rolls was taken, in a book written near the beginning of the 20th century⁴, to imply that the name derived from the old French word *plante* and that it had arisen because the original bearer of that name had been 'from the enclosure' or 'plantation'. On the other hand, the mention

¹W K Plant, *Roots and Branches*

²This has been suggested by for example David Hey, Professor of Local and Family History, Sheffield University.

³I am grateful to the Local Historian Martin Phillips, Assistant Director of Keele Information Services, for reading a recent draft of this Chapter.

⁴Ernest Weekly (1916), *Surnames*, p185

of Robert Plante in the 1273 Hundred Rolls was taken in the same book to imply a nickname from the Middle English word *plant* which could have been used in a variety of senses to mean 'sprig', 'cudgel', or 'young offspring'

In more modern books, Plant records are generally cited to begin in East Anglia, near the English capital, where people gathered from various regions (Figure 16.1) There were (one or several) William Pla(u)nt(es) in Essex in 1262, in Norfolk in 1275, and in Cambridge in 1279. The associated explanation for the formation of the surname *Plant* has been that it is a metonymic for a 'gardener'⁵ If this interpretation is correct, Plant can be set alongside the surnames *Gardiner* and *Gardner*.

16.1.2 The surname Gard(i)ner

The number of Gard(i)ners in the 1961/2 London Telephone Directory is 660, which is more than for Butcher (270) and Brewer (240) put together. This large number (for modern London) has led to this surname's being ranked amongst the most common of those that can be associated with the outside officials and servants of a castle⁶.

Within the general scenario of a large English castle, it has been supposed that the usual purpose of a medieval gardener would have been to supply fruit in season and herbs at all times, fresh or dried, though producing roses and lilies for the ladies was also no doubt part of their remit⁷. As well as at the larger stone castles, there would also have been a large company to feed at the large manor houses, which commonly stood in the less hostile regions as royal administration centres in the stead of royal castles⁸.

16.1.3 A gardener theory for Plant

The name Plant is (so far) known to have been in East Anglia by 1262 and some 180 miles to the north west, in NW Cheshire (just south of Lancashire), by 1301. The name Planterose appears in Warwickshire in 1221 and some 100 miles to the east, in East Anglia, by 1272⁹. Along with *Planterose* it is largely by citing 'similar' names, which are known to occur (at least sometimes) in the SE of England, such as *Plaunteur* and *Plantebene*, that recent texts arrive at the 'gardening' interpretation for the origins of the surname *Plant*.

⁵R H Reaney (1958), *A Dictionary of British Surnames*, p 253. Also W.K Plant (Dec 1990), *Roots and Branches*, I, p 4

⁶C M Matthews (1966), *English Surnames*, pps 103, 111, 319

⁷This is based for example on written evidence by one of the household of Duke Humphrey of Gloucester, who was a brother of the Lancastrian King Henry V (1387-1422). He writes in the *Book of Nurture* -

*Serve fastyng plommys, damsons, cherries and grapes to plese,
After mete, peers, nottys, strawberries, wyneberries and hard chese,
Also blawnderelles, pipyns, caraway in comfyte
Compostes ar like to these*

and he instructs the chamberlain about how to make 'a medicinal bath' for his lord with similar verses on boiling together no less than twenty herbs and flowers

⁸The detailed rules concerning whether castles were royal, or in private ownership, was a matter of some ongoing dispute (Sir Maurice Powicke (1962), *The Thirteenth Century 1216-1307*, Oxford University Press, Second Edition, p 20)

⁹W K Plant (Dec 1990), *Roots and Branches*, I, p 4

The name Henry *le Plaunteur* (in Huntingdonshire in 1281) seems clearly to mean a 'planter', though the precise meaning of 'planter' will be discussed further later

Ralph *Plantebene* of Norfolk, in 1199, is cited as an additional justification of a 'gardening' interpretation of the 'Plant related' names. The standard rationale is that the surname *Plantebene* means a 'planter of beans'¹⁰, though this might perhaps be compromised if one were to comment that *bene* is the Latin word for 'well' or 'prosperous'. If for example the Latin meaning of *bene* is taken together with the 'sole of the foot' meaning of the Latin word *planta*, quite different interpretations could be deduced, perhaps carrying connotations of 'fine standing', 'wealthy founder', or 'firm foothold'. Such alternative connotations will be considered again later

Though the standard associations of the names *Plant* and *Planterose* with 'gardening' seem well reasoned, the rather similar name *Pluckerose* has traditionally raised questions¹¹. Apparently a rose carried a significance of rights over land. Thus, M A Lower (1860) mentions a friend of his who held Duchy of Lancaster land in Ashdown Forrest (Sussex) by one (red) rose¹². Given the likely Lancashire origins of the *Plant* name, one might wonder whether the Lancastrian red rose (which appears on the *Plant* coat of arms) carried significance also for the first *Plants*¹³

In deference to 'gardening', which has been associated with the *Plant* surname, it seems relevant to compare the ways in which both of the names *Plant* and *Gard(1)ner* may have originated. For the moment, a simple example will suffice to show that the distributions of the *Plant* and *Gard(1)ner* surnames are different. On the general migratory path southwards from Lancashire in NW England through Cheshire to North Staffordshire, there are as many as 253 occurrences of the surname *Plant* in the 1996 Stoke-on-Trent Telephone Directory where there are, in contrast, only 50 occurrences for *Gard(i/e)ner*. For London (SE England), the pattern is strikingly reversed with for example 660 *Gard(1)ners* in the 1961 Directory and yet (by 1990) just 121 *Plants*. More particularly, recent studies of early *Plant* records¹⁴ lend weight to a supposition that the *Plant* name could (unlike *Gard(1)ner*) have originated mostly near Lancashire

¹⁰PH Reaney (1958), *ibid*, p 253

¹¹C M Matthews (1966), *ibid*, p 157

¹²PH Reaney (1958), *A Dictionary of British surnames*, p124 quotes the story from M A Lower (1860), *Patronymica Britannica* with 'On the front of the farm belonging to him is a large rose tree, to which the reeve of the manor periodically comes and either plucking or pulling a flower, sticks it in his button hole, and walks off'

¹³It should be added, however, that there is some doubt whether the red rose was a significant Lancastrian emblem by the times that the names *Planterose* and *Plant* came into existence. Though the white rose of York is said to have been used throughout the struggles of the so-called 'War of the Roses', in the second half of the 15th century, the red rose of the opposing Lancastrians is reputed not to have been seen until the last battle, Bosworth Field, in 1485 — there are however claims that the royal House of York destroyed earlier evidence for the royal House of Lancaster. Such debate (relating largely to the significance to the *colour* of the rose) has to be set alongside the indications that the names *Planterose* and *Plant* came into existence in the times of the still earlier royal House of Plantagenet

¹⁴Such studies, which include examinations of early Poll Tax records for example, have been presented by David Hey at the 1997 Earl Lecture at Keele University, though they are not as yet published in detail

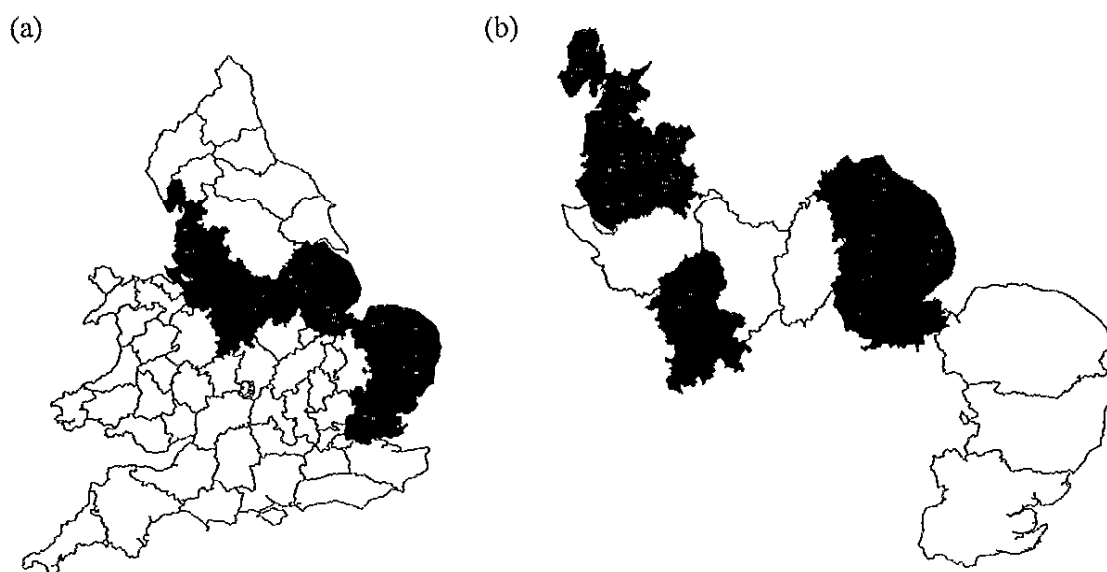


Figure 16 1: Some counties relevant to Plant origins with (a) showing their spread (black) from NW to SE England. In (b) the individual counties include, to the west of the pennines, the NW county of Lancashire (black) which lies north of Cheshire and Staffordshire (black) — the route through Derbyshire then passes east across the pennine foothills to Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire (black), with the East Anglian counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex reaching southwards towards London in the SE.

16.2 A preliminary reappraisal of the evidence

Recent evidence for the distribution of the early Plants suggests that the meaning of the *Plant* surname should not be judged solely in a context of supposed East Anglian origins (*cf.* Figure 16 2) The debate should be developed to include such a set of alternatives as -

possibility (1): there is no connection between the (few) SE and the (many) NW Plants, or necessarily for that matter between the names Plant, Plantebene and Planterose; *or,*

possibility (2): the Plant name originated in East Anglia either before the first bearers of that name, or before a unique reason for the formation of the name, moved to Lincolnshire and Lancashire; *or,*

possibility (3): some (or all) of the names Planterose, Plantebene, and Plant originated in the NW of England before a few bearing those names migrated, perhaps via Lincolnshire for example, to East Anglia.

It would be simplest just to consider possibility (1) and proceed to debating the origins of most Plants in the North West of England. Associated reasoning for the meaning of the Plant name might then remain valid also for possibility (3). There would remain possibility (2), however, whereby the main influence on the Plant name may have come with a small French (Norman and Plantagenet) contingent from the South East.

16.2.1 An East Anglian context

It is at least apparent, from modern studies, that the veracity of the 'gardener theory' should not be unduly prejudiced by commonly held beliefs about the generalities of the south east of England

A notion that Plant means a 'cultivator of arable land' here is not robust to scrutiny. Even though SE England is a region of arable farming, where horticultural activities might reasonably be supposed to have been commonplace, it should be noted, for example, that when the occupational surnames of East Anglia are appraised, as they appear between 1250 and 1350, there is in fact a scarcity of names that derive from either agricultural occupations or from the social classes found amongst the free and unfree cultivators¹⁵.

It can be added that possible associations of the 'Plant related' names with 'rights of office', 'claims to status', and 'rights to land' should not be neglected. In East Anglia the most common occupational names connected with agriculture are, in fact, ones associated with status or office, such as Reeve and Hayward

16.2.2 Possible ramification from the north

Lancashire origins for the Plant name may have predated its ramification to Lancastrian lands in Lincolnshire. Moreover, such ramification could have occurred as early as before the times that a few Plants found their way to East Anglia to Lincolnshire's south. Though further investigation remains desirable it can already be noted that such notions, for the evolution of the Plant name, are compatible with both general surname history and the prevailing contemporary political structure of England

General surname history is compatible with a notion that the few Plants found early near Norfolk and Suffolk (in East Anglia) may have come from Lincolnshire or the North West. There is considerable evidence for migration from Lincolnshire (to Norfolk's north) and from Yorkshire (to Lincolnshire's north) into East Anglia and to London from an early date. It is known that many locative surnames¹⁶ (i.e. surnames that derive from a place name) arrived in Norfolk early from the north west of England, probably after settlement at some intermediate location such as Yorkshire¹⁷ or Lincolnshire. Modern studies show that, certainly by the early 16th century, there are significant numbers in Norfolk of locative surnames from Lancashire as well as from further to the NW, from Cumberland and Westmorland which lie to Lancashire's north. Despite the remoteness of this region of NW England from Norfolk, there are

¹⁵By the 16th century in Norfolk, examinations of large numbers of surnames show that some 19% were of the occupational type, though recent studies indicate that only 7% of those admitted as Freeman at Lynn before 1300, for example, had occupational names. Richard McKinley (1975), *English Surname Series II Norfolk and Suffolk Surnames in the Middle Ages*, Phillimore Press, pps 31-33

¹⁶Though there may sometimes be more than one place with the same name, the origins of locative surnames are generally relatively easy to fix. Within an East Anglian context, modern studies of surnames in Norfolk and Suffolk show that some of the richer families had adopted *hereditary* surnames by as early as the beginning of the 12th century. For others there, the process was still developing for a further four centuries. It seems particularly relevant to add however that a high proportion of 14th century East Anglian townsmen are known to have had locative surnames that had originated elsewhere, even though *for most of them* this was from as near as 10 miles of their town. David Hey (1987), *Family History and Local History in England*, p 31

¹⁷R A McKinley (1975), *ibid*, pps 97-8

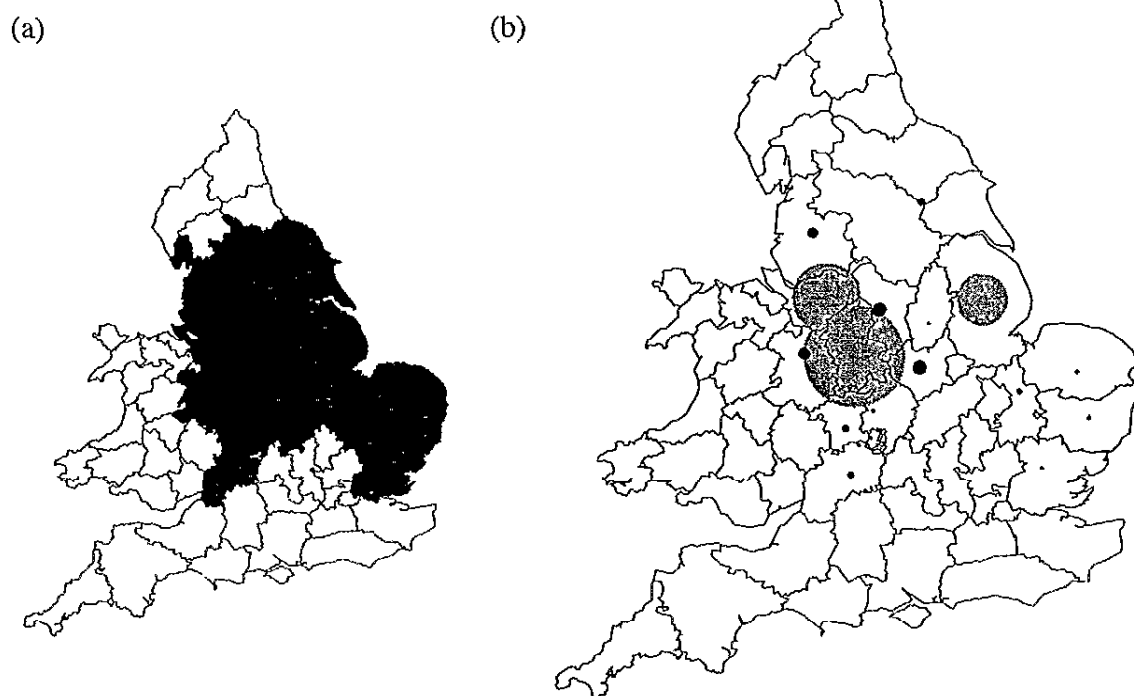


Figure 16.2: Distribution of pre-1700 IGI Plant records: showing (a) the region of England considered (black) and (b) the distribution of Plant records throughout those counties. Particularly large numbers (large grey spots) are found in Cheshire and Staffordshire in the NW Midlands, and also in Lincolnshire away to the east. Smaller numbers (black spots) reach down, for example, from Lancashire through the west Midlands. There is only a small spot for the whole county of Yorkshire (to the east of Lancashire), shown near the triple point joining its 3 ridings.

distinctly more surnames in early Norfolk from here than, for example, from the west Midlands which is nearer.

