

# Roots and Branches

The Official Journal of  
The Plant Family History Group

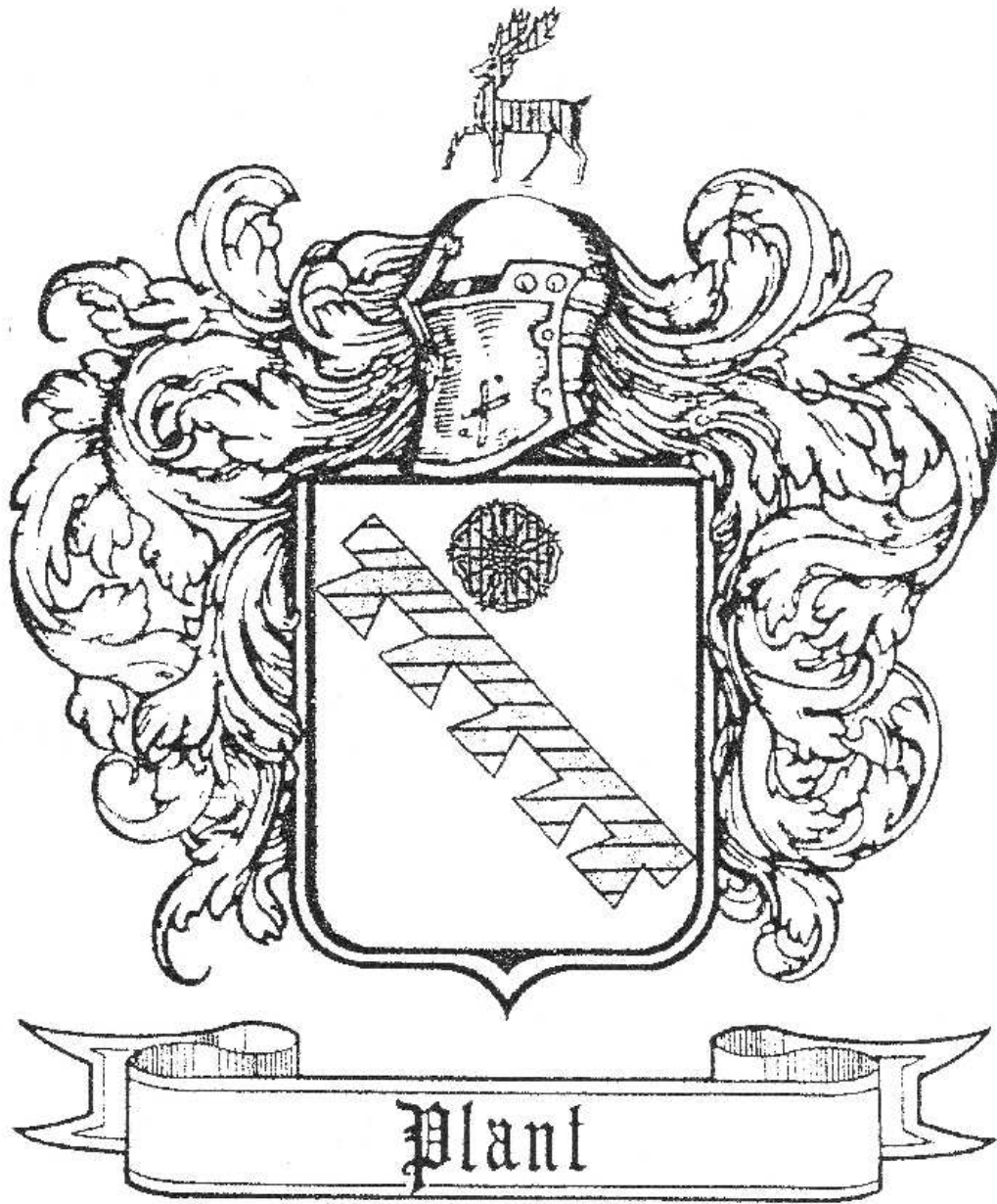
Issue No 18 September 99

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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 GU."

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

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

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

"A RED STAG WALKING."

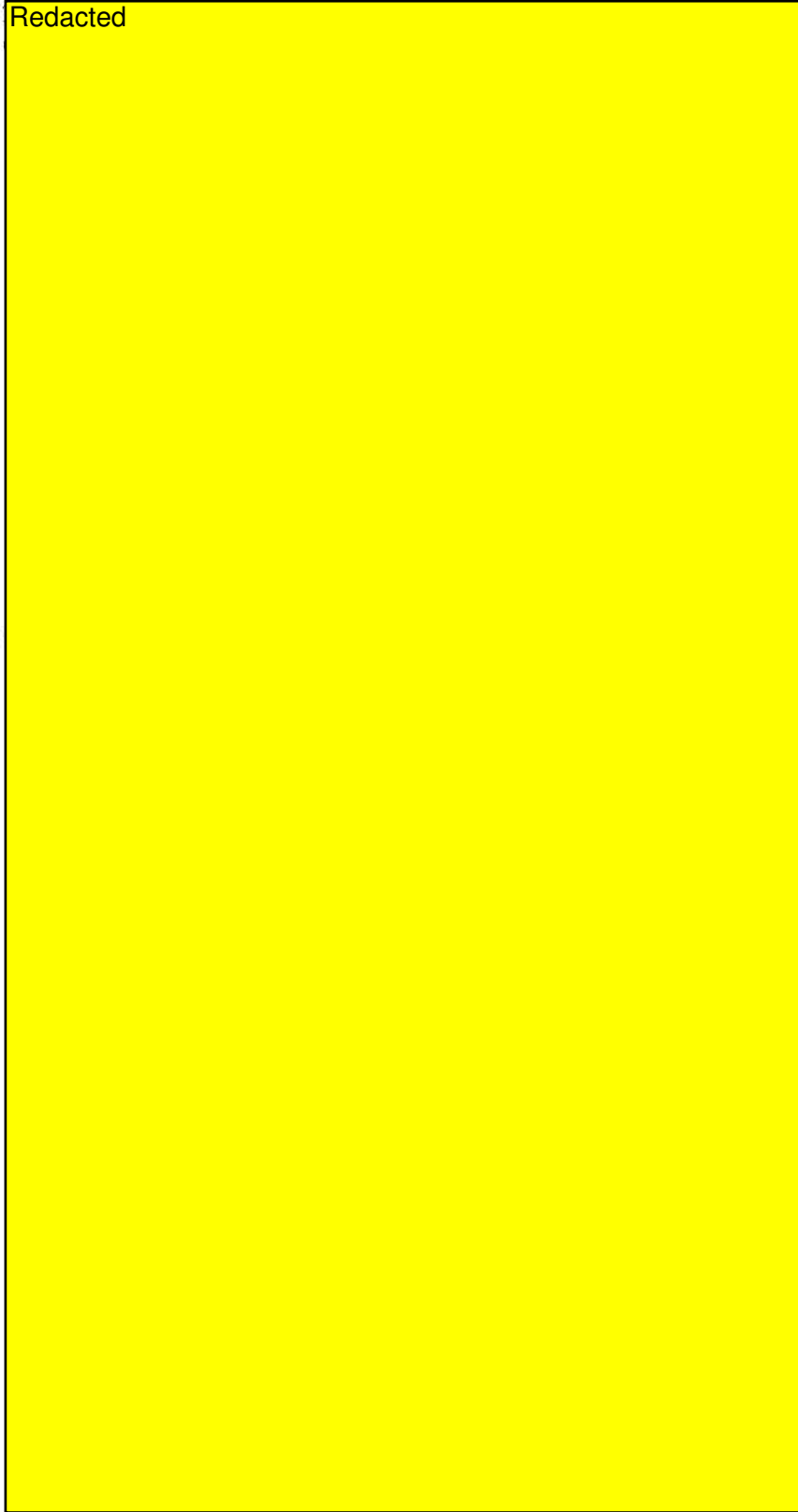
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MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

No    Name                      Address

- 1    Miss Linda Lowrey
- 4    Mr Colin W Plant
- 6    Mr Michael Plant
- 10   Mrs Pamela Plant
- 12   Mrs Lois Webb
- 13   Ms Helen Hill
- 16   Mrs E C Reed
- 18   Mr Peter Johnson
- 20   Mr Anthony David Plant
- 29   Mrs Shirley Hughes
- 32   Mrs Catherine Sproston
- 33   Miss Aileen Plant
- 37   Mr Patrick Pearson
- 38   Mrs Sian Plant
- 45   Mr David Johnson
- 47   Mrs Stella Robson
- 51   Mr Gerald Plant
- 52   Dr John S Plant
- 59   Mr Nigel Burroughs
- 65   Mr D J Plant

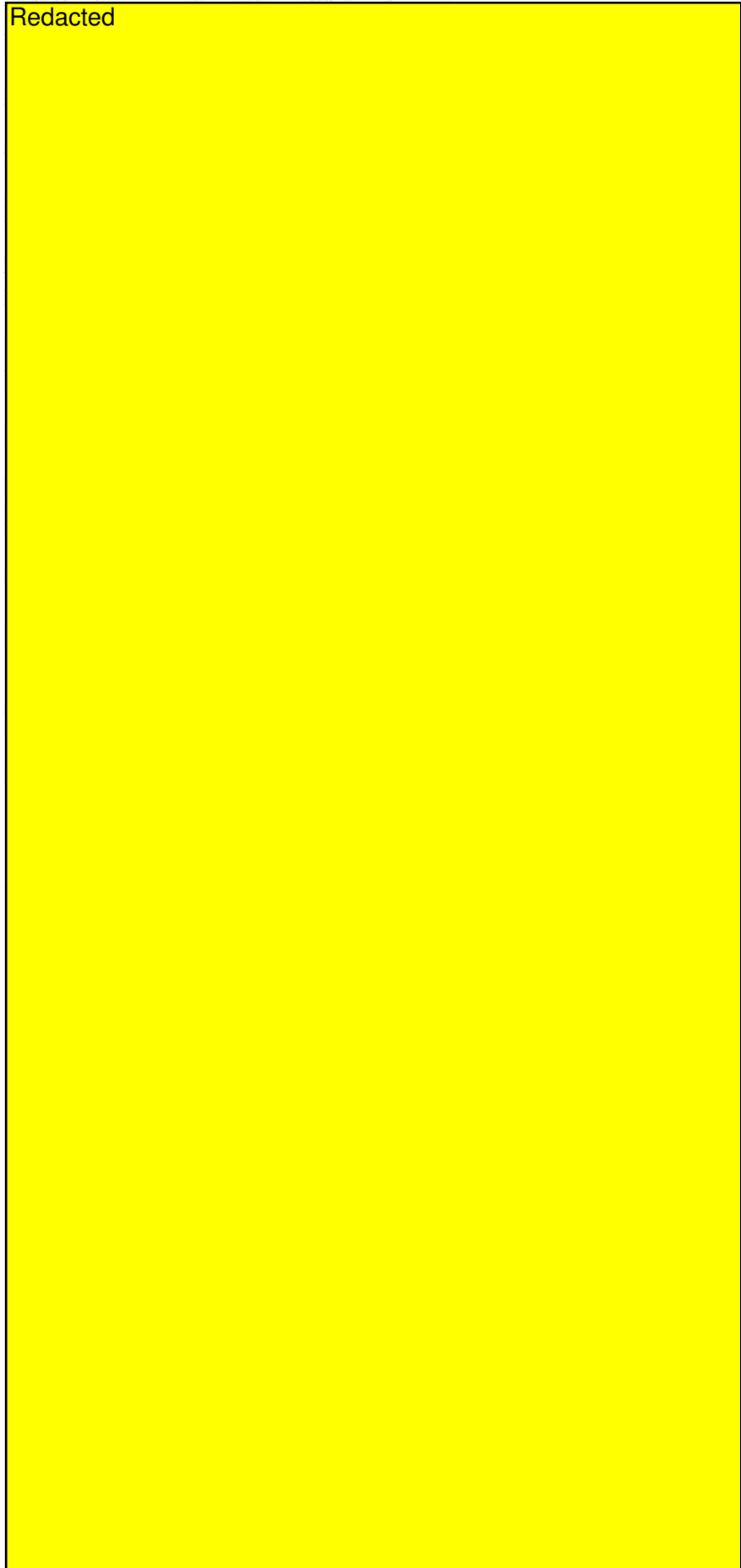


- 69 Mr Andrew Plant
- 71 Mr G Brian Plant
- 74 Mrs Alice Doreen Mercer
- 75 Mr Michael John Plant
- 85 Mr John E Ransley
- 89 Mrs Denise Weston
- 90 Mrs M R Lake
- 95 Mrs Linda S Wheeler
- 98 Deanne Richards
- 104 Mrs Liz Plant
- 108 Mrs Stella Komfein
- 110 Myrtle L Reid
- 111 Mr Malc John Plant
- 113 Mrs Heather Plant
- 114 Mr John Russel Ingamellis
- 115 Mrs Pat Herring
- 116 Miss Joan Plant
- 119 Mrs Florence Plant
- 121 Kathy Compagno
- 122 Mrs Elizabeth A Messer
- 123 Dr Andrew Thomas Plant
- 124 Mr Alan Plant
- 125 Mr Ronald George Plant

Redacted

Redacted

- 127 Mr William T Plant
- 131 Mrs Jean Walpole
- 132 Miss Linda Wilks
- 138 Mrs Jean D Ray
- 139 Mrs Judith Kirkby
- 140 Mrs J Bateman
- 141 Mr Malcolm Revell
- 143 Miss Freda Lawrence
- 145 Mr Graham Wingfield
- 147 Mr John Ronald Plant
- 151 Miss Tessa Pilsbury
- 153 Mrs Frances Plant
- 154 Mrs Susan E Woods
- 155 Mrs Betty Pyman
- 156 Ms Christine M Page
- 158 Mrs Kerry-Ann Cooke
- 159 Mrs Pat Galloway
- 161 Mr Antony C H Farnath
- 162 Aloa Dereta
- 163 Mrs Joyce Barbara Thomas
- 164 Evelyn M Pitts
- 165 Mrs Gillian Jenkins
- 166 Mrs Margaret Insley
- 167 Mrs M J Plant

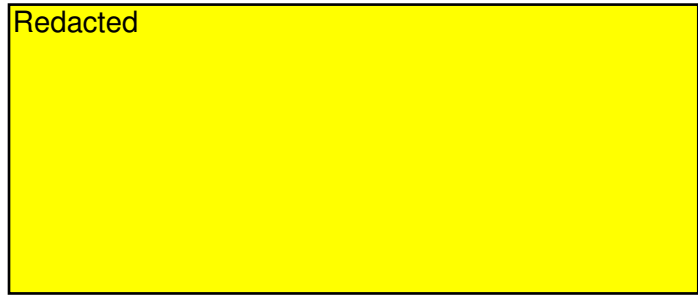


168 Mr Philip Plant

169 Mrs Hazel M Morgan

171 Mr Brad Scott

172 Janice Wilson



## 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/ L19c Cradley Staffs/
16   Mrs C Reed	L18c e19c North Staffordshire/
18   Mr Peter Johnson	L19c Manchester Lancs/19c Mid Cheshire/
20   Mr David Plant	Pre 19c Clowne Derby/19c Doncaster Yorks/ 19c Notts./ 19c Cheltenham Glos/
29   Mrs Shirley Hughes	L17c + 18c Rowley Regis Worcs/19c Dudley Worcs/L19c Sydney Australia/
32   Mrs Catherine Sproston	Any Period Cheshire/
33   Miss Aileen Plant	17c 18c 19c Stockport Cheshire/
37   Mr Patrick Pearson	Any period Stockport Cheshire/
38   Mrs Sian Plant	e19c Denton Lancs/19c Leicester/ 20c Rounds Northants/
45   Mr David Johnson	19c Kidsgrove/
47   Mrs S Robson	General/
51   Mr Gerald Plant	m19c Goostrey Cheshire/L19c e20c Salford Lancs/
52   Dr John S Plant	19c Sheffield Yorks/e19c Clowne Derbyshire/
59   Mr Nigel Burroughs	L18c 19c Burslem + Longton Staffs/
65   Mr D J Plant	Any period Cheadle Staffs/
69   Mr Andrew Plant	M18c + M19c Little Bowden and Market



