

# Roots and Branches



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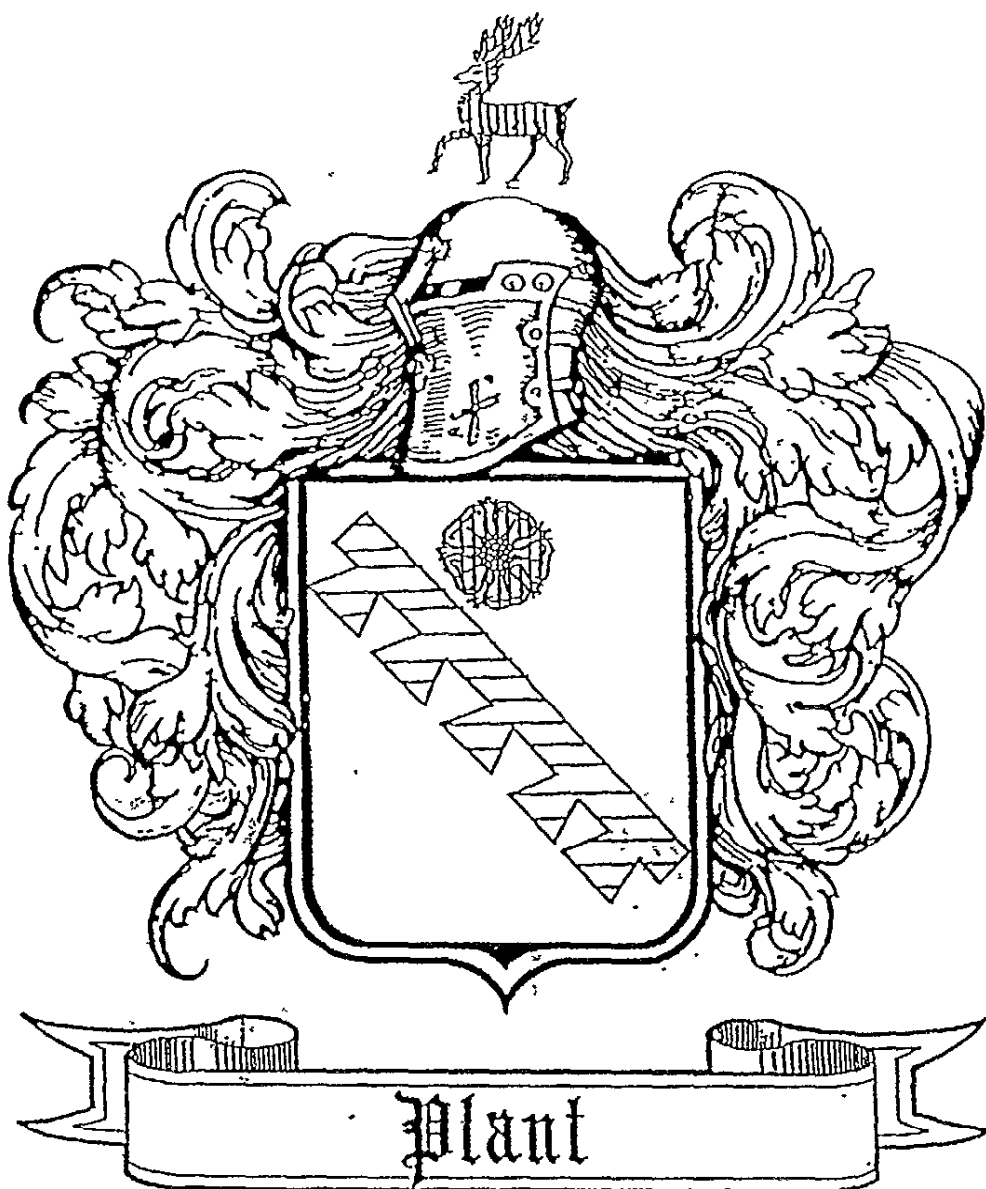
## The Official Journal of The Plant Family History Group

Issue No 17 January 99  
*16/12/99*

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From information given by members of the group



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

"AR. A LABEL IN BEND AZ. IN CHIEF A ROSE 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] |
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[REDACTED]

## MEMBERS INTERESTS

| <u>Membership</u> |                        | <u>Interest</u>   |
|-------------------|------------------------|---|
| <u>No</u>         | <u>Name</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/<br>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/<br>19c Notts / 19c Cheltenham Glos/ |
| 29                | Mrs Shirley Hughes     | L17c + 18c Rowley Regis Worcs/19c Dudley<br>Worcs/L19c Sydney Australia/      |
| 32                | Mrs Catherine Sproston | Any Period Cheshire/  |
| 33                | Miss Aileen Plant      | 17c 18c 19c Stockport Cheshire/   |
| 37                | Mr Patrick Pearson     | Any period Stockport Cheshire/  |
| 38                | Mrs Sian Plant         | e19c Denton Lancs/19c Leicester/<br>20c Rounds Northants/                     |
| 45                | Mr David Johnson       | 19c Kidsgrove/  |
| 47                | Mrs S Robson           | General/  |
| 51                | Mr Gerald Plant        | m19c Goostrey Cheshire/L19c e20c Salford<br>Lancs/                            |
| 52                | Dr John S Plant        | 19c Sheffield Yorks/e19c Clowne<br>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<br>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<br>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<br>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        | 19c Leek, Staffs/19c Macclesfield, Cheshire/  |
| 121 | Kathy Compagno            | 19c West Bromwich + Walsall, Staffs/<br>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 +<br>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      | m 19c Wolverhampton Staffordshire/<br>L 19c 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<br>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,<br>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/<br>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/
- 166 Mrs Margaret Insley m 19c Hulme, Manchester, Lancs/  
L 19c + 20c Australia (Victoria)/
- 167 Mrs M J Plant Any period Market Harborough, Little Bowden,  
Great Bowden, Foxton, Leics/Sutton St. Edmund,  
Halbeach, Lincs/ Brighton Sussex/Haverhill,  
Suffolk/Battersea, London/
- 168 Mr Philip Plant As for member 167 plus North Wiltshire/
- 169 Mrs Hazel Morgan 19c Meerbrook, Grindon, Staffs/Ashbourne, Derby/
- 170 Mrs Sharon Marie Walsh 18c + 19c Holmes Chapel, Sandbach, Knutsford,  
Cheshire/
- 171 Mr Brad Scott pre m 19c Pembroke Dock/

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to 1999 and best wishes to all members of our Group

Since the last journal, issued July 1998, six new members have joined the Group

Earlier on in 1998 a member of our Group (I cannot remember who) forwarded to me a cutting from a Melbourne, Australia publication entitled 'The Age' This publication containing a section dedicated to readers who are seeking to trace family members in relation to historical research

The cutting contained the following

"Information is sought on

*Plant branches at Trentham, Blue Mountain, Tylden, Daylesford, Inglewood and Ballan, from the 1870's onwards, descendants of settlers from Manchester Contact: Mrs M P Insley, c/o Broadcare, 152 High Street, Broadford 3658 "*

I subsequently wrote to Mrs Margaret Insley receiving an extremely enthusiastic reply commencing with the statement "I was amazed and overjoyed to receive your letter. It felt as if I had at last contacted my long lost family members from the Homeland"

Margaret's particular interest centred around Manchester in the UK, her Plant ancestors emigrating from this area in 1863. The full story of this family, William and Mary Ann Plant (nee Higginson) and the problems that, particularly, Mary Ann had to face on the journey over to Australia and her early years in Australia is included elsewhere in this Journal

In addition to the story of William and Mary Ann, Margaret also forwarded to the Group details of Plants on the Pioneer files etc., which will be included in forthcoming issues of the Journal and also a list of Plant immigrants to Victoria Australia between 1859 and 1869, which is included in this Journal

Margaret is now Member No. 166

The next member to join, No. 167, was Mrs M J Plant who, whilst researching her husband's family in Battersea, came across an advert relative to The Plant Family History Group, in one of the historical magazines.

From the list of areas contained on the Interest Record Form submitted with Mrs Plant's membership details I suggested she should contact:

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Member No. 69  | Mr Andrew Plant who has connections with Little Bowden, Market Harborough and London. |
| Member No. 38  | Mrs Stan Plant who has interests in Leicester   |
| Member No. 74  | Mrs Alice Mercer who has interests in Leicester                                       |
| Member No. 108 | Mrs Stella Kornfein who is interested in Wisbech, Cambridge and Battersea             |

I don't know whether she contacted all the above. What I do know is that she got in touch with Stella Kornfein who, it transpires, is the wife of one of her cousins. As a result lost

information on other members of the family has been exchanged See also letter from Andrew Plant (letters section)

Member No 168 is Philip Plant, the son of Mrs Plant (Member No 167) whose main interest is in Wiltshire

Whilst doing some research our next member, Mrs Hazel Morgan (nee Plant) came across my name in The Guild of One Name Studies. Her main interest is Meerbrook and Grindon in Staffs , (a concentrated area of Plants) plus Ashbourne, Derby through the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Hazel is descended from James Plant and Hannah who had James (c 4-12-1817), Elizabeth (c 5-2-1820) and Smith (c 17-11-1821). Smith Plant m Sarah Richardson on 23 February 1854 in St Oswald Ashbourne, Sarah Ann, James Thomas and John being christened 22 5.1854, born c 1852, born c 1862 respectively.

This latter John is the one causing the problem, no record of his birth c 1862 has been found.

I thought the best way to solve this problem would be to concentrate on the unusual Christian name of Smith. However, this didn't help as there appears to be two 'Smiths' living in the same area at the same time. The Leek Parish Records records the christening on 6 July 1818 of Smith son of Thomas Plant and Joyce Deavil? Of Leek Moorside farmer The family of this Smith is recorded in the 1861 Census as Smith age 46, Wheelwright, Mary 37 b Grindon, George Henry 16 b Grindon, John F 14, Charles 11, Jane 9, Smith 7, Mary 5, all born Bradnap and Ralph 3, William 1, both born Leek. The 1881 Census for Staffs. Shows Smith age 66 born Leek.

Just two other points:- The 1860 Commercial Directory for Staffordshire and Birmingham records in Grindon, Smith Plant, farmer of Well Farm and secondly – In 1802 Thomas Plant of Elworth Hall, Sandbach bought land in Grindon It is therefore possible that there was some connection.

Can anybody else help? If so please contact Hazel direct – see Member No. 169

Following contact with the South Cheshire Family History Society our next member, Mrs Sharon Walsh, wrote to me requesting information on the Plant Family of Holmes Chapel and surrounding areas of Cheshire. From information provided by Sharon it was possible to establish a reasonable family tree with a connecting Christian name of Uriah, a man of this name being one of the original members of the Group. Obviously this family is connected with Uriah who in 1828 wrote a book entitled 'The Principle Events in My Life' It is hoped to include extracts from this publication in one of the forthcoming Journals However, at this stage, due to the number of Plants in this particular area in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it has not been possible to connect the Uriahs together. The Plants were so numerous in Mid Cheshire through the 19<sup>th</sup> century that I hope at some time in the future to write an article on The Plants of Holmes Chapel.

Sharon is Member No. 170.

The final member to join in 1998, member No. 171, is Mr Brad Scott whose prime interest is Louisa Charlotte b 14-10-1865 on HMS Hope in Pembroke docks, the daughter of William Plant and Mary Ann (nee Dyer).

Brad has built up considerable information on William Plant who was a Boatswain and it is hoped to include this information in one of the forthcoming journals Brad also brought to

me attention a source of information that I was unaware of.- Palmers Index to The Times, details of which are included elsewhere in this Journal.

Welcome to all the new members – keep the information coming One of the most pleasing things to me is the number of times we have managed to put distant relations in touch with each other

It has been suggested that the section of the Introduction relating to the activities of the new members should be retrospectively extended to the 'older' members of the Group. That's OK by me – but it would be necessary for you to provide me with up to date details of your research. Perhaps we could have a section in forthcoming Journals specifically for this purpose.

On another subject, I would like to give you an example of why you should never give up when you seem to be getting nowhere and how, sometimes, you find information when you least expect it As some of you know, I am at present involved in a project relative to the publication of a History of Chelford During my researches I came across a reference to The Three Witches of Chelford who were hanged at Chester in 1653. This fascinated me but despite considerable investigation I could find very little detailed facts. It was obvious that little could be established locally and that the most obvious source (but no means certain) would be the Plea Rolls at the P.R.O. London However, there are so many of these Rolls it would take an age searching for something that may in any case not be there in the first place Therefore at this stage I was resigned to putting the Three Witches on the 'back burner' as it were until more time was available. Then, four weeks ago my wife and I visited Macclesfield Library to change her library books and whilst she was deciding what books to borrow I browsed through a section dealing with criminology (I don't know why Criminology, as I'm not particularly interested in this subject) and in one corner of a shelf was a grubby little book dealing with crime in Cheshire Looking at the index I found a reference to Chelford which, when I looked at it, referred to the Witches and, more importantly gave reference numbers to the Plea Rolls where a full transcript of the trial can be obtained Great stuff! So as soon as I have finished my present project it will be off the P R O Kew and more research. Already there is considerable interest in this project locally and the local Drama Society want to prepare a script with a view to performing a play sometime next year.

Finally, don't forget the Reunion in June. For those members intending to come I have included with this package further booking forms. If you have already booked for this event please ignore these forms.

I hope the contents of Journal No 17 will be of interest

Oh! One final thing. I'm now on the Internet. My number being  
WKeith@Plant30 Freeserve.co uk.

THE DIARY OF JOHN PLANT  
OF HAZZLEWOOD FARM LEEKFRITH NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE

2 March 1853 to 30 August 1853 including visit made to the Isle of Man

1853

- March 2 T Brough at Leek he paid Dr Heaton bill 15 shillings
- June 22 T Brough at Leek he went to look at a small farm near Horsbrigge.
- July 6 T Brough at Leek he bought a frying pan without a view for 2s8d The Girls browed yesterday Showry
- August 21 We did not go to Chappell today I was preparing for my journey. Maria lent me 4 sevens.
- 22 T Brough took a pig to Macclesfield sold it £4.10s I started to the isle of Man with Mr Pimlot at Rushton Station we went to Macclesfield by rattle, faire in the 2<sup>nd</sup> class carriage 1s.1d. so on to Manchester, faire 2s 3d so on to Liverpool fare 4d. We had Mr William Nixons company. We stayed all night at Mrs Yates in Boyram Street no 10 today.
- 23 T Brough was thinning turnips on New meadow I and Mr Pimlot went on board the Twindale for the Isle of Man we was in cabin faire 6s6d We landed at Douglas at 6.o'clock after a fine sail she was a steamer We got lodgings with T Gobins no. 68 St Barnabas Square today.
- 24 T Brough at Leek bought 2 pigs for £2.2s. I and Mr Pimlot sailed round the island in a Ben me ree steamer the Fair 2s we had a fine saile we seed all the sea view near Ramsey and we counted 110 vessels of various sises they were fishing the cast anchor and took a cargo of fish of various sorts and sises to Douglas today.
- 25 Samuel Clows came and killed a pig today Findlow came to help. I went with Mr Pimlot to bathe high wind and rough sea windy.
- 26 We walked about Douglas and vicinity today but at home storm of thunder hail rain and wind.
- 28 Elizabeth went to Chappell at Wincle a charity sermon I and Mr Pimlot went to St Barnabas Church Douglas today.
- 29 T Brough at leek to the Day of Appeal took gilbert and bought 2 strike of malt 2lb of hops I and Mr Pimlot embarked on board the steamer Twindel Douglas for Liverpool. We had a deal of sickness on board and one death. Fine day we landed at Liverpool at 3.o'clock and got our tea Mrs Yates and looked through derby Museum we stayed the night at Mrs Yates Mrs Yates went with us to the museum
- 30 We returned from Liverpool by first train got home by 2.o'clock

**EXTRACTS FROM 1851 CENSUS RELATING  
TO PLANT NAMES IN THE DISTRICT OF  
WIRRAL INCLUDING BIRKENHEAD AND TRANMERE**

Piece No 2173 covering

|                         |                        |                       |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Bebington/Higher        | Bebington/Lower        | Bromstage             |
| Bromborough             | Burton (Neston)        | Childer Thornton      |
| Eastham                 | Gayton                 | Heswall with Oldfield |
| Hooton                  | Ledsham                | Leighton (Neston)     |
| Ness                    | Neston/Great           | Neston/Little         |
| Pool/Over               | Pool/Nether            | Poulton cum Spittle   |
| Puddington              | Roby                   | Stoneton              |
| Sutton/Little (Eastham) | Sutton/Great (Eastham) | Thornton Hough        |
| Whitby                  | Willaston (Wirral)     |                       |

Folio No. 140 Township of Neston Village of Bathing hamlet of Parkgate

In house of Edmund Bushell Gentleman Accountant

6 Parkgate Frances Plant Serv. UM Age 24 Servant born Sandbach

Piece No 2174 covering

|                            |                      |                     |
|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Arrow                      | Barnston             | Bidstone cum Ford   |
| Caldy                      | Cloughton cum Grange | Frankby             |
| Grange (West Kirby)        | Greasby              | Hoose or Haylake    |
| Irby                       | Landicam             | Liscard             |
| Meolse/Little              | Meolse/Great         | Moreton cum Lingham |
| Newton cum Lanton (Wirral) | Noetorum             | Oxton               |
| Pensby                     | Poulton cum Seacombe | Prenton             |
| Soughall Massey            | Thingwall            | Thurstaston         |
| Upton (Wirral)             | Wallasey             | West Kirby          |
| Woodchurch                 |                      |                     |

Folio No. 202 Township of Bidston

39 Bidston Hill Sarah Willson ? Head Widow 66 Farmer 4 Acres born West Kirby  
                   Joseph "        Son    UM    22 Works on Farm born Bidston  
                   John Jones     Boarder UM   41 Farm Labourer born Barnston  
                   William Plant   Grandson     8 Scholar     born Bidston

Folio No. 275 Township of Liscard

In house of Charles and Margaret Duffield Attorneys Solicitor

79 Star Brighton Villa ? Plant Wifes Sister UM 40 - born Lancashire



Prece No 2175 covering

Birkenhead

Tranmere

Folio No 46

Township Birkenhead St Mary

72 4 Leicester Terrace Wm Plant Stepson U 10 Scholar born Market Drayton Salop

In house of George and Francis Roberts – Master Tailor

Note – Francis Roberts was 35 born Market Drayton

Folio No 448

Township Birkenhead

Holy Trinity

69 ?Russell Street John Plant Head M 25 Butcher born Newport Salop  
Susanna “ Wife M 20 born Newport Salop

Folio No 652/3

Township Birkenhead

9 23 Cleveland Eliz Plant Visitor Widow 28 born Birkenhead  
Mary Ellen Visitor born Birkenhead