Such a migratory trend could perhaps be related, for some names, to the early political structure of England. History records for example that, even by Norman times, there was a connection across the North Midlands between Lancashire and Lincolnshire. The 'honour of Count Roger', also called the 'honour of Lancashire', included a large continuous district 'within the Lyme' (*i.e.* to the west of the Pennines), which centered on the seat of the Lord at Lancaster Castle, as well as scattered manors 'beyond the Lyme' in Lincolnshire in particular and elsewhere. This does not, in itself, answer such questions as whether Plants originated separately in Lancashire and Lincolnshire (Figure 16.2). However, it illustrates that there were particular political connections between these two counties from early times.

16.2.3 Some likely implications for the meaning of Plant

It accordingly seems that it needs to be asked in particular whether all of the 'Plant related' names originated in the same place. The evidence that a *few* such names occurred *sometimes* in the south east can not be considered to be conclusive. There is accordingly some doubt about whether any of the first Plants had heard of a Plantebene or a Planterose.

On the other hand it seems likely that more had heard of that other 'Plant related' name, the royal name Plantagenet. The latter clearly carries more status and this

could be thought to bring a potential explanation for Plant more nearly into line with normal East Anglian surnames

More generally, it seems reasonable to suppose that the likely influence of the Plantagenets should be given greater weight than it has explicitly been allocated in the 'gardener theory', which appears to rely mostly on considering just some *other* 'Plant related' names and assuming that the origins of *these* names were *directly* connected

16.3 A Lancashire context in Plantagenet times

The East Anglian context of an early mixing of cultures, frequent arrivals from afar, and a strong association with France dating back to Norman times can be contrasted with the more isolated local history of the north west of England, where it seems quite feasible that (most of) the first Plants originated or, at least, arrived early. Against a backdrop of recent evidence about the early distribution of the Plant name, which appears to point towards the distinct possibility of Lancastrian origins, it seems appropriate to re-examine a 'standard theory' (*i.e.* the gardener theory) for the meaning of the Plant surname¹⁸.

In the search for a fuller understanding of the likely circumstances that may have surrounded the formation of the Plant name, it seems appropriate to consider some further detail of late medieval Lancashire. The evidence indicates that surnames formed later here than in East Anglia — the main influence for the development of surnames may have come with a small French (Norman and Plantagenet) influx from the south east. It seems less safe to assume that Plants themselves arrived here from the south east, since few traveled large distances and the main migratory trend of those who did appears to have been in the opposite direction.

Though knowledge of those times is scant, it is possible to consider some further relevant aspects of the available information such as:-

- the likely contemporary language,
- the known contemporary Plantagenet and Lancastrian history, including the arrival of Plantagenets in Lancashire with their likely impact on the local culture, as well as
- the general nature of Lancashire surnames.

This will lead on to further debate about the 'most likely' apparent meanings of the Plant name.

16.3.1 Some local linguistic considerations

The Norse word *planta* may have come to north Lancashire when for example Aethelfrith, King of Northumbria led his Angles westwards from Yorkshire across the Pennine mountains in 613AD, thus dividing the Celts into Scotland and Wales

¹⁸An objective of further investigation would be to arrive at more realistic realms of likely association between such surnames and bye-names as Gard(1)ner, Plante, Plaunte, Plont(e), Plaint, Plauntes, Planche, Plank, Plaunteur, Plantebene, Planterose, and Plantagenet. Assumed connections between some of these names have led to the 'gardener' theory though the stoutness of its underlying assumptions has been questioned above, not least in the context of usual East Anglian surnames

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Saxons from Wessex¹⁹, conquered the Northumbrian 'Danelaw' in the 10th century bringing their influence northwards to Lancashire from the South West²⁰ The Irish influence was apparently strong nearby in NW Wales — the old Irish word *cland*²¹ meaning 'offspring' has been supposed to have given rise to the Welsh word *plant* meaning 'child' or 'children'²² The Welsh meaning of *plant* will be considered again later.

Unlike Derbyshire and Cheshire, it seems that Lancashire was spared the Norman devastations of 1069. The Normans no doubt brought with them the old Northern French word *gardinier* The Norman influence on Lancashire appears to have centered mostly on Roger of Poitou, who was a son of a cousin of William of Normandy — it was this Roger who became Earl of Lancashire²³. It may have been the subsequent royal Plantagenets in particular, with their lands in central France, who reinforced the language of Lancashire with the old French word *plante*²⁴

16.3.2 The English Plantagenets

It may be especially relevant, when contemplating the formation of the Plant surname, to consider Lancashire history around the first century or so of Plantagenet times. Lancaster had been just a days march from Scottish power at Shap in the 1150s. Henry II became the first Plantagenet king of England in 1154 (Figure 16.3) and, from 1165, Lancashire was held in Henry's own hands. It was subsequently held (at least nominally) by the Plantagenet Kings Richard I, John, and Henry III.

The founder of the royal Plantagenet family was Geoffrey Plantagenet (d 1150), Count of Anjou, who was the son-in-law of King Henry I of England. Geoffrey had descended from Aubri, count in the Gatinais in about 990AD, and there are more-or-less plausible ancestral theories for him back for a further two or even three centuries before that²⁵. The fully legitimate Royal Plantagenet male line came to an end in 1399 when Henry IV of the Royal House of Lancaster replaced Richard II, though various *illegitimate* lines have been recognised to have continued to modern times²⁶.

¹⁹It is apparently more a characteristic of the south west of England that the Cornish word *plans*, *planz* means a 'plant' (Eric Partridge (1958), *Origins a short Etymological Dictionary of Modern English*, p 501) This apparently derives from the old High German word *pfianza*

²⁰Some Norse names persisted however in NW Cheshire just to the south of Lancashire, in the Wirral in particular, following for example the settlement of a Dublin Norse chief there in 900AD

²¹There is no occurrence of the rare surname Lland in the 1997 Stoke-on-Trent Directory and there has been only one known occurrence nearby at Keele University

²²The 'offshoot' meaning of the Latin word *planta* has been compared with the old Irish word *cland* meaning 'offspring' and hence to the Gaelic word *clan* meaning 'descendants' or 'tribe' The old Irish word *cland* has similarly been compared to the Welsh word *plant* meaning 'child' or 'children' — there is also the Welsh word *planta* meaning 'to beget children'. Eric Partridge (1958), *ibid*, p 501.

²³E G W Hewlett (1922), *A History of Lancashire*, Oxford University Press, pps 49, 55, 59, 63, 67, 71

²⁴*Plant* is a distinctive Staffordshire surname. A significant influence on Staffordshire surnames came from Lancashire to its north. The evidence indicates that there was less influence from Wales to its west

²⁵A R Wagner (1961), *English Ancestry*, Oxford University Press, p 20

²⁶The Duke of Beaufort represents an illegitimate branch, which descended from John Beaufort, Earl of Somerset (d 1410) who was a legitimated bastard son of Henry IV's father, John of Gaunt. Another illegitimate branch is that of the Cornwall family which descended from Richard of Cornwall who was a natural son of Richard, Earl of Cornwall (d 1272) who was, apart from other supposed (though uncertain) bastards, the younger son of King John (Figure 16.3). A third generally accepted illegitimate branch is that of the recently extinct line of the Warrens of Poynton, who descended from Hamelin (d 1202) who was a bastard son of Geoffrey Plantagenet. Anthony R. Wagner (1960), *English Genealogy*, Oxford University Press, pps 33-4

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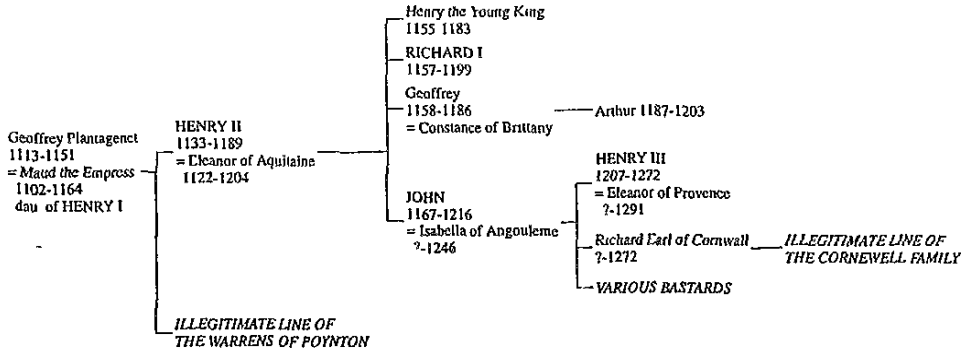


Figure 16.3. Some illegitimate lines of descent from the Royal House of Plantagenet I Descent of the Henry III and various sibling bastards.

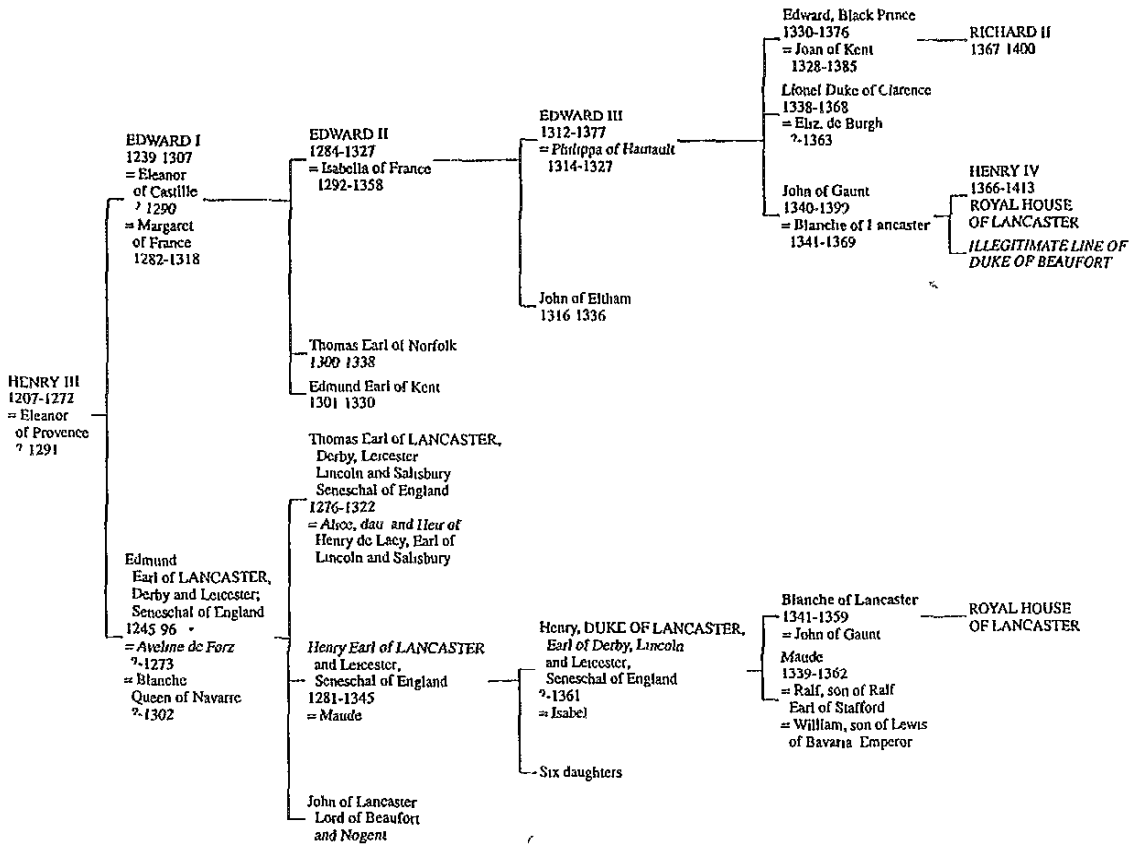


Figure 16.4 Some illegitimate lines of descent from the Royal House of Plantagenet II Descent of the Royal House of Lancaster.

16.3.3 John 'Lackland' (Plantagenet)

It seems that it is especially relevant to turn attention to John, who appears to have been the first royal Plantagenet to make his presence felt significantly in Lancashire. By 1190, Henry II's youngest and favourite son John 'Lackland'²⁷ had become Lord of Lancaster holding Lancashire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and 4 other counties in the south west of England. He was also Lord of Ireland and, through marriage, Earl of Gloucester, though he was apparently known mostly by his Norman title Count of Mortain.

Unlike his predecessors, John was a frequent visitor to the north, founding an hospital in Lancaster. It was he who saw the potential for a port at Liverpool (SW Lancashire) and granted it a charter in 1202. In John's 1199-1216 reign, significant additions were made to Lancaster Castle, with in particular £550 being spent on the King's Lodgings there. At that time, there were Lancashire castles at Lancaster, Hornby, Clitheroe and Manchester²⁸. The royal court was often conducted in hunting lodges — it is reputed that John's love of hunting was matched only by his love of lechery²⁹. The royal forests to the north of Cheshire surrounded Liverpool and such castles as Lancaster, Hornby (north mid Lancashire) and the Peak (at Castleton in NW Derbyshire).