		Harborough/19c London
71	Mr G Brian Plant	Any period Cheshire/
74	Mrs Alice D Mercer	19c Leicester/L19c Nottingham/
75	Mr M J Plant	e19c Shropshire/e19c Cheadle Hulme Cheshire/
85	Mr John E Ransley	18c + 19c Staffordshire/
89	Mrs Denise F Weston	Any period Fenton + Cheadle + Longton Staffs/
90	Mrs M R Lake	m18c Suffolk/
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 Battersca London/
110	Mrs Myrtle Reid	L19c + e20c Darlaston + Walsall + West Bromwich, Staffs/
111	Mr Malc John Plant	Any period Sibsey Lincs/
113	Mrs Heather Plant	L19c Hackney Middlesex/
114	Mr John Russel Ingamellis	18c Lincs/
115	Mrs Pat Herring	e19c Ashley Staffs/L19c Wheelock Cheshire/
116	Miss Joan Plant	e19c Bristol/
119	Mrs Florence Plant	L19c Staffordshire/
121	Kathy Compagno	19c West Bromwich + Walsall, Staffs/ L18c + e19c Brierley Hill/ e 18c Old Swinford
122	Elizabeth Messer	L19c Cheadle Staffs/
123	Dr Andrew Thomas Plant	18c + 19c Northants/19c Rutland/19c Hants + Cambs/L19c + e20c Bedfordshire
124	Mr Alan Plant	General Staffordshire/
125	Mr Ronald George Plant	e20c Rugeley Staffordshire/
127	Mr William T Plant	18c + e19c North Staffordshire/
131	Mrs Jean Walpole	m19c Wolverhampton Staffordshire/ L19c Camberwell, Surrey/

132	Miss Linda Wilks	Any period Potteries, Staffordshire/
138	Mrs Jean Ray	19c Sheffield
139	Mrs Judith Kirkby	Pre 1850 Macclesfield Ches/
140	Mrs J Bateman	Pre 1900 Staffordshire/Pre 1900 Worcestershire/
141	Mr Malcolm Revell	18 + 19c Burlsem + Longton + Stoke on Trent Staffs/
143	Miss Freda Lawrence	18c + 19c Staffordshire/
145	Mr Graham Wingfield	19c Lower + Higher Whitley + Little Leigh, Cheshire/
147	Mr John Ronald Plant	Pre 1900 Stoke on Trent, Staffs/
151	Miss Tessa Pilsbury	18c + 19c Congleton, Cheshire/
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/
161	Mr Antony C H Farnath	19c 20c Black Country, West Midlands/
162	Aloa Dereta	Any Period pre 1860 Leek Staffs/ m 19c Sheffield, Yorks/
163	Mrs Joyce Thomas	m 18c L19c Lillishall, Staffs/ m 19c L19c Newport, Shropshire
164	Evelyn M Pitts	L 19c Barrow-in-Furness, Lancs/ m 19c Cradley Heath, Staffs/
165	Mrs Gillian Jenkins	m 19c Wolverhampton + West Bromwich, Staffs/
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/
171	Mr Brad Scott	pre m 19c Pembroke Dock/
172	Janice Wilson	m 19c Staffordshire

## INTRODUCTION INCLUDING

### The Web Site/Computerisation of Records

At the recent 'Plant Reunion' the possibility of setting up a Web Site dedicated to our name was raised and Frances Plant (Member 153) promised to look into the question of copyright.

Her investigation so far is as follows:

"Dear Keith

At our 'Plant Gathering' when you mentioned getting up a website and publishing information gleaned on the 'Plants' I raised the question of copyright and asked whether you knew we were within our rights to publish the data you held. I said I was in the process of enquiring of several depositories and was awaiting their replies.

I have now heard from the LMA who write: -

'We greatly appreciate your taking the time to inform us of your plans for publishing data from the parish registers in our care on the Internet. There will not be any infringement of copyright providing the information is, as you say, in a transcribed list format. We would only be concerned if, for instance, you had a page from a register scanned and printed by us, and then were to digitise the image of the page to use on the web. It will be necessary for you to acknowledge the origin of the data; as you say you will. We would appreciate being notified of the web address so that we may view the page once it is set up.

If you would prefer, in future, it will be possible for you to correspond with London Metropolitan Archives via e-mail. Our address is [lma@ms.corpoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:lma@ms.corpoflondon.gov.uk)'

From the Public Record Office - The National Archives - I received: -

'You may post on your website Crown copyright data from the census on the individuals whom you are researching. The copyright in wills is not owned by the Crown, but will usually belong to the direct descendant of the testator. This person might well be difficult or impossible to trace, but could on the other hand be you. In any event, there is unlikely to be a problem if you use material from wills that are 150 years or so old.

Crown copyright in the registers of births, marriages and deaths is administered by the Office for National Statistics. The person responsible is Steve Jeeves, who can be contacted by phone on 0171-533-5636 or by e-mail at [steve.jeeves@ons.gov.uk](mailto:steve.jeeves@ons.gov.uk) I am truly sorry I do not have a postal address for him.'

I will keep you informed of any other replies I may get.

Hope this is of interest.

Frances Plant."

Before proceeding with this project I would like your comments. I would also welcome your thoughts on the computerisation of all our records. When I started researching the Plants nearly forty years ago, computers were in their infancy and, as a result, most of my Plant records are 'hard copy'. Obviously now is the time to computerise, but how and what programme. As you may have gathered, my skills do not lie in this field - Mavis is much more computer literate than I am. Perhaps we should form a small group with an expert co-ordinating the input of the various information that we have within the Group. Your thoughts please on this subject.

I have noticed from your letters and renewal application that quite a number of you have e-mail addresses. Starting with Journal No. 19, January 2000, I will include e-mail addresses in the Journal detail. Therefore (provided I don't forget) I will amend next years renewal form accordingly.

The only new member over the last six months is Member No. 172, Janice Wilson, who after an exchange of e-mail joined the Group in March 1999. Her prime interest was her G.Grandmother, one Sarah Plant, born c 1872 in Thames, N.Z. Sarah's father was William Plant, born 1838, Sandyford in Tunstall, and whose father was Daniel Plant, a potter from Staffordshire. Janice lives in Auckland, New Zealand and from my records it was possible to establish that Member No. 160, Mrs Beverley Dronjak (who also lives in Auckland) was descended from the same William Plant. To continue the story let me repeat Janice's e-mail reply to me following my e-mail to her relative to the aforesaid Wm. Plant.

"Dear Keith

Thank you very much for answering my letter.

I don't know a Mrs Beverley Dronjak of Greenlane, but I did check the phone book and there is a M. B. Dronjak, 51 Tawera Rd., Greenlane, Ph. 5299597. I rang this number only to leave a message on the answer phone.

I have a copy of Sarah Ann Plant (my G.Grandmother) and Joseph Saunder's marriage cert; I also have a copy of William Plant and Hannah Mansfield's marriage cert; 1868. I have a copy of William Plant's death cert. too. It says his father was Daniel Plant, a Potter. Daniel was born in Staffordshire, and he was married to Hannah Mansfield. I have a pottery jub with William's name and the date of 1879 Thames on it. My Grandmother gave it to me.

I have tried to make contact with Plant's here in NZ, but not having any luck with them, as they say they don't know of a William Plant, so I resorted to e-mailing and writing letters to Plant's in the UK.

So I am very pleased to hear from you.

If I have the wrong Dronjak, could you please forward details of Beverley to me.

I lived in Ealing, London for nearly 7 years and worked at the Australian High Commission.

I really do like it there, except in winter maybe.

Kindest Regards

Janice."

Then finally a further e-mail from Janice: -

“Dear Keith

Thought I would let you know that I have been to see Beverley Dronjak. We are related as my Sarah Ann Plant was a sister to her G.Grandmother.”

So another successful connecting of unknown relatives. That, to me is one of the more satisfying aspects of the Group – in this case – so near and yet really so far.

## Chapter 18

# Early Plant Origins and the Peak

### NW PLANT ORIGINS AND POSSIBLE LINKS ACROSS THE PEAK TO SHEFFIELD

Meanings are considered for such 'possibly related' names as *Plunton*, *Plantan*<sup>1</sup>, *Plente*, *Plantyn*, *Planteng*<sup>2</sup>, *Plaunte*, and *Blount*. In particular, a progression of possible meanings is deliberated for the set of 4 names, *Plantebene*, *Plantefolie*, *Planterose*, and *Plantegenet*, in the light of an evident progression of spellings from *Plente* to *Plante* to *Plaint* for the Plant name itself.

The name *Plente* is known to have occurred by 1219 in Oxford and Kent and both it and its variant *Plaunte* coexist in Norfolk around 1270. The name *Plant* appears near Chester by 1301 with *Plonte* near Ashford by 1303. By the late 14th century, the dialect spelling *Plont* is known to have been well established in its main subsequent homeland, near royal Cheshire's border with Lancastrian north Derbyshire. There was a deforcement of a Christopher Plant and other Plants from Leek land here by Sir Ralph Bagnall, who is associated with the fall of the old Catholicism around the times of Edward VI. About the same time, in the mid 16th century, there is evidence for a Christopher Plant near Great Longstone, midway across north Derbyshire, where a small knop of Plants occurs by the mid 17th century. Such events seemingly fore-shadow the arrival in mid 18th century Sheffield of the *Plant's Yard* Plants.

## 18.1 Plantagenets and some early 'Plant related' names

England had suffered from Viking raids (and from the Norman conquest) before becoming, in the words of R.W.Southern, '*a colony of the French intellectual empire, important in its way and quite productive, but still subordinate*'<sup>1</sup>. It was from western France, to Spain's north, that the Plantagenets came to England at the time of the so-called 12th century renaissance of Latin west Europe<sup>2</sup>, when learning was spreading northwards from Moorish Spain<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>G.J.Whitrow (1989) *Time in History: Views from prehistory to the present day*. Oxford University Press, pps 71-86.

<sup>2</sup>This term '12th century renaissance' was originated by the American medievalist Charles Homer Haskins in 1927.

<sup>3</sup>Greek pre-eminence in science had declined with the closure, in 529 AD, of the Neoplatonic Academy at Athens. From Athens, scholars had been invited to Iran and, after the Muslim conquest of much of that region, a scientific Institute had been set up in Baghdad -- this had reached its highest reputation in the early 9th century. Knowledge of Greek science, combined with Iranian and Indian traditions, had then spread from Baghdad to other parts of the Islamic world, including Sicily, southern Italy, and especially Moorish Spain.

## CHAPTER 18. EARLY PLANT ORIGINS AND THE PEAK

By the times of the minority of the fourth Plantagenet king, Henry III, the name Ralph *Plente* appears in 1219, in records (Table 18.1) which can be translated<sup>4</sup> as:-

*For the burhbote (i.e. the upkeep, or the contributions levied for upkeep) of Oxford within that town £23.3s.4d by the brief of the king and by the inspection of Peter de Haliwell' and Radulphus Plente. And for the repair of the royal household away from the town £3.5s.0d by the brief of the king and the inspection of the same.*

That same year, the name of William *Plente* appears in a record for Kent, which can be translated as:-

*From William Plente, half a marc<sup>5</sup> for cloth (or squared timber) sold contrary to the regulated size.*

Two theorems were developed in Chapter 16 for the meaning of the Plant name. The former of the above two records lists *Radulphus Plente* with duties to the Plantagenet king – this fits with theorem 1 'royalist auxiliary' for the Plant name's primary meaning. It is known that the early Plantagenets practised nepotism, such that they placed relatives in positions of influence, and theorem 2 represents a more particular possibility that *Plant* might mean an illegitimate Plantagenet child. An introductory basis was laid in Chapter 17 for a third theorem. Theorem 3 is presented below as a series of possible *secondary* influences impacting on the development of the Plant name. *Not all* of the supposed influences that will be described below relate directly to the Plantagenet influence.

### 18.1.1 A Further Theorem for the Formation of the Plant name

It may be noted that the three current theorems for the meaning of *Plant* can be seen to be, in part, a development of earlier suppositions that have appeared in three different books. These books give apparently contradictory meanings but most of the meanings can be tied together within a general framework that is indicated in Table 18.2. In particular, Book 1<sup>6</sup> maintains that the Plantagenet nickname was the predominant influence on the formation of the name, though it does not indicate whether this may have been through a meaning 'Plantagenet auxiliary' (theorem 1), 'Plantagenet child' (theorem 2), or 'from the Plantagenet colony' (theorem 3(a)). This leaves scope for incorporating other meanings, from other books for example, and theorem 3 can accordingly be begun with:-

**theorem 3:** There may have been various possible influences on the formation of the Plant name (*cf.* Table 18.3), such that it may have developed with such meanings as those indicated by theorem 1 (royalist auxiliary) and theorem 2 (Plantagenet child) (?perhaps first in such localities as Oxford and SE England before becoming concentrated) in its main homeland (around Cheshire). There may also have been secondary meanings, such as 'trader and/or industrialist (*e.g.* lead trader) from the Plantagenet colony' (*cf.* Chapter 17).

<sup>4</sup>R.F.Latham (1965) *Revised Medieval Latin Word-list from British and Irish Sources*, OUP.

<sup>5</sup>One *marca* was equivalent to 13s 4d (*i.e.* two thirds of £1).

<sup>6</sup>The book John Sleight (1862) *A History of the ancient parish of Leek* records 'This name (*i.e.* Plant) is said to be a corruption of Plantagenet.'



## 18.1.2 An early possible locative influence

There may have been an evolution of spellings and meanings relating to a series of names *de Plumton*, *Plantan*, *Plantyn*, *Planteng* and then *de la Plaunt*. The name William *Plantan* occurs in Suffolk in 1220 and it may have had locative connotations relating back to early spellings, such as *Pluntone*, of a place name that is evidently associated with (c1167) *Adam de Plumton*. There may also however have been Plantagenet connotations, such as 'royalist follower', for a diminutive such as *Plantyn* or *Plantin* (cf. Hodkyn<sup>7</sup>) in Norfolk, circa 1254-68, which evidently evolved into *Planteng* with its likely connotations of Plantagenet colonisation (Chapter 17). This could then have led on to locative connotations, along the lines of 'from the Plantagenet colony', for the name *de la Plaunt* which appears at Rouen in 1273. Thus:-

**subtheorem 3(a):** There may have been a progression of powerful influences on the development of the Plant name producing various secondary meanings, such that the name *de la Plaunt*<sup>8</sup> for example could have attained, by the late 13th century, such an allusion as 'from the Plantagenet Palatine<sup>9</sup> of Chester'.