In house of Peter and Christy McGregor -- Contractor

This now completes the 1851 Census returns for Cheshire. If any member would like a complete copy (no charge) please contact me. It is hoped to start on the 1881 Census records for Staffordshire in the next issue of the Journal

## IMMIGRATION TO VICTORIA AUSTRALIA FROM BRITISH PORTS 1852 – 1859 - 1869

### PLANT EXTRACTS – Index to Inward Passenger Lists

The following information was extracted by Margaret Insley (Member No 166) from Victoria's Archives Public Record Office She has also provided information on the Pioneer/Federation/Edwardia/Great War Files which will be included in forthcoming issues of the Journal.

| Surname | Given names | Age | Month | Year | Ship          | Code | Fiche | Page/Sub Note |
|---------|-------------|-----|-------|------|---------------|------|-------|---------------|
| PLANT   | ANN         | 18  | JAN   | 1855 | GOLCONDA      | B    | 084   | 006 1         |
| PLANT   | B W J       | 23  | AUG   | 1855 | OLIVER LANG   | B    | 097   | 002 2         |
| PLANT   | CHARLES     | 20  | APR   | 1853 | APPLETON      | B    | 035   | 008 3         |
| PLANT   | CHARLOTTE   | 38  | OCT   | 1853 | GOLDFINDER    | B    | 054   | 010 4         |
| PLANT   | EDWARD      | 33  | APR   | 1853 | APPLETON      | B    | 035   | 008 3         |
| PLANT   | ELIZA       | 26  | JUN   | 1859 | HERALD        | B    | 163   | 005           |
| PLANT   | ELIZABETH   | 5   | JAN   | 1852 | LOCHNAGAR     | B    | 001   | 001 5         |
| PLANT   | ELIZABETH   | 32  | JAN   | 1852 | LOCHNAGAR     | B    | 001   | 001 5         |
| PLANT   | GEORGE      | 21  | AUG   | 1855 | OLIVER LANG   | B    | 097   | 002 2         |
| PLANT   | GEORGIANA   | 3   | JAN   | 1852 | LOCHNAGAR     | B    | 001   | 001 5         |
| PLANT   | JAMES       | 19  | JAN   | 1855 | GOLCONDA      | B    | 084   | 006 1         |
| PLANT   | JOHN        | 2   | JAN   | 1852 | LOCHNAGAR     | B    | 001   | 001 5         |
| PLANT   | JOHN        | 28  | MAY   | 1856 | SALEM         | B    | 107   | 003 6         |
| PLANT   | JOSEPH      | 13  | JAN   | 1855 | GOLCONDA      | B    | 084   | 006 1         |
| PLANT   | MARIA       | 21  | JAN   | 1855 | GOLCONDA      | B    | 084   | 006 1         |
| PLANT   | MARIA       | 22  | JUL   | 1859 | TELEGRAPH     | B    | 166   | 005           |
| PLANT   | MARY        | 52  | JAN   | 1855 | GOLCONDA      | B    | 084   | 006 1         |
| PLANT   | OLIVE       | 10  | JAN   | 1855 | GOLCONDA      | B    | 084   | 006 1         |
| PLANT   | RICHD       | 38  | SEP   | 1858 | BEEJAPORE     | B    | 150   | 005 7         |
| PLANT   | RICHD       | 28  | JAN   | 1855 | GOLCONDA      | B    | 084   | 006 1         |
| PLANT   | SAMUEL      | 23  | DEC   | 1857 | INVINCIBLE    | B    | 139   | 006 8         |
| PLANT   | SARAH       | 29  | JAN   | 1855 | GOLCONDA      | B    | 084   | 006 1         |
| PLANT   | THOMAS      | 22  | JUL   | 1859 | TELEGRAPH     | B    | 166   | 005           |
| PLANT   | THOS        | 18  | SEP   | 1856 | MORNING LIGHT | B    | 112   | 012 9         |
| PLANT   | WM          | 32  | JUL   | 1858 | COLUMBIA      | B    | 148   | 002 10        |

Sub notes added by Editor from information provided by Margaret Insley

1. Mary Plant stated to be Mother  
Ann Plant age stated as 13 on other records
2. Both BWJ and George listed as Gentlemen.
3. Both Charles and Edward listed as Ostlers  
On some records Page No give 004
4. Charlotte listed as a Launderess.
5. On some records Page No. given as 005
6. Clarification of information required as on other records states that John was aged 40 (a Tinman) married to Mary age 35 with two children, Arthur/Albert – also Page No 5 – Was John travelling alone with family to follow.

- 7 Richard listed as a Labourer  
On some records Page No given as 009
8. Samuel listed as Single and a Labourer
9. Thomas listed as Single and a Labourer
10. William listed as Single and a Labourer

In addition to the above a Wilemira Plant is listed as arriving in February 1855 on the 'Glenmanna' recorded on Fiche 088-089 Page 6.

#### 1860 -- 1869

| SURNAME | GIVEN NAME | AGE | MONTH | YEAR | SHIP            | CODE/<br>FICHE | PAGE | SUB<br>NOTE |
|---------|------------|-----|-------|------|-----------------|----------------|------|-------------|
| PLANT   | EDWARD     | 9   | MAY   | 1861 | SWIFTSURE       | 189            | 002  |             |
| PLANT   | ELIZA      | 21  | NOV   | 1869 | GLENMARK        |                | 005  | 11          |
| PLANT   | GEO        | 19  | MAR   | 1860 | LEAPING WATER   | B 174          | 001  | 12          |
| PLANT   | GEO WM     | 2   | NOV   | 1863 | LANDSBOROUGH    | B 225          | 006  | 13          |
| PLANT   | MARY ANN   | 29  | NOV   | 1863 | LANDSBOROUGH    | B 225          | 006  | 13          |
| PLANT   | ROBERT     | 19  | OCT   | 1868 | SIR ROBERT SALE | B 278          | 006  |             |
| PLANT   | SARAH      | 21  | NOV   | 1868 | CONFLICT        | B 278          | 008  |             |
| PLANT   | SARAH      | 14  | MAY   | 1861 | SWIFTSURE       | - 189          | 002  |             |
| PLANT   | THOMAS     | 21  | JULY  | 1866 | TORNADO         | - 259          | 008  | 14          |
| PLANT   | WILLIAM    | 31  | NOV   | 1863 | LANDSBOROUGH    | B 225          | 006  | 13          |

11. Eliza listed as a Servant.
12. George listed as Single, Chief Cabin and gentleman
13. Charles (age 1) second son of William and Mary Ann died of exhaustion during the voyage (for further information on this family see letters section - Margaret Insley)
- 14 Thomas listed as Single and a Labourer - also the entry refers to one Male Infant - Was Thomas travelling alone with son to follow?

## PALMERS' INDEX TO THE TIMES 1790-1905

The following information has been provided by Brad Scott (Member No. 171).

Palmers' Index to the Times was compiled in the late nineteenth century and its 450 volumes are available in many libraries. In the recent past an electronic edition has been published making searches much easier, and allowing access to the material in ways not previously possible.

Published in several hundred print columns, it is available on a single C D Rom, though as it costs about £8000 there are only a few libraries in this country that have it. Following a quick look at it in the Guildhall yesterday the results are outlined below. You will see that much of it relates to bankruptcies and civil litigation, which is useful as it can direct the researcher to the correct date in the relevant archives. In addition, a host of criminal cases are also recorded, many of which may otherwise be difficult to find out about.

### Summary of items

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Page/Column</i> | <i>Details</i>   |
|-------------|--------------------|--|
| 29 Oct 1806 | 3c                 | Partnerships Dissolved Lawrence Ballington Wagstaff Plant & Wm Watts |
| 3 Jun 1812  | 2d                 | Bankruptcies W Plant   |
| 5 Jun 1812  | 2d                 | Meetings of Creditors W. Plant                                       |
| 12 Jun 1812 | 4b                 | Meetings of Creditors W Plant  |
| 13 Jul 1812 | 3e                 | Meetings of Creditors W. Plant                                       |
| 24 Jul 1812 | 2a                 | Meetings of Creditors W Plant  |
| 7 Aug 1812  | 3e                 | Meetings of Creditors W Plant  |
| 27 Jan 1813 | 2c                 | Bankruptcies W Plant   |
| 23 Aug 1813 | 3e                 | Meetings of Creditors W. Plant                                       |
| 7 Jul 1817  | 2c                 | Bankruptcies R Plant   |
| 14 Jul 1817 | 2b                 | Bankruptcies B Plant   |
| 21 Dec 1822 | 3b                 | Civil Actions Edwards v Plant and others                             |
| 20 Oct 1824 | 2a                 | Bankruptcies Uriah Plant   |
| 7 Nov 1825  | 3d                 | Criminal Trials Stephen Plant, for assault                           |
| 26 May 1831 | 3f                 | Criminal Trials Jos Plant Stevens, for stealing                      |
| 30 Oct 1833 | 2f                 | Bankruptcies Hannah Plant  |
| 6 Feb 1835  | 3f                 | Civil Actions Stennett v. Plant                                      |
| 22 Aug 1836 | 4a                 | Criminal Trials Louisa Plant & another, for murder                   |
| 22 Aug 1836 | 4a                 | Murders Edw. Plant   |
| 20 Jul 1839 | 3f                 | Civil Actions Marples v Plant  |
| 9 Aug 1839  | 7f                 | Inquests Geo Plant, killed by a fall from a horse                    |
| 19 Aug 1843 | 4d                 | Bankruptcies Edw Plant   |
| 23 Aug 1843 | 3e                 | Bankruptcies. Edw. Plant   |
| 17 Apr 1844 | 4d                 | Bankruptcies. Wm Plant   |
| 20 Apr 1844 | 4c                 | Bankruptcies Wm Plant  |
| 11 Dec 1845 | 7b                 | Police Bridget Plant, for assault                                    |
| 10 Jul 1847 | 7b                 | Criminal Trials John Plant, for assault                              |
| 13 Oct 1849 | 4a                 | Bankruptcies Geo Plant   |
| 20 May 1850 | 8d                 | Police Joseph Plant, for attempted rape                              |
| 3 Jun 1850  | 7e                 | Police Joseph Plant, for attempted rape                              |
| 19 Jun 1851 | 1d                 | Next of kin, person wanted, John Plant                               |
| 20 Jul 1853 | 8a                 | Civil Actions Ford & others v Plant                                  |
| 27 Jul 1853 | 4e                 | Bankruptcies C J Plant   |
| 2 Apr 1855  | 9d                 | Civil Actions Wilkes v Plant   |
| 3 Apr 1855  | 11f                | Civil Actions Wilkes v Plant   |
| 25 Jun 1855 | 11d                | Civil Actions Wilkes v Plant   |
| 5 Feb 1856  | 9c                 | Civil Actions Plant v Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton Railway    |
| 15 Oct 1856 | 11c                | Police Edw Plant, for smoke nuisance                                 |
| 21 Apr 1857 | 11c                | Civil Actions Stern v Plant & another                                |
| 15 Dec 1857 | 11a                | Civil Actions Plant & another v Gavila                               |
| 17 Dec 1857 | 8f                 | Criminal Trials. Ann Plant, for murder                               |

|             |     |  |
|-------------|-----|--|
| 14 Mar 1859 | 10e | Criminal Trials Geo Plant, for murder                                    |
| 16 Feb 1860 | 11d | Civil Actions Plant & others v Cotterill & others                        |
| 5 Jun 1861  | 11b | Civil Actions Harris v Plant   |
| 8 Jul 1861  | 11c | Civil Actions Plant v Taylor   |
| 5 Apr 1862  | 5a  | Bankruptcies Thos Plant  |
| 10 Sep 1862 | 6a  | Bankruptcies Reuben Plant  |
| 29 Nov 1862 | 6b  | Bankruptcies Wm. Plant   |
| 29 Nov 1862 | 11d | Bankruptcy Court Reuben Plant  |
| 14 Feb 1863 | 8b  | Bankruptcies Chas Plant  |
| 30 Mar 1863 | 11b | Civil Actions Joy v Plant  |
| 14 Oct 1863 | 4b  | Bankruptcies John Plant  |
| 19 Dec 1863 | 6a  | Bankruptcies T E Plant   |
| 8 Nov 1865  | 4b  | Bankruptcies John Plant  |
| 17 Feb 1866 | 6a  | Bankruptcies J D. Plant  |
| 7 Nov 1866  | 7f  | Bankruptcies Stubbs & Plant  |
| 7 Jul 1867  | 9c  | Bankruptcies Frank Plant   |
| 7 Mar 1868  | 11d | Civil Actions: Plant v Rawsom  |
| 18 Mar 1868 | 11e | Police Robert, Thomas & David Plant, horse stealing                      |
| 5 May 1868  | 11b | Civil Actions: Plant v Brandon   |
| 13 Feb 1869 | 7b  | Bankruptcies James Plant   |
| 13 Feb 1869 | 7b  | Bankruptcies John Plant  |
| 11 Nov 1869 | 4d  | Inquests James Plant, who died in the St Pancras Infirmary               |
| 19 Nov 1870 | 11f | Divorce Court Plant v Plant & Love                                       |
| 5 Sep 1871  | 9c  | Police Edw Plant, for picking a pocket                                   |
| 16 Dec 1872 | 11c | Civil Actions: Plant v Pearman   |
| 17 Dec 1872 | 10e | Civil Actions: Plant v Pearman   |
| 20 Dec 1872 | 10e | Civil Actions: Plant v. Pearman  |
| 29 Jul 1873 | 11e | Police --Plant, for drunkenness  |
| 15 Sep 1873 | 10a | Police Charlotte Plant, for robbery                                      |
| 24 Sep 1873 | 7a  | British Association, John Plant on mechanical science                    |
| 15 Oct 1873 | 8d  | Bankruptcies Thomas Plant  |
| 25 Jul 1874 | 11d | Civil Actions Malkin v. Plant  |
| 5 Sep 1874  | 5b  | Police Isaac Plant, for selling bad hams                                 |
| 18 Nov 1874 | 8c  | Bankruptcies Thos Plant  |
| 28 Dec 1874 | 10d | Police Geo Plant, for burglary   |
| 2 Jun 1875  | 7f  | Bankruptcies Jas. Plant  |
| 7 Jul 1875  | 14a | Criminal Trials --Plant, for horse stealing                              |
| 26 Jun 1876 | 7a  | Plant Bros Ltd   |
| 27 Mar 1877 | 7f  | Suspensions. Plant Bros Ltd, of Birmingham                               |
| 16 Apr 1877 | 11e | Civil Actions. re Plant Bros & Co  |
| 20 Jun 1877 | 11e | Divorce Court Plant v Plant  |
| 23 Jan 1878 | 8c  | Bankruptcies J Plant   |
| 13 Dec 1878 | 11e | Civil Actions Plant & wife v Pease & others                              |
| 6 Mar 1879  | 4e  | Divorce court Plant v Plant  |
| 16 Jul 1879 | 10f | Inquests Mr Plant, found dead in his bed from poison                     |
| 23 Jul 1879 | 9b  | Bankruptcies T W & Joseph Plant  |
| 5 Feb 1880  | 10f | Inquests Emma Plant, died suddenly through tight lacing                  |
| 18 Nov 1880 | 10f | Murders Mrs Plant, by husband, at Hull, who afterwards committed suicide |
| 19 Nov 1880 | 11a | Inquests Plant, a suicide  |
| 19 Nov 1880 | 11a | Inquests the wife of the above, murder                                   |
| 8 Jul 1881  | 4b  | Civil Actions ex Parte Hayward re Plant                                  |
| 10 Oct 1881 | 10c | Inquests John Plant, killed in a prize fight                             |
| 24 Feb 1882 | 11b | Suspensions Hill, M'Master & Plant, of Manchester                        |
| 1 Mar 1882  | 6a  | Bankruptcies Hill, M'Master & Plant                                      |
| 3 May 1882  | 10c | Inquests Louisa Plant, killed on the railway                             |
| 30 Nov 1882 | 3d  | Civil Actions Plant v Cheadle Valley Coal and Iron Co                    |
| 1 Sep 1883  | 9f  | Deaths Thos Plant  |
| 24 Nov 1883 | 7e  | Bankruptcies Alfred Plant  |
| 20 Dec 1883 | 2f  | Police Wm Plant & another for attempted felony                           |
| 5 Mar 1884  | 12d | Bankruptcies Geo Plant   |
| 13 Sep 1884 | 7f  | Bankruptcies Thos Plant  |
| 20 Sep 1884 | 12e | Bankruptcies Thos Plant  |
| 27 Sep 1884 | 11f | Bankruptcies Thos Plant  |
| 27 Nov 1886 | 7c  | Bankruptcies Thos Plant  |
| 3 Jan 1887  | 4e  | Police --Plant, for fraud  |
| 4 Jul 1888  | 11f | Bankruptcies Plant, Smith  |

|             |     |  |
|-------------|-----|--|
| 14 Jan 1889 | 3d  | Bankruptcy Court Dale and Plant (Ltd)                            |
| 22 Jun 1889 | 6f  | Civil Actions Dale & Plant (Ltd)                                 |
| 20 Dec 1889 | 3d  | Civil Actions Dale & Plant (Ltd)                                 |
| 10 Nov 1890 | 3c  | Civil Actions Plant v Potts                                      |
| 12 Nov 1890 | 3e  | Civil Actions Plant v Potts                                      |
| 3 Dec 1890  | 13d | Bankruptcies Wm. Plant   |
| 18 Dec 1890 | 5b  | Civil Actions Civil Actions Plant v Potts                        |
| 28 Mar 1891 | 9b  | Bankruptcies Frederick Plant                                     |
| 28 Apr 1892 | 5f  | Police John Plant & his daughter, for selling adulterated butter |
| 29 Jun 1892 | 12d | Bankruptcies Wm Plant  |
| 25 Aug 1892 | 3f  | Police Richard Plant, for violent assault on his daughter        |
| 9 Nov 1892  | 6d  | Deaths Jas Plant   |
| 12 Nov 1892 | 11e | Bankruptcies Walter Henry Plant                                  |
| 15 Apr 1893 | 15a | Civil Actions re Parkinson ex parte Plant                        |
| 2 Dec 1893  | 11c | Bankruptcies G H. Plant  |
| 10 Jan 1894 | 5f  | Deaths John Plant  |
| 22 Sep 1894 | 7c  | Bankruptcies Thos Plant  |
| 26 Jan 1895 | 7e  | Bankruptcies Alfred Plant  |
| 11 Jul 1896 | 10d | Bankruptcies Jas Plant   |
| 8 Aug 1896  | 11e | Bankruptcies J. H. Plant   |
| 25 Jun 1897 | 4a  | Civil Actions Plant v. Bourne                                    |
| 23 Oct 1897 | 14c | Bankruptcies Alfred Plant  |
| 27 Oct 1897 | 11c | Bankruptcies John Plant  |
| 31 Jul 1899 | 7f  | Civil Actions Plant v Brown                                      |
| 25 Nov 1899 | 13c | Bankruptcies Thos Plant Lowe                                     |
| 2 Jun 1900  | 5f  | Bankruptcies R Plant & Co  |
| 16 Oct 1900 | 4d  | Deaths Rev. S Plant  |
| 16 Nov 1900 | 12d | Civil Actions Bailey v Plant                                     |
| 29 Apr 1901 | 3b  | Civil Actions, Bailey v Plant                                    |
| 11 May 1901 | 13f | Bankruptcies R Plant and sons                                    |
| 16 Sep 1901 | 6d  | Bankruptcies Geo Plant   |
| 16 Oct 1901 | 10d | Bankruptcies Alfred Plant  |
| 4 Sep 1902  | 8b  | Deaths Colonel E C Plant   |
| 7 Jan 1903  | 12f | Police G. J Plant, for wounding                                  |
| 9 Jun 1904  | 17a | Police. Fredk Plant & wife, for drunkenness                      |
| 6 Jul 1904  | 10c | Bankruptcies Albert Clarence S Plant                             |
| 30 Oct 1904 | 12a | Companies Plant, Green and Manton                                |
| 29 Mar 1905 | 12f | Bankruptcies Geo Plant   |
| 23 Sep 1905 | 12c | Bankruptcies Enoce Plant   |
| 24 Jul 1862 | 13a | Civil Actions Johnson & another v. Plante                        |
| 16 Jul 1869 | 11b | Bankruptcy Court Sleeman and Plante, for discharge               |
| 10 Jul 1877 | 4f  | Francis Plante at the concert at the French Embassy              |
| 9 Jan 1878  | 6a  | M Plante engraving on glass                                      |
| 28 May 1889 | 10d | Deaths M Gaston Plante   |
| 16 May 1900 | 4e  | Bankruptcies H W Plante  |
| 12 Sep 1900 | 12d | Bankruptcies A H Plant   |

*WKP note:*

*Within the above list there are a number of references that immediately come to mind – for e.g.*

1. *20 October 1824 2a Bankruptcies – Uriah Plant*

*I have a lot of information on this Plant, as I have a copy of a book he had published entitled 'The Principal Events of My Life' He lived in Middlewich and according to his book he lent a considerable amount of money to a relative in Stockport, which was never re-paid*

2 *10 October 1881 10e Inquests – John Plant, killed in a prizefight*

*I wonder if this is the same J Plant who, according to 'FISTIANA' The Oracle of the Ring – Results of Prize Battles beat? Platt at £5/side over 10 rounds at Mow Cop, Cheshire on 12 March 1841 by Butting. However, the dates don't tie up – may be father and son*

- 3 30 November 1881 3d Civil Actions – Plant v Cheadle Valley Coal & Iron Co.