Many illegitimate children of John have been listed, with varying degrees of certainty, and it has been supposed that there would be evidence for many more, if the records for John's royal bedchamber were more complete³⁰. One apparent bastard John of King John was, for example, being supported by the custodians of the see of Lincoln in 1201.

John's illegitimate daughter, Joan (Plantagenet), married Llywelyn ap Iorwerth, prince of North Wales, in 1204. This did not prevent John from murdering 28 hostages, sons of Welsh chieftains, in 1212. That year, John assembled the feudal host at Chester (NW Cheshire) with a view to subduing Llywelyn more finally. This planned incursion into NW Wales was cancelled at the last moment however because of rumours of growing discontent amongst the northern English Barons, which indeed broke out into Civil War and led on to the signing of Magna Carta in 1215.

16.3.4 Henry III and the Plantagenet Earls of Lancaster

In 1229, John's successor King Henry III granted his south Lancashire lands, between the Ribble and the Mersey, to Ranulph Blundeville of Chester, who was a key supporter of the Plantagenet crown. This south Lancashire lordship passed in 1232 to the Earl of Lincoln, Ranulph's brother-in-law William de Ferrers. It was he who built Liverpool Castle (SW Lancashire) as his headquarters³¹.

Though it is generally reputed that Henry III was too pious to have had illegitimate children (unlike his predecessor John), there is uncertainty about some of his children.

²⁷Kate Norgate (1902), *John Lackland*; Ralph V Turner (1994), *King John*

²⁸J.C.Holt (1961), *The Northerners: a study in the reign of King John*, Oxford University Press, Map I.

²⁹J.C.Holt (1961), *ibid*, p 159

³⁰Sidney Painter (1949), *The Reign of King John*, John Hopkins Press, pps 232-4

³¹E.G.Hewlett (1922), *ibid*, pps 79, 87, 90-5. J.C.Holt (1991), *ibid*, pps 23, 210, 213, 241

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Little seems to be known for example about Henry III's son William (?-?1256)³² He was apparently the only child of King Henry and Queen Eleanor of Provence who was not buried at Westminster Abbey³³. It has been suggested that this William was little publicised because like his sister Katherine (1253-7), he was deformed³⁴

This William's more famous brother, Edmund (1245-96) had been trained as a child to thoughts of continental sovereignty, becoming King of Sicily in 1252. Well endowed, generous, and very popular with his knights, he had his heart set on the crusade. His devotion was vouched for by many besides the Grey Friars of Preston (Lancashire) whose house he founded, and the sisters of St Clare at Aldgate³⁵. It was this future Earl of Lancaster, Edmund 'Crouchback' (Plantagenet), whom Henry III sent from his Paris court to the English royal castles in 1262 as *capitaneus*, presumably of the military forces, with instructions to allow no parliaments to be held³⁶. Following the Baron's War³⁷, Edmund was created Earl of Leicester and seneschal of England in November 1265³⁸ and Earl of Derby in 1266³⁹. The following year, in 1267, Edmund became the first fully-recognised Earl of Lancaster, an honour which subsequently became the Duchy of Lancaster (Figure 16.4) and included lands in over half the counties of England.

The development of Plantagenet influence in 13th century Lancashire and the subsequent emergence of the Royal House of Lancaster rank amongst the most significant of those events that comprise late medieval English history. It is clear that competing forces within the Plantagenet government were critical at that time, and that power centred not least on the strategic seat of Lancaster⁴⁰.

³²The only *early* evidence for the sons Richard, John, William, and Henry is in the Cheetham Manuscript *Flores Historiarum* which was written partly by Matthew Paris and which left St Albans soon after 1265 for Westminster where these sons were added as corrections. Margaret Howell (1991), *The Children of King Henry II and Eleanor of Provence*, in *Thirteenth Century England IV*, Edited by P R Coss and S D. Lloyd, pps 57-72

³³At the end of the year 1259, not 1256, the Cheetham manuscript has an insertion '*Willelmus filiosus et neptos Willelmi de Valence obut et septus est apud Novum Templum*'. There is a still later margin note asserting that this burial at New Temple was that of the King's son William '*Willelmus filius Regis Henrici obut*'

³⁴Matthew Paris mentions no disability when he records Katherine's birth, and it is only when she dies that he describes her as most beautiful in appearance but '*muta et inutilis*'.

³⁵Sydney Armitage-Smith (1904), *John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster*, p 22

³⁶FM Powicke (1947), *ibid*, p 430

³⁷In the Baron's War (1264), Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester was killed at Evesham and his ally Robert de Ferrers, Earl of Derby, after being imprisoned in the Tower of London (1265), was released and then recaptured at Chesterfield (1266)

³⁸FM Powicke (1947), *King Henry III and Lord Edward*, Oxford University Press, pps 430, 518

³⁹Sir Marcus Powicke (1962), *The Thirteenth Century 1216-1307*, Second Edition, Oxford University Press, pps 198-208, 212

⁴⁰The well documented case of Edmund's son Thomas Plantagenet (1273-1322), second Earl of Lancaster, may be cited for example. Setting aside foreign ambitions, he asserted his rights as the greatest feudatory of the Crown, by exercising an irregular dictatorship over a council of magnates to govern England and the King. Though he paid with his life for putting the King's favourite (homosexual) friend to death, the government of King Edward II could not subsequently stop the worship of this St Thomas of Lancaster.

16.3.5 Lancashire surnames

The relatively early date of formation for the Plant name suggests that the first Plants *may have been* associated with the more advanced nobility, from an early date for the region of Lancashire⁴¹. Many Lancashire surnames are locative and most of those that had ramified beyond their original parishes were well established by the year 1400⁴². The (so far) available evidence shows that *certainly by that time* the Plant surname had become *hereditary* in NE Cheshire, just to Lancashire's south east.

It is known that, by 1212, some 36% of the large Lancashire land owners had hereditary surnames, with a further 24% having bye-names that are not known to have been hereditary — the remaining 40% were listed just by their personal name or as a son of someone⁴³. Though there does not seem to have been a sharp distinction between large and small land owners for example, it seems that in general surnames developed much later here for most who were in the 'lower' social classes

The most common type of surname in Lancashire is *locative* (*i.e.* derived from a local place name) and such names occur particularly frequently for land owners. Many locative surnames were derived for example from small settlements in Salford Hundred (SE Lancashire) — these ramified especially strongly from early times.

Occupational surnames are in general rarer in Lancashire than elsewhere⁴⁴. There are however particular examples of occupational Lancashire surnames such as Bowker, Webster, Taylor, and Lord. More particularly, occupational names associated with farming almost invariably derive from the herding of stock (*e.g.* Cowherd, Calvert, Coltman, Geldhirde⁴⁵). Sole exceptions are Marler, probably meaning a quarrier or perhaps a spreader of marl, and Cocker which possibly refers to the work of heaping hay in cocks though this work must have been seasonable.

Though the 'occupational' surname Lord is not locative and though it is also found elsewhere in England, it is most common in Lancashire and it is another example of a name that ramified strongly from early times in Salford Hundred, in this case around Bury and Rochdale. The surname Lord, like King elsewhere, can not be taken to mean necessarily that the original bearer held precisely that office and it might instead imply, for example, activities or demeanours that led to the adoption of such a name as a *nickname*

Early Lancashire bye-names and surnames include several that include a verb with a noun (*e.g.* Baytebuck⁴⁶, Bendbowe, Brekelounce, Briselaunce, Crakebon⁴⁷, Gaderpenye⁴⁸, Shakeshaft, Wynnepeny). This would not be incompatible with considering a possibility that there could have been Lancashire origins for a surname such as Plantebene (if *Plante* is taken as a verb and *bene* as a noun) or Planterose, though it should be added that Lancastrian origins have *not* been established for these names.

⁴¹A considerable minority in Lancashire were without hereditary names even by early-Tudor times and the process was not completed until the 17th century.

⁴²David Hey (1987), *ibid*, pps 15, 32.

⁴³Richard A McKinley (1981), *English Surnames Series IV The Surnames of Lancashire*, Leopards Head Press, pps 14, 17-8, 51-2, 271-4.

⁴⁴The fraction of occupational names in the Lancashire lay subsidy roll for 1332 is 11% and this is lower than in comparable records for other counties. R A McKinley (1981), *ibid*, pps 249, 281-2.

⁴⁵Shepherd and Stidhirde both occur in Lancashire as rare bye-names

⁴⁶Possibly meaning 'feed buck'.

⁴⁷Possibly a nickname for a man who cracked marrow bones

⁴⁸'Gathel penny'

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noun (sb1) (1a)	a young tree, shrub, or herb newly planted, or intended for planting, a set, cutting, slip, a sapling
noun (sb1) (1b)	a young tree or sapling used as a pole, staff, or cudgel
noun (sb1) (1c)	anything planted or springing up, a scion, offshoot, nurseling, a young person; a novice
noun (sb2)	the sole of the foot
verb (1a)	to set in place in the ground so that it may take root and grow (a living tree or herb, a shoot, cutting, root, bulb, or tuber, sometimes a seed, also, by extension, a crop, a bed of flowers, a garden, vineyard, orchard, forest, or other collection of plants)
verb (2a)	to insert, set, or place firmly, to fix in or on the ground or any other body or surface; to set down or up in a firm position; to put or fix in position; to post, station
verb (3a)	to found, establish, institute (a community or society, <i>esp</i> a colony, city, or church)
verb (3b)	to settle (a person) in a place, establish as a settler or colonist
verb (5a)	to implant, cause to take root and spring up and grow, to introduce, <i>e.g</i> an idea or sentiment in the mind

Table 16.1: Early meaning of *plant* in the Oxford English Dictionary. The OED adds quotations whereby these meanings can be recognised to have been in use, as a part of the English Language, by 825, 1377, 1362, 1382, 825, 1382, 897, 1300, and 1415 respectively

Some Lancashire surnames of the ‘verb-noun’ type appear to be obscene⁴⁹ though these may have been related to the breeding of livestock

It has often been supposed that illegitimate children at those times took their mothers’ surnames. The evidence for Lancashire however indicates that, when paternity was established, bastards took either their father’s surname or a diminutive form such as in the example of Hogkynson (Hogkyn is a diminutive for Roger).

16.4 Some early meanings of plant

In recent times, the Plant surname has been supposed to have originated as a metonymic for a ‘gardener’ — a particular set of ‘Plant related’ names. Plant, le Plaunteur, Plantebene, and Planterose are chosen as roots for this theory. Like Plantebene and Planterose, some Lancashire surnames appear to be of a *verb-noun* type and it may accordingly be relevant to consider the contemporary known meanings of the verb *to plant* as well as the noun *plant*.

There were connotations of *to plant* of ‘establishing a settlement’ (*e.g.* verb (3a) in Table 16.1 and *pla(u)nter* in Table 16.3). This can be carried through to such a connotation as ‘prosperous founder’ in a ‘Latin (Middle English)’ interpretation of *plante bene*. Even with an Anglo-Norman interpretation of *bene* as ‘bean’, a ‘founding’ meaning can still be retained if it is recognised that (straight rows of) beans may

⁴⁹See Lumby, *Calendar of the Norris Deeds*, p 3 (Twychecunt) R A McKinley (1981), *ibid*, p 365

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have had some particular association with establishing boundaries (*cf.* the French expression *planter des bornes* which means to 'erect boundary posts' or 'set limits')

Similarly, Planterose could be associated with establishing a 'Plantagenet recognised emblem', in a hedgerow for example. There are associated Anglo-Norman meanings -

ros, roos: reed, reed-beds;

rose, roos: rose; embroidered rose,

The meaning 'an embroidered rose' can be compared in the North West of England to such symbolism as a Welsh dragon with a (Lancastrian red) rose in its mouth (possibly signifying a threat to the local 'English' people and their land from the 'Welsh') — such imagery is already embodied in the 'standard theory' for the meaning of the name *Pluckerose* which is traditionally associated with a token payment of a rose for Duchy of Lancaster land. Though it is often said that such imagery became 'over-embellished' in the 19th century, there is non-the-less a basis for supposing that the rose carried a special symbolism from early times and such symbolism can readily be carried through to the 'Plant related' name *Planterose*. As already indicated, connotations of 'establishing rights to ground' can be carried still further through to a 'Middle English (French/Latin)' interpretation of the name *Plantebene*.

The early French meaning *haie vive* for *plante* in Table 16.2 (*i.e.* quickset hedge) can perhaps be related to other meanings of *haie* (*e.g.* line of bayonets etc.) and hence to a modern *pied-à-terre* sense (*i.e.* temporary lodging, shooting box) of the root meaning 'sole of foot' of *plant(a/e)* (*cf.* Latin, OED⁵⁰ noun (sb2) of Table 16.1, and *pla(u)nte* (2) of Table 16.3). More generally, the various early French meanings listed in Table 16.2 relate quite consistently and emphatically to 'establishing foundations'. The modern French meaning of 'a philosophical foundation (*e.g.* of a science)' can perhaps be related to the English meaning (verb (5a)) of 'to introduce an idea' and perhaps also to the listed Anglo-Norman meaning *to set down, record*. Early 'Plant' activities could hence be thought to have included (?Plantagenet recognised) responsibilities for 'establishing' (OED verb (3a)) and 'recording' rights at a time when, for example, the royal hunting forests around Lancashire's castles were being opened up (Figure 16.5)

In the general region of Lancashire, the name *Pla(u)nt(e)* may have had, for the French nobility in particular, a connotation along the lines of 'development foot' of the (Plantagenet) royal authority. The Plantagenet authority was not without opposition however from the Llywelyn Princes and the Northern Barons, who had to balance their allegiance to the crown with the more local sentiments of their peasantry. For the peasantry, meanings closer to 'resented offshoots of (a Plantagenet) intrusion into their country' may have been more to the fore. It might be appropriate to look to dialect for ancient sentiments in the local yokeldom — in South Cheshire dialect, *plant* curiously has the rather disparaging meaning 'the scum that rises to the top of the vinegar'⁵¹ — this is similar to local sentiments found in Cheshire towards their first

⁵⁰Oxford English Dictionary (1989) Second Edition

⁵¹Joseph Wright (1905) *The English Dialect Dictionary*

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plant	établissement, base, fondement, assiette d'un bâtiment, d'une statue, plan, disposition
plante 1	action de planter, plantation; plant, lieu où une chose est plantée; plant, jeune vigne; plan, disposition; base, haie vive
plante 2	platan
planter	fonder, établir, engendrer

Table 16.2 Some 16th century French meanings from *Dictionnaire de la Langue Française du seizième siècle* of E Huguët.

pla(u)nte (1)	plant; young shoot; young tree
pla(u)nte (2)	sole of foot, imprint
pla(u)nter	to plant, to strew, to set, place; to build, erect; to found; establish; to establish, settle; to install, situate, to set down, record, to establish, install oneself

Table 16.3: Anglo-Norman meanings from the Anglo-Norman Dictionary of Rothwell et al (1992).