The pervasive influence of the royal name *Plantagenet* could *in itself* explain an apparent wide spread, from the late 12th to 14th centuries, of 'Plant related' names across England. Table 18.3 indicates however that, as well as this royal nickname, another possible *early* influence on the formation of the Plant name could have related to such a place name as *Plunton*. Though locative surnames are commonplace in the NW of England, there is no *known* local settlement in NW England called precisely *Plont*. The closest sounding names under *Pl* in the published<sup>10</sup> 12th century Pipe Rolls for England are *de Plinton* (6 Henry II), *de Plunton* (9 Henry II), *Adam de Plumton* (13 Henry II), *de Plunton* (10 Richard I)<sup>11</sup>. There could hence have been an early influence, in specific places, from for example the early place names *Plinton* in Devon, *Plunton* in Lancashire, *Plontone* in West Yorkshire, and *Pluntune* in Sussex<sup>12</sup>. In Lancashire for example, Fieldplumpton and Woodplumpton are evidently the same place as *Pluntun*, which is recorded with that spelling in 1086 though evidently as *Fildeplumpton* and *Wodeplumpton* by 1323 and 1327 respectively. In West Yorkshire, there is *Plontone* in 1086 and *Plumton* in 1190. In Sussex, there is the spelling *Pluntune*

<sup>7</sup>P.H.Reaney (1958) lists that *Hochebyn* (1327 Subsidy Rolls, Staffordshire) and hence Hodgkin, Hodgkins, Hodgkiess, Hodgkiss, Hadgkiss, Hodgskin, Hodgskins, Hotchkin, Hotchkis, Hotchkiss are all diminutives of *Hodge* (or *Hogge* 1208, Feet of Fines, Lincolnshire) which is in turn a pet form of Roger. At least in Lancashire (English Surname Series) *Hodgkinson* is taken to mean an 'illegitimate son of Roger' and, more generally, the ending —son is found in the north of England whereas —s is found in the south (cf. Johnson, Johns, Phillipson, Phillips, etc.).

<sup>8</sup>The names *de la Plaunt* and *Plaunt* appear in 1273 as 3 Rouen merchants, who were granted licenses to export wool from England. Though such 'affectations' as *de la* should not necessarily be taken too literally, it can be noted that *de la Plaunt* can be interpreted to mean 'from the Plantagenet colony'.

<sup>9</sup>Though the actual term *Palatine* is not known to have been used until the 1290s, the principles that underlay its concept had been largely in place since the 10th century.

<sup>10</sup>Pipe Rolls Society Vols 1-28,33: Publications (London 1884-1912), New Series 1-46 (1925-78/80).

<sup>11</sup>The place name *Plouton* is associated, in the index of these rolls, with Poulton-le Fylde in Lancashire (cf. Poulton in Cheshire).

<sup>12</sup>There are various places called Plumpton (Cumbria, Lancashire, West Yorkshire, Northamptonshire, Sussex) and there is a Plympton in Devon (spelled *Plintone* in 1086 and *Plintun* c1135) as well as a Plumtree near Nottingham (spelled *Pluntre* in 1086 and *Plumtr* in 1206). The name Plympton is said to have originated with a meaning 'estate containing plum trees' with the river Plym then being a back formation such that the name Plymouth near its estuary was formed later.

1199	Radulphus Plantebene (Norfolk) [1 John Pipe Rolls]
1200	Radulphus Planteben' (Norfolk and Suffolk) [2 John Pipe Rolls]
1219	Radulphus Plente (Oxon) <i>Et in operatione castri de Oxon' infra idem castrum xxiiij li. et iij s. et iij d. per breve R. et per visum Petri de Haliwell' et Radulfi Plente. Et in reparatione domorum R. extra villam lxx s. per breve R. et per visum eorundem.</i> [3 Henry III Pipe Rolls]
1219	William Plente (Kent) <i>Et de dim. m. de Willelmo Plente pro panno vendito contra assisum.</i> [3 Henry III Pipe Rolls]
1230	Simon Plente (York) <i>Et de dim. m. de Willelmo filio Ailredi et Simone Plente pro eodem.</i> (By reference back to the preceding records <i>eodem</i> equates to <i>dissaisina.</i> ) [14 Henry III Pipe Rolls]
1230-1	Radulphus Plente [A cartulary of the Hospitals of St John the Baptist, ed H.E.Slater (1914) in Oxford Historical Society Publications 68, 202]
1272	Symon Plente [Feet Fines Oxf. in Oxfordshire Record Society: Record Series (Oxford, 1919-) 12, 200]
1272-84	William Plente (and then his widow Gerbergia) of Ormesby (Norfolk) — charter for piece of land at Hemesby [Norwich Cathedral Charters]
1301	Ricardo Plant [Pipe Rolls Cheshire in LCRS 92, 205]
1303	Johannes Plonte [S.L.Thrupp and H.B.Johnson (1964) <i>The earliest Canterbury freeman's rolls 1298-1363</i> in Kent Records (Ashford, 1912-) Kent Archaeological Society 18 181]
1310	Johannes Planterose [Two Bedfordshire subsidy listings ed S.H.A.Hervey (1925) Suffolk Green Books 18 87]

Table 18.1: Some early occurrences of 'Plant related' names (see also Table 17.1)

	Theorem 1 Plantagenet auxiliary	Theorem 2 Plantagenet child	Theorem 3 from the Plantagenet colony
Book (I) corruption of Plantagenet	yes	yes	yes
Book (II) (a) from the plantation (b) offspring		yes <sup>b</sup>	yes <sup>a</sup>
Book (III) gardener	yes <sup>c</sup>		

<sup>a</sup>In Shakespear plantation = colonisation

<sup>b</sup>The surname Child means 'young nobleman' and so Plant, which has a meaning 'child', might mean 'young Plantagenet'

<sup>c</sup>Medieval gardeners worked for the nobility hence, for some, this would be for the Plantagenets

**Book (I)** John Sleigh (1862) states that *Plant* is 'a corruption of Plantagenet'

**Book (II)** Ernest Weekly (1916) suggests *de la Plaunt* means 'from the plantation' and *Plaunt* is a nickname meaning variously 'sprig, cudgel, or young offspring'

**Book (III)** R.H.Reaney (1958) compares *Plant* with *Plantebene* and *Planterose* and contends that *Plant* means 'gardener'

Table 18.2: The meaning of Plant. Book (I) complies with all three theorems whereas two of the suggestions made in Book (II) comply in turn with either Theorem 3 or Theorem 2. The contention of Book (III) is compatible with Theorem 1.

Date	Throughout England			Main homeland
c1150	de Plunton <sup>a</sup> (place name)	PLANTAGENET <sup>b</sup> (royal nickname)		
c1200	PLANTEBENE fine establisher or curer of souls <sup>d</sup>	PLANTEFOLIE itinerant justice or absolver of wickedness <sup>e</sup>	PLENTE <sup>c</sup>	Blundeville Earl of Chester
c1250	PLANTEGENET ?horse breeder <sup>f</sup>	PLANTYN cf. diminutive of Plantagenet <sup>g</sup>	PLAUNTE	Plantagenet Earl of Chester
c1300			PLONTE	BLOUNT <sup>h</sup> , PLANT and royal stud
c1350		Langland: Lord's love child		PLONT well established

<sup>a</sup>subtheorem 3(a)

<sup>b</sup>theorems 1 and 2

<sup>c</sup>subtheorem 3(b)

<sup>d</sup>subtheorem 3(b)

<sup>e</sup>subtheorem 3(b)

<sup>f</sup>subtheorem 3(b)

<sup>g</sup>cf. theorem 2

<sup>h</sup>subtheorem 3(c)

Table 18.3: Some possible influences (circa 1150-1350) on the formation of the Plant name

in the Domesday Book and later *Plumpton*. Ekwall<sup>13</sup> presumes an interpretation for these place names along the lines of 'Plum town'<sup>14</sup>.

### 18.1.3 Possible interpretations of some other 'Plant related' names

Such a locative theory, with both *Plunton* and *Plantagenet* associations, for the origins of the name *de la Plaunte* does not constitute the only likely influence on the development of the *Plant* name. By 1230, there had been various other 'Plant(agenet) related' names, such as *Plantebene* in Norfolk (1199), *Plantefolie* in Leicestershire (1209), and *Planterose* at *Warr' Wigorn'* (sic) (1230). Moreover, by 1266, there is explicit extant mention of the 'similar' name *Plantegenet* at Oxford. Such names lead on to a further subtheorem:-

**subtheorem 3(b):** By presuming a 'vegetable plant' meaning for the 4 'Plant related' names *Plantebene*, *Plantefolie*, *Planterose*, and *Plantegenet*, the gardener interpre-

<sup>13</sup>Eilert Ekwall (1960) *The concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*.

<sup>14</sup>A hypothetical confusion with *Plente Tun* would give however 'fertile, generous, or abundant enclosure'.

<b>planto</b>	to plant 1239, 1538; to set up (a sheep fold) 1325; to implant, settle 12c., 1624; to found c1200, 1471; to settle, colonize (a district with cities) c1362
<b>geneta</b>	(1) jennet, foal 1309
<b>genetes</b>	(1 plural) light horsemen (Spanish) 1362
<b>geneta</b>	(2) (fur of) genet, civet cat
<b>rosarius</b>	rosary, base coin 1297, c1422

Table 18.4: Some dated known usage of Latin vocabulary, from R.E.Latham *Revised Latin Word-list from British and Irish Sources*.

tation of Book III can be educed for just 2, whereas more consistency can be obtained by adopting 'establisher' meanings relating to the itinerant royal court and its cortège.

It is known that the name *Plente* existed by 1219, before the name *Plaunte* is known to have existed by 1262 (Tables 17.1 and 18.1). The available literature suggests some overlap of meaning and spelling between the words *plente* and *plaunte* (cf. Tables 18.5 and 18.6) yielding a particular line of meanings that can be related to 'foundation', 'growth', and 'abundance'. The names *Plente* and *Plaunte* may hence reasonably be taken to be variant spellings of the same name. Table 18.6 illustrates that the 'spelling' of *plante* is variously *plente* in Langland's reference to the '*plante of pe(e)s*'. A further medieval text mentions a '*well great plaunte*' springing hugely from a little grain, indicating an evident interplay in medieval times between the now distinctly separate meanings of 'a plant' and 'plenty'. It can be noted in connection with subtheorem 3(b), that the noun *plenté* (or *plantee*) has a recognised Anglo-Norman meaning 'generosity' and that the noun *plente* has a recognised Middle English meaning 'wealth' and this appears to form a basis for comparing the surname Plant (or *Plente*) with a supposed meaning 'rich' for the surname Rich — the name *le Riche* occurs in Lincolnshire in 1177 and 1185<sup>15</sup>.

In connection with Langland's reference to the '*plante of pe(e)s*' it may be noted that a meaning 'peace' for *pe(e)s* is supported by the text '*When pees is plente, than deeds of werre be in no deynite*', which evidently compares *pees* and war (Table 18.6). As was discussed more fully in connection with theorem 2 in Chapter 16, other literary and historical evidence is compatible with a supposition that Plant might have carried an almost 'messianic' connotation, as is embodied in such a concept as 'the providence (generosity or abundance) of a (spiritual or earthly) Prince of Peace' (cf. Langland's *plante of pees*). Such evidence leads on to a possible 'princely' interpretation, such that an 'establisher' meaning for *Plant* can be regarded to be compatible with a meaning 'generosity' for the name *Plente* (cf. subtheorem 3(b)) with both meanings being ascribable to Plantagenet desiderata for their authority. Such meanings as 'generous' and 'establisher' also appear to remain consistent with later evidence, such

<sup>15</sup>Reaney (1958) *Dictionary of British Surnames*.

that there is an 'establisher' connotation suggested for *Plant* by the 17th century Wincle Chapel inscription 'HERE DOE O LORD SVRE PLANT THY WORD', which is in the main Plant homeland and which seems to couple a meaning 'establish' with the congregation's aspirations for a spiritual and earthly well being.

#### 18.1.4 A possible chronology of various influences on the Plant name

In ascribing a possible chronological order to various influences and secondary meanings that may have impinged on the development of the *Plant* name, the evidence so far (Table 18.3) suggests that any influence in subtheorem 3(a) from the name Adam de Plumton' 1166/7<sup>16</sup> may have been roughly contemporary with the supposed influences of the royal nickname *Plantagenet* (?dating from c1150). The possibility of subsequent reinforcements between the meanings of the medieval words *plente* and *plaunte* has been mooted above and this may be deliberated further, with particular reference to a set of 4 'Plante(genet) related' names, as follows.

The first 2 of the set of 4 'Plant related' names in Table 18.7, *Plantebene* and *Plantefolie*, can be interpreted best, it seems, in the context of the Plantagenet king John's preoccupation with replenishing funds, following on from the crusades of his brother, Richard I. In this context of the 'age of faith' it can be noted that the Anglo-Norman *plenté* can mean 'plenarity' or a fund of benefice when filled, which relates to remuneration for the office of 'curing souls'. This yields connotations of benefaction (*cf.* bene=hallowed) and payment (*cf.* bene=prosperous, rose=coin) for religious services rendered (*cf.* folie, rose=prayers, genet<sup>17</sup>). A spelling *plente* accordingly suggests (Table 18.7) allusions to 'benefaction plenarity' (*Plantebene*), 'absolution plenarity' (*Plantefolie*), and 'prayers plenarity' (*Planterose*).

By the times of the epic love poem *Roman de la Rose* (c1237), a more secular allusion to 'courtly generosity'<sup>18</sup> can be discerned for *Planterose* (*plantec=generosity, rose~courtly*)<sup>19</sup>. The historical context then moves on to the times of the Provisions of Oxford (1258), the Barons War (1264-6), and Henry III's need to re-establish his Plantagenet authority. In 1264, the validity of the Provisions of Oxford was declared void at the Mise of Amiens and, in 1265, the rebuttal was affirmed with the death of Simon de Montfort at the battle of Evesham. This is followed (1266) by extant mention of Galfrido Plantagenet at Oxford, with duties to the king, at the time when the Plantagenet authority was being re-established. With a hypothetical earlier spelling *plente* for *Pl(a)nt(a)l(e)genet*, there may have been such a conception as 'livestock breeding plenarity', as could be ascribed to the duties of the monks or novices of Wincle Grange for example, and this could have led on to visions of the royal cortège through an interpretation 'horse (?supplied) abundance' for the '*Plente*genet name'. By around 1270, the spelling *Plente* is known to coexist with the spelling *Plaunte* in Norfolk, at a time when it seems apposite to be considering an 'establish' meaning for *plaunte* in

<sup>16</sup>Henry II ascended the throne on 19th December 1154 and this entry is dated to his 13th year.

<sup>17</sup>It may be noted that from times of Blundeville's religious foundations in the Plant homeland, Wincle Grange was an outpost of Combermere Abbey with livestock duties including horses.

<sup>18</sup>The interpretation of *Planterose* could be considered in terms of the hypothetical variants *plente of roses* or *rose plente*, which could be interpreted along the lines of 'much allegiance to the crown' or 'much ardour' or 'many Lancastrian rights', though such interpretations are evidently grammatically improved with a reversal of word order, yielding 'courtly abundance'.

<sup>19</sup>In the cited examples of the adjective *plente* that appear in Kurath and Kuhn's Middle English Dictionary, this adjective follows its associated noun, though the word *plente* commonly precedes another noun with the phrase *plente of*...