*This refers, I suspect, to Robert Plant of Cheadle Staffordshire who was an entrepreneur through the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. One of his enterprises was Birches Colliery which, in 1881, ran into serious geological difficulties which caused its closure. He was also very interested in railways and, it is said, became one of the leading citizens of Cheadle. There is still a street in Cheadle called Plant Street. An article relating to his achievements was included in Journal No. 1.*

- 4 2 June 1900 2f Bankruptcies – R Plant & Co.

*This may relate to item 3 above – Robert did at one stage file for bankruptcy.*

5. 22 August 1836 4a Criminal Trials – Louisa Plant + another for murder

6. 17 December 1857 8f Criminal Trials – Ann Plant for murder

- 7 14 March 1859 10e Criminal Trials - Geo. Plant for murder.

- 8 5 February 1880 10f Inquests – Emma Plant, died suddenly through tight lacing.

- 9 4 September 1902 8b Death – Col. E C Plant.

*Therefore, on behalf of the members, I have asked Brad if it would be possible for him to provide additional information on these specific cases.*

In addition to the information on Palmers' Index, Brad has forwarded the following:

#### **Dictionary of National Biography CD-ROM**

There is an entry for Thomas Livesley Plant, 1819-83, meteorologist. Son of George Halewood Plant, iron merchant, and his wife, Ann Livesley. He was born in Low Moor Bradford, and educated at St Cuthberts College, near Durham. Between 1849 and 1881 he represented WH Smith, advertising contractors in Birmingham. 21<sup>st</sup> June 1845 married Jane Horne. He kept systematic meteorological records for the last 46 years of his life, and presented papers at the British Association in 1862 and 1865. He wrote Meteorology. its study important for our good (1862), and contributed many notices to The Times and other newspapers. Those in The Times are not listed in the attached sheet, but can easily be compiled if necessary.

**Wing Short Title Catalogue of Early Printed Books, 1641-1700**

Two items, both by Thomas Plant

- 1 A Contest for Christianity, or a faithful relation of two late meetings Baptists Quakers, London 1674

[Copies at the Bodleian, Cambridge University Library, Society of Friends Library NY public Library etc ]

2. The mischief of persecution exemplified, London 1688  
[Copies at the British Library, Bodleian, Folger, Yale etc.]



## Chapter 17

# Plantagenet times to Sheffield ca. 1800

600 YEARS FROM THE PLANT NAME'S ORIGINS TO A PLANT'S YARD PLANT FAMILY

Sparse evidence for 13th century 'origins' to the Plant name yields hints of a Plantagenet influence. Powerful political controversies surrounding Plantagenet-related words may have led to our current need for caution when considering the contemporaneity of various evolving meanings of *plant*. Trade and war may have influenced both the advent of the Plant name in the north west of England and the Plants' subsequent advances across the north Midlands, in their progress towards the clearer light that 17th century records bring

The later sections of this Chapter outline the progress of a particular line of Plants from 17th century Cheshire through north Derbyshire to 18th century Sheffield. Their apparent descent intersects an environment that includes some key industrial developments.

### 17.1 A smattering of medieval Plant records

About 20,000 living Plants are now concentrated mostly around the NW Midlands of England. They can be traced back, in particular, to two 17th century clusters of Plant records. One was around the borderlands between East Cheshire and North Staffordshire, near where the Plant family is now mainly found. The other, which has since diminished (Figure 17.1), had about 40% as many Plant records and it was on the south Lincolnshire coast, around Ingoldmells just north of Norfolk and The Wash.

These two 17th century clusters can be related back, it seems, to 13th century records. Plant records from Plantagenet times provide a few clues about how the name may have formed and developed before when, around 1600, IGI records<sup>1</sup> begin to give a more complete picture

#### 17.1.1 Some possibly related names

The Plantagenet name is associated with a royal dynasty of some 250 years standing in England, which was followed by the two Plantagenet cadet branches of Lancaster (1399-1461) and York (1461-85). The son, Henry II, of Geoffrey the Handsome (nickname Plantagenet) Count of Anjou became the first Plantagenet king of England in 1154. He is known mostly for his disputes with the archbishop of Canterbury, St Thomas Becket, who was murdered in 1170. The bishop of London (1166-87), Gilbert Foliot, said of Becket '*He always was a fool, and always will remain one*'.

<sup>1</sup>The records here considered were taken from the 1984 version of the International Genealogical Index

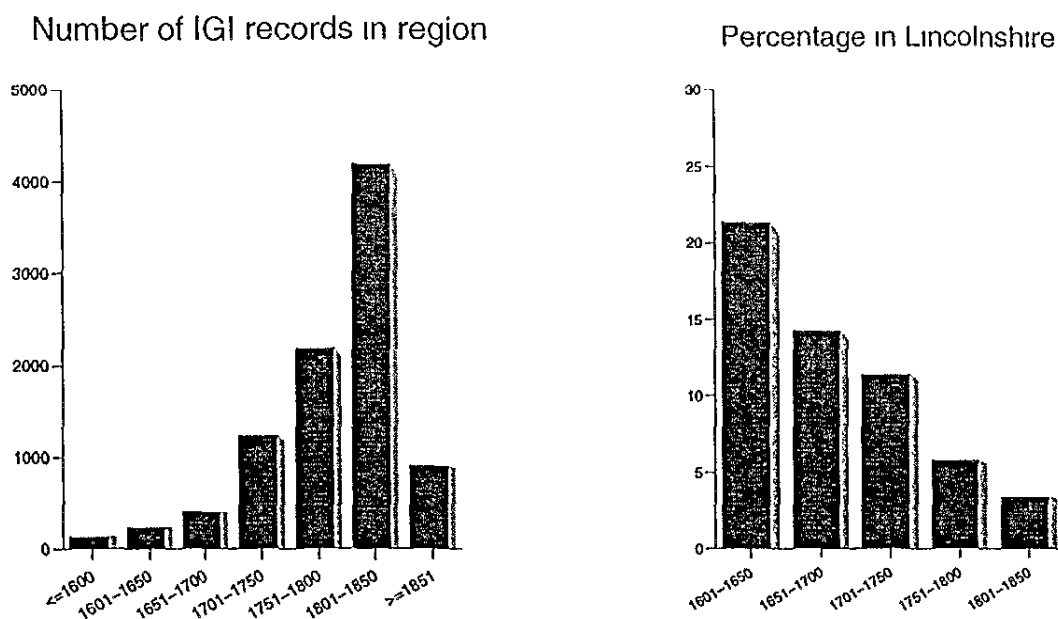


Figure 17.1: Plant records in the 1984 IGI for the region of England indicated in Figure 16.1 (*i.e.* Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Staffordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire Herefordshire, Gloucestershire, Warwickshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Northamptonshire, Rutland). The total number of Plants records in this region is shown alongside the variation of the fraction in Lincolnshire.

It is by reference to an isolated occurrence of the name *Plantebene* that recent texts have asserted a (questionable) meaning for *Plant* (Chapter 16). This rather narrowly derived meaning is 'gardener'. It seems however that further consideration should be given to other 'Plant related' names, with an eye on the contemporary histories. One such name is *Plauntefolie*, which occurs more prominently than *Plantebene* in extant records, with occurrences at Leic' in 1209, Somerset 1226, Weston' 1263, and Welle (?vale of York) in 1270 (Table 17.1). It seems that this name needs to be considered in a context of contemporary English history and interpreted in terms of the likely meanings of *plant* and *folie* in early 13th century times (*e.g.* Table 17.2 and 17.3).

In 1194 the absent king, Richard I, transferred charge of England to Hubert Walter, who is credited with instigating the use of itinerant justices to keep records<sup>2</sup>. Establishing wickedness was important at those times and, when King John was excommunicated by the pope in 1205, the churches remained open only for baptisms and for deathbed confessions. It is hence no surprise that *Plauntefolie* can be interpreted as an 'establisher<sup>3</sup> or recorder<sup>4</sup> of wickedness'<sup>5</sup>. In those times of dispute between church and king it is only as expected that an alternative interpretation of

<sup>2</sup>Roy Strong (1996) *The Story of Britain*, p 72

<sup>3</sup>The Oxford English Dictionary (1989) cites usage of the meaning 'to establish' for *plant* from 897 AD

<sup>4</sup>Rothwell et al (1922) give 'to record' as a meaning of *plant* in their Anglo-Norman Dictionary.

<sup>5</sup>*Plantebene* could be interpreted similarly as a 'fine establisher'

Plauntefole is however a 'strewer of madness' (cf Tables 17.2 and 17.3<sup>6</sup>). This latter interpretation could be seen simply as a rebuttal by those refuting the authority of the Plantagenets and the church, whose judgements were no doubt weakened by recurrent disputes between them.

Such vacillation, at the heart of England's government, may in time have turned into jest, as is perhaps suggested by a meaning of the Middle English word *fol* (noun [3] in Table 17.3) — viz 'a court jester, a buffoon kept by a king or a nobleman for his amusement; also a menial servant'.

Such meanings remain in keeping with the reasoning of Chapter 16, whereby Plant was gauged to mean a 'royalist auxiliary' rather than specifically a 'gardener'.

### 17.1.2 Emergence of evidence relevant to the NW Plants

Seeds may have germinated for the NW Plants when Henry II's youngest son John arrived in the north west of England as Lord of Lancaster and Ireland (Chapter 16). The name Roger de *Plan'* appears on John's charters to Chester around 1188-99<sup>7</sup>. By 1230, the name *Planterose* appears at *Warr' Wigorn'* (sic)<sup>8</sup>. This name may have had various meanings, including an 'establisher of (crown land) rights'.

Heraldic tradition maintains that the badge of Edmund, first earl of Lancaster (1267), was a rose that was tintured red to difference it from the gold rose of his brother Edward I. This was around the times of the French epic poem *Roman de la Rose* which was begun ca. 1237 — in this charming allegory of courtly love, a lover seeks the rose in a garden ruled by love personified<sup>9</sup>.

The red rose appears in the Plant blazon<sup>10</sup>. It could be interpreted as the Plant badge. It appears to indicate a connection with the Lancastrian Plantagenets though it is not known when it was added to the blazon. In the 13th century north west, there were various choices of loyalty, not least to the Plantagenet crown during the Welsh Wars, with Edward I taking personal charge of Cheshire, while the cadet earls of Lancaster were more active at that time in the south of Wales.

The only other element of the Plant blazon is a label. Another rare example of a 'label in bend' occurs in the blazon of Wm. de Curli<sup>11</sup> and this is dated 1236. A label is a mark of cadetship (*i.e.* subordination to the head of the family) and sloping it (*i.e.* a label in bend) can be taken as an instance of one of six ancient marks of bastardy<sup>12</sup>.

<sup>6</sup>A further definition, given by *Dictionnaire Historique de L'ancien Langage Francois (XIIIe à XIVe siècles)*, is folie (4): attaque téméraire, coup de main

<sup>7</sup>These are referenced out of order under the date 1396 in the Charter Rolls. See also however Rupert H Morris (1893) *Chester in the Plantagenet and Tudor Reigns*, pps 11 and 484.

<sup>8</sup>This is usually interpreted as Warwickshire though it might alternatively allude to the river crossing at Warrington and the lands of south Lancashire around Wigan and Manchester castle

<sup>9</sup>Though the initial version of this poem was begun ca. 1237 by the French poet William de Lorris, it was continued ca. 1275-80 by Jean de Meung who developed it as a celebration of sex and propagation which fulfilled God's will and who included religious and philosophical digressions. Elizabeth Hallam (1996) *The Plantagenet Encyclopedia: an alphabetic guide to 400 years of English History*

<sup>10</sup>The Plant blazon is '*Ar a label in bend az. in chief a rose gu*' which translates as '*Silver (shield), a label sloping diagonally (to the left or to the right), in the top third a red rose (which is a usual position for the bearer's badge, or for brisure)*'. A rose could be brisure for a seventh son, though it seems that the Plant blazon could predate that convention.

<sup>11</sup>This blazon includes '*a label of four points in bend sinister*.' A.C.Fox-Davies (1929), '*A Complete Guide to Heraldry*', p 154

<sup>12</sup>Lt -Colonel Robert Gayre of Gayre and Nigg (1961) *Heraldic Cadency. The Development of Coats of Arms for Kinsmen and Other Purposes*, p 105

CHAPTER 17. PLANTAGENET TIMES TO SHEFFIELD CA. 1800

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| 1188-99 | Plan' Roger de, Chester's Charters   |
| 1199    | Plantebene Ralph, Norfolk, Pipe Rolls  |
| 1209    | Plantefolie Gilbert, Leic', Curia Regis  |
| 1214    | Planet' Susan de, Jelding' Kent, Curia Regis   |
| 1220    | Plantan' William, Suff', Curia Regis   |
| 1221    | Planctis Ralph de, Kent, Curia Regis   |
| 1226    | Plantefolie John, Somerset, Curia Regis  |
| 1230    | Planterose Robert, Warr' Wigorn', Curia Regis  |
| 1254    | Plantin Roger, serjent of E of Norfolk, Close Rolls  |
| 1258    | Plantyn Roger, butler of E. of Norfolk, Close Rolls  |
| 1258    | Plantyn Roger, lands in Norfolk, Patent Rolls  |
| 1262    | Plaunte William, Essex, Forest Pleas   |
| 1263    | Plauntefolie Maud, Weston', Close Rolls  |
| 1266    | Plauntegenet Galfrido, serjent at arms, Wodestock, Close Rolls   |
| 1268    | Planteng' Roger, Guldeford' Norff', Close Rolls  |
| 1270    | Plantefolie Adam, Welle Fanerwal' (co. York), Close Rolls  |
| 1273    | de la Plaunt and Plaunt, 3 Rouen merchants, Patent Rolls   |
| 1275    | Plauntes William, Norfolk, Rotuli Hundrederum  |
| 1279    | Plante William, Cambridge, Rotuli Hundrederum  |
| 1282    | de Plantes Henry, appeal in Huntingdonshire, Patent Rolls  |
| 1285    | Plauntain Henry, Patent Rolls  |
| 1301    | Plant Richard, rights to coal, Ewelowe near Chester, Flint Receipts  |
| 1341    | le Plaunter Henry, Cambridge-Huntingdon border dispute, Patent Rolls   |
| 1342    | Plente Walter, Exeter co. Devon, Patent Rolls  |
| 1343    | Plente John, message of land, vicar of the cathedral church of Chichester, Patent Rolls  |
| 1343    | Plente John, witness at Theydene Boys on release of claim to lands in Theden Boys, Close Rolls   |
| 1344    | Plant John, son of Alan, of Burgh Marsh co Lincoln, Patent Rolls   |
| 1352    | Plant James, and others carried away goods at Welles, Warham and Styvekey co. Norfolk, Patent Rolls  |
| 1364    | Plente Roger of Exeter, license to take 20 packs of large cloth of divers colours from port of Exeter to Gascony, Spain, and other parts beyond seas; and to return with wine and other merchandise to the ports of London, Suthampton, Sandwich or Exeter, Patent Rolls |
| 1364    | Plente Roger, right to be collector of customs at Exeter, Fine Rolls   |
| 1364    | Plente Roger, searcher of gold and silver exported without license in the county of Devon, assault on, Patent Rolls  |
| 1365    | Plente Roger, merchant of Exeter, his ship 'le Ceorge' of Exmouth, Patent Rolls  |
| 1367    | Plente Roger, king's minister in Devon, Patent Rolls   |
| 1368    | Plente Roger, collector of customs in port of Exeter, Patent Rolls   |
| 1386    | Plente Reynold, rights to yearly rent had been granted by William Botreaux, knight, the elder, Inquisition at Launceston Cornwall  |
| 1386    | Plonte William, chaplain (land of prior and convent of Bath), rent in Oliveston, Patent Rolls  |
| 1393    | Plente Reynold, granted rent of 40s for life, Cornwall, Close Rolls  |
| 1394    | Pleyntif Richard, Somerset, Patent Rolls   |
| 1394    | Plaint John, aged 60 years or more, witness at Lincoln, had been servant to Master Thomas de Sutton, Calendar of Inquisitions  |

Table 17.1: Some Medieval Plant related records

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| plant     | plan   |
| plante 1. | plainte, du latin <i>planctus</i>  |
| plante 2  | (1) endroit planté, pépinière (1375), (2) plante des pieds                       |
| planter   | (1) mettre en terre, (2) au pronominal, se jeter                                 |
| plantin   | plançon, bouture   |
| plont     | plomb (1396)   |
| fohe      | (1) action ou parole folie, téméraire, (2) viol, débauche                        |
| folier    | agir, parler en fou; folatrer, mener une vie débauchée, tromper, errer; injurier |
| folle     | (i.e. folle du pied) sole du pied, en parlant des cerfs                          |
| follée    | l'empreinte du pied  |

Table 17.2: Some Old French definitions (from La Curne de Sainte-Palaye (1879) *Dictionnaire Historique de L'ancien Langage François*).

|      |           |   |
|------|-----------|---|
| fol  | noun 1a   | a foolish, stupid, or ignorant person   |
|      | noun 1b   | a person temporarily foolish: (a) one who is dazed or drunk, (b) one who is duped or deceived   |
|      | noun 2    | an impious person, a sinner, a rascal   |
|      | noun 3    | a court jester, a buffoon kept by a king or a nobleman for his amusement; also a menial servant |
| fol  | adj       | (1) foolish, stupid, (2) sinful, wicked, (3) lecherous, wanton                                  |
| fohe | noun 1a   | foolishness, stupidity, dullness; folly, impudence, lack of wisdom                              |
|      | noun 1b   | a foolish act, or course of action  |
|      | plural 1c | foolish talk, nonsense; an idle tale; also falsehood, slander                                   |
|      | noun 2a   | sinfulness, wrongdoing, sin or crime  |
|      | plural 2b | lechery, adultery, fornication  |
|      | noun 3    | madness, insanity, anger  |

Table 17.3: Some Middle English definitions (from Kurath and Kahn (1954) *Middle English Dictionary*).