Norman earl⁵². The Welsh meaning 'procreated child'⁵³, which can be compared with the OED meaning 'a young person' (noun (sb1) (1c) of Table 16.1), will be discussed in some detail later

16.5 A Lancashire context for Plant

Early thirteenth century Lancashire can be characterised partly by uneasy relations amongst the Northern Nobility, who had formed loose alliances within the overall government of the hitherto distant Plantagenets. Traditional local sentiments, rallying to rebellions against the English, were apparently particularly fierce nearby in NW Wales. Particular manifestations of unrest amongst the Northern Barons occur in brief periods of Civil War, notably before Magna Carta (1215) and in the Barons War (1264). Conflict with Wales continued on to later times as is illustrated by Edward I's Welsh campaign of 1277. Despite rebellions earlier in the century, it is known that by 1298 some 3000 Lancashire men served with the foot of Edward I in his Falkirk campaign (Scotland) in which the English archers played a key role in the defeat of William Wallace. This provides an outline of an apparent picture of local conflict, followed by a growth in the local popularity of the Plantagenets by the end of the thirteenth century.

Allegiance to the crown was not automatic in the early 13th century — this is exemplified by Roger de Montbegon, lord of the Lancashire barony of Hornby (near

⁵²In 1071, William the Conqueror conferred the new title of earl of Chester on one of his chief supporters, his nephew Hugh of Avranches known to posterity as Hugh Lupus ('Hugh the Wolf') or, more disparagingly, Hugh the Fat. Alan Cosby (1996), *A History of Cheshire*, p 34

⁵³In the 13th century, the Welsh meaning of *plant* may have been relevant though a 'West Midlands' dialect of 1400-50 has been related to the counties of Lancashire, Cheshire, west Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Shropshire, west Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Herefordshire, north Gloucestershire, and Monmouthshire (Kurath and Kuhn (1954) *Middle English Dictionary: Plan and Bibliography*)

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Lancaster), who was one of the 24 rebellious Barons who brought about Magna Carta. More generally however, Plantagenet influence would have been strong in the local Castles. It might accordingly be proffered that, if we are to adhere to a standard explanation for the meaning of Plant, it could have been a Plantagenet context that encouraged some in the Lancastrian nobility to call their 13th century 'gardeners' *Plant* rather than by the 'Norman' word *gardnier*. For the French (Plantagenet) nobility here however, a more appropriate sense to Plant is apparently to be found in the 'plant-related' ramifications of 'a developing foothold and rights' towards the furthest reaches of Plantagenet power.

Amongst the most reluctant of the Plantagenet subjects, the word *plant* could have carried different connotations. In the eyes of some at least, the surname Plant could have signaled meanings along the lines of 'offshoots of a (Plantagenet) rape of their country'. Plants appear to have originated mostly near Lancashire where the (modern) Welsh meaning 'child' of *plant* could already have been known by some — during the 13th century, there were for example Welsh settlers in Lancashire who had been driven out of Banister lands in Wales. It seems likely that, following the 1204 marriage of King John's illegitimate daughter Joan (Plantagenet) to Llywelyn ap Iorweth, the 'natural child' sense of the modern Welsh word *plant* could have been to the fore in local thinking.

A local context of rival names and meanings appears to be pertinent, as a characteristic of 13th century Anglo-Welsh conflicts. The then Lord of Snowdon (NW Wales), Llywelyn ap Gruffyd, took the opportunity of the Baron's War to expand his influence. After Henry III's death, Llywelyn refused to do homage to Edward, the absent King. Matters came to a head when the feudal host assembled at Chester in August 1277 and the King established his headquarters around the royal apartments which were built for him and his wife at Chester Castle (NW Cheshire)⁵⁴. The consequences of those times are believed to live on, some 700 years later, in as much as a standard theory for the surname Llewellyn maintains that this name derives from the family and followers of Llywelyn ap Gruffyd, his predecessor Llywelyn ap Iorweth, and indeed some still earlier Llywelyns of Wales⁵⁵. Given that the *Llewellyns* and most of those in Wales called *Lewis*⁵⁶ are thought to have descended from the families and supporters of these famous Llywelyns, it might be conjectured by analogy that the *Plant* surname could have derived from such heteronymous meanings as 'bastard child' and 'development foot' of the contemporary royal *Plantagenets*. The possibility that the Plant name could have had its historical roots in the Plantagenet name or emblem will be considered further later.

Two different meanings of *plant*, for the French and the Welsh, could be relevant in so far as they may have spanned a breadth of understanding about the meaning of *Plant* as this surname began to emerge. For the French (Plantagenet) nobility 'land rights' could have been to the fore in connotations of 'planting' (or establishing rights to) vital ground. For their Welsh ('illegitimated') opponents, claimed rights for alleged 'natural children' of a Plantagenet incursion into their country could well have been central to their concerns. Indeed such opposing connotations for the word *plant* can be related to long standing debate about alleged Plantagenet attitudes towards 'first rights' over local women and primogeniture (*i.e.* the rights of the eldest

⁵⁴Anthony Tuck (1986), *Crown and Nobility 1272-1461*, pps 18-21. Alan Cosby (1996), *A History of Cheshire*, p 35

⁵⁵*cf.* C M Matthews (1996), *ibid*, pps 74, 202, 325.

⁵⁶C M Matthews (1996), *ibid*, p 202

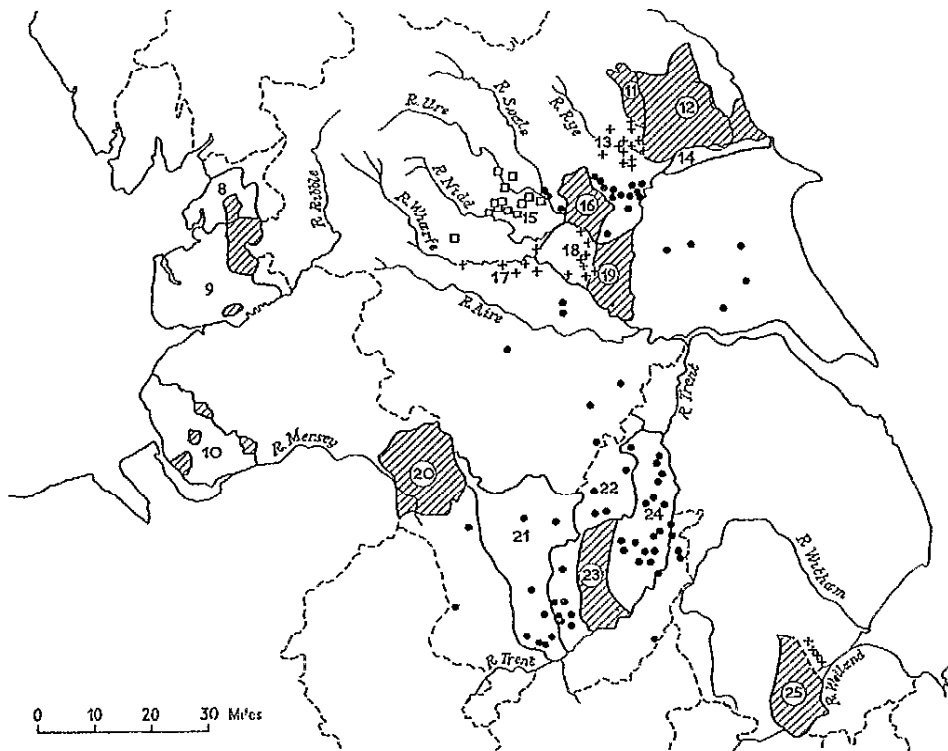


Figure 16.5: Royal Hunting Forests in the time of King John, including the Lancashire forests of (8) Lonsdale, (9) Amounderness, and (10) West Derby as well as (20) The Peak just to the NW of Cheshire. The unshaded areas were excluded from the forests by perambulations following the Charter of the Forest (1212 and 1225) whilst the black dots represent villis and townships amerced for forest offences between 1154 and 1215

'legitimate' son to lands and succession) Thus, in this region of NW England, the name Plant may have come to have had various meanings associated with a 'French colonial intrusion', rather than just the supposed meaning 'a medieval horticulturist' Indeed, early Plants of the north west could have been involved with the sectarian struggles, and more with such activities as establishing boundaries and founding new livestock practices⁵⁷ than just with simply 'gardening'

16.6 Lancashire and later times in Cheshire

There was some limited arable farming in the general region of Lancashire and Cheshire, which might perhaps relate to an early local meaning of *plant*. The 1086 Domesday survey for Lancashire mentions villeins, cottagers, ox-herds, serfs, bondswomen as well as the numbers of ploughs that the knights and labourers had. It seems that a main emphasis in this region, however, was on hunting and stock breeding rather than on arable farming — evidence for such activities appears in 12th century records for Lancashire and Cheshire More particularly, such an emphasis appears in Lancashire surnames, as has already been outlined

⁵⁷Agricultural surnames in Lancashire are primarily about stock herding. Also it is known that, in Macclesfield Forest for example, specialised *vaccaries* (cattle ranches) were operating by the 1360 — as well as rearing cattle for sale, cheese was being produced on a commercial basis by 1372 (Alan Crosby (1996), *ibid*, p 45)

16.6.1 Hunting forests and stock breeding

When Count John (Plantagenet) became Lord of Lancashire, in lieu of the crusading Richard I, his knights, thegns, and free tenants in the local Plantagenet hunting forests secured a charter of liberties upon payment of £500. This allowed them to make clearings, put up buildings, and hunt game except within the lord's demense. This was confirmed by payment of a further £200 and 10 warhorses when John became King in 1199, indicating the growing wealth of some in Lancashire as its lands were opened up

Just to the south in Cheshire, it is described by Earwaker (1877)⁵⁸ that, at the end of the 12th century, Randle Blundeville, Earl of Chester, granted to the monks of Combermere Abbey, near Nantwich, one carucate of land in his Forest of Macclesfield 'in a place called Winchull' for the purpose of erecting a grange thereon, together with sufficient pasture for 2,000 sheep and their young ones each year, 24 cows with 2 bulls and their young ones each year, and 16 oxen and for 6 horses and 10 mares and their young ones every three years

16.6.2 Plants in the forest of Lyme

By the late 14th century, there are known to have been Plants in Macclesfield Forest, on the pennine slopes of East Cheshire around Wincle (i.e. 'Winchull')⁵⁹ This was part of the forest of Lyme. The word Lyme can still be found in the place names of Lyme in Cheshire, Ashton under Lyne (*sic*) in Lancashire to the north, and Newcastle under Lyme in Staffordshire to the south⁶⁰. The word Lyme may have derived from the Celtic word *elm* meaning a wooded frontier zone between the plains and high ground⁶¹ We might accordingly look to the early hunting forests of this general region (which were both wooded and unwooded) for possible clues about the early Plants

This location suggests that it may be relevant to consider 'non arable' and 'non horticultural' meanings of the word *plant* Certainly the evidence of an 18th century Dictionary confirms that there were still various other meanings for the word *plant* in common use by around 1700

16.6.3 Some archaic meanings of the word 'plant'

Leaving aside for the moment the most obvious horticultural meanings of *to plant*, we are left with the following meanings in Samuel Johnson's relatively recent 18th century Dictionary.-

⁵⁸J P Earwaker (1877), *East Cheshire Past and Present, or a History of the Hundred of Macclesfield in the County Palatine of Chester*, vol II, pps 432

⁵⁹This was around the times when most of the country's available agricultural land was being farmed and the expanding population was having no alternative but to spread onto the moors and into the woods and marshes David Hey (1987), *ibid*, p 15

⁶⁰Eilert Ekwall (1960), *The Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*

⁶¹Alan Cosby (1996), *ibid*, p 20

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- 1
- 2 To procreate; to generate
- 3 To place, to fix
- 4 To settle, to establish as, to plant a colony
- 5
- 6 To direct properly as, to plant a canon

Johnson also gives the following meanings for a *planter* — (1) one who sows, sets, or cultivates; a cultivator; (2) one who cultivates ground in the West Indian colonies, and (3) one who disseminates or introduces. In particular, he illustrates this third meaning with for example the following quote from Addison (1672-1719):⁶²

Had these writings differed from sermons of
the first *planters* of christianity in history or
doctrine, they would have been rejected by those
churches they had formed

Indeed, this does not appear to be an isolated reference to ‘planting christianity’ Another quote from Nelson refers to ‘The Holy Apostles, the first *planters* of christianity’ Such a sense thus apparently relates back to ancient times, before the Plantagenet crusades which were concerned (partly) with (re)claiming (access to) the Holy Land for Christians. This indicates for example that the early bye-name *le Plaunteur* need not necessarily have related to ‘gardening’ — the name may have related more to the early (897AD) OED meaning of *to plant* (verb (3a)) which relates to ‘founding colonies, cities, and churches’.

16.6.4 A meaning of plant in the forest of Lyme

The particular sense for *plant* of ‘planting christianity’ appears to explain a 17th century inscription at Wincle Chapel, at the southern limit of Macclesfield Forest in the forest of Lyme, where there are known to have been contemporary Plants Earwaker⁶² remarks ‘*On the lintel of the doorway in old letters is the inscription -*

HERE DOE O LORD WINCLE
SVRE PLANT THY WORD . CH

*and over the blocked-up chancel door is . . . the date . . . 1647*⁶³. This archaic usage takes us back roughly halfway to Plantagenet times and this meaning of the verb *to plant* might have been entwined in the 17th century Wincle Plants’ understanding of their surname

The Wincle Chapel inscription appears to be a call to the ‘Lord’ to help govern the locality with his word The site of this inscription, on a christian Chapel, provides a clear context of a call to the ‘Lord God’ to ‘plant christianity’⁶⁴. This sense, by then,

⁶²J P Earwaker (1877), *ibid*, pps 436-7

⁶³This inscription can still be seen over the Chapel doorway.

⁶⁴It might also be thought that there could have been atavistic echoes, given the context of this region, of a call to a more temporal ‘Lord’ (e.g. to an erstwhile lord of Lancaster) — such a plea might almost, it might be imagined, have been guided by an ancient spiritual call to reaffirm the people’s compliance with the (by then ancient) Plantagenet (Forest) Laws

may have supplanted an earlier connotation which could have involved an allegiance to a more temporal (Plantagenet) lord. There is accordingly reason to suppose that the *Plant* surname could have had a 17th century connotation here along the lines of 'an auxiliary to the Lord'.