<p>Oxford English Dictionary:-</p> <p><b>plente, plentee</b> Obsolete form of plenty</p>
<p>La-Curne de Sainte-Palaye:-</p> <p><b>planté</b> (I) plénitude; (II) abondance, quantité</p> <p><b>plenté</b> grande quantité, abondance</p>
<p>Rothwell et al, Anglo-Norman Dictionary:</p> <p><b>plenté, plentee, plentet, plentee, plante, etc.; pleinté, pleintee; plenité</b> (1) abundance, plenty; (2) (great) number, multitude; (3) generosity, bounty; (4) (law) plenary</p> <p><b>plente</b> see pleinte</p> <p><b>pleinte, plainte, plaint, pleint (playente)</b> lament, complaint</p>
<p>Kurath and Kahn, Middle English Dictionary:-</p> <p><b>plente</b> — also <b>plenti(e), pleinte</b> noun, 1(a) abundance, prosperity, wealth; also, the goddess of abundance; 1(b) <i>p...</i> of abundance of; 1(c) an ample supply of food, drink, etc; plenty, sumptuousness; 1(d) <i>corn p...</i> abundance of grain; etc.; 1(e) a large amount, great deal; much; 1(f) a great number, multitude, many; 1(g) in apposition with a preceding noun, the appositional construction being equivalent in sense to <i>of p...</i> phrases; 1(h) fertility, productivity, fruitfulness; abundant production of crops, profusion of flowers; 1(i) generosity, bounty; 2(a) fullness, completeness, perfection. 2(b) full measure or number, totality; 2(c) satiety, satisfaction; 3 a projection of the extremity of a bone structure</p> <p><b>plente</b> adjective, abundant, plentiful; <i>p...</i> of full of</p> <p><b>plente</b> alternative spelling of (noun) <b>plaut(e)</b></p> <p><b>plaut(e)</b> — also <b>plant(e), plonte and (planet, planete, playnt, plente)</b> noun, 1(a) something planted; a shrub, an herb, a plant; also figuratively; also by analogy to a plant, a tooth; 1(b) a sapling, tree; also, a sapling used as a staff or cudgel; 1(c) a young plant; a sprout, sprig, or shoot: 1(d) a cutting, slip, scion, or graft of a tree, vegetable, or other plant; 2 the sole of the foot</p> <p><b>plaunten</b> — also <b>planten, plaut(e), plant(e), plonte (and in Cornish, plontye, plause, blanse)</b> verb, 1(a) to plant or set (a tree, an herb, a vine, etc); also transplant (a tree, etc.); 1(h) to plant (a vineyard, garden); 1(c) to plant or sow a crop; also figuratively; 2(a) to insert (a scion) into (a stock), engraft; also figuratively; 2(b) <i>planted</i> of a branch: joined to the trunk of a tree; 2(c) to instill (a virtue, a quality), infuse (grace), implant (the natural law, contrition, etc.); instill (ones will); impart (truth, the word of God); 3(a) to establish (a colony), settle (a people); found (a religious house); institute (a religion); form (a part of a body), create (the world); establish (peace); 3(b) to set (something in a place); 3(c) to set (something) down in writing, insert (something) in a treatise; 3(d) <i>plante bataille</i>, to engage in combat, enter battle; <i>plante (in) seige</i>, lay a seige; 4 to insert (something) in a food dish as decoration, decorate (a dish)</p>

Table 18.5: Some Definitions of possible relevance to the name *Plente*

The Cambridge manuscript<sup>a</sup> of Langland's *Piers Plowman* text (c1362) is dated to c1400 (perhaps a1376 — i.e. before 1376) and includes:-

*Loue is the leues thing that oure lord askith  
And ek the plante [or plaunte or plonte or plente; playnte] of pes*

This epic poem has been mentioned earlier, in Chapter 16, where it was noted that there is apparently a 'Prince of Peace' aspect (cf. theorem 2) to the phrase *plaunte of pees*. In the above version there is the variant spelling *plente*. Moreover, there is evidence that the word *plaunte* was associated with the creation of plenty, in the following text (a1398)<sup>b</sup>:-

*Of oon litel greyne cometh a wel gret plaunte and springeth and spredith  
hugeliche.*

With the spelling *plente*, this concept is extended explicitly to livestock and also to riches in (a1420)<sup>c</sup>:-

*The lond .. was plenteuouse bothe of corne & greene...  
Of best and foules passingly plente  
...  
Philemoun .. had infinit richesse, Of tresour, gold passingly plente.*

Further evidence of a connection between *plente* and the benefits (or vices) of peace appears in (a1425)<sup>d</sup>:-

*Pees maketh plente; Plente maketh pride*

which can be compared with Langland's *plaunte of pees*. The words *pees* and *plente* also appear in the following comparison between *peace* and *war*, in a text dated a1450 (1408)<sup>e</sup>:-

*When pees is plente, than deeds of werre be in no deynthe.*

<sup>a</sup>c1400 (a1376) *P.PLA(1)(Trin-C)1.137* :: *Piers Plowman: The A version*, Wills' *visions of Piers Plowman and Do-Well*, ed. G.Kane (1960) 175-426 [W4.51; BR 1459], cited in Kurath and Kahn *Middle English Dictionary*.

<sup>b</sup>a1398 *Trev.Barth (Add)* :: John de Trevisa, tr. Bartholomew de Glanville's *De Proprietatibus Rerum*: Photostat of MS Add.27944; in poss. of MED [W3.9;10.35;BR33].

<sup>c</sup>a1420 *Lydg.TB (Aug)*; a1450-a1475 (Bergen) :: *Lydgate's Troy Book*, ed. H.Bergen, *Early English Texts Society, Extra Series* (London, 1867-) 97 (1906); 103 (1908); 106 (1910) [BR 2516].

<sup>d</sup>a1425 *Pees maketh (Trin-C)* :: M.R.James, *The western MSS. in the library of Trinity College, Cambridge 2* (1901) 95 [W 7.22; BR 2742].

<sup>e</sup>a1450 (1408) *Vergetius(1) 72b (Dc)* :: *Prose translation of Vergetius De Re Militari*: Photostat of transcript of MS Dc.291, prepared by K.G.Gordon, in poss of MED.

Table 18.6: Some texts relating to some Middle English usages of the words *plaunte* and *plente*

	Plantebene	Plantefolie	Planterose	Plantegenet
vegetable plants	gardener	? <i>folius</i> – leaf	gardener	? <i>planta genista</i> = sprig of broom
<i>plaint</i>		lamerter of wickedness	lamerter of love	
to establish or to found	fine establisher or prosperous founder	establisher (or recorder) of wickedness <sup>a</sup>	establisher of the royal badge or Lancastrian rights <sup>b</sup>	establisher of small Spanish horses or horse breeder <sup>c</sup>
	----- (itinerant) royalist auxiliary ----- ----- curer of souls <sup>d</sup> -----			
<i>plente</i>	hallowed plenitude <sup>e</sup>	? absolution plenitude <sup>f</sup>	courtly abundance	horse (?borne) abundance

<sup>a</sup>The name *Plantefolie* may have related to the Plantagenet's introduction of itinerant justices such that it may have had a meaning along the lines of a 'recorder of wickedness'. The meaning 'to record' for plant appears in the Anglo-Norman Dictionary of Rothwell et al as well as in the Middle English Dictionary of Kurath and Kahn (Table 18.5).

<sup>b</sup>More generally, the name Planterose may have acquired a meaning along the lines of a 'romantic or courtly colonist' (cf. the French surname Plantamour and the French epic love poem 'Roman de la Rose').

<sup>c</sup>The word *genet* had a widespread meaning 'jennet' or 'small Spanish horse' (cf. Table 18.4) and it may be relevant that the 'Plantagenets' came from Anjou and held lands extending southwards to Spain.

<sup>d</sup>In Anglo-Norman, the noun *plente* (sometimes spelled *plantee*) can mean 'plenarity', which is the state of benefice when filled. The word benefice was popularly associated with the ecclesiastical office itself though it was more formally the remuneration paid to that office. The names *Planteben* and *Plantefolie* could accordingly refer to that medieval office, which was associated with the 'curing of souls' and 'absolution for sins'. A loose association of a similar nature could also be made for the name *Planterose*. The medieval Latin word *rosarius* (Table 18.4) had connotations of payment as well the meaning 'a series of prayers and a string of beads by which they are counted'. The 'base coin' meaning of *rosarius* could also be considered in conjunction with, for example, the old French expression *monnoye de plont* which could evidently mean 'money of a base coin (or formed from a lead templet)'. Such concepts, if taken together, might perhaps then be connected loosely with payment for the office of benefice.

<sup>e</sup>The old French words *planté* and *béne* yield a meaning 'hallowed plenitude', hence evidently sanctifying a concept of 'abundance' or 'full remuneration' with religious service.

<sup>f</sup>The meaning, *plenti fulli* = abundantly, which is known to have been in use by c1400, can be compared with other surnames, such as *Bytheway*, which apparently related to everyday sayings (perhaps favourite expressions of the original bearers of the name) -- in this case, a saying *plentifulli* might relate to 'absolution granted (and paid for) plentifully'. There is less reason, however, to suppose that *Planterose* might have received some influence from *plentevous* (meaning abundant, rich, generous, or fertile).

Table 18.7: Possible interpretations of 4 similar 'Plant related' names



the stead of a perhaps earlier 'abundance' meaning for the 'variant spelling' *plente*. This then yields such meanings as 'prosperous founder' (*Plantebene*), 'establisher of wickedness or madness' (*Plantefolie*), 'establisher of courtly rights' (*Planterose*), and 'establisher of horse (?borne abundance)' (*Plantegenet*<sup>20</sup>).

Such a supposed progression of emphasis in meanings, with an evident progression of spelling from *Plente* (1219) to *Plaunte* (1262), can be compared (Table 18.6) with examples of surviving texts, on which the Middle English definitions of *plente* and *plaunte* are based. Such texts become comprehensively available, however, only by around the late 14th century. By that time there is also the variant spelling *Plant* for the Plant name and, in Table 18.7, this produces meanings of lament<sup>21</sup> which are understandable in the context of the sentiments that no doubt followed on from the ravages of the Black Death. The pervasive natural catastrophe of the plague may have done much to undermine any remaining aura of divine or lordly generosity which Plantagenet supporters may thereto have wished to foster to bolster the Plantagenet authority. The faltering credibility of such an image of 'divine generosity' can accordingly be expected to have mitigated further, by this time, against a spelling *Plente* for *Plant*.

By the end of the plague era (1349-75) the spelling *Plant* is known to have been well established in the east Cheshire homeland of the Plants and this spelling can be taken to be the expectable one in this West Midlands Dialect District (Figure 18.1). A further, possible influence on the development of the Plant name (subtheorem 3(c)) will be considered below in connection with some of the known circumstances that lead on to the times of late 14th century east Cheshire.

## 18.2 Possible Genesis of the Plant name around Cheshire

**T**he Plant name itself may have originated near Cheshire, perhaps with some connotation of 'occupation' or 'office', or it might for example have arrived in a 'Plante(genet) related' guise through such forms as *Planterose*, *Plantyn*, and *Planteng'*. The royal Plantagenets had directed significant attention to Chester from the times of their first king, Henry II (1133-89), who was a legitimate son of Geoffrey Plantagenet, Count of Anjou<sup>22</sup>. The Plant name may have been nurtured, in particular from the times of king John, by a *local* Plantagenet affinity.

<sup>20</sup>'Horse related' interpretations of *Plantegenet* might at first seem at odds with the more commonly supposed interpretation of the similarly spelled royal nickname *Plantagenet*, which is usually associated with the Latin words *planta genista* meaning 'sprig of broom'. An interpretation 'establisher of small Spanish horses' or 'horse breeder' seems to correspond more closely however with the extant spelling *Plantegenet* (Oxford 1266) whilst a similarly slight modification of spelling, to a perhaps earlier *plente*, can be conceived to evoke such meanings as 'many small horses' and 'many light horsemen' (cf. Table 18.4), which could be seen to reinforce a mid 13th century 'establisher' interpretation for this name, though a grammatically better translation should likely take account of a reversal of word order giving a meaning 'horse (?supplied) abundance' with its conceivable allusions to such prosperity as may have been seen in a royal cortège.

<sup>21</sup>Though an interpretive scheme involving a meaning 'lament' seems to work well for only 2 or 3 of the set of 4 'Plante(genet) related' names, it may be noted that this equals the success rate of Reaney's assertion that *Plant* means a 'gardener' (Book III). The 'gardener' assertion is based on only the pair, *Plantebene* and *Planterose*, and it does not seem to work well for the other 2, *Plantefolie* and *Plantegenet*.

<sup>22</sup>Henry II identified Chester as a prime base from which to subdue the Welsh, as well as an important trading port with Ireland and elsewhere. Gaining control of the Irish sea offered the prospect of trading routes from the north west of England, including routes southwards towards the Plantagenets' homeland of western France, as well as ensuring the curtailment of the Irish Norse practice of taking English slaves (Kate Norgate (1887) *England under the Angevin Kings*, Vol I, p 36 and Vol II p 87).

## 18.2.1 Blundeville and John

By the times of the third Plantagenet king, John, Chester was under the rule of reputedly the most powerful magnate in England, Ranulph Blundeville, who was of Norman descent but who succeeded in maintaining close links with the Plantagenets. By tradition, it has been maintained<sup>23</sup> that the earl of Chester, Ranulph de Blundeville (d 1232) had been so named for having been born at 'the white monastery of Powis-land'<sup>24</sup>, though the credentials for this old story have been questioned<sup>25</sup>. Blundeville's first wife, Lady Constance, whom he married in 1187, had been the widow of John's elder brother Geoffrey (a 'Plantagenet') and, indeed, Blundeville had thereby married the mother of a potential heir to the throne<sup>26</sup>. In 1207 Ranulph de Blundeville founded the white monastery called Dieulacress Abbey in Leek parish at the western edge of The Peak. Though Blundeville's 1232 death was at Wallingford (near Oxford), it is maintained that his heart was buried at Dieulacress<sup>27</sup>.

In 1230, Simon de Segrave<sup>28</sup> held charge of the royal seal as an itinerant justice, as he had been left with the bishop of Chichester in charge of England during Henry III's expedition to Poitou. That year, the name Simon *Plente* appears under residual affairs for York through the auspices of this *S. de Segraue et Socios Suos*:-

*From William son of Alfred and from Simon Plente, half a marc for disseisin (i.e. for wrongful dispossession of an estate of freehold).*

In 1232, Simon de Segrave became the justiciar of England, being very much the client of Blundeville of Chester<sup>29</sup>, who however died that year. Segrave's tenure as justiciar was brief.

In these times of the fourth Plantagenet king, Henry III, Chester came under the direct control of the Plantagenet crown. The last earl of Chester of Norman descent was a nephew of Ranulph Blundeville, John the Scot, and, following his 1237 death,

<sup>23</sup>John Sleigh (1862) *The History of the Ancient Parish of Leek*, p 47.

<sup>24</sup>The name *de Blondeville* is accordingly said by John Sleigh (1862) to mean 'from Oswestry' though there is a Blonville-sur-Mer in Calvados with which Ranulph had associations. It may also be noted that the name Blundeville can be related, for example, to connotations of 'metal forging settlement' — the name of Thomas Blundeville, bishop of Norwich (1226-36) and nephew of Hubert de Burgh, is sometimes written *Blomville* and the Old English word *bloma* means 'mass of puddled iron, hammered or squeezed into a thick bar'. A Middle English word from the Old Norse *blanda* means inhomogenous mix (cf. metal scintering) though the word *blond* is more often considered, yielding a commonly supposed meaning 'fair' or 'white'. The old French word *ville* means the tendril of a vine, a walled enclosure, or ignoble.

<sup>25</sup>James W Alexander (1983) *ibid*.

<sup>26</sup>The son, Arthur, of Geoffrey (Plantagenet) and Lady Constance was murdered by John to eliminate him as a possible rival to the throne. Even so, after Blundeville's victory at the siege of Lincoln in 1217, Blundeville showed little hesitation in proclaiming for John. It appears that relations between Blundeville and his prestigious wife, Constance, were poor and it has even been contended that king John had adulterous relations with her. James W Alexander (1983) *ibid*, pps 3, 8, 10, 12-14, 49, 97.

<sup>27</sup>John Sleigh (1862) *ibid*, pps 47-9. James W Alexander (1983) *ibid*, pps 37, 39-41, 44, 46, 49.