The Plant blazon can hence be interpreted as the arms of an 'illegitimate(d) cadet line, representing the red rose<sup>13</sup>'. In the order of the Plant blazon the red rose follows the label and this could suggest that a Lancastrian allegiance formed after illegitimate descent

### 17.1.3 Early 'Plant related' names around Norfolk

There is evidence of early 'Plant related' names around Norfolk in East Anglia, particularly by around 1260. The evidence listed in Table 17.1 reveals for example that, in 1254, a Roger *Plantin* was 'serjent of the earl of Norfolk'. Roger Plantyn was granted land in Norfolk and, the same year of 1258, the same name is recorded as the 'butler of the earl marshal'.

<sup>13</sup>Roses are quite rare in the arms of Leek and east Cheshire families — the few exceptions include roses of various colours on the arms of the Rudyerd, Davenport, and Sherd families. There is a 17th century plaque in Stockport Church to members of the Foley family (cf the early bye-name Plantefolie) whose arms are 'a fess engratled between 3 roses'. J.P. Earwaker (1877) *East Cheshire: Past and Present, or A History of the Hundred of Macclesfield in the County Palatine of Chester*, Vol I, p 358.

|   |
|---|
| <p>PLANT- set up, furnish, esp in connection with new colonies.<br/>         PLANTAIN.- The application of the plantain leaf as a popular remedy for bruises and wounds is constantly referred to in Elizabethan literature.<br/>         PLANTATION - colonisation</p> |
|---|

Table 17.4: Some Plant related meanings in Shakespeare (1564-1661) (from the Glossary to the Cambridge Text of *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*)

The earl of Norfolk, to whom Roger Plantyn was serjent and butler, was a Roger Bigod who, in 1225, had married Isabella daughter of king William the Lion of Scotland<sup>14</sup>. In 1261 Roger Bigod, with his brother Hugh, supported the provisions of Oxford though he acquiesced to the restoration of royal power in 1263<sup>15</sup>

The sole *explicit* mention of the royal name in the records of Table 17.1 is with a variant spelling of Plantagenet. It appears, with a similar title to that of Roger Plantin's, in the instance of Geoffrey *Plauntegenet, serjent at arms*, who is listed as having garderobe duties to the king, at *Wodestock (sic) (Oxford)* in 1266. This provides clear evidence that the 'Plantagenet' name was known at that time. Early Bigods had spasmodically defied the crown<sup>16</sup> and the placement of an apparent 'Plantagenet related' name *Plantin* with them by 1254 may perhaps have been seen to signal an eventual measure of Bigod loyalty.

The aforementioned Roger Bigod had a nephew also called Roger Bigod, who succeeded as earl of Norfolk and who was evidently in chief command of Flint (near Chester) in the Welsh War of 1277. In Edward I's campaign from Chester into north Wales in 1282, this Bigod was busy with the commissariat in the supply of provisions<sup>17</sup>.

Such a historical background could be taken to provide a possible link that connects the south east with the main (?subsequent or existing) body of Plants in the north west of England. There are known occurrences of the name *Pla(u)nt(e)(s)* in the south east, near the Bigods' home base of Norfolk, with *Pla(u)nt(e)(s)* in the counties of Essex, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire, and Huntingdonshire by 1262, 1275, 1279, and 1282 respectively (Table 17.1). The 'Plant' name also occurs in Flint, where Roger Bigod had been active, by 1301

The Old French word *plantin* means 'a shoot or cutting for propagation' (Table 17.2) and the word *plantin(g)* means a 'plantation' in the dialect of northern Britain, extending as far south as Cheshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, and Lincolnshire<sup>18</sup>. This suggests connotations, for the name *Plantin*, of French colonisation

<sup>14</sup>Subsequently, Bigod quarrelled with Henry III about the tutorship of the young king of Scotland in 1255 and his young queen

<sup>15</sup>He maintained however an opposition to the harsh treatment of the disinherited

<sup>16</sup>The first earl of Norfolk, Hugh Bigod (?1095-1177), had been given his earldom by the Norman king Stephen in 1135. Even so, he held Norwich against Stephen in 1136 before submitting and being pardoned. In 1141 this Bigod fought for Stephen but joined the party of Henry of Anjou (later the first Plantagenet king, Henry II) by 1153, only to persist with his unruliness such as by joining the rebellion of Henry the young king against his father Henry in 1174. Again, by the mid 13th century, the Bigod earls were showing spasmodic defiance of the crown

<sup>17</sup>The younger Roger Bigod, earl of Norfolk, defied the king however in 1297. His title and lands were passed to the king in 1302, being returned to Bigod only for his lifetime, and in 1302 they passed to Edward II's half brother, Thomas Brotherton. F.M.Powicke (1947), *King Henry II and the Lord Edward*, pps 336, 342, 422, 432, 472, 506, 541, 707, 768. John E Morris (1901), *The Welsh Wars of Edward I*, pps 133, 162.

<sup>18</sup>Joseph Wright (1898) *The English Dialect Dictionary*.

in the north perhaps especially in connection with Bigod activities in north Wales. There is also mention, in 1268, of Roger *Planteng'* (sic) at *Noriff'* (sic) — the name *Planteng'* (1268) can apparently be taken in context to allude to the 'establishment of English<sup>19</sup> (land) rights'

#### 17.1.4 An early French connection, Chester, Exeter and Lincolnshire

Rouen, near the mouth of the River Seine, was the capital of Normandy and it had been a Plantagenet stronghold, from 1144 to 1203. In this context '*de la Plaunt*', which occurs here, might mean '*from the plantation*' or '*from the Plantagenet colony*' (i.e. from 'England')<sup>20</sup>. Certainly it is known that 'plantation' meant 'colonisation' some three centuries later, in Shakespearean times (Table 17.4).

Various evidence for those with 'Plant related' names in the early 14th century suggests that they could have been involved with sea trade, or at least they are found near the coast.

In 1273, an embargo was placed on wool exports from England — this was instigated initially as a result of military hostilities with Flanders, though the potential for raising revenue was soon realised<sup>21</sup>. That year (1273) the king's court issued export licences for wool to, amongst others, three Rouen merchants called John and Richard *de la Plaunt* and Geoffrey *Plaunt* (Table 17.1).

Chester was a flourishing port<sup>22</sup>. Sea trade with France, as well as the concentration of nobility in the Welsh Marches<sup>23</sup>, could have influenced the incidence of the Plant name around Cheshire. In 1301, a Richard Plant of Ewelowe<sup>24</sup>, on the Flint-Cheshire border, was granted a license to dig coal and deadwood at Ewelowe, near Chester<sup>25</sup>. Chester had prospered with the military activity of the Welsh Wars and, in 1302, Edward I's daughter Elizabeth (Plantagenet) was married there.

The name Walter *Plente* appears at the port of Exeter in Devon by 1342. This was shortly after the battle of Sluys at which the French navy (i.e. the navy of king Philip, in opposition to the Plantagenets) was largely destroyed<sup>26</sup>. Edward I's nephew Henry of Grosmont (1300?-61), 3rd earl of Lancaster, 11th earl of Lincoln, and 1st duke of Lancaster was active at this sea battle in Flanders (1340), and also in Gascony (1343)<sup>27</sup>.

<sup>19</sup>The Oxford English Dictionary cites usage of the term *Engla lande* from 890 AD.

<sup>20</sup>cf. Ernest Weekly (1916), *Surnames*, p 185, who alludes to an occurrence of a *John de la Plaunt* in the 13th century Patent Rolls and interprets it as 'from the plantation'.

<sup>21</sup>Robert H S Robertson (1991) *Fuller's Earth: A History of Calcium Montmorillonite*, p 97. May McKisack (1959) *The Fourteenth Century 1307-1399*, pps 350-9.

<sup>22</sup>The main trade from Chester, it seems, was with Ireland and Chester's importance as a port apparently peaked around 1350 to 1450.

<sup>23</sup>The possibility has already been mentioned of a link with SE Plants, perhaps arising with for example the earl of Norfolk Roger Bigod's command of Flint at the time of the 1277 Welsh War.

<sup>24</sup>In the June of 1282, Richard de Grey was sent to cover the left flank of Edward I's advance through Flint from Chester at a castle which, though difficult to read, seems to have been *Ewloe* close to the estuary of the River Dee. John E. Morris (1901) *The Welsh Wars of Edward I*, pps 161-2.

<sup>25</sup>W.K. Plant, private communication.

<sup>26</sup>At the naval battle of Sluys, on 24 July 1340, the fleet of Edward III defeated that of Philip IV of France in the first major battle of the so-called 'Hundred Years War'. Though 30 French ships escaped during the night, more than 200 were captured. Edward III directed the battle from his great ship, the 'Cog Thomas'.

<sup>27</sup>Henry Grosmont's daughters, Maud and Blanche, were born around that time at Lancaster, in 1339 and 1345 (International Genealogical Index, 1984). It was Blanche who was later to give birth, at Bolingbroke in Lincolnshire, to Henry Bolingbroke who was to become the first king of the royal House of Lancaster.

|   |
|---|
| <p>THOMAS SON AND HEIR OF HUGH DE SWYNFORD</p> <p>432 <i>Writ</i> to the escheator in the county of Lincoln to take proof of the age of the said Thomas, who is said to have been born in Lincoln and baptised in the church of that town, and to warn Katherine de Swynford, in whose custody are the lands etc of the inheritance of the said Thomas by commitment of Edward III, to be present at the proof. 27 February, 17 Richard II</p>  |
| <p>THOMAS SON OF HUGH DE SWYNFORD</p> <p>576 LINCOLN. <i>Proof of age</i> taken at Lincoln, Friday , 18 Richard II.</p> <p>John Plant, aged 60 years or more, says that the said Thomas was born at Lincoln on the feast of St Matthias, 47 Edward III and baptised the next day in the church of St Margaret in the Close, on which day the said John was servant to Master Thomas de Sutton, clerk, godfather of the said Thomas de Swynford, and brought fire to light the candle.</p> <p>(followed by testimony from 11 others)</p> |

Table 17.5: Some extracts from the Calendar of Inquisitions

The extant evidence indicates, for example, that Roger Plente of Exeter was licensed in 1364 to take '20 packs of large cloths of divers colours' to Gascony, Spain and 'other parts beyond seas'. There was an assault on Roger Plente of Exeter, in 1365, when he was described as a '*searcher of gold and silver exported without license in the county of Devon*'. That same year, Roger Plente is described as a '*merchant of Exeter*' with a ship '*le George of Exmouth*'. In 1367 Roger Plente is described as the '*king's minister in Devon*' and, in 1368, as '*a collector of customs in the port of Exeter*'.

In 1344, there is mention of John Plant, son of Alan of Burgh Marsh in south Lincolnshire, again near the coast, just to the north of Norfolk. This early Lincolnshire Plant can plausibly be connected to the subsequent 17th century cluster of Lincolnshire Plants (Figure 17.1), in as much as the parish of Burgh le Marsh adjoins those of Orby, Addlethorpe, and Winthorpe where Plants are most concentrated in the early Lincolnshire records of the IGI.

### 17.1.5 A possible link between Lincoln and east Cheshire

When *John Plant* testified at Lincoln in 1396 he was over sixty years old (Table 17.1). He was called to establish proof of age of Sir Thomas de Swynford, a half-brother to John Beaufort who was in turn a half-brother to John of Gaunt's son Henry Bolingbroke, who was soon to become the first Lancastrian king, Henry IV. Both Sir Thomas<sup>28</sup> and John Beaufort had jousted for the Lancastrians under

<sup>28</sup>Sir Thomas de Swynford (b 1373) was a half brother to the four Beaufort children of Catherine Swynford and John of Gaunt and he is listed amongst the 30 strong Lancastrian contingent of John of Gaunt at the famous 1390 jousts of St Inglevert for the honour of France. Anthony Goodman (1992) *John of Gaunt: The Exercise of Princely Power in Fourteenth Century Europe*, p 146



John of Gaunt<sup>29</sup> at St Inglevert in 1390 and both were sons of Catherine Swynford, whose presence had also been called (Table 17.5). It has been estimated that John Beaufort was born to Catherine in ?1373 and this can be compared with John Plaint's testimony that Catherine's son Sir Thomas was born at about the same time

Catherine Swynford (1350?-1403)<sup>30</sup> had been a *domicella* to Henry Glosmont's daughter Blanche, Duchess of Lancaster, the first wife of John of Gaunt. Catherine Swynford's first husband was a Lancastrian knight and, after the death of her second husband Sir Hugh de Swynford in 1372, she became governess to John of Gaunt's children, his mistress, and had children by him. Following the death of Gaunt's second wife in 1396, he married Catherine and, in 1397, their 4 children were legitimated with the proviso (inserted 1407) that they had no claim to the throne. The eldest of these legitimated children was John Beaufort (b ?1373) who was to become the grandfather of Henry VII's mother.

A contemporary (1388) Inquisition Post Mortem<sup>31</sup> refers to the king's ongoing hunting rights in the royal forest of Macclesfield (east Cheshire). In 1372, John of Gaunt received the adjoining castle and manor of High Peak (NW Derbyshire), to which he was a regular visitor, exchanging this for lands in Lincolnshire and Hertfordshire and thereby amending his many lordships which extended, in particular, as a broad swathe from Norfolk to Lancashire<sup>32</sup>. At that time (1373), John Plaint was said in testimony to have been *servant to Master Thomas de Sutton, clerk, godfather to the said Thomas de Swynford*. This Thomas de Sutton may have been he who held lands (1357) in Disley (east Cheshire), just to the north of Macclesfield Forest<sup>33</sup>

### 17.1.6 The hereditary name Plont in east Cheshire

Records are found for the Prestbury Plonts of east Cheshire, in the north west midlands of England, from around 1370<sup>34</sup>. These extant records relate to fines for stray animals and payments for pasture<sup>35</sup>. It may be relevant that, at the end of the 12th century, the monks of Combermere Abbey (founded 1133) had been granted land for erecting Wincle Grange, with pasture for 2,000 sheep and other animals, near

<sup>29</sup>Following the three Edwards, the last king of the so-called royal 'House of Plantagenet', Richard II, became king in 1377 at the age of 10 with Edward II's fourth son, John of Gaunt, who had been close to the eldest son Edward The Black Prince (d 1376), leading the Parliament. The government of John of Gaunt became unpopular in the south east of England, at the time of the peasants revolt of 1381. However John had married Blanche (Plantagenet) of Lancaster in 1359 and he thereby came to father the succeeding Plantagenet cadet line of the so-called royal 'House of Lancaster' (1399-1461)

<sup>30</sup>Elizabeth Hallam (1996) *The Plantagenet Encyclopedia; an alphabetic guide to 400 years of English History*. May McKisack (1959) *The Fourteenth Century 1307-1399*, pps 393, 442, 493, 490, 530. Anthony Goodman (1992) *John of Gaunt*, especially pps 50, 179, 363.

<sup>31</sup>J.P. Earwaker (1877) *ibid*, Vol. I, p47.

<sup>32</sup>Simon Walker (1990) *The Lancastrian Affinity 1361-1399*, pps 33, 209, 217, 229, 400

<sup>33</sup>Thomas de Sutton was a son of John de Sutton of Sutton and Disley (d 1362) who was a Forester of Macclesfield Forest in 1358. One of the descendants of this family founded Brasenose College, Oxford. J.P. Earwaker (1877) *ibid*, Vol. II, p 443

<sup>34</sup>By around 1380, the name *Plont* was hereditary and well established in the pennine foothills of East Cheshire, which included the royal hunting forest of Macclesfield and the vicinity of Wincle near where the parish of Prestbury (East Cheshire) joins that of Leek (North Staffordshire). W.K. Plant, private communication

<sup>35</sup>W.K. Plant, private communication

where the Priestbury Plonts were subsequently found<sup>36</sup> (Chapter 16) It might also be relevant that the east Cheshire coalfield extended through this region — there is an early reference to mining in Macclesfield Forest in 1382<sup>37</sup>

### 17.1.7 Demise of the royal Plantagenet house

This evidence for the east Cheshire Plonts appears during the final years of the royal House of Plantagenet (1154-1399) when, for example, the duke of Lancaster was under pressure to apply to law justly to his own following. The general circumstances around the borders of east Cheshire at that time can be outlined briefly as follows. The 2nd duke of Lancaster, John of Gaunt had inherited his title through his first wife, the aforementioned Blanche of Lancaster (1345-68). It was he who settled the revolt of 1393 in the king's palatine of Chester. In the 14th century, loyalty in Lancashire was to the Lancastrian Plantagenets, or perhaps to the Bottler family of Warrington for example, though such families were barely distinguishable from the more prosperous gentry. This can be contrasted with Norfolk where there had been a 1275 occurrence of the name *Plauntes* — a great choice of allegiance had developed there which no doubt diminished the authority of any particular badge or livery mark, such as Gaunt's SS livery collar. In Staffordshire and Derbyshire, which adjoin east Cheshire's borders, it seems that the prevailing situation can be surmised to be intermediate, between the potent 'bastard feudalism' of Lancashire and a faltering authority of the crown (Richard II) in the south east<sup>38</sup>. Such conditions foreshadowed the emergence of the royal 'House of Lancaster' in the form of John of Gaunt's son Henry IV<sup>39</sup>.