16.7 A résumé for the Plant surname's origins

It has been suggested in recent times that the Plant name could have originated as a metonymic for a 'gardener'. The following *reservations* can be marshaled against this however. First, it has been demonstrated that there is a significant doubt about whether the first Plants had heard of a *le Plaunteur*, a *Plantebene*, or a *Planterose* with whom common origins are assumed. Secondly, there are other interpretations of the underlying words *plaunteur*, *plante*, *bene*, and *rose*. It may be noted, for example, that official documents were in French or Latin until 1258, when Henry III issued a proclamation for the first time in English since the times of William the Conqueror⁶⁵. Alternative interpretations of the names *le Plaunteur*, *Plantebene*, and *Planterose* might accordingly relate to such meanings as 'establishing' and 'recording' development rights.

A 'gardener' meaning for Plant has been supposed to be correct in a standard Dictionary of British Surnames. The cited evidence relates mostly to East Anglia. A supposition that most Plants originated in East Anglia seems doubtful however and this itself casts doubt on the rigour of a deduction that Plant means simply a 'gardener'. The Plant surname appears to have originated instead mostly near the border lands of North Wales where it seems more apt to consider such brutal and contradistant meanings as (1) 'development foot' and (2) 'bastard child' of the Plantagenet royal authority. More romantic counterparts to these meanings can be summarised as (1) perhaps in a word 'a gardener', though this seems too restrictive in as much as other kinds of (royalist) auxiliary can plausibly be considered, and (2) 'a (noble and natural, or almost Messianic) child', as will be explained later below.

16.7.1 A possible diminutive of Plantagenet

It might be supposed that there could have been a connection between the Plant and Plantagenet names *from the outset*. If such a connection were to be made, it would then remain to deliberate whether this could imply that the Plants were *initially* -

theorem (1): auxiliaries of the local Plantagenet forces — Plant could thus be analogous to Welsh occurrences of the name Lewis, which has been considered in surname history to have originated with a meaning 'followers of the Llywelyn Princes of Wales' — *cf* French connotations for *plant* along the lines of 'development foot', or

theorem (2): (claimed) illegitimate children of the Plantagenets — diminutives of fathers' names were used from early times for illegitimate children in Lancashire — *cf* the Welsh connotation for *plant* of 'procreated child'.

There is some *evidence* that Plant could have originated as an abbreviation for Plantagenet. It appears to be undisputed that the Plantagenet name had originated

⁶⁵John Harvey (1948), *The Plantagenets 1154-1485*, p 66

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as a nickname for Geoffrey of Anjou (1113-51). Even though it is generally held that it was only towards the end of Plantagenet times that *Plantagenet* was adopted as a royal family *surname*⁶⁶, there can be little doubt that those close to the early Plantagenet reigns would have been aware, at least, that the Plantagenet *nickname* had been carried by King John's grandfather Geoffrey. John Lackland had come to Chester in 1185 with a view of crossing to Dublin though he was recalled by his father following the death of John's brother Geoffrey⁶⁷ — two Latin Charters were subsequently issued by John, Count of Mortain and Lord of Ireland (later King John) to confirm the rights of Chester merchants to trade in Ireland⁶⁸. The two Charters were both issued at Lutegareshalle and they have respectively 3 or 4 witnesses with, in each case, one being *Rogero de Plan'* (sic) This then leads to speculation about whether the name *Plan'* was an abbreviation for *Plantagenet* and whether this was widely understood around 1200 in Chester. I am grateful to W.K Plant⁶⁹ for the following evidence for near Chester, for a century later -

the Flint Receipts of 1301 contained the name of Ricardo Plant of Ewelowe On the 14th November 1302 a marriage took place at Flint of Elizabeth Plantagenet and Humphrey de Bohem This suggests that the Plantagenet and Plant name were in use in the same district at the same time...

Ewelowe and Flint adjoin NW Cheshire. The evidence makes it seem likely that the similarity of the Plant name to Plantagenet would have been noticed here near Chester, by around 1300. The similarity of name could hence be thought to have signaled an 'evident compliance' of the Plants with the (at times faltering) dominance of the local royal authority (*cf.* theorem (1)) — it could have even imbued the Plants with an air of being an extension of the Plantagenets' dynastic rights (*cf.* theorem (2)). Certainly it is not new, with documentary evidence dating from 1528, to suppose that the Plant name is a corruption of *Plantagenet*⁷⁰.

16.7.2 A 'child' or a 'princeling'

It is not (as yet) clear whether a 'human child' meaning to the word *plant* predated Plantagenet times — this then gives train to a choice of emphases, as can be indicated by two variants of theorem (2) -

⁶⁶Harvey asserts that Plantagenet was adopted as a surname by Richard (1411-60), Duke of York, who was the father of Edward IV Harvey adds evidence that the Plantagenet name was passed to illegitimate children by the times of a bastard of Richard III, who was Edward IV's brother This bastard hid himself in obscurity after the battle of Bosworth Field and he ended his days in charge of the building of Sir Thomas Moyle's mansion in Kent, where he was buried in 1550 (aged over 80) under the name of Richard Plantagenet. (Harvey (1948), *ibid*, pps viii and 138).

⁶⁷Rupert H Morris (1893) *Chester in the Plantagenet and Tudor Reigns*, pps 11 and 484.

⁶⁸These Charters apparently date from around 1188 up to 1199 when John became King of England — subsequently he granted another Charter to Chester, as well as a Charter to a new port at Liverpool

⁶⁹W.K.Plant, President of the Plant Family History Group, private letter dated 13th May 1998

⁷⁰I am informed that a deed, dated 1528, for John Plant of Stony Cliffe indicates '*this name is supposed to be corrupted from Plantagenet*' (this has been connected to the reference *Ancient Parish of Leek*, p 33, though this appears to be just a reference to the use of vinegar for purification at the times of the medieval plagues) There is also, for example, a newspaper clipping, apparently dating to the inter-war years of the 20th century, suggesting that the Plantagenets were now to be found amongst the 'lower classes of the Plants' (W.K Plant, private communication)

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theorem (2a): an existing meaning 'child' of *plant*, which has parallels in the old Irish word *cland*, was embellished with a 'princeling' connotation in Plantagenet times, or

theorem (2b): it was not until Plantagenet times that the 'human child' meaning of the word *plant* began to emerge in the Welsh borderlands from its earlier root meaning of 'botanical offshoot'

In other words, the emphasis for a relevant 'child' meaning to plant could be that this meaning was either (1) already being embellished further, or (2) just beginning to be humanised from 'vegetable origins'.

More particularly, there is evidence that, around the likely time and place of the Plant surname's formation in the north west of England, a meaning *a lord's love child* or *princeling* could have arisen through an interplay of two royal cultures⁷¹ -

- that of the earlier Kingdom of Wessex, which had reached as far north as Lancashire, and
- that of the royal House of Plantagenet, which was becoming more fully established in Lancashire

This brings together such facts as -

- there had been Wessex domination of Wales and, by the 13th century, there was ongoing Anglo-Welsh conflict — around 1200, John 'Lackland' had personally begun to make the Plantagenet influence felt significantly around the region of Chester and Lancashire, which is where the Plant surname appears to have formed,
- there was already an ongoing Wessex tradition of Childe meaning 'a young nobleman or prince' — the last male descendant of the royal House of Wessex is called Edgar Atheling or Edgar Child indifferently in the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* and, in the centuries after the Norman Conquest, the word 'Childe' was often used to mean a youth of noble birth, a heroic young man, almost a prince — a standard theory for the meaning of the surname Child(e) then flows from this 'princely' status as exemplified by the romantic line⁷² '*Childe Roland to the dark tower came* .', and
- the Welsh word *plant* means 'child' and the OED recognises 'a young person' as a meaning to the English word *plant* — such a meaning was apparently being disseminated from the Welsh borderlands by the 14th century, through William Langland's epic poem *Piers Plowman* of 1362 (later versions around 1367-86), which carries connotations for *plant* of a lord's love child or princeling.

We may note in particular that, by 1362, there is the quotation (LANGL.⁷³, *P.Pl.*, A.I, 137):-

*Love is the leues thing that vr lord asketh
And eke the playnt [plante, plaunte, plonte] of pees*

It is with this quotation that the OED⁷ recognises an early 'child' meaning to *plant*

⁷¹Certainly, 'a child in Plantagenet times' is supported as a valid meaning for Plant by the Oxford English Dictionary, which recognises 'young person' or 'novice' as the only meanings of *plant* that refer explicitly to a person. This meaning arises near the borderlands of North Wales and, in Welsh, the word *plant* means a child

⁷³William Langland (1362), *The vision of William concerning Piers Plowman*

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— the quotation suggests an interpretation, for Plant in the Welsh borderlands, of a *lord's love child*⁷⁴. The poem of *Piers Plowman* relates to the elevation of a poor peasant to being a symbol of Jesus, finally castigating the low moral standards of those times — it may accordingly be no accident that Langland's phrase *plaunte of pees* is ambiguous, with the alternative interpretations that a lord's love can help to beget a *princely child* (i.e. a secular 'Prince of Peace'⁷⁵, cf. theorem (2a)) or 'horticultural success' (i.e. a 'planting of peas', cf. theorem (2b)) through the divine 'providence of the Lord' (cf. the later Wincle Chapel inscription).

Some possible background to this phrase '*plaunte of pees*' can be outlined as follows. Ralph V Turner (1994)⁷⁶ writes that '*John, like his son (Henry III) later, turned to the Anglo-Saxon past for support of his pretensions*'. It seems that the past to which he may have turned would likely have included the contentious Wessex legend of 'Edgar Childe' from whom the romantic title of Child(e) appears to have flowed (cf. Figure 16.6). In as much as the title Child(e) carried an 'atheling' or 'prince' connotation, it could have been seen to have affronted the legitimate supremacy of the Norman crown. A century or so later, John 'Lackland' may have planned to erode this perceived threat to his historic 'French based' legitimacy (though primogeniture had not earlier been regarded as the sole criterion for royal succession) — to this end, he may have sought to represent his bastards as contemporary equivalents of the Wessex Child(e). Certainly the writings of the anti-royal 13th century chroniclers of south east England, as well as others later, indicate that John Lackland had planted various illegitimate children around his lands in the times when he was Lord of (Lancaster and) Ireland, such that it is quite conceivable that John could personally have fathered (cf. theorem (2b)) a 'princeling' meaning to *Plaunte*. It is also compatible with John's purported character that he could himself have encouraged (cf. theorem (2a)) a 'princely' connotation to the word *plant* — it has become widely accepted, in recent decades, that John had a flair for administrative detail, as well as a reputation for mischievous humour and ingenious planning, and a sensitivity to perceived slights of his royal authority.

More generally it can be surmised that, for a 'princely' theory to hold as an aspect to the meaning of the Plant name, the originator of this meaning would have needed to know about either -

theorem (2a): both the Child(e) and Plantagenet epithets as well as an existing 'Welsh borderlands' meaning *child* of plant, or

theorem (2b): the implication of 'illegitimate child' when Plant is seen as a diminutive of Plantagenet.

It is accordingly not crucial, for a 'princely' theory, to suppose that the first Plants were truly royal bastards — it could simply be supposed that the Plant name could have been adopted instead, with a rather mischievous (cf. theorem 2(b)) or spiritual

⁷⁴Certainly the OED uses this quotation to illustrate the meaning (noun (sb1) (1c)) *a young person*, which is the only meaning of *plant* that the OED recognises to mean a person

⁷⁵Some further background to this can be outlined as follows. Guerilla warfare was in progress when, for example, Henry III ordered in 1233 that the Sheriff of Shropshire should pay 57 shillings for the heads of 57 Welshmen who had been slain in the valley of Church Stretton (Harvey (1948), *ibid*, p 70). Shropshire is immediately to Cheshire's south. Immediately to Shropshire's south east is Worcestershire, where William Langland had written by some 130 years later of the '*plaunte of pees*', apparently implying that a Lord's love child could help to beget peace (cf. Prince of Peace).

⁷⁶Ralph V Turner (1994), *King John*, p 201

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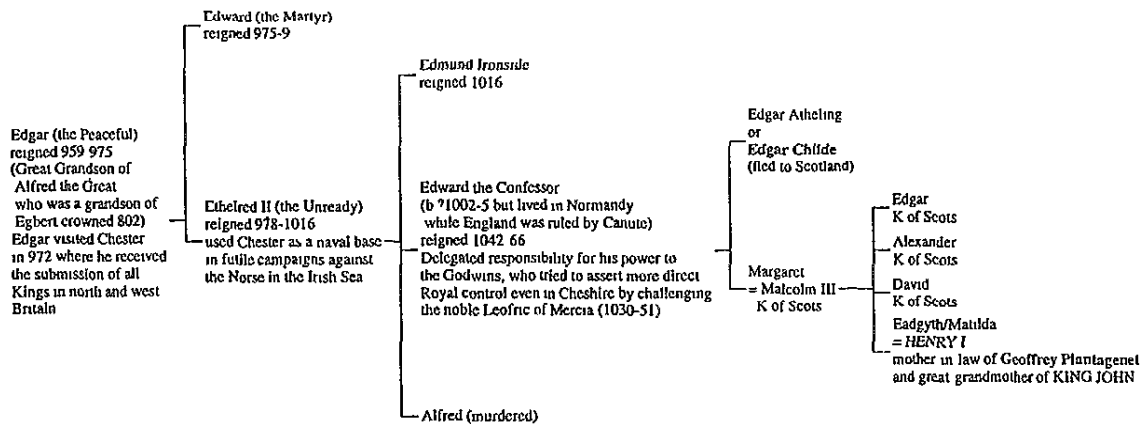


Figure 16.6: Some cognate ancestry of the Plantagenets and a *contentious* link back through *Edgar Childe* to the royal House of Wessex — at the time of the Norman Conquest Edward the Confessor was said to have died childless

(*cf.* theorem 2(a)) ‘princeling’ aspect to its meaning, just as a fanciful nickname.

16.7.3 Both a ‘child’ and a ‘royalist auxiliary’

As indicated above, early evidence for NW Cheshire and Flint, which was a district to the fore of 13th century Anglo-Welsh struggles, suggests that the Plant name could have begun with its carrying an official Plantagenet status though, alternatively, it could have developed just a ‘nickname’ (*cf.* the Welsh word *plant*). A ‘child’ aspect to the Plant name in this general region seems probable and, moreover, a ‘princely’ aspect to the name could, in due course, be judged to be just as credible as ‘gardener’. To the extent that the OED indicates that *plant* had, in the Welsh borderlands, an apparent meaning ‘a love child of a lord’, the Plant name can be compared with the Lancashire surname, Lord. Such ‘title’ names are often regarded as being ‘whimsical’ rather than necessarily factual. With this proviso, and with an assumption that the Plantagenet nickname or emblem was known, Plant can be summarised throughout its *various* meanings as being (either mischievously or officially) a ‘heteronymous royal diminutive’ with particular local connotations of:-

a (noble and natural) child, and, through the meaning of the verb, a founder or a (French) colonist or a gardener or a land steward, or, more generally, a royal(ist) auxiliary

(*cf.* OED, the Welsh language, Dictionaries of early French, local medieval history, Lancashire surnames, and standard theories for Welsh occurrences of Lewis and Llywelyn, as well as for the surnames Plantagenet and Childe and for the rare bye-names Plantebene, Planterose, and Pluckerose).