<sup>28</sup>In 1231, a writ was issued to assemble the county court of York before the itinerant justices, which comprised S. de Segraue and 6 others. In 1232, Peter de Roches, bishop of Winchester, in order to obtain the king's favour more freely, drew into his fellowship Stephen de Segrave and Robert Passelaw, whereafter all the affairs of the realm were carried out by the advice and wish of these three persons, with Stephen de Segrave briefly succeeding Hubert de Burgh as justiciar of England. In 1233, insurgent barons ravaged the lands of Stephen de Segrave, the justiciar. Margaret A Hennings (1924) *England under Henry III*, pps 39, 41, 158, 159, 185.

<sup>29</sup>Blundeville held various fees throughout the country including ones in Oxfordshire, Norfolk, and at Seagrave in Leicestershire, as well as such castles as Bolingbroke in south Lincolnshire, just north of the Wash. James W. Alexander (1983) *Ranulph of Chester: a relic of the Conquest*, Appendix pps 103-115.

1256	Prince Edward paid a brief visit to Chester in July 1256
1257	Both the prince and king Henry III passed through Chester with an army for a campaign in Wales
1265	After the battle of Evesham, the prince took Beeston Castle and came to Chester
1275	Traveling by way of Macclesfield and Tarvin, Edward I reached Cheshire on 1st September 1275 and waited 10 days in vain for a meeting with prince Llewelyn
1277	Edward I in Cheshire and north Wales from mid-July to late November, laying the foundation stone of Vale Royal Abbey in August
1278	Edward I spent 3 weeks in Flint, Chester and the Wirral
1282	Edward I came northwards through Nantwich and, after a month at Chester, passed into north Wales where he remained until August
1283	Edward I spent most of September in Cheshire visiting Bromborough, Stanlow, Vale Royal and Macclesfield
1284	Edward I came via Nantwich in March 1284 and passed into north Wales. Returning in September, he visited Shotwich, Rushton, Peckforton, and Malpas
1290	Edward I crossed The Peak from Chesterfield via Tideswell and Chapel-en-le-Frith to Macclesfield returning via Tideswell and Ashford prior to Queen Eleanor's death at Harby near Lincoln
1294	Edward I spent 4 days at Chester in December 1294, en route from Nantwich to Wales
1309	Edward II came to Chester in June 1309 to welcome his unpopular favourite, Piers Gaveston, on his return from exile. Edward arrived and returned via Nantwich
1323	Edward II journeyed from Liverpool and spent a few days at Ince and at Halton
1353	In preparation for a visit of the Black Prince, defects in Chester Castle and in the manor of Macclesfield were to be repaired, houses at Shotwich were to be cleaned, etc. After his arrival, orders were sent for 6 roses to be brought from Macclesfield Forest for a banquet to which guests were invited
1358	The Black Prince spent a few days at Chester, at Vale Royal, and at Macclesfield in September 1358
1399	Richard II crossed the Dee in the company of his cousin Henry (who had been born at Bolingbroke in south Lincolnshire and who became Henry IV). Richard was imprisoned at Chester Castle overnight before being taken to London

Table 18.8: Some Cheshire visits of the Plantagenet earls of Chester (taken mostly from H.J.Hewitt (1967) *Cheshire under the Three Edwards*, pps 3-5)

the Palatine of Chester<sup>30</sup> was annexed by Henry III himself. An initial justification for direct Plantagenet rule of Cheshire was that it was strategic to subduing the Welsh<sup>31</sup> though, by the mid-14th century, it has been supposed that it had become little more than a source of royal revenue<sup>32</sup> (cf. Table 18.8).

### 18.2.2 A possible *Plant* link between Cheshire and SE England

An illustration of a possible 'family route' by which the *Plant* name could have arrived in Cheshire, with a meaning 'Plantagenet child or auxiliary' (theorems 1 and 2), can be outlined briefly as follows.

The nickname *Plantagenet* is widely reputed to have belonged to Geoffrey<sup>33</sup> (1113-

<sup>30</sup>Though the term 'county Palatine' is not known to have been adopted for Chester before the 1290s, it had maintained a tradition of considerable 'self government' from the times of Edwin of Mercia, through Norman and Plantagenet times. Alan Cosby (1996) *A History of Cheshire*, pps 34-5.

<sup>31</sup>The Palatine had its own characteristic form of government such that it was almost a semi autonomous 'colony' and, in 1247, Henry III formally notified his barons that he intended to keep it.

<sup>32</sup>H.J.Hewitt (1967) *Cheshire under the Three Edwards*.

<sup>33</sup>This Geoffrey Plantagenet passed to his heirs their claim to the English throne by marrying Henry I's daughter Maud.

## CHAPTER 18. EARLY PLANT ORIGINS AND THE PEAK

51), Count of Anjou. His illegitimate son, Hamelin, was father to William de Warenne (d 1240), 5th earl of Surrey who married the widowed mother of Roger le Bigod, earl of Norfolk. This Bigod's butler was called Roger *Plantyn*<sup>34</sup>. The name *Plantyn* might accordingly be thought to have perhaps been a diminutive of *Plantagenet*, which perhaps reflected Bigod's ability almost to mock the illegitimate descent of Hamelin from Geoffrey *Plantagenet*<sup>35</sup>.

By 1258, John de Warenne, earl of Surrey was a royal nominee in the body of 24 who passed the Provisions of Oxford and Hugh Bigod became justiciar, though Warenne opposed those imposed limitations on the authority of Henry III. Following Warenne's rescue of the king at Evesham (1265) and the Plantagenets' crushing of the Barons War, the name Roger *Planteng'* occurs in Norfolk (1268) and this can reasonably be viewed, in its historic context, to be a more respectful variant of the name Roger *Plant(i)yn*. The name *Planteng'* can be thought to have alluded to establishing royal land rights, such as in Englefeld which was the region (essentially Flintshire) on the Welsh side of the Dee estuary and the lower valley of Clwyd<sup>36</sup>. Such a contention is not unsubstantiated, since Bigod's nephew and successor was evidently in chief command of Flint (near Chester) in the Welsh War of 1277<sup>37</sup>. Amongst much rallying of the nobility around Chester in the late 13th century, John de Warenne, 7th earl of Surrey, was sent ahead of the king to Chester in 1294<sup>38</sup>. The *Plant* name is found in Flintshire (*i.e.* Englefeld) by 1301.

Warenne descent from Geoffrey *Plantagenet* continued with Sir Edward de Warren, who was the illegitimate son of the last earl Warenne of Surrey (d 1347), and from around those times his heirs remained lords of Poynton and Stockport until recent times. Poynton is in the north of Prestbury parish and Stockport is just to its north, both in east Cheshire. By 1370, there is extant evidence for the *Plont* family in these relatively remote pennine foothills of east Cheshire. This was towards the end of the plague years of 1349, 1361, 1369, and 1375, which saw many of the rich close their houses and leave for what they thought was the relative safety of the country<sup>39</sup>.

Such clues suggest how early 'Plant(agenet) related' names around Warenne and Bigod lands in East Anglia *may have been* associated with the Bigod and Warenne families, who may then have helped to nurture the development of the *Plant* name in 13th century Flintshire (near Chester) and subsequently in east Cheshire. The resettlement of the Warenne line at Poynton followed their expulsion from East Anglian lands by the 1st duke of Lancaster around 1347-80<sup>40</sup>.

<sup>34</sup>There are records for *Plantyn*, dating 1254-8, as outlined in Chapter 17.

<sup>35</sup>An alternative possibility, involving an early possible influence from the place name *Plunton*, was outlined as subtheorem 3(a).

<sup>36</sup>H.J.Hewitt (1967) *ibid.*, p 2.

<sup>37</sup>John E Morris (1901) *The Welsh Wars and Edward I*, p 133.

<sup>38</sup>John E Morris (1901) *ibid.*, pps 245, 247, 253-4.

<sup>39</sup>Roy Strong (1996) *The Story of Britain*, p 105.

<sup>40</sup>Warenne family lands in Norfolk had mainly been acquired by Thomas, 2nd earl of Lancaster, from his enemy, the earl Warenne, in a highly advantageous settlement of outstanding disputes in 1318 which brought the house of Lancaster much of its richest property in East Anglia. The tenure of these estates was however disturbed as, on Thomas of Lancaster's execution for treason in 1322, they reverted to the Warenne family. It was not until the last earl of Warenne's death in 1347 that Henry of Grosmont, 4th earl and 1st duke of Lancaster, was able to make good his reversionary claim and, even so, the former Warenne lands had a separate administration from the rest of the duke's possessions in Norfolk as late as the 1380s. Simon Walker (1990) *The Lancastrian Affinity 1361-1399*, pps 184-5.

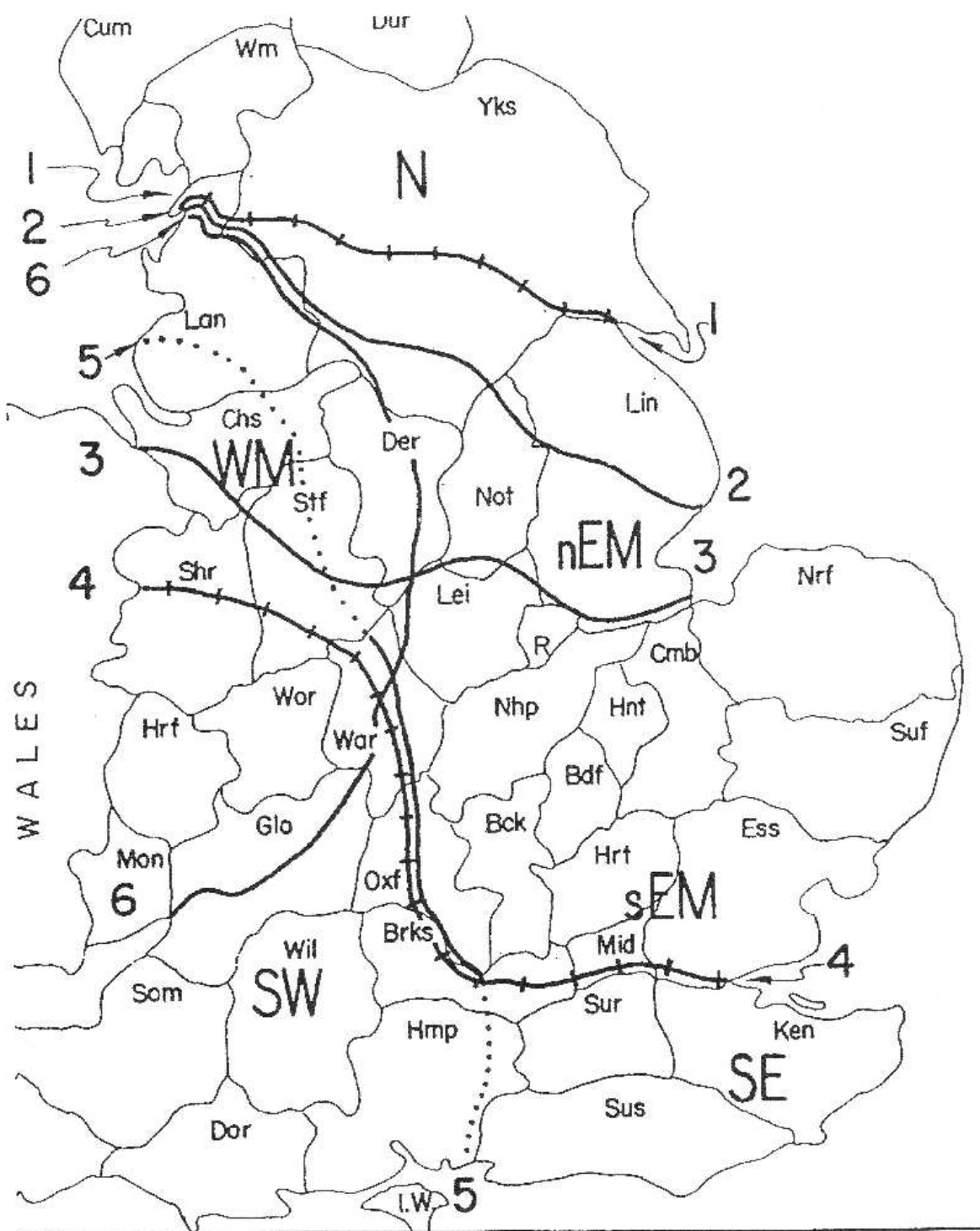


Figure 18.1: Dialect districts in England become discernible by around 1400-50, when there is sufficient literary material. The spelling *man* in the East Midlands becomes *mon* in the West Midlands, to the west of line 6. To the north of line 3, present tense endings of verbs are spelled *-es* whereas they are spelled *-eth* between lines 3 and 4; to the south and west of line 4 they are spelled *-en*. This loosely identifies a NW Midlands dialect district, lying between lines 3 and 6 (Kurath and Kahn (1983) *Middle English Dictionary*) where *Plant* in its main homeland was generally spelled *Plonte*, though there were also early spellings *Plente* and *Plaunte(s)* to the east and south of line 6

late 12th century	Ranulph de Blundeville, earl of Chester, grants land at Wincle (in Prestbury, east Cheshire) to the monks of Combermere Abbey
1207	Ranulph de Blundeville grants a borough charter to Leek and, in 1214, founds Dieulacress Abbey near Leek town
1219	The name <i>Plente</i> appears in Oxfordshire with duties for the king
1232	Death of Ranulph de Blundeville, earl of Chester, who had also been earl of Lincoln since 1217
1233	John Blund, servant to the king and distinguished scholar of Paris and Oxford, fails to become Archbishop of Canterbury
1254	Prince Edward (later Edward I) becomes earl of Chester
1262	The name <i>Plaunte</i> appears in Essex
1266	Geoffrey Plantegenet is recorded with garderobe duties to the king at Wodestock (near Oxford)
1254-68	Possible connection between Roger Plantyn or Planteng' and Flintshire near Chester
1301	Ricardo <i>Plant</i> is granted a license to gather coal and deadwood at Ewelowe in Flintshire and, the same year, Prince Edward (later Edward II) becomes prince of Wales and earl of Chester
1303	The name <i>Plonte</i> appears near Ashford
1307	Prince Edward (later Edward III) becomes earl of Chester
1308-59	Officers at Chester called Blount, serving the Plantagenet earl of Chester
1315	Final agreement between Thomas de Corona, querant, and Thomas of Adlington, chaplain, deforciant <sup>a</sup> concerning the manor of Adlington (NW Prestbury) <sup>b</sup> ... <i>And the other half of the manor shall remain to John Blount and Margaret his wife and the heirs of the said John Blount</i> <sup>c</sup>
1333-76	The Black Prince, Edward of Woodstock (eldest son of Edward III), remains earl of Chester
1370	The name <i>Plant</i> is known to have become well established around Prestbury and Leek
	<sup>a</sup> A deforciant is a defendant who deforces another or prevents him from inheriting an estate.
	<sup>b</sup> Adlington is in the north west of Prestbury parish and had held an importance as great as the manor of Macclesfield.
	<sup>c</sup> J.P.Earwaker (1877) <i>ibid</i> , Vol.II, p 233.

Table 18.9: The similar names *Blount* and *Plaunte* and possible connections with the earls of Chester, perhaps as diminutives of their names

### 18.2.3 Cheshire Dialect and some possible confusions of names

The spelling *Plont(e)* can be associated with the ‘north west midlands dialect district’ in medieval times and it can accordingly be compared with local modern pronunciations in that region. This dialect district (Figure 18.1) comprises Cheshire, south Lancashire, west Derbyshire, Staffordshire, and central and north Shropshire<sup>41</sup>.