### 17.1.8 Some possibly related spellings

It seems likely that the spelling *Plont*, which appears in east Cheshire in those terminal years of the royal Plantagenet House, relates to the spelling *Pla(u)nt(e)(s)*, which was found earlier in the south east. Such spellings can be compared with a modern French (and southern English) pronunciation of *Plant*. A similar spelling occurs in a record for a William *Plonte* who is described as a chaplain in 1386 in connection with land at Olveston (on the coast of the Bristol Channel) of the prior and convent of Bath (Table 17.1). The earlier spelling *Plent(e)*, in the south west, as well as the spelling *Plaint* at Lincoln, may relate to local pronunciations and/or associated transcriptions of the same name. Early instances of the name *Plente* in southern England (Table 17.1) might be thought<sup>40</sup> simply, like *Plont*, to represent an alternative spelling of *Plant*. Indeed, a similar spelling *Plent* occurs in Staffordshire in 1429<sup>41</sup>

<sup>36</sup>Disputes with other houses and gross financial mismanagement led to this Abbey's bankruptcy in the 1270s and again in 1410

<sup>37</sup>J.T. Leach (1996) *Coal Mining around Quarnford*, Staffordshire Studies, Vol 8, pps 66-95

<sup>38</sup>This is implicit in the the peasants revolt in the south east, for example.

<sup>39</sup>Simon Walker (1990) *The Lancastrian Affinity 1361-1399*, pps 4, 142, 141-234

<sup>40</sup>It might also be relevant to note that *pleinte* is an old French spelling of *plainte*, meaning complaint. Alternatively, it could be noted that there was a place name *Pleuent* or *Pelynt* in Cornwall. Such considerations might then be taken to relate to the existence of the modern Cornish surname *Plint*.

<sup>41</sup>The 1614 visitation of Staffordshire has left a record of the arms and pedigree of the family Bentley of The Ashes and this includes the 1429 marriage of Henry Bentley to *Jone Plent*. Wm. Salt Archaeological Society (1884) *Collections for a History of Staffordshire*, Vol III, p 34

### 17.1.9 Some Plants of the Cheshire-Staffordshire borders

A 1445 list of Knights, Gentlemen, and Freeholders in Cheshire's Macclesfield Hundred includes, with 96 others, a *John Plant jnr.* At the nearby north Staffordshire battle of Blore Heath in 1459<sup>42</sup>, the 'Lancastrian' Commander Lord Audley (1400-59) was killed and his second in command, John Sutton lord of Dudley and of Malpass in south Cheshire (d 1482), was wounded<sup>43</sup>. This battle was amongst the first in the so-called 'War of the Roses', which led on from the 'House of Lancaster' to the 'House of York'

The Plantagenet cadet House of York (1461-85) ended with the killing of Richard III at Bosworth Field in Leicestershire. Rudyerd family tradition maintains that it was Radulphus, lord of Rudyerd (north Staffordshire), who slew this last cadet king of the Plantagenets<sup>44</sup>. The succeeding first king, Henry VII, of the royal House of Tudor commemorated this act by allowing 'Ralph Rudyard' to add a rose to his shield<sup>45</sup>. Twenty years into the reign of Catherine Swynford's great great grandson, Henry VII, this same Ralph Rudyard was granted a tenement *within Rydrard called Bottles by Lawrence Plant*, whose family name was said to have been a corruption of Plantagenet<sup>46</sup>.

The aforementioned 1459 north Staffordshire battle of Blore Heath was at Muckleston. When IGI parish records begin, there is a distinct knop of Plants around Muckleston, which is some 25 miles to the south west of Wincle and the surrounding main Prestbury-Leek cluster of 17th century Plants.

## 17.2 Origins through Derbyshire for the Sheffield Plants

The aforementioned Abbey Grange at Wincle is at the southern limit of the pennine slopes of east Cheshire. This is in Prestbury parish of the Macclesfield Hundred of Cheshire, near the River Dane which forms Prestbury's boundary with Leek parish to the south. As indicated in Chapter 15, this general region, comprising the Leek-Prestbury borderlands and the Dark Peak of NW Derbyshire, forms an area of high ground (?Brand) whose slopes in Prestbury may have been those that are referred to, in an 18th century Hallamshire Cutlers Apprenticeship record, as '*Branside, Prestbury*'. It is this piece of evidence in particular that leads to the suggestion that the ancestry of the first Sheffield Plants may have involved Plants from this region near Wincle on the Cheshire-Staffordshire border.

<sup>42</sup>In 1459, Queen Margaret of Anjou gathered 'red rose' levies, it seems, mostly from Cheshire who were defeated by a smaller but well trained force of Yorkists at the battle of Blore Heath near the border of north Staffordshire with Shropshire. There is no known early evidence of a Plantefolie here — though Folly Plantation adjoins this battle site, the so-named coppice, if not the name, appears to date from later times. I am grateful to Martin Phillips, Assistant Director of Keele Information Services, for drawing my attention an article by Ian Rowney (1980), *Medieval Chroniclers and the battle of Blore Heath*, North Staffordshire Journal of Field Studies, Vol 20, pps 9-17

<sup>43</sup>Col. Francis R. Twemlow (Wolverhampton 1912), *The Battle of Blore Heath*

<sup>44</sup>John Sleigh (1862) *A History of the Ancient Parish of Leek, in Staffordshire*, p 159

<sup>45</sup>This addition is described as '*on a canton a rose or, in a field gules*'

<sup>46</sup>John Sleigh (1862) *ibid*, p 33

CHAPTER 17 PLANTAGENET TIMES TO SHEFFIELD CA 1800

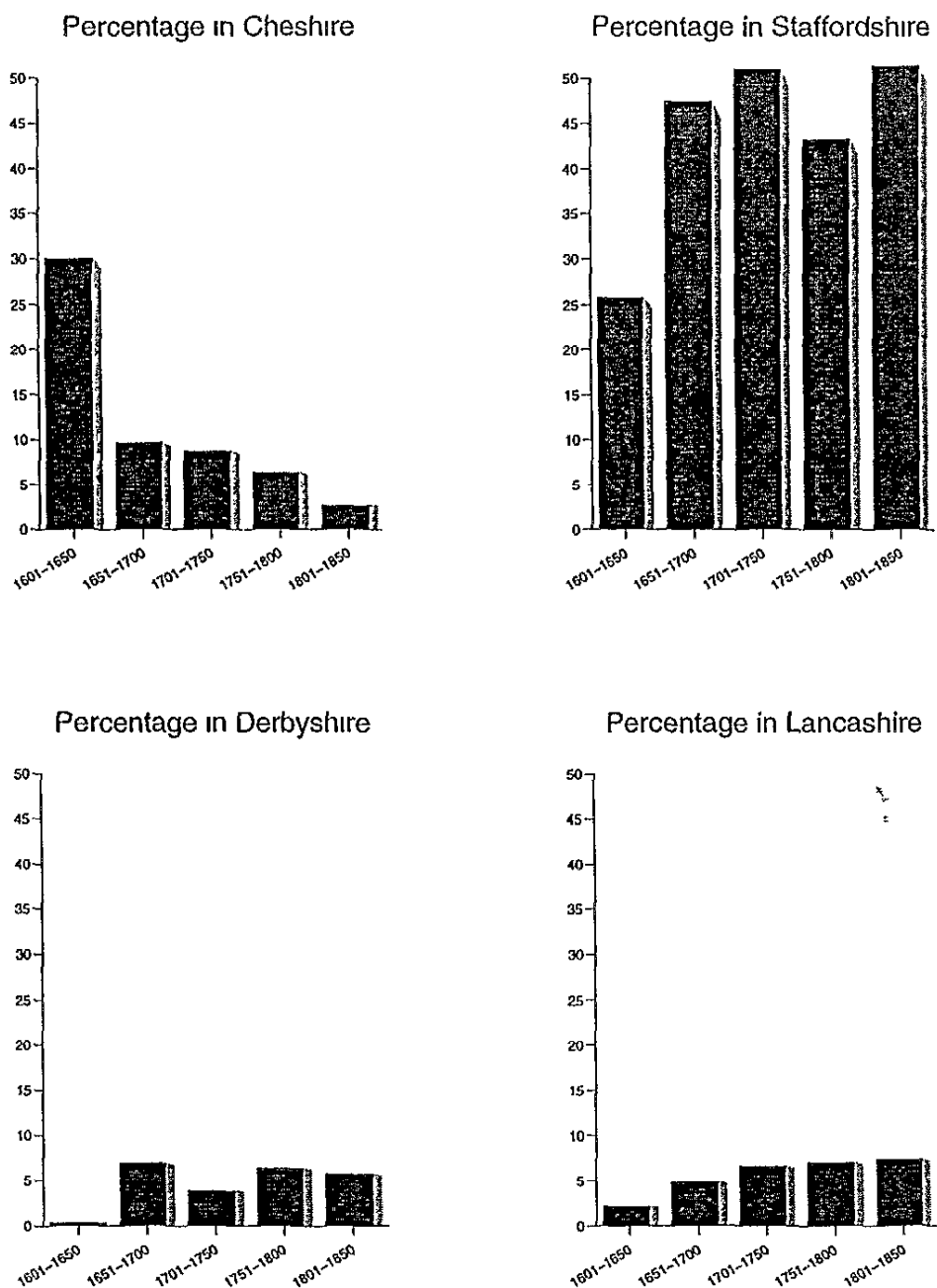


Figure 17.2: Plant records in the 1984 IGI (cf. Figure 17 1). Changing fractions in Cheshire, Staffordshire, Derbyshire, and Lancashire.

## 17.2.1 Possible origins at Gawsworth and Great Longstone

There seems little doubt that Sheffield Plants descended from  $W^m(0)$  of Duckmanton (NE Derbyshire) about 10 miles south of Sheffield. The aforementioned 18th century Cutlers Apprenticeship record (Chapter 14) appears to connect the brickmaker  $W^m(0)$  of Duckmanton with a carpenter William Plant of 'Branside, Prestbury' (east Cheshire) around 40 miles to the west of Duckmanton — indeed, these two William Plants may well have been one and the same person<sup>47</sup>. There is, for example, a possible baptism for this supposable carpenter-brickmaker William Plant at Gawsworth, which is surrounded by the much larger parish of Prestbury. This point holds significance in as much as there are further possibilities whereby  $W^m(0)$ 's father could have been called William. As well as the possible baptism for  $W^m(0)$  to a father William at Gawsworth (east Cheshire), two out of three alternative possibilities for  $W^m(0)$ 's baptism were at nearby Leek (north Staffordshire) and also to a father called William. It accordingly seems appropriate to proceed to noting that there are difficulties finding origins, other than at Great Longstone (north Derbyshire), for a father called William to the brickmaker  $W^m(0)$  of Duckmanton. It thereby seems possible that  $W^m(0)$ 's father may have been from Great Longstone and that he may have visited the vicinity of Wincle (near Gawsworth and Leek) around the time of  $W^m(0)$ 's birth.

This scheme is at least compatible with available evidence for the general behaviours of both Sheffield apprentices and the Cheshire Plants around the times of the late 17th century.

Most Sheffield apprentices were from nearby families. Nearly three quarters of the boys who were apprenticed to cutlers in and around Sheffield between 1650 and 1724 came from within a 15 mile radius of their new homes<sup>48</sup>. Only 4% came from as far as 40 miles, which is about the distance of the likely locality of 'Branside, Prestbury'. It was accordingly noted, in Chapter 15, that the origins of the first known Plant who arrived in Sheffield by 1737 may have involved not only Plants from near 'Branside, Prestbury' but also ones who are known to have been at the intermediate location of Great Longstone, near Ashford-on-the-Water and Bakewell, in north Derbyshire (Figure 17.3).

Around that time (Figure 17.2), there may have been a migration of Plants from Cheshire into north Derbyshire<sup>49</sup>. The evidence of Figure 17.2<sup>50</sup> suggests a local migration across the Cheshire border into Staffordshire, around the times of the 17th century Civil War, and there is similar evidence for a smaller migration into Derbyshire — Figure 17.2 shows that there was a large drop from around 30% to 10% in the fraction of *known* Plant records in Cheshire, in the second half of the 17th century, and this is largely matched by a large growth in the fraction in Staffordshire from around 25% to 50% and, to a lesser extent from 2% to 5%, in Derbyshire.

<sup>47</sup>The 'Branside' mentioned here apparently refers to the pennine slopes of East Cheshire, perhaps around Wincle — this is near a modern location called Brand Side which is just to the south of Buxton in NE Derbyshire. Also near Wincle, in East Cheshire, lies Gawsworth Hall.

<sup>48</sup>David Hey (1987), *ibid*, p 79

<sup>49</sup>It should be added however that the *first* Plants in north Derbyshire did not arrive with a mass migration at that time, since it is known that there was already at least one Plant at Bakewell, near Great Longstone, a century earlier in 1538 (Chapter 11)

<sup>50</sup>The Plant records in the 1984 IGI, as summarised in Figure 17.1, may exclude significant communities of Plants and, to this extent, the results indicated in Figure 17.2 could be an inaccurate representation of the full picture of Plant migrations.

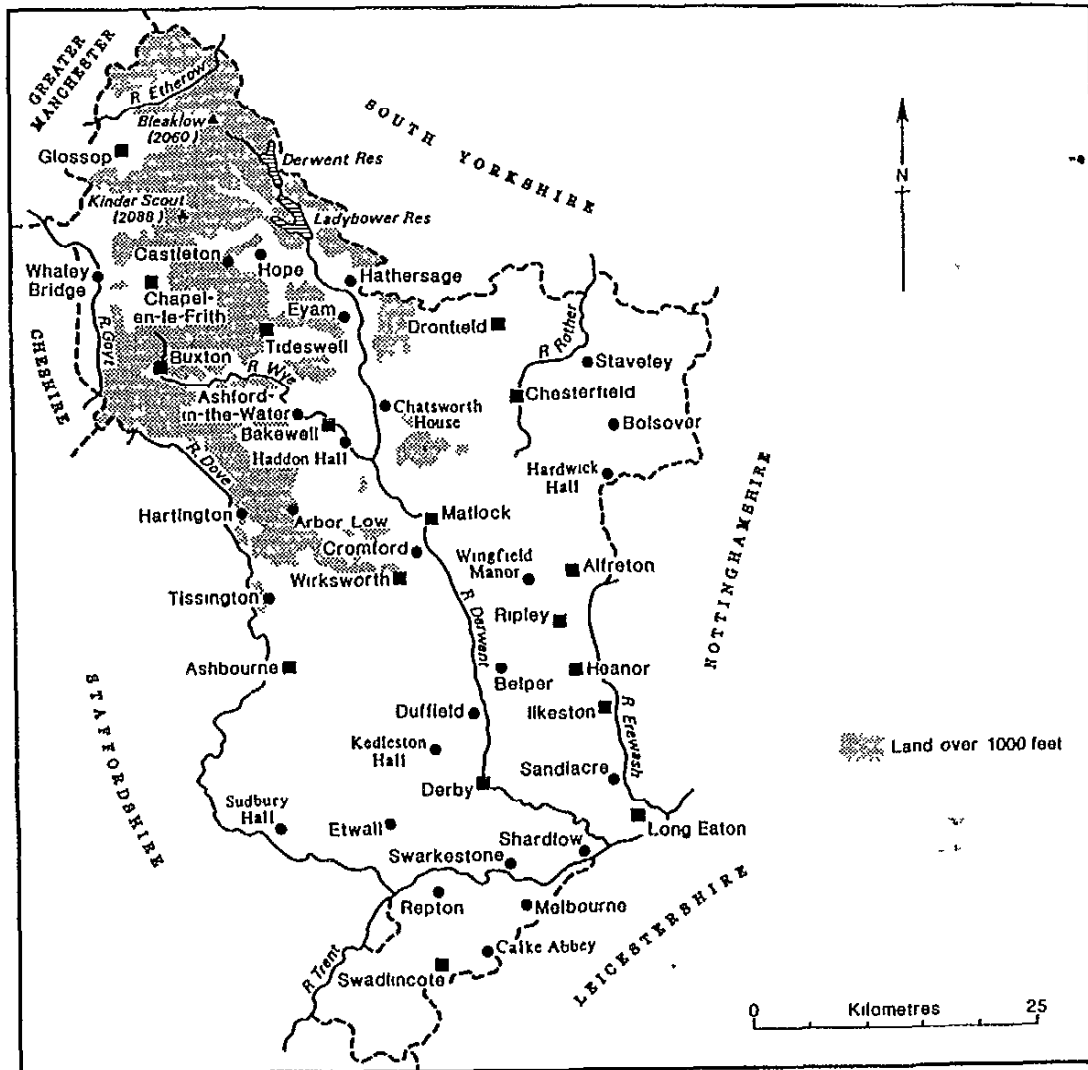
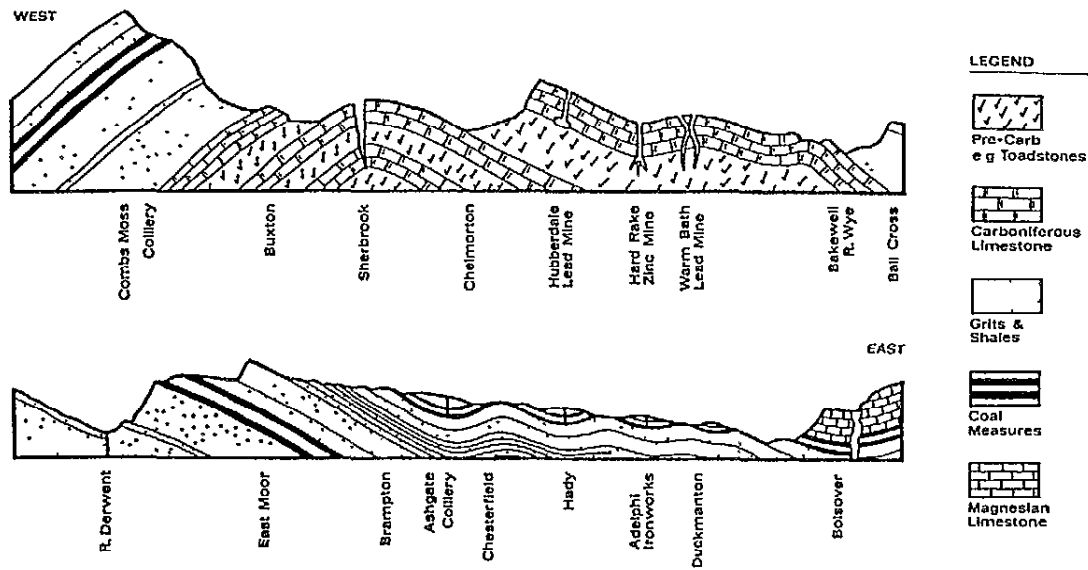


Figure 17.3: A modern map of Derbyshire, showing in particular the high ground of the Peak District in NW Derbyshire — this formed a natural barrier between the main body of 17th and 18th century Plants (which were in the Cheshire-Staffordshire borderlands, at the left side of the map) and a smaller cluster of Plants at Great Longstone (which is not shown but which lies to the east near the shown locations of Ashford-in-the-Water and Bakewell) Further to the east is Chesterfield (NE Derbyshire), which then lies about 10 miles south of Sheffield (not shown, in South Yorkshire). The new county of Greater Manchester (top left) came into being in 1974 and, similarly, South Yorkshire was formerly part of Yorkshire (10 km = 6.2 miles) (after Joy Childs (1987) *A History of Derbyshire*)

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A W-E SECTION ACROSS DERBYSHIRE, AFTER WHITE WATSON, 1811

Figure 17.4: Geological profile of North Derbyshire; showing (top) the Dark Peak (left) followed by the limestone outcrops (White Peak) between Buxton and Bakewell; and (bottom) the basetting of coal and ironstone to the east between Chesterfield and Duckmanton

To summarise, tracing Plant family history backwards from the times of the Plants' arrival in 18th century Sheffield seems to track out a time-reversed journey across north Derbyshire (Figure 17.3) for the travels of the likely ancestors of the first Sheffield area Plants. Plants are known to have been based some 15 miles to Sheffield's south west, near the lead mines around Ashford-in-the-Water (north Derbyshire), in the 17th and 16th centuries as well as in the main Plant cluster of those times, some 20 miles further to the west near the Cheshire-Staffordshire border (Chapters 14 and 15). Beyond this, it is largely just as an illustrative example that one might suppose that  $W^m(0)$ 's father was the aforementioned father, William of Gawsworth in east Cheshire. If one were to accept this possibility, one could then fabricate a story whereby  $W^m(0)$ 's father *could be imagined to have practised similar trades to those of his brickmaker-carpenter son*. He could thereby be supposed to have been involved in the reconstruction work that is known to have been taking place at Gawsworth at that time. It is known that, in 1701, the small leaded lights of Gawsworth Hall were replaced by wooden sash windows and the Great Hall, which extended southwards from this half timbered building, was reduced to a third of its former size by an external brick wall. This imagined picture could furthermore include a supposed involvement, still earlier, of  $W^m(0)$ 's ancestors with 'bricks' and 'carpentry' in the lead mines some 20 miles to the east of Gawsworth, near the mid-north Derbyshire base of the Great Longstone Plants. Such a picture is, at least, consistent with a general scheme for the possible behaviours of Plants in this area.