SOMERSET HOUSE WILLS RECORDS

Journal No. 15, page 49 contained information from Judith Kirkby relative to her researches at Somerset House. During her researches she extracted information for the Plant name for the years 1859 and 1860 and from 1872 to 1875.

The extracts are as follows, with information in italics connecting the information to previous articles in the Journal.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 ELIZABETH PLANT Effects under £200 Will proved <i>Principal Registry 5 3 1859</i> Formerley of Bromley House, Bromley, late of <i>Victory Cottages, Regent Street, Mile End (both Middlesex)</i> Widow Died 8 12.1858 at <i>Victory Cottages John Henry Books of 2, Victory Cottages, gentleman, one of executors</i></p> <p>2 HENRY (or HENERY) PLANT Effects under £20. Will proved at Ipswich, Suffolk, 22 2 1859 Late of <i>Trimley St Martin, Suffolk. Labourer, died 1 1.1857 at Trimley Mary Plant, widow, and Ephraim Hunt Freind of Burgh, Suffolk, Labourer, Executors</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;"><i>Page 20 Journal 10</i></p> <p>3 JAMES PLANT Effects under £100 Will proved Lichfield 20 8 1859 <i>Collier, late of Cheadle, Staffs, died 29 5 1859 at Cheadle. John Colts, builder, of Cheadle, and James Plant of Cheadle, joiner, son - executors</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 2em;"><i>Page 20 Journal 1</i></p> <p>4 JOHN PLANT Effects under £200 Will proved <i>Principal Registry 12 5 1859</i> Late of <i>The Easing, Leek, Staffs Farmer, died 13 3.1859. John Plant of The Easing, farmer, son, one of the executors</i></p> <p>5. JOHN PLANT [Effects not noted J.M.K.] Will proved</p> | <p>Lichfield 3 12 1859. <i>Yeoman, late of The Furnace, Stone, Staffs. Died 20 6 1859 at The Furnace William Brammall of Normicot, Staffs, manufacturer, and Thomas Plant of Normicot (?), potter, son, surviving executors</i></p> <p>6 THOMAS PLANT Effects under £100 Will proved at <i>Chester 1 1.1859 Innkeeper, late of Congleton, Cheshire. Died 1 9 1858 at Congleton. William Clulow, gentleman, and James Dale of Crewe, yeoman, executors</i></p> <p>7. WILLIAM PLANT Effects under £300 Will (admin + codicil) proved <i>Principal Registry 30 12.1859</i> Late of <i>Royden, Norfolk, gentleman, died 30 7.1824 at Royden. Will left unadministered by William Webster and Isaac Webster the younger, great nephews and executors Granted (30 12 1859) to John Frederick Webster of Redenhall with Harleston, commercial traveller, one of residing legatees</i></p> <p>8 ANN PLANT Effects under £200 Will proved <i>Liverpool 23 1.1860</i> Widow, late of <i>6, Catherine Terrace, Old Swan, Liverpool Died 30 12 1859 at Catherine Terrace Thomas Livesley Plant of 13 Bennett's Hill, Birmingham, agent, son, and James McCormack of 13 Newham Street, Liverpool, accountant, two of the executors</i></p> |
|---|--|

9. ELI PLANT Effects under £100 Will (and codicil) proved at principal Registry, 5 7.1860 Tailor, late of Leek, Staffs Died 5 5 1860 at Leek Richard Plant of Poolend, Leek, tailor, nephew, and Thomas Clowes of Leek, yeoman, executors
10. ELIZABETH PLANT Effects under £800 Will proved Leicester 5.4 1860. Spinster, late of Loughborough, Leics Died at 16.3.1860 at Loughborough Thomas Warner Lacey of Cotes, Leics, farmer, surviving executor.
- 11 JAMES PLANT Effects under £450 Will proved at Lichfield, 22.5 1860. Miner, late of West Bromwich, Staffs Died 25.12.1859 at West Bromwich. William Plant of Hill Top, West Bromwich, cardwainer, and James Plant of West Bromwich, engineer - sons and executors.
- 12 JAMES PLANT Effects under £1,000, then re-sworn as £1,500 in 1868 Will proved Chester 16.8.1860. James Plant the elder, writing clerk, late of Macclesfield, died 23 7 1860 at Macclesfield. Nancy Plant, widow, James Plant of Macclesfield, attorney's clerk, son, and William Bradbury Robinson, Macclesfield, brush manufacturer - executors.
- Page 10 Journal 8*
- 13 JOHN PLANT Effects under £1,000 then re-sworn under £1,500 in 1862 Will proved Derby 28 12 1860 Farmer late of Clifton, Ashborne, Devon (?) Died 11.12 1800 at Clifton Thomas Swindell of Mayfield, Staffs, farmer, one of executors.
14. JOSEPH PLANT Effects under £16,000. Will proved at Chester 7.2 1860 Gentleman, of Cheadle, Cheshire, died 28.11 1859 at Cheadle. James Plant of 44 Ardwick Green, Manchester, cotton spinner, brother, Mary Anne Plant, spinster, sister (same address), and Edward Chantler Faulkner of 25 King Street, Manchester, attorney and solicitor, executors
- Page 20 Journal 1*
15. REUBEN PLANT Effects under £800 Will proved at Lichfield 8.2.1860. Colliery manager, formerly of The Wallowes, near the Round Oak, and late of Pensnett, both in Kingswinford, Staffs. Died 19 3 1859 at Pensnett Daniel Plant of Brierley Hill, Kingswinford, builder, nephew, one of executors.
- 16 ROBERT PLANT Effects under £2,000. Will proved Principal Registry 11.1.1860. Hosier, formerly of Gracechurch Street, London, late of Hope Villas, Canonbury Park, Middlesex Died 12.9.1859 at Hope Villas Sarah Plant, widow and surviving executor.
17. SARAH PLANT Effects under £600. Double Probate at Chester 24 11.1860 and April 1861. Spinster, late of Holmes Chapel, died 7.10.1860 at Holmes Chapel, Cheshire. John Penkett of Granage, Cheshire, farmer, nephew, one of the executors.
- Page 22 Journal 13*
- 18 THOMAS PLANT Effects under £100 Will proved Chester 6.11.1860. Wheelwright, late of Church Hulme (otherwise Holmes Chapel), Cheshire, died 31.8 1860 at Church Hulme William Plant of

Church Hulme, Wheelwright, son,
one of the executors

Page 22 Journal 13

19 ALLEN PLANT Effects under
£100 Will proved Shrewsbury
29 4 1872. Shoemaker Died
2 4 1872 at Bicton, near
Shrewsbury Martha Plant, widow,
sole executor.

20. ANNA PLANT Effects under
£2,000 (after will re-sworn) Will
proved at Principal Registry
23 8.1872 Died 18.6 1872 at The
Wheatsheaf, 79 King Street East,
Hammersmith Widow. Probate to
Susan Melverton Plant, of The
Wheatsheaf, Spinster, daughter, one
of next of kin

21. EDWARD PLANT Effects under
£100. Died 11.5 1872 Late of The
Graving Dock Tavern, where he
died. Will proved at Principal
Registry 6.6.1872. Widow Anne,
sole executor (Apologies, note not
made re district. J.M.K.)

22 EDWARD PLANT Effects under
£100. Will proved at Gloucester
19.6 1872 (with codicil). Late of
Gloucester, gentleman, died
17 4 1872 Edward, one of the
executors, son of deceased

Page 35 Journal 9

23 HENRY PLANT Effects under
£300. Will proved at Principal
Registry 5 8 1872. Late of Bate
Mill, Over Peover, Cheshire
Miller Died at Bate Mill 4 5.1872
Elizabeth, widow, one of executors

24 JAMES PLANT Effects under
£300 Will proved at Lichfield
14 2.1872 Late of Whitmore
Reans, Wolverhampton Builder.
Widow Charlotte, residing legatee

25 JAMES PLANT Effects under
£300 Will proved at Manchester
4.9.1872 Formerly of 9, Hyde
Road, Ardwick, Manchester, late of
Oxford House, Oxford Road,
Manchester Gentleman Died
29 7 1872 at Oxford House Edwin
Simpson of The Grove, Altrincham,
Master of the Manchester Royal
Exchange, sole executor

26. JOHN PLANT Effects under £100.
Will proved at Principal Registry
13 7 1872. Late of Thorncliffe,
Staffs Edward Olley of Buxton
Road, Leek (farmer) and Thomas
Plant of The Easing Farm, near
Leek (farmer), nephew - executors

27 JONATHAN PLANT Effects under
£100 Will proved at Chester
12 10.1872 Late of Bostock,
Davenham, Cheshire Died
5 9.1872 Labourer Elizabeth,
widow, relict

Page 42 Journal 12

28 MARY ANNE PLANT Effects
under £100. Will proved at Bury St
Edmunds, Suffolk, 30 4 1872.
Widow. Late of Bardwell, Suffolk.
Died at Bardwell 13 1872.
Marianne Boud of Bardwell (wife
of Samuel Boud, freeman, grocer
and draper), daughter of deceased,
and sole executor

29 WILLIAM PLANT (EFFECTS
NOT NOTED J.M.K.) Will
proved at Principal Registry
9 8 1872 Mary Plant, widow, and
Edmund Carter Plant of Clifton
College, teacher of natural sciences,
son - executors

30 CATHERINE PLANT Effects
under £3,000 (having been re-sworn
Jan 1875) Will proved at Principal
Registry 13 11 1873. Thomas Jones
of East Vale (near Longton) and
Thomas Mosley of Sandford Hill -
both miners - two of executors

- 31 HENRY WILLIAM CORDWELL PLANT Effects under £1,500 Will proved at Lichfield 17 3 1873. Late of Burley Fields, Staffs. Martha Elizabeth Plant of Burley Fields, widow, and William Morgan, gentleman, of Stafford, executors
32. JOHN PLANT Effects under £450 (having been re-sworn Feb 1891). Will proved at Principal Registry 22 12.1873 Late of Silverdale, Staffs Died 25.6.1873. George Wrench, grocer, and James Smith, furnacemen, both of Silverdale, executors
- 33 WILLIAM PLANT Effects under £450. Will proved at Shrewsbury 13.12 1873. Late of Donnington Wood, Lilleshall, Shropshire, furnace labourer. Died 20.5.1873 at Donnington Wood James Wood (?), furnace labourer, and William Plimmer, engine worker, late of Wrockwardine wood, Shropshire, executors.
- 34 WILLIAM SIMPSON PLANT Effects under £1,000. Will proved at Ipswich (Date not recorded J.M.K.) Farmer, late of Worlingworth, Suffolk, died 24 2 1873 at Worlingworth Henry Plant of Horham, Suffolk, (farmer), brother, and William Taylor Reeve of Worlingworth, farmer - executors
35. ELIZABETH PLANT Effects under £100 Will proved at Chester 21 March 1874 Formerly of Heaton Norris, Lancs, then Hyde and Stockport, Cheshire. Spinster Died Stockport 27.2 1874 John Middleton of 36 Newton Street, Hyde, confectioner, sole executor
- Page 10 of Journal 7*
36. JAMES PLANT Effects under £600. Will proved at Norwich 24.6 1874 Widower, gentleman, of Trowse Newton, Norfolk Died 5.5.1874 at Trowse Newton. Robert Robinson of Benhall, Suffolk, coach builder, nephew, one of next of kin
- 37 JOHN PLANT [Effects not noted J.M.K.] Late of The Ship on Launch, College Street, Bristol Beerhouse keeper Died 2.7 1872 at Ship on Launch. Jane Plant, widow
- 38 JOSEPH PLANT Effects under £600. Will proved at Lichfield 10 3 1874 Farmer, late of the Outwood Bank, Gnoshall, Staffs Died 29 11 1873 at Outwood Bank James Hall the younger, of Wilbrighton, Gnoshall, farmer, one of the executors
39. MARY CATHERINE PLANT Effects under £100 Will proved at Wakefield Late of Sheffield, died 17 6.1873 at Sheffield. Wife of Samuel Plant. Samuel Plant of Sheffield, provision dealer
- 40 ROBERT PLANT Effects under £600. Will proved at Manchester [date not noted J M K.] Late of Grant Street, Blackley, Manchester, house builder Died 3 2 1874. Eliza Plant, widow
- 41 SAMUEL PLANT Effects under £450 Will proved Chester 21 9.1874 Pattern maker, late of Hyde, died 20 8 1874 at Hyde Thomas Cooke Reed, manufacturer, Henry Plant, joiner, and George Slater, watchmaker, all of Hyde, executors.
- Page 8 Journal 7*
- 42 THOMAS RICHARD PLANT [Effects not noted J.M.K.] Will proved at Principal Registry [date not noted J.M.K.] Bachelor, late the Wheatsheaf, 79 King Street, East Hammersmith Died 24.11.1874 at the Wheatsheaf Henry Milverton Plant of the Wheatsheaf, licensed