Likely pronunciations of *Plont*, *Plaunte*, and the old French word *plaunte* can perhaps be compared with an influx of French nobility into England and, in particular, with Norman rule in the Welsh Marches which was followed for example by the royalist affinity of perhaps the most famous surviving Norman earl under the rule of the Plantagenets, Blundeville of Chester. This may help to explain why, in 13th and 14th century records for the ‘north west midlands dialect district’, there are spellings, *Plont(e)*, *mon*, *mony*, and *bonk* (for *Plant(e)*, *man*, *many*, and *bank*) with, for example, the place name *Monyash* in west Derbyshire being thought to mean ‘many ashes’ and the surname *Monypenny* being thought to mean ‘many coins’ (cf. *Planterose* which might be translated as, for example, ‘coin abundance’). A spelling *Plont(e)*, for the *Plant* name, can accordingly be compared with a likely pronunciation of the Old French spelling *plaunte*.

It may be noted that Bl(o)undeville had founded Dieulacress at a time when monastery foundations were rare and it may also be recalled that the verb *plaunte* had particular associations with founding religious houses (cf. the verb *plaunten* 3(a) in Table 18.5). One might accordingly wonder whether the name Blundeville might perhaps, in a blend of dialects, have been occasionally (mis)taken as a ‘Spanish-like’<sup>42</sup> pronunciation of *Plaunteville*, meaning a ‘monastery founder’. A further secondary influence on 14th century developments of the *Plant* name might accordingly be considered to be:-

**subtheorem 3(c):** The two *phonetically similar* names, *Blount*<sup>43</sup> and *Plaunt*, which existed around Cheshire, may have reinforced each other here in the 14th century (cf. Table 18.9). Furthermore, it might be considered whether *both* of these names could have been (?mis)understood, at least *at times locally* if not originally, to be diminutives of the names of the Bl(o)undeville and then Pla(u)ntegenet earls of Chester (cf. theorems 1 and 2).

### 18.2.4 A possible *Blount* link between Chester and east Cheshire

Given that there may have been some local confusion between the names *Blount* and *Plaunt* (cf. subtheorem 3(c)), it may be relevant to note that there was evidently an early 14th century link between Blounts at Chester and the Blount name at Adlington in Prestbury parish of east Cheshire. This might perhaps hold some relevance in connection with the known existence of the *Plant* name near Chester in 1301 and then in Prestbury parish of east Cheshire by around 1370 (cf. Table 18.9).

<sup>41</sup> Ernest Edgar Tooth (1997) *Local dialect and its relevance to Staffordshire surnames and place names in Staffordshire Studies*, Vol.9, pps 81-94.

<sup>42</sup> In such a pronunciation ‘applause’ can sound like ‘a blouse’.

<sup>43</sup> Reaney (1959) considers that the the names *Blunt* and *Blount* derive from the Old French *blund* meaning ‘blond, fair, yellow haired’. However, he also considers that the name *de Blunwill* of 1207 derives from the town of Blonville-sur-Mer (Calvados) and gives rise to the name *Bloomfield*. On the other hand, he considers that the names *Bloom* and *Bloomer* derive from the Old English word *bloma* and accordingly mean an ‘iron worker’.

1308	Inquisition Post Mortem for John de Distelegh <sup>a</sup> taken at Chester before Stephen le Blount, Escheator <sup>b</sup> ... <sup>c</sup>
1315	Mention of John Blount and heirs in a deed relating to de Corona land at Adlington (just north of Macclesfield in Prestbury parish) (Table 18.9)
1316	Hugh de Corona gave the whole of his manors at Parva Neston and Hargrave, with small exception, to John de Blount, or Blound, citizen of Chester, in consideration of an annual payment of 10 marks <sup>d</sup>
1327	Sir Thomas Blount, steward of the royal household announced that it was dissolved, bringing an end to the reign of Edward II <sup>e</sup>
1331-6	Roger le Blount was mayor of Chester 4 times between 1331 and 1336 <sup>f</sup>
1335-59	John le Blount was mayor of Chester 13 times between 1335 and 1359 <sup>g</sup>
1392	Sir Walter Blount of west Derbyshire, a Lancastrian Commander whose father and uncle had been prominent in the service of Henry Grosmont, 3rd earl of Lancaster (1345-61), was chief steward to John of Gaunt, spending 96 out of 176 days at court in 1392 <sup>h</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Disley is in east Cheshire.

<sup>b</sup>Escheators were royal officials who, with their deputies, were responsible for effecting escheats of land held of the king. When a tenant of land died and there was no Common Law heir, or if his heir had forfeited his rights on account of felony, the land escheated to the immediate lord. On the death of a tenant-in-chief, the escheator, who usually held control over one or more counties, called an enquiry entitled Inquisition Post Mortem, with a local jury, to ascertain what lands the deceased had held and who was the heir.

<sup>c</sup>J.P.Earwaker (1877), *East Cheshire: Past and Present*, Vol.II, p 85.

<sup>d</sup>James Croston (1882) *Nooks and Corners of Lancashire and Cheshire*, pps 290-1.

<sup>e</sup>May McKisack (1959) *The Fourteenth Century*, p 91.

<sup>f</sup>H.J.Hewitt (1967) *ibid*, p 72.

<sup>g</sup>H.J.Hewitt (1967) *ibid*.

<sup>h</sup>Simon Walker (1990) *The Lancastrian Affinity*, pps 12, 28, 33, 50, 82, 89, p1, 201, 211, 215, 217, 221-1, 223, 228, 229, 264, 285.

Table 18.10: Some information about 14th century Blounts

The juxtaposition to east Cheshire of the High Peak, which was transferred in 1372 to Gaunt's Lancastrian hands<sup>44</sup>, can be contrasted with Cheshire's reputation<sup>45</sup> for being the only English county to offer serious resistance to the new Lancastrian regime around 1400 with for example, in 1403, a large group of gentry from NE Cheshire being involved in Hotspur's rebellion against the new order of Henry IV. As one possibility, it might accordingly be considered whether (some of) the Plonts could have been 'old guard' opponents of the Blounts, as some of the Blounts are known to have deftly moved over to the Lancastrian cause.

Some further information about 14th century Blounts is summarised in Table 18.10. By the late 14th century, it is known for example that there was (1392) a prominent

<sup>44</sup>Henry IV's father, the Duke of Lancaster, John of Gaunt, had acquired the manor of the High Peak in 1372.

<sup>45</sup>Allan Crosby (1996) *A History of Cheshire*, p 35.



*Blount* connection with the Lancastrian affinity and it is also known that a John *Plant* testified in 1396 in connection with a child issuing from the (?extra-)marital affairs of the Lancastrian, Catherine Swynford, who had been John of Gaunt's mistress and then wife (Chapter 17). This leaves some uncertainty about the extent to which the east Cheshire *Plonts* were loyal to the last king of the House of Plantagenet, Richard II. It seems possible, for example, that the *Plonts* may have retained grievances about the first duke of Lancaster's 1347 expulsion of the Warennes from East Anglian land though it is alternatively possible, for example, that the *Plonts* moved over more or less imperceptibly to supporting the emerging Plantagenet cadet line of king Henry IV and his ensuing royal House of Lancaster.

### 18.3 The Plant homeland and crossing the Peak

**D**ieularess Abbey (1214-1538), like Combermere Abbey with its livestock outpost at Wincle Grange on the east Cheshire-Staffordshire border, was a Cistercian House. Both Wincle Grange and Dieularess were founded by Ranulph de Blundeville, earl of Chester at the western edge of The Peak. Dieularess with its lands of Rudyerd and Leek (Table 18.9), in the NW Staffordshire Moorlands, was founded as a replacement for Pulton Abbey in Cheshire where, it is said, the Cistercian, or white monks were *too much exposed to the incursions of the Welch*<sup>46</sup>.

It seems possible that war, trade, and communication links through the church, nobility, and the crown may have played their parts in linking influence from the SE and Norfolk to east Cheshire. Such a 'route' may have held particular significance during the Welsh Wars for royal Plantagenet control of the NW and Wales. Such a 'trade connection' across The Peak and the so-called 'Big Moor' of north Derbyshire, with its challenges to horse transport and to the breeding of suitable livestock, including fine horses bred perhaps from Arabian studs, might even be considered to have related to such a meaning 'instigator of small Spanish horses' (cf. Table 18.4) as has been deliberated for the *Plantegenet* name<sup>47</sup>.

Certainly, it is known that Edward I came to Macclesfield and left again in 1290 by crossing the Peak<sup>48</sup>, as is detailed in Table 18.8. The spelling *Plonte* of the Plant name is known to occur shortly after near Ashford in 1303 though the royal manor of Ashford which Edward I visited in the NW Midlands Dialect District is not the Ashford in Kent that is traditionally associated with this early *Plonte* record (Table 18.1). From those times there are various records for a royal horse breeding stud at Macclesfield, as will be described more fully in a later Chapter. The Black Prince, who was Gaunt's elder brother and the potential heir to Edward III's crown, also visited Macclesfield, in 1353 and 1358 (Table 18.8). The *Plont* family homeland thus appears by 1370 to be in the general vicinity of Warenne resettlement and, more particularly, near royal activity around Macclesfield.

#### 18.3.1 Some early Leek Plants

**I**t is known, for example, that in 1406 Edward Plont was granted by the Abbot of Dieularess (Leek) a lease for 39 years of *two mess' one croft called Calwo-hey*

<sup>46</sup>John Sleigh (1862) *A History of the Ancient Parish of Leek, in Staffordshire*, pps 32-33.

<sup>47</sup>This name appears explicitly in Oxford in 1266.

<sup>48</sup>Sir Maurice Powicke (1962), *The Thirteenth Century, 1216-1307*, Oxford University Press.

*de Roche Graunge*<sup>49</sup>. In 1485 Radulphus (Ralph), lord of Rudyerd (in Leek parish), reputedly slew the last Plantagenet cadet king, Richard III, and 20 years later he was granted a tenement in Rydrord called ?Bottses or ?Battles by Lawrence Plant (Chapter 17). It has been reported earlier in *Roots and Branches* that, at about that same time, in 1504, Laurence Plonte of Rede-erth sold (?perhaps the same tenement) the ?Boghges to (presumably the same) Rauffe Rydrort<sup>50</sup>.

By 1514, a Richard Plante and Robert Plante became 'priests secular' by title of the *monastery of Dieulencres*<sup>51</sup>. Following the dissolution of Dieulacress, it was reported in 1539 that Lawrence Plunte had received xx<sup>s</sup> under the heading *Fees and annuities granted owt by Convent sealle, before the dissolution of the seid monastery*<sup>52</sup>. There are then records relating to a Christopher and other (?related) Plants in Leek parish. The first recognised record (so far) for a Plant in north Derbyshire, near Ashford across the Peak, is for a Christopher Plant at about this same time.

The Leek records for Christopher Plant occur in conjunction with the names Thomas Rudyerd of Rudyerd (who was evidently a successor and grandson of the aforementioned Rauffe Rydrort) and Sir Ralph Bagnall. In 1552 Sir Ralph Bagnall was granted the manors of Leek, Leek-frith, and other properties, including the abbey, with most of its possessions, by Edward VI (1546-53) 'in consideration of the good, trewe, and faithfull sarvice, which he as well us in Fraunce, Scotlaund, and Irelaund, as elsewhere, to his deare father's maiestie, & sythens then to his highnes, theretofore had done & hereafter intended to doe'<sup>53</sup>. Subsequently in 1559, Queen Elizabeth gave this Sir Ralph Bagnall<sup>54</sup> the rectoral tithes of the parish of Leek<sup>55</sup>.

In the 1560s, Elizabeth I was experiencing difficulties in curbing Parliament and the Puritans who were more enthusiastic than she to rid the country of its old Catholicism. The Leek records relating to a Christopher Plant include the following records of Final Concords, which suggest a challenge by Bagnall to the 'hereditary rights' of Plants in Leek<sup>56</sup>:-

**1565** Elizabeth Plante, complainant, and Ralph Bagnall, knight, deforciant of tenements in Leeke; and

**1567** Between Christopher Plante, Thomas Plant, John Damporte and Elizabeth Damporte, widow, complainants and Ralph Bagnall, knight, deforciant of 4 messuages, 4 gardens, 4 orchards, 400 acres<sup>57</sup> of land, 100 acres of meadow, 200 acres of pasture, 100 acres of wood, and 40 acres of firze and heath in Leeke.

This Christopher Plant may perhaps be he of a subsequent 1591 will (PRO Lich-

<sup>49</sup>W.K.Plant (1991), *Roots and Branches*, Issue No 2, page 7.

<sup>50</sup>W.K.Plant (1991) *ibid*.

<sup>51</sup>W.K.Plant (1996) *Roots and Branches*, 12, pps 48-50.

<sup>52</sup>John Sleigh (1862) *ibid*. pps 65-6.

<sup>53</sup>Sir Ralph Bagnall is mentioned in history as, having in his place in parliament, opposed Queen Mary (1553-8) and Cardinal Pole in their attempt to restore the pope's supremacy in England.

<sup>54</sup>Ralph Bagnall is mentioned in Grafton's *Chronicles* as knighted at the 'cruell battayle of Muskelboroughe' in August 1546. Ralph and Nicholas, sons of John Bagnall, born at Newcastle under-Lyme, ... raised again their sunk ancient Family, once seated at the village of their own name, by their valour only. John Sleigh (1862) *ibid*, pps 18 and 20.

<sup>55</sup>John Sleigh (1862) *ibid*, pps 18-20.

<sup>56</sup>Wm Salt Archaeological Society (1880) *Collections for a History of Staffordshire*, Vol XIII, pps 245 and 265.

<sup>57</sup>An acre in these records is not necessarily the same measure as a modern English acre.

field)<sup>58</sup>. The same year as that of this will, there appears<sup>59</sup>:

**18 April 1591** Between Thomas Greene and Lawrence Plant, complainants, and James Davemport, deforciant, of a messuage, a garden, an orchard, 100 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, 100 acres of pasture, 3 acres of wood, 100 acres of moor in Leeke and Leekfrith. James remitted all right to Thomas and Lawrence and to the heirs of Thomas, for which Thomas and Lawrence gave him 130 marks of silver.

Soon after there is a deed<sup>60</sup> dated *last March, 1597* from Sir H. Bagnall<sup>61</sup> to Thomas Rudyerd of Rudyerd, conveying the manor of Leek and Frith, the rectory, fairs and markets of Leek, and other property, for the sum of £512 subject to payments by Rudyerd to the ministers of Chedleton and Horton. This is endorsed, on the second skin, by Thos. and Lawrence Plant and seven others.

The manor of Heaton (adjoining Leekfrith in the north of Leek parish) had been retained by the crown after the Dissolution (1538) until 1614, when it was sold to William Tunncliffe of Bearda Farm and William Plant also of Heaton. Plant and Tunncliffe then sold it in 1629<sup>62</sup>.

### 18.3.2 Possible descent of the Plant's Yard Plants

I n the year of the Dissolution of the Monasteries (1538), a Christopher Plant was leasing estate at Bakewell (in mid north Derbyshire, across the Peak from Leek) from Ralph Gell of Hopton. It is not (as yet) clear whether there is a connection between this first recognised record for a Plant in north Derbyshire and the aforementioned 16th century Christopher Plant who had been subjected to deforcement from lands around 20 miles to the west in Leek. The Christopher Plant of north Derbyshire was leasing the Old House (now a Museum) in Bakewell.