### 17.2.2 Great Longstone Plants and 'planting' engines

As indicated above, there may have been links across the Peak District of NW Derbyshire between Plants in the main 17th century Plant homeland, which included Gawsworth (East Cheshire) and Leek (North Staffordshire), and the 17th century Plants at Great Longstone. Beyond here, the connection may have extended through NE Derbyshire to Duckmanton, which is then just 10 miles south of Sheffield (Figure 17.3). This hence implies that there could have been Plant links, around 1700, across the north Derbyshire landscape which is profiled in Figure 17.4

Plants from near Wincle, around the Prestbury-Leek border, would have needed to pass near by Buxton and Chelmorton to reach Great Longstone and Bakewell (top section of Figure 17.4). Beyond here, they would have needed to pass Chesterfield to reach Duckmanton (bottom section of Figure 17.4). Such a journey, if undertaken, would have taken them by the lead mines around Great Longstone and thence, through the market town of Chesterfield, to the coal, iron, clay, and water power around Duckmanton.

By the early 17th century, when parish records begin for the Great Longstone Plants, there is documentary evidence for the local lead mines of '*Engines, Pumps, Forces, there set and planted*'<sup>51</sup>. As Pumps were mostly made of wood the 'Engineer' was often described as a 'carpenter' and, in 1635 for example, an engineer was called to '*plant an engine to the water*' in order to drain a flooded mine. In the context of the 'Great Longstone ancestral contention', it might be *imagined* that a 'carpenter' Plant for example could have traveled, around 1700, between Great Longstone and the Gawsworth Hall building work some 20 miles to the west.

The Hassop Eyre family were prime brokers of the local lead trade which involved the lead mines of the Peak and Great Longstone, the bellows-driven (*i.e.* 'water blast') lead smelting mills around Barlow, and the trade beyond to the lead markets of Chesterfield near Duckmanton. These trade links may have laid a basis for the contended connection around 1700 between the Great Longstone Plants and the arrival of Plants at Duckmanton and then Sheffield (Figure 17.3).

### 17.2.3 The local Eyre gentry

In the 'Great Longstone ancestral contention' (Figure 17.5) it is conjectured that the Great Longstone Plants were the antecedents of the Duckmanton Plants. Moreover in this scheme, which includes Plant-Eyre marriages, it seems feasible that traditional Eyre family connections in north Derbyshire played a part in the arrival of Plants in Sheffield by 1737. Published genealogies for the Eyres give rise to the following further detail for this prominent north Derbyshire family and their lead fortunes.

The Hassop<sup>52</sup>, Highlow<sup>53</sup>, and Edale branches of the Eyre family seem 'relevant' to the spread of Plants across North Derbyshire since-

<sup>51</sup>Nellie Kirkham (1968), *Derbyshire Lead Mining through the Centuries*, p 88

<sup>52</sup>It was in particular the Eyres of Hassop in Great Longstone parish who became pre-eminent by the 17th century as Roman Catholics and Royalists, subsequently facing financial ruin by sequestration as recusants.

<sup>53</sup>Whilst the Hassops Eyres made the ruinous mistake of declaring themselves as Royalists at the time of the Civil War, the Highlow Eyres became almost as notorious as Parliamentarians. S C Newton (1966), *The Gentry of Derbyshire in the 17th Century*, Derbyshire Archaeological Journal, Vol 86, pps 1-30.



- the *Hassop* Eyres were based in the parish of Great Longstone where the contemporary 17th century Great Longstone Plant family was to be found,
- the nearby *Highlow* Eyres married into the Jessop family of Broomhall (at the SW edge of Sheffield) in the 17th century and subsequently inherited it, prior to the arrival of Plants near there; and
- two Plant brothers from Great Longstone married Eyre brides who apparently descended from the *Edale* branch of the Eyre family (Chapter 15).

The Great Longstone Plants can thus be associated, through 18th century marriages, with the Edale Eyres. These Plants are also loosely connected, through proximity, to 17th century relatives of the Edale Eyres, namely the Hassop and Highlow Eyres who neighboured Great Longstone. In particular, the Highlow Eyres had links to Broom Hall near Sheffield, near where the 18th century Duckmanton Plants first arrived in Sheffield. It is known that strong connections between these three branches of the Eyre family continued at least into the 17th century<sup>54</sup>.

As already indicated, the lead trading activities of the Eyres may have been relevant to the local Plants. More generally, these activities of the *Hassop* Eyres in particular were of significance to the local history of the region. The evidence for the early involvement of the Great Longstone (*Hassop*) Eyres in using 'water blast' for lead smelting can be outlined briefly as follows.

In 1568, William Humphrey, Master of the Queen's Mint acquired various patents with the main purpose of protecting the processes of his lead smelting mill at Beauchief, between Great Longstone and Sheffield. He appears to have claimed rights over a fine wire sieve for washing the lead ore and an improved type of lead smelting furnace<sup>55</sup>. In 1581, Eyre, Columbell, Tracy, and Heathcote were named as the north Derbyshire gentlemen who were infringing his rights to the furnace. In 1586, Rowland Eyre of Hassop obtained from Peter Barley '*one smelting hows or furnes with two wheels & two hearthes buylded, erected & made for smylting of lead by water blast*' with Barley undertaking to '*well & sufficiently furnysh the said smelting hows or furnes with convenyent water wheles, harthes, ovens & bellows ... for or about the smelting or making of lead by water blast*'.

#### 17.2.4 Sheffield descendants of Wm(0) of Duckmanton

It has been outlined already in earlier Chapters that the evidence seems to show quite clearly that some of the sons of the brickmaker (?and carpenter) *W<sup>m</sup>(0)* of Duckmanton arrived in Sheffield by around 1760. One of these sons *Ben(bellows)* acquired for example Broomhall land, nearby property in Coalpit Lane (?the site of

<sup>54</sup>The common ancestor of the Edale and Highlow Eyres was Christopher Eyre of Highlow. His grandson Thomas Eyre of Edale left a widow who remarried Rowland Eyre of Hassop (d 1625-6). The common ancestor of the Eyres of Highlow, Edale, Rampton, Newbold, and Hassop was Robert Eyre I of Padly, who died in 1459/60. Rosamund Meredith (1964), *The Eyres of Hassop 1470-1640*, Derbyshire Archaeological Journal, LXXXIV, pps 1-51 and continued as (1965), LXXXV, pps 44-91.

<sup>55</sup>In smelting furnaces, the blast was supplied artificially by bellows worked by men's feet or by water power and Humphrey maintained that his furnaces were constructed and worked on an improved method

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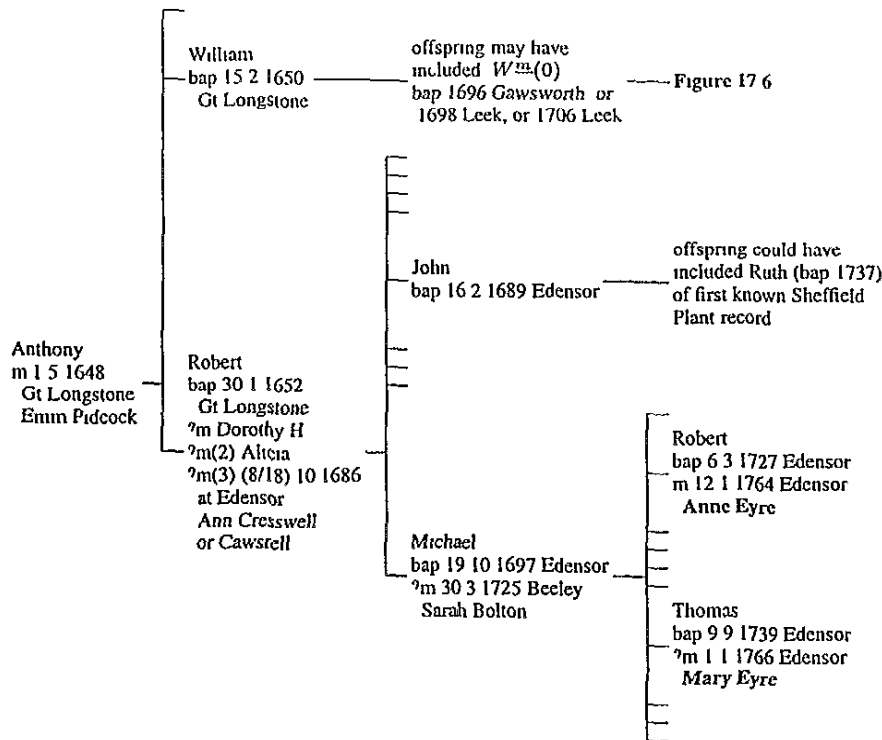


Figure 17 5: A simple Great Longstone contention for the ancestry of W<sup>m</sup>(0) who became the stirp of the Duckmanton Plants

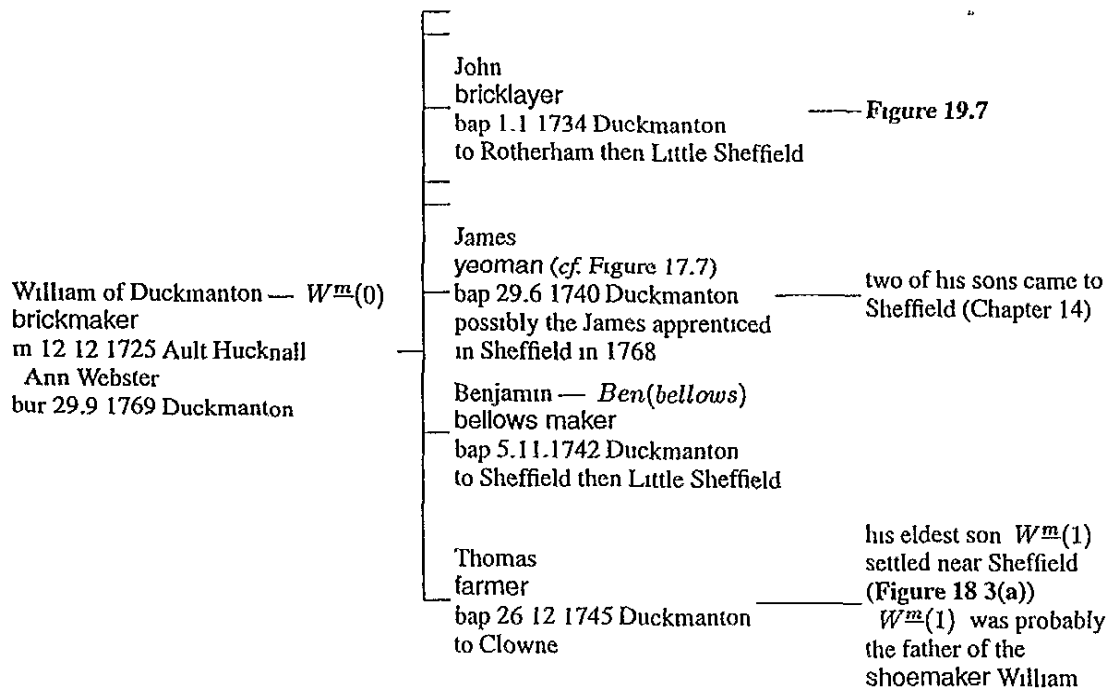


Figure 17.6: Descent of Sheffield Plants from W<sup>m</sup>(0) of Duckmanton

| Continued and Brought forward                           |                 | £   | s  | d  |
|---|-----------------|-----|----|----|
|   |                 | 606 | 11 | 9  |
| James Plant.  | xx by. Bill     |     | 13 |    |
| George Allen  | Peck Maubans d. |     | 14 | 8  |
| Thomas Austin   | Blackburne d.   | 5   | 2  | 6  |
| William Forest  | Plumber d.      |     | 5  |    |
| M <sup>r</sup> Hanley                                   | Attorney d.     | 49  | 14 |    |
| Mess <sup>rs</sup> Boulton & Watt                       | d.              | 2   | 17 | 8  |
| Dr Composition for up Engine having made.               | Verst           | 67  | 8  | 9  |
| 1348750 Strokes at 10/- for every 10,000                | per cent        |     |    |    |
| Succes Iron   | 3 1/2 2 1/2     | 3   | 14 | 6  |
| Candles 5 Doz @ 6/9 & 5 Doz @ 6/6                       |                 | 3   | 6  | 3  |
| Oil 7 Gallons at 3/11 & 1 1/2 3/4 1/2 2 Gall @ 4/8      |                 | 1   | 11 | 4  |
| Lined Oil 2 Gallons at 4/8 & Flax 40/11                 |                 |     | 18 | 11 |
| Colth 7/4 Whiting to Soft Soap 7/4                      |                 |     | 14 | 8  |
| Nails 400 @ 1/4 500 @ 6 and 900 @ 8                     |                 |     | 9  | 10 |
| Hemp 2 1/2 Stiles 3/6 Bruse 7 Gimblets 3                |                 |     | 6  | 8  |
| Bush of Duck 2/8 Besoms 3 paper 4                       |                 |     | 3  | 3  |
| Powdered Tallow 1 2 11                                  | 4/6             | 3   | 9  | 9  |
| Paid for a Bell   |                 |     | 1  | 10 |
| Widow Wood Meal 26 wks 2 1/2 wks of week @ 8            |                 | 1   | 14 | 8  |
| Abram Bushes for Lime 3 Load                            |                 |     | 2  | 3  |
| M <sup>r</sup> Hodgekinson for 665 Square yards of Lime |                 | 8   | 6  | 3  |
| for Haddock Room  |                 |     |    |    |
| Assistance at up Mine and keeping Acids 13 wks @ 10/-   |                 | 6   | 10 |    |
| Carried forward   |                 | 764 | 17 | 6  |

Figure 17.7: A page from the 1782 accounts of the Gregory Mine partners, including a payment of 13/- in settlement of James Plant's bill and a licence payment to Boulton & Watt, in respect of their patent, of 10/- per 10,000 strokes of the steam engine

Late Plant yard), and at the Little Sheffield site of Plant's Yard where adjoining land was owned by his brother, a bricklayer John Plant<sup>56</sup>. It seems that another brother, James, had been apprenticed in Coalpit Lane (cf Figure 17 7)<sup>57</sup>. A son *W<sup>m</sup>(1)* of the youngest brother, Thomas of Clowne, arrived in the Ecclesall chapelry of Sheffield parish before the end of the 18th century<sup>58</sup>.

There is particular information, as already outlined in earlier Chapters, for Benjamin Plant from Duckmanton who was one of these first known Plants to arrive in Sheffield. This Benjamin was one of only two bellows makers in the contemporary Sheffield area Trades Directories. The background outlined above makes it seem likely that he may have learned his key technological trade of bellows making in the prevailing local culture of NE Derbyshire, where 'water blast' had long been used for the smelting of lead and the working of iron — even by 1507, there is a record that John Selyok leased at Norton, between Chesterfield and Sheffield, the '*Syte of a Smethe place to Bylde an Ironsmethe, both blome harthe and stryngge harthe*' with '*the Course of the Water called Mossebeck to turne the said Smethes*'<sup>59</sup>. *Ben(bellows)* from Duckmanton with his Little Sheffield *Plant's Yard* neighbour and brother, John Plant, thereafter apparently became involved with some key 18th century 'water blast' and 'steam powered' conversions of Sheffield's grinding water mills, turning them to Sheffield's historic future as forges for iron and steel.

It accordingly seems that there is some historical basis for saying that these *Plant's Yard* Plants may have been continuing, in 18th century Sheffield, a tradition that had featured the Eyre neighbours of the 16th and 17th century Great Longstone Plants.

### 17.3 A résumé of Origins and the Plant's Yard Plants

The Plant name can be compared, in extant 13th century records, with some similar names. Such evidence (section 17 1) seems broadly compatible with two theorems, which were developed in Chapter 16 for the name's original meaning(s).-

<sup>56</sup>Before then, it is only within the context of uncertain 17th century Plant family relationships that we may say that Duckmanton Plants may have come to Sheffield to take up Broom Hall land (Chapter 11) in the wake of connections between the Highlow Eyres and their neighbours the Great Longstone Plants, who married into Eyres who were apparently from the Edale branch of that family

<sup>57</sup>By 1768, it appears that it may have been *W<sup>m</sup>(0)'s* son James who was apprenticed in Coalpit Lane, though the apprenticeship record refers to his father as a carpenter William Plant of '*Branside, Prestbury*'. It appears that there were few Plants near Sheffield at that time and it hence seems *probable* that it was the same James who appears in the 1782 accounts of the Gregory Mine partners (Figure 17 7), who had a mine between Duckmanton and Matlock.