- beer retailer, brother, one of the next of kin
- 43 ANN PLANT Effects under £50. Will proved at Lichfield, Staffs, 14.10.1875 Late of Springfields, Stoke on Trent Died 3.9.1875 at Springfields Joseph Allman, labourer, of Knightly, Staffs, nephew, one of next of kin
- 44 ANN PLANT Effects under £50. Will proved at Manchester [Date not noted J.M.K.] Late of providence Street, Heaton Norris, widow, died 20.11.1875 at Providence Street Ann Plant, spinster, daughter, sole executor.
- 45 BENJAMIN PLANT Effects under £100. Will (with codicil) proved at Lichfield 20 2 1875. miner, late of Cheadle, Staffs, died 1.2 1875 at Cheadle. John Carr, miner, and Arthur Wright, carrier, both of Cheadle, executors
- 46 EDWIN PLANT Effects under £2,000. Will proved at Nottingham 30 10 1875. Formerly of Westfield, West Retford, late of East Retford, Notts., draper, died 4.5.1875 at East Retford. Thomas Plant of Cheltenham, hatter, and William Cart Plant of Doncaster, draper - brother, executors
- 47 EMMA PLANT Effects under £300. Will proved at Principal Registry 1.3.1875. Wife of Thomas Plant, farmer Late of Leek Moor Side, Leek Died 12 2.1875 at Leek Moor Side Thomas Plant
- 48 GEORGE THOMAS PLANT Effects under £200 Will proved at Lichfield 15 6 1875 Coal miner, late of Brierley Hill, Salop Died 15 12 1873 at Brierley Hill. Eliza Plant, widow, 29 Locks Lane, Brick Kiln Street, Brierley Hill
- 49 JAMES PLANT Effects under £100. Will proved at Wakefield 16 8.1875. Groom, late of Doncaster. Died at Doncaster 27 12 1874 Ann Plant, widow
- 50 JOSEPH PLANT Effects under £800 Will proved [office not noted J.M.K.] 7.6 1875 Late of Wolverhampton, steel toy maker, died at Wolverhampton 18 2 1875 Joseph Walters Plant, steel toy maker, son and Stephen Plant, Ford merchant, nephew, both of Wolverhampton, executors
- 51 JOSEPH PLANT Effects under £1,000. Will proved at Principal Registry 31 7 1875. Late of Wheelock, brewer Died at Wheelock 31 5 1875 Mary Ann Plant, widow, one of executors
- See Elworth Hall Plants*
- 52 MARIA PLANT Effects under £4,000 Will proved 11 1 1875 [office not noted J.M.K.] Late of 2 Keppel Street, Chelsea Died 28.12.1874 at Keppel Street William May of 1 Jubilee Cottage, Chelsea, and Joseph Boffey of 257 Lake Road, Landport, Hants, gentlemen, executors
- 53 REBECCA PLANT Effects under £600. Will proved Worcester 4 6 1875. Late of Oldbury, Worcs., widow, died 9 4 1874 at Oldbury John Ballard of Birmingham, joiner, and James Ballard of Oldbury, innkeeper, sons, executors
- 54 RICHARD PLANT Effects under £450 Will proved at Worcester 27.3.1875 Formerly of Bath Farm, Suffolk, late of Meadow Bank Cottage, Stoke Prior, Worcs Died 25.4 1874 at Meadow Bank Cottage. Henry Lovatt of Wolverhampton, bulder, and John Anthony Stratford Lovatt of Grove

- Terrace, Highgate Road, gentleman, nephews, executors
- 55 SUSANNAH PLANT Effects under £100 Will proved Principal Registry 18.3.1875 Late of Twyford, Bucks, widow Died 13.1 1875 at Twyford Richard Harper of Twyford, gentleman, and Francis Humfrey of Buckingham, wine merchant, executors
- 56 WILLIAM PLANT Effects under £500 Will proved at Chester 6.4.1875. Gentleman, late of Blanbridge, Worleston, Near Nantwich, Cheshire. Died at Blanbridge 9.3.1875. Henry Plant of Nantwich, seedsman, son, and James Sugden Brooke of Egerton Villa, Alexandra Park, Manchester, baker, and William Sandford of Nantwich, grocer, executors.
- 57 WILLIAM PLANT Effects under £600 Will proved 2 6 1875 (re-sworn March 1876) [office not noted JMK] Formerly of Dresden, Trentham, but late of Edenson Road, Longton Plumber, glazier, painter. Died 21 4 1875 at Longton Ann Plant of Edensor Road, spinster, daughter, one of the executors
- 58 WILLIAM DEAN PLANT Effects under £200. Will proved 30.8.1875 Principal Registry. Late of Elworth Hall, Sandbach, Cheshire Farmer, bachelor. Died 19.10 1871 at Elworth Hall. Arthur Plant, miller, of Lincoln. Brother, one of next of kin.

See Elworth Hall Plants

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STAFFORDSHIRE BURIAL INDEX

From Nathan to Samuel

This list is an addition to that shown in Journal No 9, Pages 48 to 49

<u>Date</u>	<u>Forename</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Parish Church</u>
4 6 1702	Nathan	Inf.	Longnor
25 4 1634	Nicholas	of Fould	Leek
26 4 1640	Nicholas	of Leek	Leek
26 3 1806	Peggy	w/o William of Darlaston	Stone
2 4 1725	Penelope	w/o John of Blackshawmoor	Leek
24 10 1798	Penelope	inf	Stoke on Trent
16 10 1738	Peter	s/o Tho & Anne of Leek	Leek
6 1 1777	Peter	inf	Leek
3 8 1723	Phoebe	inf.	Stoke on Trent
23 3 1777	Pheebe	d/o Ed & Han of Knighton	Mucklestone
16 7 1802	Phillip	age 11	Cheadle
17 11 1802	Philip		Onecote
24 6 1776	Prudence	w/o Stephen of Earnfield	Swynnerton
18 1 1793	Prudence		Sandon
23 10 1792	Rachel	age 7	Leek
13 10 1570	Raphe		Mucklestone
17 3 1742	Ralph	inf of Leek	Leek
31 1 1786	Rebecca		Stoke on Trent
0 12 1617	Richard		Stone
20 3 1699	Rich	of Foher Moor, yeoman	Leek
9 3 1703	Rich	from Alstonfield	Leek
8 5 1712	Rich	inf. of Spout St	Leek
23 7 1714	Richard	s/o William Plant of Darlaston	Stone
2 10 1714	Richard	s/o Richard & Ann	Kingsley
19 5 1716	Rich	of Leek Moor	Leek
19 5 1718	Rich		Leek
0 1 1727	Richard	inf of Darlaston	Stone
8 9 1729	Rich	of Lawton Hall, Co Cheshire	Leek
10 10 1742	Rich	inf. of Leek	Leek
4 4 1752	Rich	inf. of Leek	Leek
11 6 1765	Richard	of Leek Moor	Leek
25 1 1769	Richard	inf	Leek
11 4 1769	Richard	of Hazlewood	Leek
8 2 1777	Richd	Senr	Brewood
3 10 1781	Richd	of the Bath	Brewood
6 8 1790	Richard	of Stanley Moor	Endon
14 3 1797	Richard	G. age 63	Leek
2 12 1800	Richard	of Park Lane	Endon
26 1 1804	Richard	age 6	Brewood
13 2 1807	Richard	G.	Leek
7 6 1812	Richard	s/o Richard & Charlotte, soldier	Stafford, St Mary
5 4 1649	Rob	of Hobhouse	Leek
23 2 1671	Robertus	of Newbora	Hanbury
27 8 1700	Rob	of Mill St	Leek
25 12 1708	Robert		Rowley Regis

20	2	1724	Rob	Marit.	Stoke on Trent
18	10	1790	Robert	of Croxton	Eccleshall
29	6	1793	Rob		Stoke on Trent
6	6	1799	Robert		Gayton
5	4	1800	Robert	age 5	Leek
12	2	1801	Robert	s/o John & Elizabeth of Newport	Gnosall
3	5	1801	Robert	inf	Leek
5	5	1772	Sampson	s/o Isaac	Uttoxeter
1	5	1711	Sam	infant of New Grange	Leek
25	3	1719	Sam	inf.	Leek
13	1	1738	Sam	inf. of Blockshaw Moor	Leek
19	11	1741	Sam	of Abby Green age 82	Leek
26	11	1758	Saml	inf. of Leek	Leek
19	5	1760	Sam	of Boothon	Stoke on Trent
9	7	1766	Saml	inf.	Leek
27	1	1775	Saml		Leek
20	9	1775	Samuel	s/o Isaac	Uttoxeter
18	12	1775	Samuel	s/o Stephen & Prudence of Earnfield	Swynnerton
12	7	1782	Saml		Leek
14	7	1785	Samuel	s/o James	Wolverhampton
14	11	1794	Saml	age 2	Leek
15	10	1801	Samuel	s/o John	Lichfield, St Michael
16	10	1803	Samuel	age 4	Leek
18	8	1809	Saml	of Bearston	Mucklestone
26	9	1811	Samuel		Brewood
12	2	1812	Samuel		Ellenhall
11	12	1820	Samuel	of Guild age 65	Forton
29	1	1835	Samuel	age 1	Brewood

EARLY LEICESTER RECORDS

- 1 Source: Leicester Borough Archives Box L No 248(8)
Title: Rents of Shops in Leicester

1376

Rents of Tawyers in the 50th year

Draperie

Hen Tailour, Will de Cotes, Will. Kereby, Leticia Deken, Rob Neuton, Ric Tailour de Aishedon, Tho Kereby, Joh. Prentys, Will Standyrose, Rog Beby, Joh Tylney, Will Kyng, Will. Plante, Rob. Ay, Galf de Silby, Joh Draper de Siston, Will Hosewyf, Will Tailour de Desford, Will. de Kereby, Simon de Sily, Will. Greystoke, Hen Tailour, Jos Hosewyf.

£2. 1s. 3d

- 2 Source Public Record Office
Title. *Feudal Aids Leicestershire*

1428

Hundred of Guthlaxton

From the heirs of John Plaunte for a fourth part of one knight's fee, which they hold in Claybrok Magna, and which John Plaunte once held, as etc

Aid, 20d

- 3 Source. Leicester Borough Archives Box 9 No 206
Title: *Leicester Benevolence Roll*

1505

The ward from the hie crosse to Pexsall corner - both syddes the strete

Tho Plaunt

1s 9d

- 4 Source: Leicestershire Record Office
Title *Leicester Archdeaconry Will.*

made 28 June 1569

proved 29 January 1570

William Bayte [Batte] of Hemmington, county Leicester, husb"
to be buried in the church yard of Lockington
all my lands etc to Margaret Bate my wife in the Lordship of Hemmington
Dorothy Bate my youngest daughter
my daughter Mudwen Bayte to have 3s 4d yearly [under 15]
Thomas Bayte my brother £6
Elizabeth Plante my goddaughter 4d
residue to Margaret my wife my executrix
and I desire Mr Benbryge of Hemmington and John Howes to be supervisors
to my curate Mr Vicar of Lockington 12d.
28 June 11 Elizabeth
Witnesses: George Herod my curate, William Denbryge, John Howes of Hemington,
George Holson of Lockington and others
Debts owing.

to Mr Baynbrige of Lockington, William Baynbrige of Hemington, John Howes of
Hemmington, James Pymme of Eyton, Andrew Astell, John Abbot, John Holdershawe,
Ellen Dawson, Anthony Loow, and to my brother Thomas and my sister Isabell

- 5 Source: Leicestershire Record Office
Title: *Leicester Archdeaconry Will*

made 13 March 1569
proved 24 March 1571

Thomas Sibson of Burstall
to be buried in the churchyard of Burstall
mother church of Lincoln 4d.
John Sibson 46s 8d
Thomas Sibson 3s 4d
Katharine Sibson 110s
Emon Sibson 40s
Edward Sibson 46s 8d
Mkaret Sibson 46s 8d
chapel of Burstall: a strike of malt
poor man's box 6d
residue to Alice my wife my executrix
John Sibson my brothers son 12d
Thomas Sibson my brother 12d
William Litterwode my godson 4d
Agnes Saunton my goddaughter 4d
[my sons at 20 years of age]
John Plant and Thomas Johnson overseers
Witnesses: Thomas Darker, John Sibson, William Redley and others

- 6 Source: Leicestershire Record Office
Title: *Leicester Archdeaconry Will*

made 8 July 1566
proved 24 September 1566

John Plante of Cold Overton

to be buried in the churtyard of Cold Overton aforesaid
poor man's box 6d
my sister Agnes Plante: lamb
Anne my daughter. land I have in the parish of Fresleys by the gift of my father
Thomas Plante
residue to my wife and children
Jone my wiffe and William Cley my father-in-law my executors

Witnesses: Philippe Barker, Thomas Wylkyn, William Cley and others
probate 24 September 1566
£9 12s 6d

7 Source. Leicestershire Record Office
Title: *Leicester Archdeaconry Will*

made 14 August 1569
proved 20 September 1569

will of William Brookes of Congerton
Jone my wife and children
. my servants
..Edward Jales two ewes
poor people 12d,
Lawrence Plante doublet
...Jone my wife executrix
...overseers Robert Wilkeson, Robert Lonce
Witnesses: George Ravyn, Lawrence Plant, William Wikeson

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

continued from Journals 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 & 14

6 January to 20 June 1852

- January 8 T Brough at Old Springs enquiring if Mr Brocklehurst had been at Swythamley the day before as I was to have seen him for to have spoken for Robert Turnock as he was under Notice. Mr Hughes was to have sent me word he said he told the Master as soon as he came and he told Hughes he Let the Cottage and he must send mee word but Hughes neglected and he said he had told Joshua he must come in the afternoon. When I came back I sent Elizabeth with a bit of pork & 1s for old Matthew Mellor and to tell Robert Turnock his cottage was Let He was horrid to her.
- 9 T Brough at the smithy with Gilbert very stormy & cold with snow. George and Tom Bellfield came in the afternoon and brought there ferrit to Ketch some Rabbets they Ketched 3 and turned it into a burrough in the Ditch between the Calf Hags they wated 2 Hours and Dugged varies ways but could not Finde it they were verry much alarmed with a sudden Flash of Lightening and loud Clap of Thunder they went and Left it and George went in 1 Houre at after and took the Lanthern with him and with a Little digging he found the Ferrit asleep on the Rabbet which he had Kild.
- 12 Robert Turnock and Ann came to our house to talk about a small farm at Longnor Edge that was to be sold on the 19th Mr Taylor called at the Far Barn I paid him the Property Tax 6s 5d
- 13 When we came to our dinner Robert Turnock had called in the morning to say Mr Taylor had told him that his Farm was not set as I had asked Mr Hughes to let me know when the Mr Came to Swythamley he came Wednesday Last he told the Mrs I wanted see him the Mr told Hughes that he had set the Farme and he must let me know, but I went to Swythamley on Thursday and Hughes said he had told I was to come in the afternoon. I thought there was some Mistake and so I got ready and started at 1/2 past one to Rushton to have to have gone by the 1/2 past two o'clock train to see the Mister but I was too Late I went to Mr Hents and asked him to take me to Macclesfield in his gig he sent James with me when we got to the office the Mr had been and gone 1/2 an houre Mr Bagshaw advised me to go to Hethrington House to see him I went and saw him he told me he had set it and would not be intrested for to Let Turnocks stop if they would give an advance rent. I refreshed at the Mrs he was verry kind with me and was verry sorry that I had come so far, he wished me to stop all night but could not as James Hent was waiting at the White lion for to take me back to Rushton and T Brough waiting in Rushton for mee he sent the Butler with me to the turnpike as the Night was Dark I saw at the Bulls Head as I came back a Chestnut Horse that measured 21 Hands high. I give Mr Hent 5s for his goodwill we got home at 11 o'clock Tonight
- 14 I sent Elizabeth to Turnocks to tell them their farm was set
- 18 T Brough at Chappel heard of Thomas Fishers Death of Friday night