Bakewell is not far from Great Longstone where there are known to have been several Plants by around 1650. The 'Great Longstone ancestral contention' for the Plant's Yard Plants (Chapters 15 and 17) begins with a William Plant who was baptised to Anthony Plant and Emma (formerly Piddock) at Great Longstone in 1650. This William from Great Longstone may have visited either Gawsworth (east Cheshire) or Leek (north Staffordshire), about 20 miles to the west, around the time of the birth (*ca.* 1696-1708) of *W<sup>m</sup>(0)* of Duckmanton — Duckmanton is about 15 miles east of Great Longstone and 10 miles south of Sheffield where, in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, two of *W<sup>m</sup>(0)*'s sons, a bellows maker Benjamin and a bricklayer John, feature prominently at the two Sheffield sites of Plant's Yard, evidently involved in the conversion of Sheffield's grinding wheels to water and steam powered forges<sup>63</sup>.

<sup>58</sup>W.K.Plant (1993) *Roots and Branches*, 5, p 17.

<sup>59</sup>W.K.Plant (1994) *Roots and Branches* 8, p18.

<sup>60</sup>John Sleigh (1862) *ibid*, pps 21-2.

<sup>61</sup>This is evidently Sir Henry Bagnall, the son of Sir Nicholas Bagnall who was the younger brother of the aforementioned Sir Raufe Bagnall who died without legitimate issue. Sir Henry was *knights-marshalle and lord deputy of Ireland* killed 'fighting amongst the thickest' near Blackwater, 14th August 1598. John Sleigh (1862) *ibid*, pps 20 and 302.

<sup>62</sup>Victoria County Histories: Staffordshire, Vol VII Leek and the Moorlands, (Oxford University Press 1996).

<sup>63</sup>Their nephew *W<sup>m</sup>(1)* arrived in Sheffield around 1800 and it was he who was apparently the father of the Sheffield shoemaker William Plant (1803-48) as will be described in some detail in a later Chapter.

Elinor (mother of King John):-	
	The very Spirit of Plantagenet! I am thy gradam ...
Bastard:-	
	Madam, by chance but not by truth What though?

Table 18.11: A Shakespearian comment about illegitimate descent from the Plantagenets

## 18.4 Synopsis

So far available evidence for the formation of the Plant name is fragmentary, as is not unusual for medieval times, though it is rather more remarkable to note that there seems scope for more controversy in ascribing a meaning to the Plant name than there is for most other surnames. As indicated in this Chapter, various strands of meaning from otherwise separate words and names, such as Plantegenet, Plente, and Plaunte, can be brought together, within the historical circumstances of the 13th century, to produce the rudiments of an explanation for the meaning of Plant. The meaning ‘royalist auxiliary’ seems to be more robust to detailed scrutiny than the more summarily supposed notion, which has abounded in recent years, that Plant can be taken simply to mean a ‘gardener’. A more complete framework that encompasses *various* meanings, which have been proffered in various books for *Plant*, can be expressed in the form of three theorems, which can be summarised as:-

1. ‘*royalist auxiliary*’ — anything from a gardener to a king’s minister; and perhaps, in particular,
2. ‘*Plantagenet child*’ — early Plantagenets practised nepotism — hence this meaning can be seen as a particular possibility under the general heading of (1) above.
3. Beyond this, there are possible secondary meanings, such as:-
  - (a) from Plumpton or from the Plantagenet colony;
  - (b) particular associations with foundation, growth, and plenty; and
  - (c) possible associations with, in particular, the names of the famous earls of Chester through such diminutives as *Bl(o)undeville* → *Bloun(d/t)* and *Plant(e/a)genet* → *Pl(e/a/o)nt(e)*.

The preponderant meaning for *Plant* can hence be supposed to be ‘royalist auxiliary’ (theorem 1) and this was clearly the role of Radulphus Plente at Oxford in 1219, as well as of the king’s minister Roger Plent at Exeter around 1364-8. There is literary evidence that *plente* was a variant spelling of *plante* and, indeed, there is evidence of a confusion between the meanings of *plaunte* and abundance (*cf.* subtheorem 3(b)).

Geoffrey Plantagenet, count of Anjou, fathers the bastard Hamelyn, whose line became the Warenne earls of Surrey, as well as fathering Henry II who, along with his son John, issued trading charters to Chester, with those by John signed (1188-99) by Roger de Plan'; the Norman earl of Chester, Ranulph Blundeville, married the widow of John's elder brother and founded Dieulacress Abbey in Leek (ca. 1214) — the phonetically similar expression *plaunte ville* to his name means 'found monastery'; the illegitimate Warenne line formed a marriage link (ca. 1235) with the Norman Bigod earls of Norfolk whose butler was called Roger Plantin (1254); the Bigod earls were in charge of the commissariat and Flintshire and a variant Norfolk name Roger Planteng' (1268) can be supposed to relate to 'founding Englefeld' which was the name given to Flintshire and adjoining lands won in Wales; the Plant name itself appears in Essex by 1262 and in Flint by 1301 with coal rights which may have related to the activities of the commissariat; the Blounts (or Blounds) were Chester officials (1308-59) with a link to Prestbury, under the Plantagenet earls of Chester (1254-1399); the Plont name became well established in Prestbury and Leek (by 1380) before the fall (1399) of the royal House of Plantagenet to the Plantagenet cadet House of Lancaster.

Table 18.12: Some facts of likely relevance to the Genesis of the Plant name around its Cheshire homeland

The more specific possible meaning 'Plantagenet child' (theorem 2) can thereafter be assessed in the light of a smattering of further evidence — for example, *plant* has a meaning 'child' for the Welsh, the title Child(e) had noble connections in medieval times and, if taken as a diminutive of Plantagenet, Plant could mean 'natural child' in keeping with the known Plant heraldry.

Such a supposed connotation of 'illegitimate child' might perhaps be associated with one of the many alleged bastards of king John — it may hence be appropriate to reflect on some lines of Shakespeare (King John, Act 1, Scene 1) which appear in Table 18.11. An alternative line of illegitimate descent is, however, through John's uncle Hamelyn and there is a modicum of evidence to support a Plant association with Hamelyn's line, as has been outlined in this Chapter. Some related chronology is set out in Table 18.12 and such facts can be presented rather more summarily with some poetic license in a simple verse:-

After John Lackland chartered Chester, as signed by Roger de Plan',  
the earl of Chester planted Dieulacress; so, Blundeville was a *Plaunteville*.

The Plantagenet bastard Warennes wed with Bigod earls of Norfolk  
and Bigod's butler, Roger Plantin, turned to Planteng' planting Englefeld.

After Plantagenet earls of Chester annexed Blundeville's little Blounts,  
Lancastrians faced Plantagenet kin and Cheshire had the Plants.

Further evidence for Leek in the Plant homeland, by Tudor times, suggests that the Plants had particular ties to the pre-Dissolution establishment of Dieulacress. By the 1560s, a Christopher Plant and other Plants were being deforced from Leek land by Sir Ralph Bagnall whose reputation had been built on his opposition to the Catholicism of Queen Mary. A 1538 Bakewell deed shows that (?another) Christopher Plant had been leasing estate, at the other side of the White Peak, from Ralph Gell of Hopton whose fortunes were based on wool and lead mining.

A century later, Sir Ralph Gell of Hopton kept Derbyshire under firm Roundhead

*CHAPTER 18. EARLY PLANT ORIGINS AND THE PEAK*

control through the English Civil War by which time a small knop of Plants was to be found at Great Longstone near Bakewell. In the Great Longstone ancestral contention, the Sheffield Plant's Yard Plants are taken to have had a particular line of descent from those 17th century Plants of Great Longstone.

## PLANT REUNION – SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 1999

In the end a total of 54 attended our 'Gathering' and blessed with reasonable weather (at least for the UK) I believe that everybody had a good day.

Two weeks prior to the event, BBC Stoke invited me to appear live on the Friday edition of The Barbara Adams Show, a two hour show dedicated to matters relative to North Staffs/South Cheshire with a bit of music thrown in, though in actual fact I was only on air for 15 minutes or so. My intention was to promote the activities of our Group which, after all, has its epicentre in this area of the country. To be fair, she did actually mention the Group and the reunion. However, it was obvious when listening to the lead up to my appearance that from my letter explaining the Group she was going to concentrate on the possible Royal connection. And so it proved. Until going into the Studio live I had not been pre-warned of any questions. As I walked into the studio and she introduced me to the listening audience she asked if she should bow in the presence of Royalty and I made some inane remark to the effect – not yet. At least it got the interview off to a reasonable start and I felt the rest of the interview went quite well. She must have felt the same as I subsequently received a request from BBC Stoke for a follow up interview explaining how the reunion went.

The re-union commenced with a special welcome to our visitors from overseas: -

Heather and Robin Parsons from Australia - *'Good on yer sport' I hope you found some information on your visit to Manchester.*

Doreen Mercer, also from Australia

Linda Lowrey (the very first member of the Group) who came from Canada – Linda's ancestors originated from Macclesfield so in one respect she came home.

Evelyn Pitts, Hazel Heath, Pearl Harrington from Canada.

Linda Wheeler and Diane Brown from California.

I know that all of you incorporated our reunion as part of an extended holiday and I hope that you enjoyed your visit to the UK.

Following the introduction, the Group photographs and the interview with the local newspapers (and the coffee/tea/biscuits served up by my wife, Mavis, and her helpers) we enjoyed the first half of Dr John Plant's presentation on the Origin of the Plant name. After a short break Dr John presented the remainder of his talk (leaving the final summing up until we returned from our afternoon coach tour). At this stage and on behalf of you all, I would like to express our thanks for his presentation. In a letter to me, Linda Wheeler summed it up by saying *'I thought John Plant's talk quite enlightening and it was obvious he had done a lot of research'*. I knew the Plants were a little bit special and even though my father has been dead for 38 years, I felt his claim to my brother, Brian, and I when we were very little that there was some Royal connections with the Plant family, was justified, at least partially.

The buffet lunch that followed, as was the food all day, was superb.

The coach arrived on time and off we went on our tour of South Cheshire – North Staffordshire, incorporating as many Plant connections as possible.

By way of a reminder, I think it might be appropriate to repeat the route and my efforts as a guide.

Stage 1. Depart Chelford Village Hall - A537 to Macclesfield.

Chelford founded in 9<sup>th</sup> Century. Only Plant connections:

*1871 Charles Plant born Odd Rode was Blacksmith age 33 years.*

*1882 Samuel Plant born Leese was Railway Guard age 48 years.*

Gawsworth Hall - Tudor Manor House - Black + White

Fitton Family incl. Mary Fitton (possibly the Dark Lady of Shakspears Sonnets)  
Lady in waiting to Elizabeth I.

Has open air theatre in summer months.

Large number of Plants in Gawsworth and Prestbury records, including Randle Plant who married Ann Phyton in 1630.

Roman Road through Chelford to Macclesfield and then to Rainow.

Macclesfield - Long associated with Silk trade.

Very old town with many Plant connections.

Macclesfield Forest - Wild Land area covered.

Macclesfield to Buxton to Leek to Stockport-frequently visited by Royalty for Hunting in 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Black Prince made frequent visits to recruit archers for his army fighting the French - Middle 14<sup>th</sup> Century when Plant family was becoming established in area.

The Cheshire Archers had perfected the use of the longbow and were the best fighting force in the English army. They were turbulent and Lawless and raised from the lowest occupation, Lorded over their superiors with insolence and arrogance. May well have included a number of Plants.

People of Gloucestershire raised petition in parliament complaining that bands of Cheshire men had raided their country, stolen property, burnt the crops, raped the women and caused considerable distress.

Gentry - as lawless of the rest of the population.

Plants of St Louis USA originated in Macclesfield.

Also Plants of Connecticut, Bradley Plant - Plant City - said to originate in Macclesfield area - not yet proven.

Stage 2 Through Macclesfield on to B5470 to Rainow.

Road from Macclesfield to Rainow - original Roman road possibly joining Firmine Street (Roman Road, Manchester to Buxton) at Rainow - possibly small Roman settlement.

Rainow - Plants Birth site (one of). Part of Macclesfield Forest.

Earliest Plant reference 1383, Ranulf Plant paying rent for land.

1399 Land Granted to Wm. Son of Ranulf Plant. Early 1400, many references to Plants.



1415 John Plant Junior found guilty enclosing alleyway from Le Blackewell in Rainow to Karyngge to the great detriment of his neighbours.

Stage 3. Continued to Whaley Bridge – Whaley Bridge now Derbyshire formerly Cheshire.

Plants of Whaley Bridge – high class furniture – no longer any Plant connection

Stage 4 Turned right on to A5004 and proceeded to Buxton.

Buxton – Roman Town and became fashionable spa town during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Stage 5. Past Buxton Pavilion Garden on the A54 to Algreave then off the main route to proceed down narrow tracks (how the driver managed to navigate our large coach on this stretch of the route I don't know) to Intake Farm (Sheila's) for afternoon tea.

Stage 6. Following refreshment proceeded, mainly on the A523 to Leek.

Leek – Plant Country

Saxon Town – 1086 - (Domesday) population of 100

1352 - Assessment of Laurencis Plounte 10s.

1381 - Thomas Plonte accused of murder of John De Warton.

1395 – John Plonte witness to a deed.

1528 – John Plant's deed of Stony Cliffe states, "This name is supposed to be corrupted from Plantagnet".

Area to North of Leekfrith – John Plant Farm – Hazzlewood Farm as described in Journals in article 'Diary of John Plant'. Family originally from Macclesfield.

Stage 7. From Leek on A523 on to B5053 down through Ipstones, across the A52 and to Cheadle on the A521. Cheadle – branch of the Plant family moved into Cheadle early 1700's possibly from Leek.

A descendent, Robert was an enterprising young man owning in 1856 two collieries, one at Ipstones and one at Cheadle. He was then 16 in partnership with his elder brother.

Four years later they were coal masters. A year later they split up and Robert went on his own.

By the age of 20 he was a coal proprietor, rapidly increasing his empire.

Over the next 20 years his business continued to grow. When he opened his new Birches colliery he had a party for 1200 guests.

He then diversified into railways but ran into operational difficulties and when the Birches colliery ran into serious geological problems in 1881 the company filed a petition of bankruptcy.

However, Robert quickly bounced back and in 1887 set up the Cheadle, Railway, Minerals and Land Co., but again (due mainly to problems driving a tunnel through the intervening hills), problems arose and Robert moved to London dying there in 1902.

There is still a Plant Street in Cheadle.

Stage 8. From Cheadle passed through the Potteries on to the M6.  
Plant connections with Pottery Industry.

- a) Benjamin Plant, Lane End, Longton. Staffordshire Potteries 1780-1820 – Earthenware.
- b) Plant Bros – Crown Pottery, Burslem 1889-98 then Stanley Works, Longton, Staffs. Potteries 1889-1906. Subsequently combined with RH & SL Plant, China Ware.
- c) Enoch Plant – Crown Pottery, Burslem, Staffordshire – Potteries 1899-1905, Earthenware.
- d) J Plant & Co Stoke Pottery. – Staffordshire Potteries 1893-1900 – Formerly J & R Plant – taken over by Grimwade Bros. c 1900. – Earthenware.
- e) RH Plant & Co Carlisle Works, Longton 1881-1898 – Staffordshire Potteries. Subsequently RH & SL Plant, Chinaware.
- f) R Plant & Sons Warwick Works, Longton, Staffordshire Potteries, 1895-1901 – Formerly Plant & Baggaley, Earthenware.
- g) RH & SL Plant Best Known – Tuscan China Trade Mark – now very collectable. Tuscan Works, Longton, Staffordshire Potteries 1898 onwards. Bought by Josiah Wedgwood & Sons 1960's Chinaware.
- h) Thomas Plant Lane End, Staffordshire Potteries 1825-50 – son of Benjamin, Earthenware.

Stage 9. Turn off M6 at Sandbach sign and proceed to site of Elworth Hall.