<sup>58</sup>It was probably sons of this same James, the yeoman James Plant of Duckmanton (Figure 17 6), who inherited the Little Sheffield site of Plant's Yard in the early 19th century from their uncle *Ben(bellows)'s* (Chapter 14). Another nephew *W<sup>m</sup>(1)* of *Ben(bellows)* was a son of the farmer Thomas Plant of Clowne and *W<sup>m</sup>(1)* appears to have been the father of the Sheffield shoemaker William, as will be outlined later.

<sup>59</sup>Frank Noxon (1969), *The Industrial Archaeology of Derbyshire*, p 49.

**theorem (1):** 'Plant related' names, such as Plantebene and Planterose, suggest a general meaning of 'royalist auxiliary' rather than just a 'gardener' — this contention has been reinforced in this Chapter with the evidence of section 17.1 for the further 'Plant related' names Plan', Plantefohe, Plantyn, Pla(u)nt(es), Plauntegenet, Planteng', Plente, and Plont(e), and,

**theorem (2):** other linguistic, literary, and surname evidence suggests a meaning 'illegitimate Plantagenet child' for the NW Plants in particular — this was explained in some detail in Chapter 16 and it has been reinforced in this Chapter by citing an early occurrence of the name Planterose at Warr' Wigoin' (sic) in 1230 — this 'north west' name Planterose can be compared with the Plant heraldry in as much as the Plant blazon can be interpreted as that of an 'illegitimate cadet line, which subsequently bore the red rose badge'.

### 17.3.1 A further theorem for a developing meaning of plant

In Plantagenet times, men of all classes from the king downwards were involved in the mining of tin, lead, iron, and coal<sup>60</sup>. It seems that coal was gathered mostly from surface workings and used mostly for smith's work, though by the middle of the 14th century vertical pits with tunnels for drainage began to be sunk and, with the increase in chimneys towards the end of the 14th century, coal was beginning to be burned also in private houses

There is a 1301 record for a Richard Plant of Ewelowe who was granted rights to coal amongst the surface outcrops along the borderlands between Cheshire and Flint, where lead and silver deposits had held an early importance<sup>61</sup>. By the late 14th century, there is evidence of coal working in the pennine foothills of east Cheshire where contemporary *Plont* records occur.

Such evidence can be embodied in a further theorem:-

**theorem (3):** the Plant family had some early associations with trade and industry, perhaps especially with wool, coal, and lead — these evidently preceded any recognised industrial connotation to the word *plant*.

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<sup>60</sup>May McKisack (1959) *The Fourteenth Century 1307-99*, pps 371-2.

<sup>61</sup>The rich lead and silver deposits of Flintshire had earlier been won from the Deceangl and brought under the control of the nearby Roman settlement of Deva (*i.e.* Chester) in about 70 AD. 'Pigs' of lead were cast in Flintshire and brought down the Dee and up the Mersey to be reworked in the workshops of Wilderspool (just south of Warrington in NW Cheshire), which was a major Roman centre of import and export with furnaces for the working of lead and iron. This historic settlement was in decline, however, by the end of the 3rd century AD. Alan Crosby (1996), *A History of Cheshire*, pps 21, 24-5.

### 17.3.2 A possible early association with lead and silver

In the Domesday survey, the only lead mentioned is in the Peak District of north Derbyshire. The lead ore here has a low silver content. Queen Eleanor's men of Ashford<sup>62</sup>, as well as the King's men<sup>63</sup> of the adjoining north Derbyshire Liberty of Taddington, are mentioned in a lead mining dispute of 1280/1<sup>64</sup>. The north west Derbyshire lead mines belonged directly to the crown and this lead mining region was called the *King's Field*.

In the early 14th century, lead ore was valued particularly for the silver it contained. Lead mining was carried out especially in the neighbourhood of Bere Alston in Devon though the boom period in Devon was over by about 1340. It is known, for example, that the name *Plente* occurs in Sussex, Devon and Cornwall, around 1340-90 (Table 17.1). In 1364, a Roger Plente was a '*searcher for .. silver exported without license ... in Devon*' and, in 1367, (?the same) Roger Plente is described as '*the king's minister in Devon*'.

It is known that the name *Plont* was well established in the pennine foothills of east Cheshire, adjoining the royal lead mines of north Derbyshire, by 1370<sup>65</sup>. In 1386, a chaplain William *Plonte* is connected to land of the prior and convent of Bath<sup>66</sup> (Table 17.1) — there were active lead mines in this region, in the royal forest of Mendip (north Somerset). These lead mines were leased to the bishop of Bath and Wells who retained part of the profit.

By the end of the times of the royal 'House of Plantagenet'<sup>67</sup>, there is a 1396 reference to the word *plont*:-

Comme le suppliant eust acheté certaine monnoye de *plont* de huit et quatre deniers parisis pour le pris et somme de huit blans, et huit jours après ou environ eust icelle monnoye de *plont* vendue à un nommé Jehan Michaut le pris et somme de cinq sols tournois, et d'icelle monnoye eust esté trouvé quatre ou cinq jours après icellui Jehan Michau saisi en la ville de Lillebouchart, et pour ce eust esté emprisonné au dit lieu

whereby the old French word *plont* is taken to mean lead (Table 17.2). However the Oxford English Dictionary (1989) recognises *plont(e)* only as a variant spelling of *plant*, with:-

- *plont* being a known 15th century variant of the verb *to plant*, and
- *plonte* being a known 14th and 15th century variant of the noun (sb1) *plant*.

<sup>62</sup>The Manor of Ashford was the subject of an unsuccessful petition to Edward I in 1292 when the widow of the lord of Powys (north Wales) claimed entitlement to the whole of it, though the Magna Carta (1215) entitled her, through her late husband's estate, to a third. Sir Maurice Powicke (1962) *The Thirteenth Century 1216-1307*, pps 326 and 510

<sup>63</sup>When Edward I returned from a long absence in Gascony (1288-9) to England at the height of his fame, he came to Chesterfield (NE Derbyshire) in 1290, continuing through Tideswell and Chapel-en-le-Frith (north Derbyshire) to Macclesfield (east Cheshire) before returning via Tideswell and Ashford

<sup>64</sup>Nellie Kirkham (1968) *Derbyshire Lead Mining through the Centuries*, pps 100-1

<sup>65</sup>W.K. Plant, private communication

<sup>66</sup>There is specific mention of rent at Olveston

<sup>67</sup>When lead was needed for the repair of the Great Hall of Westminster around 1390, the king's contractors obtained it from Derby, Nottingham, and Yorkshire.

### 17.3.3 Plants and a developing meaning of plant

It seems likely that there was a Plantagenet influence on the Plant name before there was any particular connection between the Plants and lead. However, it may have been such industrial activities as the smelting of lead that led on to an industrial meaning to *plant*.

It can be noted, for example, that:-

- the royal Plantagenets held an interest, for example, in the mining of lead ore (*ca.* 1280),
- there are occurrences of the names Plente and Plont(e) near 14th century lead mining regions, together with evidence for royal connections,
- an instance of the word *plont* in Old French has been translated to mean 'lead' (1396),
- the Lancastrian lively colours were blue and silver (with silver being obtained from lead),
- an early industrial application of water power was for ore crushing and the smelting of lead by bellows blast,
- the 17th century Great Longstone Plants were located at the centre of the activities of *planting* Engines, Pumps, and Forces in local lead mines, and
- their apparent descendants, the 18th century *Plant's Yard* Plants were suppliers of industrial *plant* equipment.

It hence seems that an historic basis for industrial '*plant*' activities can be found, for example, in origins for the 18th century *Plant's Yard* Plants. It also seems that some early bearers of the Plant name neighboured activities that related to lead (*plont*). Thus, Plant associations with industrial activities, such as in 1301 as well as in the 18th century, may have played some part in the emergence, by the late 18th century, of a recognised industrial meaning to *plant*.

### 17.3.4 A likely industrial background to the Plant's Yard Plants

It may have been partly an old Plant allegiance to the 'red rose' that kept Plants mainly, it seems, to the Cheshire side of the Dark Peak of north west Derbyshire and away from Sheffield at Yorkshire's southern tip (Figures 17.3 and 17.4). However, it is known that, by 1538, a Christopher Plant was leasing estate from Ralf Gell of Hopton whose fortunes were based on wool and lead mining — this was at Bakewell, near Great Longstone, about half way towards Sheffield. About a century later, when parish records begin, there is evidence for a small cluster of Plants around Great Longstone.

The Great Longstone Plants appear to have had a close association, at least by the 18th century, with the Gell and Eyre gentry who had been prominent in local

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lead mining and smelting activities<sup>68</sup> By the times of the 18th century, it seems that Plants had arrived near Sheffield by migrating across north Derbyshire from Great Longstone and east Cheshire<sup>69</sup> From the 1760's onwards, two sons of the brickmaker William Plant of Duckmanton (*i.e.* *W<sup>m</sup>(0)* ?-1769) appear near Broom Hall at Sheffield's Coal Pit Lane<sup>70</sup> One of these sons, a bellows maker Benjamin Plant (1742-1805), and another, the bricklayer John Plant (1733-1816), appear at the Little Sheffield site of Plant's Yard just a mile to the south by 1787.

Soon after, there is a quotation dated 1789:-

MRS PIOZZI, *Journ Franc I*, 133. The ground was destined to the purposes of extensive commerce, but the appellation of a *plant* gave me much disturbance, from my inability to fathom the meaning.

The OED cites this quotation as the first recognised usage of a chiefly American sense to the noun *plant* – the more endemic English sense of the industrial meaning of *plant* is defined as -

**noun (sb1) (6a):** the fixtures, implements, machinery, and apparatus used in carrying on an industrial process.

The *Plant's Yard* Plants were apparently supplying *plant*, fitting both the English and American industrial senses, at a date before there are illustrative quotations in the OED for either sense.

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<sup>68</sup>Around the start of the 18th century, John Eyre changed his name to John Gell of Hopton on inheriting, through his mother, the Gell fortunes. This John Eyre's son, Philip Gell, became co-owner of Broom Hall near Sheffield.

<sup>69</sup>In particular, a likely scheme for the ancestry of the stirp *W<sup>m</sup>(0)* of the *Plant's Yard* Plants of Sheffield suggests that he may have been the same William as the carpenter William Plant who was apparently baptised in the main Cheshire-Staffordshire homeland of 17th century Plants. There are three known suitable baptisms within the adjoining parishes of Leek and Prestbury, which are around 15 miles to the west of Great Longstone. By 1725, *W<sup>m</sup>(0)* had settled 15 miles to Great Longstone's east, near Chesterfield. It *may have been* *W<sup>m</sup>(0)*'s cousin John from Great Longstone who appears in the first known Sheffield Plant record, in 1737 (Chapter 15).

<sup>70</sup>This was quite possibly the site of 'Late Plant yard'



## STAFFORDSHIRE BURIAL INDEX

From Sarah to Susanna

This list is an addition to that shown in Journal No. 10 Pages 18 + 19.

| <u>Dates</u> | <u>Forename</u> | <u>Notes</u>                            | <u>Parish Church</u> |
|--------------|-----------------|---|----------------------|
| 23.2.1683    | Sarah           | d/o Wm & Eliz of Beason                 | Mucklestone          |
| 14.8.1698    | Sarah           | d/o Wm, husb. Of Bearson                | Mucklestone          |
| 24.4.1701    | Sarah           | infant of the back O' the St            | Leek                 |
| 23.1.1701    | Sarah           | of Kna Church                           | Leek                 |
| 18.5.1715    | Sarah           | infant                                  | Leek                 |
| 28.5.1717    | Sarah           | d/o Dinah, wid.                         | Mucklestone          |
| 8.3.1718     | Sarah           |   | Leek                 |
| 20.4.1724    | Sarah           | w/o John of Linhouse                    | Leek                 |
| 12.3.1729    | Sarah           |   | Uttoxeter            |
| 12.1.1730    | Sarah           | of Red Earth                            | Leek                 |
| 19.7.1734    | Sarah           | d/o Humphrey of Severly                 | Stone                |
| 7.6.1740     | Sarah           | w/o John                                | Uttoxeter            |
| 5.11.1744    | Sarah           | (entry also in Leek) w/o Tho. Dunwood   | Endon                |
| 12.6.1746    | Sarah           | d/o John                                | Wetton               |
| 1.12.1750    | Sarah           | inf of Leek                             | Leek                 |
| 12.7.1753    | Sarah           | w/o James of Leek                       | Leek                 |
| 20.5.1757    | Sarah           | of Swynnerton                           | Swynnerton           |
| 15.1.1766    | Sarah           | w/o Richard                             | Brewood              |
| 9.3.1766     | Sarah           | (also entry in Leek) d/o Richard & Jane | Endon                |
| 30.3.1766    | Sarah           | w/o James                               | Leek                 |
| 4.6.1768     | Sarah           | d/o William                             | Wolverhampton        |
| 9.7.1768     | Sarah           | of Leek wid.                            | Leek                 |
| 15.9.1768    | Sarah           |   | Seighford            |
| 20.7.1769    | Sarah           | of Leek                                 | Leek                 |
| 13.5.1770    | Sarah           | of Rushton                              | Leek                 |
| 15.9.1773    | Sarah           | of Hazlewood                            | Leek                 |
| 4.7.1774     | Sarah           |   | Pattingham           |
| 15.1.1775    | Sarah           | d/o John & Sarah                        | Rowley Regis         |
| 23.12.1775   | Sarah           |   | Kingsley             |
| 3.6.1777     | Sarah           | inf.                                    | Stoke on Trent       |
| 2.8.1777     | Sarah           | w/o Thos of Bradnop                     | Leek                 |
| 14.3.1779    | Sarah           | d/o John                                | Rowley Regis         |
| 19.7.1779    | Sarah           | inf.                                    | Leek                 |
| 2.4.1781     | Sarah           | inf.                                    | Stoke on Trent       |
| 10.7.1781    | Sarah           | inf.                                    | Leek                 |
| 2.8.1788     | Sarah           | d/o Benjamin & Ann                      | Longton              |
| 10.12.1789   | Sarah           |   | Sandon               |
| 14.2.1793    | Sarah           |   | Leek                 |
| 7.6.1794     | Sarah           | a stranger                              | Eccleshall           |
| 6.11.1795    | Sarah           | d/o John & Eliz of Newport              | Gnosall              |
| 21.11.1795   | Sarah           |   | Leek                 |
| 4.10.1796    | Sarah           | d/o John & Ann                          | Stone                |
| 16.12.1796   | Sarah           | d/o William                             | West Bromwich        |
| 9.3.1800     | Sarah           | G.                                      | Leek                 |

|            |         |                                |                            |
|------------|---------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 6 5 1802   | Sarah   |                                | Cheadle                    |
| 11 10.1803 | Sarah   |                                | Leek                       |
| 30.10.1803 | Sarah   | d/o William & Mary             | Stafford, St Mary          |
| 4 1 1804   | Sarah   | inf                            | Leek                       |
| 10 6.1805  | Sarah   | d/o Mary                       | Lichfield, St Michael      |
| 30.6 1805  | Sarah   |                                | Eccleshall                 |
| 30 3.1823  | Sarah   | age 1 day. Twin see Mary       | Newcastle U Lyme, St Giles |
| 12.10 1834 | Sarah   | Black Lake                     | West Bromwich, All Saints  |
| 2 1 1658   | Steven  |                                | Ilam                       |
| 27 3.1750  | Stephen | s/o Stephen & Hannah of Swinn. | Swynnerton                 |
| 26.3 1774  | Stephen | of Bromley late of Earnfield   | Swynnerton                 |
| 14 5.1776  | Stephen | of Swinn.                      | Swinnerton                 |
| 11.7.1786  | Stephen |                                | Swynnerton                 |
| 19.10 1790 | Stephen |                                | Lichfield, St Michael      |
| 5 8 1804   | Stephen | of Yarnfield                   | Swynnerton                 |
| 25 9.1836  | Susanna | Hill Top                       | West Bromwich, All Saints  |

## EMIGRANTS TO AUSTRALIA

The story of a family arriving in Australia 1863.

Despite popular belief that most emigrants to Australia were convicts, the vast majority of emigrants were in fact so called free emigrants, lured out of Britain by the promise of plentiful food supplies, gold, freedom of worship and a host of other attractions offering a more satisfactory form of life. Certainly, by the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the authorities in Britain actively encouraged people to leave on the preface that the colonies were desperate for labour. There was a feeling in government circles that Britain was becoming overcrowded and unemployment and pauperism would rise. Thus, the local authorities on which the burden of unemployment relief and pauperism would fall, began to offer assisted passages.

One such family, William and Mary Ann Plant (forebears of Margaret Insley, Member No. 166) left Britain in 1863. This is the story of this family compiled from information provided by Margaret Insley.

William Plant was born in Manchester, England in 1832 the son of William Plant, a carter by trade, and Mary, formerly Edsley.

In 1858 William married Mary Ann Higginson who had been born in 1834 to Charles Higginson (a boot maker) and Charlotte Ratcliffe. Early documents in the possession of Margaret Insley indicate that Mary Ann had been born in Hulme, Manchester. However, on the Birth Certificate of the first child to be born in Australia, it is clearly stated that she was born in Ireland.

The first child born to William and Mary Ann was baptised Edith followed in quick succession by George William and Charles. Edith died sometime before August 1863 when the family immigrated to Australia.

The family sailed on the 'Landsborough', which left the port of Liverpool on 18<sup>th</sup> August 1863 bound for the port of Melbourne, arriving on 14<sup>th</sup> November, a journey of some 88 days. The Masters name was Charles Jones.

The 'Landsborough' registered tonnage was 1066 Tons with a legal number of passengers of 357. According to the Statutory Declaration for the provisions taken on board for the voyage there were 352 adults, with sufficient stores for 140 days.

Shipping records state that William's wife, Mary Ann Higginson and two sons, George William and Charles were also travelling with him. William's occupation is given as a labourer, his age as 31 years, and his wife's age 29 years with the boys ages, George William 2 years and Charles 1 year.

Unfortunately Charles died of exhaustion on the 5<sup>th</sup> September 1863, only 19 days after setting sail. He was attended while ill by a Thomas Madden and the Masters name, Charles Jones, appears on the certificate in his own handwriting. No mention of a religious person being present is made, only that he was buried 'in the presence of Passengers and crew' on the same day that he died. On the Marine Death Certificate his age is given as 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> years (note, according to Margaret Insley the age of one year on the shipping record may have been his age when his parents first applied for passage out to Australia). On the Death Certificate his father, William's profession is stated as a Packer.