- 19 Isaac Kirkham came to bid to the Interment of T Fisher on Tuesday
- 20 I was at the Funarl of T Fisher at the Roach House I did not go to Meerbrook I called at the Pheasants Clough Verry wet and windy
- 21 T Brough sold a stirk skin that died of the Hient on Monday
- 24 Maria at Macclesfield give notice for £30 out of the Savings Bank Brought 5 of the 30 with her for to accomodate me as I was short of money
- 25 John Findlow came to Buy or Beg old Smiler for Mrs Nixon but I told him he should be abused by no one When I had done with him his Bones should rest The Girls at Wincle Chappel Find day.
- 26 T Brough and Wm Gates tried the Mare with Gilbert to get some dung out at the F Barn they were good humoured and tidy T Brough went to Swythamley at Night to see Mr Hughes about bringing old Smiler they agreed for him to bring him Tomorrow. Sam Hulme came at night.
- 27 T Brough took old Smiler to Swythamley T Buxon shot him they took his hid eff T Brough took it to Leek the tanner was out.
- 28 Got 5s for the horse hide sold it to Booth the tanner
- 29 Wm Yates called to tell me we might fetch the Mare any time when convenient
- 30 Maria lent me 16 sovrens.
- 31 T Brough fetched Juel give Wm Yates 20 Pound in part of payment She was coming 4 years old.
- February 3 wee turned the tits together for the first time they agreed well.
- 4 T Brough at Leek verry wet Great Flood
- 9 T Brough paid Wm Yates the £6 that was left unpaid when the Mare was fetched he returned him 5s for Luck. Maria lent me 24 sovrens. I Mottershead and a Chees Factor called
- 14 I give Maria a Memoranda for the £40 which she Lent me dated 24th January to be paid by the 1st of June or to have a note with Interest from the date of the 24th of January. Snow went off in the afternoon
- 15 The Girls went to Chappel T Brough was drest for to have gone I was poorly and he stayed with me
- 22 I went to see Hannah Oliver and give her a sovren Elizabeth and T Brough at Danebridge young Matthew; Shufflebotham from Haywood Hall came to see us.
- 24 Shrove Tuesday Wm Hine brought some books home that he had Borrowed 1 year and five months

- March 13 Wm Beswick began a song in the afternoon in the Sherratt Meadow Tidy calved a bull calfe in the morning the calfe came with the hind legs first one foot was Doubled down and she could not calve till the foot was Straited into the passage.
- April 1 T Brough gardening I went to Sudlows and Brownsett I give Mr Taylor Notice to pay Thomas Brouchs money in on the first of June £325. with all Interest Due in Bank of England or Gold. I told Mr Taylor I thought I could raise among my friends £300 if he told me in time that he should be short of Money
- 2 T Brough gardening Sam Findlow came wanting me to lend him £30 but could spare none.
- 25 Elizabeth at Chappel verry dry day Thomas Brough very ill.
- 26 John Findlow went to Leek for Dr Heaton to come and see Thomas he came and Findlow was to have gone to Leek for medsun for Thomas but stopped in Meerbrook
- 27 I went to Leek for some medson for Thomas Elizabeth went to Brownset for Mr Taylor to make his will.
- 28 I was at Leek called of the Doctor sent fresh medson and came at night he was verry badly.
- 30 I was at Leek for Medson for Thomas Thomas rather better
- May 1 William Brough came to see Thomas and he was better He called on the 28th the same night Mr Taylor came and rote his will Elizabeth to fetch Nolan to witness the will.
- 4 Thomas picked some stone in the Meadow The first work he had done for two weeks. We swept the chimney.
- 16 T Brough at leek for some money out of the savings Bank young Shurley and a man out of Leicestershire called and bought some cheese.
- 22 T Brough took 49 cheeses to the station sold one to the porter 15 at 4d pr lb he went to the Mill bought 2 Load of 4 score meal Paid for drying and grinding
- June 20 Elizabeth and I at Chappell Roachside and Hazzlewood dole was given by Mr Turner 17s James willis Williamson had the halfe 8s6d Thomas Turnock David Boyer and widow Boyer and other halfe 8s6d divided among them I put 6d to it and made their share 3s each. Fine day but wet at night. Mr Turner lent me an umbrella

The entry for 20th June 1852 appears to be the last for 1852

There could be a number of reasons for this
Maybe he continued in another diary which over the years has been lost
Perhaps he felt *too ill to continue* (he would have been 68 years old by this time).
Possibly he was too busy on the farm.

Whatever the reason, we will never know for sure

The diary re-commences 2 March 1853 continuing intermittently until the end of August 1853 at which stage entries cease. The final entries will be included in Journal No 16.

**STRAYS FOUND IN 1851 CENSUS RETURNS FOR
MARKET HARBOROUGH**

Village St Mary's Little Bowden HO 197/2079
Parish St Nicholas

John B Plant	H	M	42	Road Labourer	born	Kent
Mary Plant	W	M	36		born	Dingley, Northants
Elizabeth Plant	D	U	16	Lace Turner	born	Little Bowden
Thomas Plant	S	U	14	Agr. Labourer	born	" "
Mary Ann "	D	U	11	Day Nurse	born	" "
George Plant	S		8	Scholar	born	" "
Lucy Plant	D		6	"	born	" "
William Plant	S		3		born	" "

Village Market Harborough page 339 (as indexed) 396

Sun Yard	Charles Plant	H	M	44	Hay Cutter	born	Bristol
	Mary Plant	W	M	37	Ribbon Weaver	born	Littleborough, Notts
	Maria Plant	D	U	17	Factory Spinner wool	born	Attleborough, Warwick
	John Plant	S		14	Brickyard Labourer	born	Market Harborough
	Thomas Plant	S		6		born	Attleborough, Warwick
	William Plant	S		2		born	Attleborough, Warwick

The above information forwarded by Kathy Compagno (Member No 121)

MEMBER'S LETTERS

From Sue Woods - Member No 154

30 December 1997

Before outlining this family, I wish to point out, none were my ancestors

Shortly after Easter 1997, and in Adelaide, I spent time with a paternal aunt of my husband, Celia, who is a PLANT descendant and initial source of family information. This research is merely in its infancy and open to correction, amendment, advancement and (polite) suggestion.

Laura Emma PLANT (1883-1938) married John Willie WOODS (1883-1943) at the Unitarian Chapel, Chorton on Medlock, Manchester in 1911. John Willie, was a contract storekeeper at the time of marriage, but later became RSM of the 8th Ardwick Battalion, Manchester Regiment, serving with distinction until his retirement in 1928. Of their three sons and one daughter, only the daughter, Celia, survives. Celia, with her husband and brother and his wife and four children migrated to South Australia in 1952.

Laura Emma was the second daughter of **WILLIAM (1856-1928) & HARRIET (c. 1856-?) PLANT** - Celia recalls there were five girls and two boys, but research to date suggests at least two further daughters were born to William & Harriet.

William PLANT m. Harriet
b 1856 Horton, Staff b c 1856 Buddulph, Staff

Coalminer & Farmer
1881 Wardles Farm, Buddulph

MARY	EMMA	LAURA EMMA	DOLLY	JAMES (JIM)	JANET	MAUD	VIOLET	JACK (?JOHN)
c 1877	c 1880	c 1883						c 1891 d 1982
Horton	Horton	Biddulph						

Harriet's maiden surname remains unknown for the moment. Celia recalls she was neither able to read or write. The place of marriage is stated to have been at the Primitive Methodist Chapel at Buddulph Moor, this source remains to be checked - and the date established Circa 1876.

The 1881 Census - Buddulph, Staffs [As Enumerated - p 19503]

Wardles Farm, Buddulph shows **William PLANT**, head, married, age 25, a **Coal Miner & ...** born at Horton, wife Harriet, age 24, **Farmers Wife** born Buddulph and two daughters, Mary E. age 4 and Emma age 1, both born, Horton.

Celia is adamant **William** was the son of **William & Ann** - and indeed, on the IGI for Staffordshire there is a **William** baptised to a **William & Ann PLANT** on 28 Jan 1856 at Horton. She also recalls as a small child, being dressed in a new coat and taken by her mother, Laura Emma, to attend the funeral of her grandfather and is certain this was around 1928. At the time of his death he was a widower living alone. Daughter, Maud, (thought to have predeceased him), had resided next door. The houses on Buddulph Moor, were very old with oil lamps for lighting and a well for water. The house had once been a Police Station with a cell in it, and the address was "Lions Paw Farm", Brown Edge, Stoke on Trent.

Ann (mother of William c 1856-1928) died prior to the 1881 Census - Horton, Staffs [As enumerated p 06117] for at Crowborough, Horton, the only other **William PLANT**, is **65, Farmer of 65 acres, born Buddulph**, married to Cathaline, age 58 born Newchapel. There is also a daughter, Sarah, age 20, and son, John, aged 17; in addition to them, there is Iscar

LOVATT, 14 and Amanda H LOVATT, 8 who are recorded as STEPgrandson and STEPgranddaughter.... therefore clearly suggesting they are the grandchildren of his (now) WIFE, Cathaline

Little is known of the other children of William & Harret - apart from Janet who married Fred GOODWIN and is reputed to have borne 11 children. Sometime after her husband's death, Janet was approached by a newspaper conducting a survey of the oldest buildings in the region only to be told that the farm had once belonged to her grandfather - [and here the waters become a little muddled] earlier it was stated to have been a Tavern where Highwaymen stopped and over the front door is a stone plaque with a "Lions Paw", the name by which the property is known

Several cousins are reputed to still reside in or around Knypersley

It is difficult at this distance to be certain if Celia is referring to the same property, or two separate properties - memory can become clouded over time. This is where this PLANT family research currently stands.

During July and August, while in the UK for the Ashes, I managed to drive through the area, but insufficient time made it difficult to establish precise localities I have Ordnance Survey Maps - No. 27 of the First Edition one-inch series, Buxton & Stockport and the Landranger series No 118 (Stoke on Trent & Macclesfield area) These are of enormous value in establishing locale and terrain, while personal and local knowledge is an inestimable resource, but it does require verification for accuracy and authenticity

As I said in my opening, I welcome correction, amendment and suggestion Can anyone verify if the property known as "Lions Paw" was once a police station and/or a Public House or Inn.

Sue Woods

From Sue Woods - Member No 154

25 June 1998

Enclosed, photocopy of a certificate I have obtained - which is incorrect. With a choice of three candidates in the same quarter and not being 100% certain of the locality of birth or the Registration District likely to be used, it is a bit of a 'punt'

Is a file held of the certificates (correct & incorrect) members have purchased?

I would be happy to part with the certified copy of the certificate to anyone who does have a connection with this family

EMMA PLANT born 15 April 1880 at 48 New Street, Bootley, (?) Stoke on Trent - father Henry **PLANT**, Potter, and mother Emma **PLANT** formerly **BLOORE** [June 1/4 1880 Stoke on Trent 6b 947].

By chance, would anyone else hold the certificate for Emma PLANT June 1/4 1880 Macclesfield 8b 121 or June 1/4 1880 Chapel en le Frith 7b 642 (?)

Her parents names according to other sources, were **WILLIAM & HARRIET** (maiden name not known) **PLANT** and her birthplace, recorded as **HORTON**

Cheers.

WKP Note The copy of Emma Plant's birth certificate referred to in Sue's letter
is now in my possession. If anybody requires a copy please contact
me

PLANT CALENDAR OF WILLS COUNTY COURT OF LICHFIELD

Stafford, Warwick, Derby & Shropshire to 1858
Calendar of Wills & Admons 1821 - 1860 A - Y

The following information has been forwarded by Sue Woods Member No 154.
1841-1860

1841	Mar 30	John	PLANT	Mucclestone
1841	Nov 23	Joshua		Quoadbona
1842	Oct 27	James		Leek
1844	Apr 24	William		Newport
1844	Jul 26	William		Quoadbona
1845	Feb 24	Benjamin		Lane End
1845	Oct 31	Elizabeth		Newcastle
1845	Dec 5	Thomas		Kingswinford
1846	Jan 27	Ann		Quoadbona
1846	Oct 29	Elizabeth		Cheadle
1846	Oct 30	George		Stoke on Trent
1846	Apr 30	John		Leek
1848	Oct 4	Sarah		Wednesbury
1850	May 11	Mary		Castle Church
1850	Apr 25	Robert		Alstonefield
1850	Jan 17	William		Kingswinford
1851	Apr 28	Elizabeth		Alton
1851	May 2	Elizabeth		Stoke on Trent
1851	Oct 7	John		Leek
1851	Jun 3	John		Longton
1851	May 2	Joseph		Stoke on Trent
1851	Dec 31	Moses		Stoke on Trent
1851	Jul 19	Thomas		Stoke on Trent
1851	May 1	William		Stone
1852	Nov 24	James		Alstonfield
1853	Mar 28	Edward		Wolverhampton
1853	Sep 9	John		Burslem
1853	Jun 8	Thomas		Biddulph
1854	Nov 3	James		Norton in the Moors
1854	May 5	John		Millwick
1854	May 4	Thomas		Cheadle
1855	May 3	John		Leek
1855	Dec 14	Samuel		Trent Vale
1856	Sep 19	Joseph		West Bromwich Ad
1856	Oct 31	Thomas		Stone
1857	Oct 30	John		Biddulph
1857	May 1	Joseph		Stoke
1858	May 4	John		Leek
1858	Jul 26	Mary		Leek
1858	Jul 1	William		Castle Church
1859	Apr 13	James		Springfields
1859	Dec 3	John		Stone
1859	Aug 20	James		Cheadle
1860	Mar 22	James		West Bromwich
1860	Feb 8	Reuben		Pensnett

Staffordshire Wills 1821 - 1840

1821	May 2	Samuel	PLANT	Foxton
1822	May 10	John		Castle Church
1823	Apr 23	Benjamin		Wellington
1824	May 4	Edward		Ashborne
1825	Jul 30	Samuel		Muckleston
1826	Jun 14	Thomas		Newcastle under Lyme
1827	May 10	James		Cheadle
1827	May 9	John		Stone
1829	Oct 21	Alice		Foxton
1830	Apr 29	Thomas		Leek
1830	Aug 20	James		Leek
1830	Feb 5	John		Hilderstone
1831	Oct 20	James		Duckmanton
1831	Oct 27	Thomas		Leek
1831	Jul 21	William		Biddulph
1831	Apr 28	William		Stone
1832	Mar 5	Hannah		Leek
1832	Feb 24	John		Sherriffhales
1833	May 29	John		Quoadbona
1833	Apr 24	Robert		Ashley
1834	Apr 10	Thomas		Chesterfield
1834	Jun 8	John		Stafford
1834	Apr 26	Samuel		Chesterfield
1834	Jun 8	William		Haughton (sic)
1839	Dec 31	Edward		Stone
1839	Oct 23	Hannah		Doveridge
1840	Feb 19	Frederick		Newcastle
1840	Apr 22	John		Norbury