Mary Ann, by this time must have been distraught. She was at the time pregnant with Mary Charlotte (more later) known to be extremely ill with sea-sickness and probably still not over the death of her first born, Edith, prior to leaving the UK. Additionally, she had left her family and was venturing to a new unknown country with a totally different way of life.

Within one month of arriving in Melbourne, the 13<sup>th</sup> December 1863 in fact, Mary Charlotte was born in the Immigrants Hospital, Princes Bridge, Melbourne. According to family knowledge, Mary Ann had been taken there direct from the ship as she had been extremely sea-sick on the voyage out.

The Immigrants Hospital had been set up by the Immigration Aid Society as an addition to a hostel at the old Princes Bridge site on the St Kilda road side of the Yarra. It originally assisted with the increased flow of immigrants during the Gold Rush era. There had been an earlier hostel and hospital at Batmans Hill for those that were really destitute. It merely consisted of a tent with an earthen floor.

Mary Charlotte's name does not appear on the Birth Certificate, possibly because her mother was still very ill after the birth. This certificate states that the father, William Plant, was 32 years old and a gardener and her mother, Mary Ann, was 29 years old. In fact the birth was not registered until 11 Jan 1864 when it was registered by an Ellen Tierney in South Melbourne. Sadly Mary Charlotte only survived for a short time dying of Marasmus on 24<sup>th</sup> February 1864. She had lived for seven weeks, six of which being devoted to the treatment of this ailment. Marasmus is a progressively wasting disease, especially in infants, possibly brought on by her mother's severe sea-sickness and failure to provide nourishment to the fetus.

Her death was registered by Ellen Tierney in South Melbourne on 24<sup>th</sup> February 1864 at the Immigration Hospital. This time William was classed as a labourer and Mary Ann's name was shortened to Higgins. Mary Charlotte was buried in the New Melbourne Cemetery on the 25<sup>th</sup> February near where her father was to be buried three years later.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1865 the birth of Theodocia, daughter of William and Mary Ann Plant from Manchester England is recorded. The birth took place at Dryburgh St. Hothom.

Theodocia was the Great Grandmother of Margaret Insley who recalls.

'Little is know of Theodocia childhood, but I was told by her daughter (my Grandmother, Docie Stones) that she was a gentle woman, interested in the Methodist Home Mission. The only two items that come to mind are, one where she had been making toffee, while her mother was absent, but arrived home before the evidence could be hidden. Theodocia panicked, grabbed the back pocket on the trousers of the boy who was helping her, and poured the contents of the saucepan into it. The second story was about her using her mother's' crinoline to swing in, while it was on the clothes line drying.'

Eventually Theodocia met a William Henry Stones and they married on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1886 at home in Napier, St Fitzroy. William Henry Stones was born in Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, had lived in Kent and was educated at Cambridge University.

Within two years of Theodocia's birth her father William died and was buried at the New Melbourne Cemetery, Carlton on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1867. Over the years he appears to have had a variety of jobs.

He was listed as a labourer in the Shipping Records, August 1863

On the Death Certificate of Charles, September 1863 he is listed as a packer.

On the Birth Certificate of Mary Charlotte, December 1863 he is listed as a gardener.

On the Death Certificate of Mary Charlotte, February 1864 he is listed as a labourer.

On his own Death Certificate, July 1867 it states that he had been a labourer.

On his son, George William's marriage Certificate it states that his occupation is a Wool-broker.

On his daughter, Theodocia's Marriage Certificate it states his occupation as Brass Moulder.

He had actually died on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1867 at the Melbourne Hospital. According to his Death Certificate issued in the District of South Melbourne, in the Colony of Victoria, by the Registrar Ellen Tiervey, he had worked as a labourer when he died from a 'Disease of the Brain'.

We can imagine how Mary Ann must have been feeling at this time. In a foreign country, three children dead and two surviving children, no specific job and presumably very little means of support. Indeed, as Margaret says, little is known how the family survived through the next 3 or 4 years. What is known is that in November 1870 a Mary Ann Plant gave birth to a baby girl registered as Elizabeth Plant. The father is not known and the address is given as Blackwood, St Hothom.

On 10<sup>th</sup> April 1871 Mary Ann married a widower, James Samuel Simmons, a cabinet maker from Southampton, England. They gave their usual address as Little Chetwynd St. Hothom. Their marriage took place after the Banns were given, according to the Rites of the Church of England, by Robert Potter who was the Priest at St Mary's Church, Hothom. Mary Ann does not sign her name, (it appears to be in her new husband's writing) A James Bailey and a Elizabeth Jane Simpson are the witnesses who signed the marriage certificate – Now! Is James Samuel Simmons the father of Elizabeth as she was born only five months prior to the marriage and was she named after Elizabeth Jane Simpson, one of the witnesses.

Mary Ann married for the third time (what happened to her second husband?) on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1878 to William Henry Young from Chertsey, Surrey, England. At that time Mary Ann's address was Albert St Windsor and her occupation a housekeeper. She had by this time learnt to sign her name with a strong flourish and confirmed that her birth place was Hulme, Manchester, Lancashire, England

What is interesting is that, at her third marriage, Mary Ann used the name Plant and no mention of the Simmons appears – I wonder why?

The marriage of Mary Ann and Wm Henry Young lasted over 30 years until William died in 1907. In 1909 Mary Ann went to live with her daughter Theodocia in North Fitzroy. She died on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1912 from Heart Failure at the age of 78 years.

However, the story doesn't finish yet – What happened to Elizabeth (born out of wedlock) and the eldest surviving son, George William

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Let's consider Elizabeth first.-

According to Margaret the family spoke frequently of a Lilly but there was not mention of an Elizabeth. Lilly was spoken of as a most loved sister to Theodocia of her marriage to a barber and the fact that she and her husband moved to Western Australia.

At this stage I think I should pass the story over to Margaret

*"However, with the information that a Elizabeth Plant, was born on 17<sup>th</sup> November 1870, at Blackwood St Hothom, to a Mary Ann Plant from Manchester, England, I decided to follow this line of investigation to see if it would eventually lead me to our Lilly. I should mention at this point that Mary Ann could not write her name and that all her early certificates were marked with an 'X' as we have found on this one*

*On Mary Ann's Marriage Certificate to her second husband, James Samuel Simmons in 1871, there are listed only two children living [presumably George and Theodocia], and three children dead [Edith, Charles and Mary Charlotte] No mention is made of a Lilly or Elizabeth As this marriage took place on 10<sup>th</sup> August 1871, only 5 months after the birth of Elizabeth, and as the service was conducted in the church [C. of E.] after the Banns were announced, I cannot understand the reasoning of the day to exclude her birth.*

*In 1889 I found a marriage of Lilly Plant to a Thomas Horatio Wells. The ceremony was held at the Office of the Registrar of Marriage, South Melbourne, on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 1889, by Alexander John Evans, 'with the consent of the Mothers of the Bride and Groom'*

*Thomas was a bachelor from South Australia, a hairdresser, and just 20 years old. He was living at 278 Bay St Port Melbourne. His father was Thomas Wells, a Gardener and the mother- Emma Wells, nee Cox. As Mrs Wells was the parent to give consent to the under-age marriage, and to also sign the certificate, I feel that the father was not present for one reason or another.*

*Lilly clearly and firmly signs her name, she is listed as a "Gentle woman", which means that she did not work for her keep, and that she was only 18 years old, and living at home in 119 Napier St. Fitzroy, the property of William Henry Young, the 3<sup>rd</sup> husband of Mary Ann. The interesting point here is that William Plant, Brass Founder, is registered as her Father, and her mother as Mary Ann Young, formally Higginson, late Symmon, late Plant. The 2<sup>nd</sup> witness to the marriage id Docie [Theodocia] Stones, who by this time had given birth to Docie - my Grandmother The Stones family also lived in Bay St Port Melbourne, so perhaps this is how the Bride and Groom met These facts leave no doubt in my mind that Elizabeth Plant had abbreviated her name to Lilly and was the sister to Theodocia*

*In 1890 a girl - Lillian Mabel - was born to Lilly and Thomas Wells at Fitzroy Nth And according to the Sand and McDougal, Early Postal Records, a Wells Thomas Horatio lived for a time at 25 Tait St. Nth Fitzroy*

*The family story relating to Lilly is that because of a silly practical joke by Thomas, he was forced to go inter-state to Western Australia to avoid prosecution As a barber, Thomas was shaving a prominent client with a cut-throat razor which he had dipped in very hot water and drew the back of it across the throat of the client,*

*leaving him most upset and threatening legal action, hence their flight to the West  
That is the last knowledge I have of them*

Finally, George William, son of William and Mary Ann Plant.

Other than information taken from various certificates, little is known relative to George William. He married Elizabeth Griffith on 5<sup>th</sup> December 1882. Both bride and groom were 22 years of age. George William lived at that time in Richmond and had taken up the trade of a printer.

They had a total of nine children.

|                     |      |             |         |       |                        |
|---------------------|------|-------------|---------|-------|------------------------|
| William James       | 1884 | Fitzroy     | Died    | 1885  | 10 mths                |
| Lilian Charlotte    | 1885 | Fitzroy     | Died    | 1889  | 4 yrs Collingwood      |
| Ethel Alice         | 1887 | Fitzroy     | Died    | 1889  | 2 yrs Arm              |
| Albert Ed           | 1888 | Collingwood |         |       |                        |
| Perry Geo           | 1891 | Coll        |         |       |                        |
| Leslie Arthur (Alf) | 1893 | Dayl        | Married | c1926 | Dowling Flor Eliz Mary |
| Violet Emily        | 1895 | Fitz Nth    | Married | c1915 | Scott Chas. Alan Leshe |
| Victor Roy          | 1896 | Fitz. Nth   | Married | c1917 | Dunn Margt May         |
| Norman Fred         | 1901 | Carl.       | Married | c1927 | Wallace Lilian Noy e   |

George died in c1934 at Fitzroy, aged 74 years, and Elizabeth died in c1940 at Ptahan, aged 82 years according to registration listings.

WKP – All the information used to prepare this article has been provided by Margaret Insley (Member No. 166). Thanks.



## MEMBERS LETTERS

From Linda Wilks Member No. 132

21 October 1988

*This is an article about a family about whom I know very little – no photographs, no stories, no wills, very few dates, etc and as such it bares very little comparison to the erudite articles usually shown in this newsletter. However, I am conscious of the fact that it is too easy to rely on other contributors – ‘someone else will do it’ syndrome – and thought I perhaps ought to bring my Plant ancestors out ‘into the light’.*

*My paternal grandmother, of whom I have very fond memories, was born Martha Ann Hall, in Longton, Stoke on Trent, the daughter of John Hall, JP, and his second wife, Sarah Plant*

*John and Sarah lived in Normacot, only a short-walk away from Sarah’s parents Alfred and Sarah Plant. This couple spent the majority of their married life in the Court’s and buildings of Barker Street. The street is still there although the buildings have long since been demolished. Sufficient descriptions and photographs of the area show it to have been typical of the Potteries at that time, i e., terraced housing interspersed with the ubiquitous potbanks*

*The Plant family is shown on the census returns from 1851 to 1881. I can find neither Alfred nor Sarah on the 1891 census (as yet) but, although both were elderly, I have yet to trace their death certificates.*

*As might be expected Sarah, and the majority of the children, were engaged in the pottery trade- what exactly was a clay wedger of a jugger turner by the way?? The family has several articles, which came from my paternal grandmother, and it would be nice to think that they were made by the Hall’s or the Plant’s. Most of the pieces have small flaws in them and perhaps were rejects that could have been thrown away or bought cheaply.*

*Alfred Plant was not engaged in the pottery trade (that I can establish). He is stated on both his marriage certificate (in 1837 at Caverswall) and on subsequent census returns as engine worker/engine tender. By the time of his daughter Sarah’s marriage he was shown as a Mining Engineer. Alfred’s birth circa. 1808 has not been located in either Longton/Lane End or other Stoke parish registers. Although he intriguingly stated Bovey Tracey, in Devon, as his birthplace, a trawl by a friend through these parish registers revealed nothing. Although this was (and let’s face it still is) a long way from the Potteries, the areas can be linked through provision of raw materials required for pottery manufacture. Of course, where he was born could be totally different from where he was baptised and Keith Plant has suggested that I check the parish registers of Cheadle as this branch of the Plant family was engaged in mining*

*Although he obviously didn’t earn enough money to move to a “better” part of Stoke on Trent both he and Sarah are shown as annuitants (receivers of a pension) in 1881.*

*I have no photographs or likenesses of this family and, compared to other branches of my family that I have traced, I know very little about them. They lived and died in virtual obscurity and I have yet to make contact with anyone who is researching the same branch so, if any of you out there are descended from one of the Alfred and Sarah’s children (as follows), I would love to hear from you*

*John b 1837· Mary A B 1839. Eliza b 1840/1: Martha b 1845/6· Harriet b 1848: Joseph b 1849. Thomas b 1851 and Sarah b 1855.*

30 July 1998

Thank you for another fascinating edition of Roots and Branches.

Having been a member for a few years I have often thought about writing. I have finally been prompted by the appearance in this issue of the census strays in Market Harborough

I realise that the places of birth make these entries look quite extraordinary but, in fact, they represent the families of my 3 times great grandfather, Charles Plant, and his brother, John Barnaby.

I think, though I can not prove (yet), that their father was a soldier (alternatively he must have been an itinerant ag Lab.) He was Barnaby Plant christened in Little Bowden in 1770. Little Bowden is the smaller twin of Market Harborough, nestling on the southern side of the River Welland and confusing research by being part of the same conurbation but in Northamptonshire as apposed to Market Harborough in Leicestershire

Barnaby was the son of William Plant, a labourer, and Elizabeth Barlow. I have no record for Barnaby of any employment, and indeed can not find his death recorded anywhere. In 1804 he was in Bristol, where he married a remarkable woman called Crisia (or Kezia) Duckers.

However, he must still have been based in little Bowden, because it is there that his first child (Elizabeth) was christened in 1805. Charles, the second child, was born in Bristol in 1807. Again he was christened in Little Bowden. But he knew he was born in Bristol and declared that on each census until he died 1878

We next hear of Barnaby in 1808, when his two children, John Barnaby and Mary Sophia were christened in the small village of Lydd in Kent. (Incidentally, they are recorded as PLANK, quite an interesting variant) Once more the family were still in Little Bowden for the twins were baptised there a second time Like his brother, John Barnaby knew where he was born and was always pleased to tell the census enumerator, just to try and confuse future family historians.

After that Barnaby disappears, except that the Little Bowden parish chest records a payment for Crisia to visit her husband in 1809, Barnaby being "very ill"

Returning to the census entries, John Barnaby went on to marry Mary West in Dingley in 1836 and had a large family in Little Bowden.

Charles married Mary Loomes in Market Harborough in 1832. Her family were ribbon weavers in Attleborough and for a while Charles lived there and some of his 11 children were christened there. I think Mary's place of birth shown as "Littleborough Notts" is a misreading of "Attleborough", though it is more likely she was born in Peatling Parva where her parents were the subject of a settlement order in 1813

Charles and Mary's third child (their first, Kezia, did not survive) was John (aged 14 on the 51 census) who married Eliza Tooms in Market Harborough in 1858 Between 1862 and 1865 John and Eliza moved, with the first three of their ten children, to Plaistow in East London, where the family has stayed until the last few years (Member 116 is also descended from this family)

Returning briefly to Crisia Duckers, I said that she was a remarkable woman. I do not know where she came from before she married Barnaby in Bristol in 1808. According to the census she was born around 1787 in Bristol. I can only take it that with the biblical first name she was from a non-conformist family. All the time she was married to Barnaby she was on the equivalent of parish relief, obviously travelling with him at times to have the children in Bristol and Lydd, but also travelling back to have them christened in Market Harborough. She appears almost weekly in the parish accounts, claiming everything from subsistence payments to a new hearth and rat trap.

When Barnaby died she spent five years on parish relief until she married a small brewer (William Clifton) in 1814 and had another three children. After he died she married a third time to Thomas Spicer and took on another five stepchildren, one of whom liked her enough to name a child after her. In 1851 she is recorded as a pauper again, but living in Little Bowden and so not in the Market Harborough index. In 1861 she is shown as a "former needlewoman", and is again a pauper when she died in 1862.

I have not got any farther back than Barnaby's grandfather (another William), possibly born in Tur Langton in Leicestershire in 1717, and can find no link between this section of the family and others.

From Kathy Compagno Member No. 121

Extract

Background data of new members was very useful – I wonder if you can do same for us older members??

*Note from WKP - What do other members think of Cathy's suggestion regarding background information on earlier members of the Group. The only problem will be that members' researches will have moved on once the original details forwarded to me. However, I would be quite willing to include the up-to-date position in forthcoming Journals provided the necessary information is forwarded to me.*

From Anon

Staffordshire Stray in 1891 Census Registration District Wigan – 458 Sub District – Hindley 4c.

|                         |           |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Film Reference          | RG12/3059 | Fiche 3   |
| Enumeration District    | 17        |           |
| Folio No                | 104V      |           |
| Civil Parish            | -         | Hindley   |
| Ecclesiastical District | -         | St Peters |
| Borough                 | -         | Ince      |

|    |                           |  |                                    |                      |                            |   |  |
|----|---------------------------|--|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|---|--|
| 10 | 47 Stoney Lane<br>Hindley | John Plant<br>Eliza A<br>Lillian A<br>Irene<br>Catherine Laurensen | Head<br>Wife<br>Dau<br>Dau<br>Serv | M<br>M<br><br><br>UM | 38<br>38<br>8<br>10m<br>26 | Medical Student<br><br>Scholar<br><br>Dom Servant | bn Stone Staffs<br>bn Wadhurst, Sussex<br>bn Ince, Lancs<br>bn Hindley, Lancs<br>bn Clifton, Lancs |
|----|---------------------------|--|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|---|--|

*I hope this may be of interest to somebody – I doubt he was a student (they didn't have mature students in those days) maybe he was a medical assistant*

From Judith Kirkby Member No. 136

Plaque seen inside St Mary's Church, Woodbridge, Suffolk.

To the glory of God and in proud and loving memory of

HOLFORD CHARLES FOURDRINIER PLANT

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. North Staffs Regiment

Aged 21

Killed in action            3 May 1917.

There is also a war memorial in the town, which I did not have time to study, but in passing thought I saw the name Plant. I will investigate further on my next visit. Meanwhile, I have a photograph of the memorial, though it is not very clear.

*WKP note - Probably connected to the Elworth Hall Plants as Holford and Fourdrinier are family names – see earlier Journals for details of Elworth Hall, Sandbach.*