Elworth Hall – John Hulse left Elworth Hall to his servants Thos. and Eliz. Plant for life when he died in 1790. (John had brought up Elizabeth since she was a child).

Plant family lived at Elworth Hall until the early part of 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1848 Foundry set up in Elworth by Geo Hancock and a friend in Cheshire named Plant.

Became Plant & Hancock.

In 1856 a Edwin Foden, then aged 15, became an indentured apprentice and at the age of 19 was shop foreman. In 1866 Edwin Foden was made a partner. Eventually Edwin took over the Company and it became world famous Foden Motor Works.

Stage 10. Proceed alongside canal and witness festival of Longboats prior to passing through Middlewich.

Middlewich Plant connection – Uriah Plant who wrote in 1828 a book entitled “The Principle Events of My Life” – Extracts will be included in forthcoming Journals.

Stage 11. Cross over M6 and travel to Holmes Chapel. Large number of Plants in this area. Number descended from Elworth Hall Plants. Sam<sup>l</sup> Plant, Innkeeper, George & Dragon 1828. Joseph Plant, Innkeeper George & Dragon 1850. Charles Plant, Innkeeper, Red Lion 1851. Wheelwrights/Saddlers/Butchers/Farmers.

A local historian has passed on to me considerable information relative to the Plant influence in Holmes Chapel - details will be included in forthcoming journals.

Stage 12. Final leg of journey took us past Jodrell Bank and into Chelford returning at 18.30 hours after having driven 130 miles.

Following the final summing up by Dr. John, Aileen Plant, presented the video 'Hat Block Maker - William Plants Workshop', a 20 minute documentary film about an old local trade produced jointly by Stockport Museum and the Manchester Film and Video Workshop. See attached report for more details and no doubt Aileen, who is a member of the family, would be pleased to answer any questions. I understand that the contents of Plants Workshop are at present being re-housed in a dedicated building being erected as a Hatting Museum.

The final event of the day was a four course dinner, again superbly prepared and served by the caterers.

Judging from the many letters that I have received, everybody seemed to enjoy themselves and as a result the Plant family became 'a family' - at least for a day. Thanks to you all for making it a memorable day.

Copies of the photographs can be purchased for £4.96 for a 7"x 5" size and £6.40 for the 8"x6" size. If any members require copies please let me know.

# Hat Block Maker

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

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

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

seasonally changing styles of women's headwear.

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

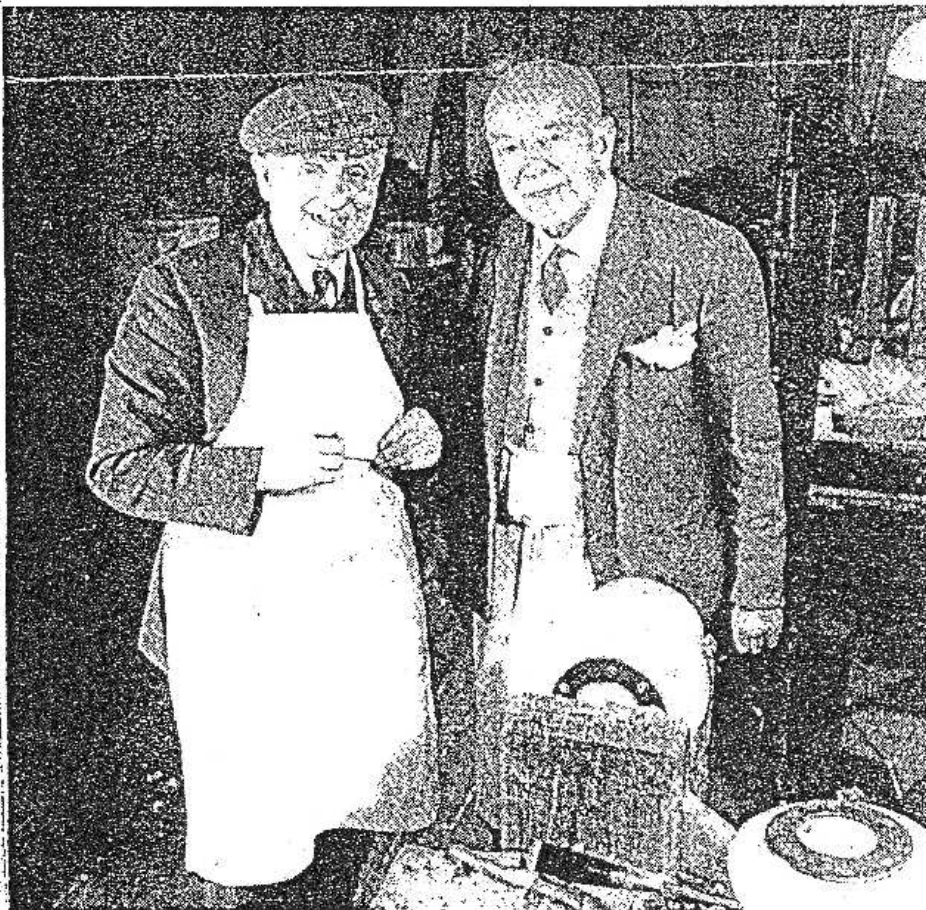
After a brief resurgence making helmet blocks for the forces during the war, Plant's, like the hatting industry in general, suffered from this change in fashion. It's hard to believe that in the late 1970's when the bulk of the film was shot they were still able to ply their trade at all, particularly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

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

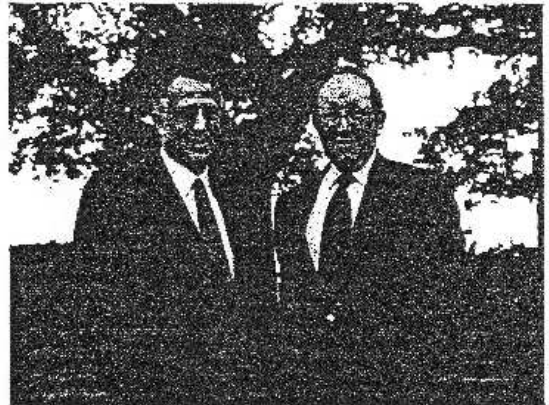
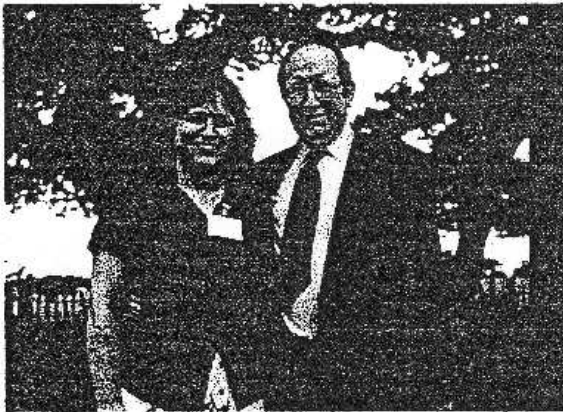
these difficult conditions the skill and enjoyment in his work shines through. Bert again: "It was a lovely, interesting job. Every time a hat or a cap came in it was different. Most interesting to get it right."

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

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



Pictured in 1961 Bert Gurden (left) and Walter Plant—the last two surviving hat block makers in the north west.







## MEMBERS LETTERS

The following information has been provided by Brad Scot (Member 171) whose connection to the Plants is through his great grandmother, Louisa Charlotte Plant (b1865). Her father was William Plant, Boatswain, born c1830.

### *"WILLIAM PLANT, BOATSWAIN*

*The following notes give an outline of his career.*

*Born in about 1830, he joined the Navy in 1847. I have not as yet found out much information about the first years of his service, the period in which he served as a seaman and then as a petty officer, but by 1859 he was certainly a boatswain and had probably married Mary Ann Dyer around 1862 in Devonport. On 14<sup>th</sup> October 1865 when his daughter Louisa Charlotte was born, he was serving on H.M.S. Revenge, then stationed in Pembroke Docks, where Louisa was born, on H.M.S. Hope. The family remained in the area at least until 1868. At the time he was probably earning around £100 a year i.e. 5s 6d per day).*

*For the later part of his naval career I have a bit more information: the Navy Lists indicate that he was on the Flora in 1870, which was around Ascension Island at the time. The following year there is no boat listed for him, but he was certainly not living with his family in Stoke Damerel when the census was taken in the spring in 1871. At this time Mary Ann Plant was 33 years old and four children were listed as living with her in the census: William, Ernest, Amelia and Alfred. Curiously, Louisa Charlotte does not appear in the household. Promoted to Boatswain, 1<sup>st</sup> Class in February 1872, his pay rose to around £136 a year 7s 6d per day).*

*By 1873 he was working on the Valiant, a vessel in the coast guard service off the Irish coast. Following this, in the later half of the 1870's he served on the Indus, Pyramus and Bellerophon, which were probably operating in home waters before he was transferred to the Northampton and operated along the North American coast and down to the West Indies in 1880, and earning a pay rise to around £150. Thereafter he returned to Devonport to work on the Indus, the guard ship of the port, before being promoted to Chief Boatswain in 1883. Two years later he retired.*

*[I have a photograph of William Plant, possibly dating from the time he was promoted to Chief Boatswain. I intend to contact the National Maritime Museum to check if the details and style of uniform bear this out.]*

BS  
9/6/97  
revised 9.7.97"

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*"Dear Keith*

*I hope you had a very good Christmas. I was delighted with the contact I had from Joy Plant on your suggestion. This is the first response I have had since I joined the Group.*

*It transpires she is the wife of one of my many cousins! She has also given me news of other members of my father's family I had long lost touch with.*

*In return I have been able to pass on some of my research and memory, including obituaries, dates and working record of our grandfather.*

*It has been very rewarding and we shall all meet up soon."*

Regards Stella Kornfein                      member No. 108

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"Dear Keith,

Herewith my subscription for 1999. I regret that I shall not be able to attend the Millennium Get Together: but I guess you can't win 'em all! Anyway, I send my very best wishes for your enterprising project.

Whenever I go to the PRO at Kew (which isn't as often as I would like, these days), I always keep my eyes open for any Plant references I may come across. I then forget to send the information! HOWEVER, after a New Year Resolution or two I am sending the last of these I found a short while ago.

WO 116/59 which are the Chelsea Pensioners out patient awards:

Examination of Invalid soldiers

24<sup>th</sup> June 1851 [752<sup>nd</sup> Division]

Private James Plant, aged 71, served 7 years. 9d pension to 3.6.1856.  
He was discharged in 1816, wounded in the Pyrenees and at Waterloo.  
Born Macclesfield, Cheshire; occupation: cotton spinner.  
Appearance: 5'4" with grey hair and eyes and a light complexion.

28<sup>th</sup> October 1851

Private William Plant. Age 28 of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Foot. Drummer 09 months; Trumpeter 8 years and 10 months. Total service: 9 years 7 months. Served in N. America.  
Character: Indifferent.  
Vision of L. eye permanently impaired.  
Born Leek, Staffs; occupation: silk twister.  
Appearance 5'6 and a quarter inches with brown hair, grey eyes and a fresh complexion.

Hope that they are of some interest to someone! I will look out my previous notes before too long..

PS: Thought I might as well send any other Plant extracts from my current notebook while it was still fresh in my mind: -

1. This is from notes taken a year ago while looking at records relating to Tontines. Unfortunately, I do not seem to have made a note of the Class No.; but it is probably NDO 2/15 for 1789.

Tontine nos 899 and 900 sold to William Plant of Darlaston, Stone, Staffs. A date of 8<sup>th</sup> October, 1808 is noted and the beneficiary appears to be Thomas Plant.

2. From the Roman Catholic register of Baptisms, Wolverhampton, Staffs. 1809 Edward Plant son of Edward. Godparents John and Ann Pendrell \*there are no Plant burials in Wolverhampton between 1812-1836.
3. From IR 17/31 Register of Apprentices [I was looking for any of the family in the Dudley/Rowley Regis area who were known relatives]:

53/171 1759 Joseph Plant to John Childs of Stourbridge, joiner £2.2.0d.

4. From the Index of Masters:

Volumes 1-5	Henry 269, 808. Joseph 620. Thomas 340.
" 6-10	Daniel 1117.
" 11-15	Richard 2349, Thomas 2624. William 2222.
" 16-20	George 3436.
" 21-25	John 4764. Moses 4428. Thomas 4319.
" 26-30	John 5830. Thomas 5522.
" 31-33	John 6456. Thomas 6430.

*(I haven't yet looked at these references; but will do on one of my next visits to Kew).*

5. *From IR 23/123 [Land Tax Assessment, 1798 for Staffordshire] at Brewood: Edward Plant occupies part of Mr Gifford's (MR. G. is a prominent Catholic) land and house in Kiddermore Green (Edward is an 'Esquire' and a Commissioner).*

*Richard Plant occupies a house at Chillington.*

*Widow Plant (of Richard) is in a large property where she pays £6.8.3d.*

6. *In 1847 Edward Plant is named as occupying property belonging to Oscott College.*
7. *In 1848 Richard Plant is paying £6.18.8d at Chillington.*
8. *In 1780 Richard Plant is an Assessor at Chillington.*

*All good wishes Shirley Hughes Member No. 29."*

### **My Suffolk Plants - Margaret Lake**

*"If you have been researching for a while you will probably know how important it is to try and collect 'bits' about the family rather than to rely solely on certificates and Parish Registers.*

*Here are four results that I found when trying to find out about my PLANT forebears.*

*My 5<sup>th</sup> Great Grandfather, Samuel PLANT (born 1743 the son of Henry PLANT) was born in Easton, Suffolk and was living there in 1768 when his son Richard was born. Richard PLANT married in Nacton in 1791. Possibly he was working on one of the three large Nacton Estates, certainly Richard's son, William PLANT, was working for Col. Tomline in 1800. Col. Tomline owned a huge amount of land around Felixstowe and Ipswich.*

### **The Ipswich Journal – 19 October 1811**

#### *Caution to Tradesmen*

*I, John PLANT of Easton in the County of Suffolk, Taylor, do hereby give notice that I will not be answerable for any debts, Elizabeth, my wife (who now assumes the name of MILLER) may contract of the date thereof. Witness my hand 12 day of October 1811 John PLANT*

*Wit Robert PAXMAN*

### **The Ipswich Journal – 22 March 1817**

*Whereas we the undersigned, did, on Sunday evening last unhang a gate upon the farm in the occupation of Henry PLANT of Easton nr. Framlingham, Farmer, and afterwards lay the same across the Kings Highway to the damage of the said Henry PLANT & to the danger of the public for which the said Henry PLANT had very justly, determined to prosecute us. But upon our thus publically expressing our earnest contrition for the offence and promising never to be again guilty of the like misconduct, & paying all expenses, which have been incurred he had kindly consented to discontinue all proceedings against us for which we hereby return him our grateful thanks.*

*John MEASURES Jun. Framlingham, Taylor*

*Charles NEWSON Jun. Framlingham, Taylor*

*The x of John NEWSON Livery Servant*

*Wit: Stephen LEES*

### **Ipswich Journal - 20 May 1815**

*On Tuesday Sen'night died Mrs Jemima Plant, widow of Martley Hall Easton, age 76 years.*

*Ipswich Journal* – 20 September 1817

*On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October & following day on the premises of Mrs Jemima PLANT dsd, 10 Cart Mares & Geldings 1 a capital brood mare withfoal at foot, & in Foal by Mr JUFFINS horse Boxer, 3 yr old riding mare, 3 – 2 yr old Cart Colts, 8 very handsome Red and white milch cows, year old heifer & bull, and 3 weanils, 4 breeding sows and pigs, 18 shoats & Brawn.*

*The farming implement etc., comprise 4 waggons, 3 load Tumbrels, 4- $\frac{3}{4}$  load ditto, 2 half load ditto, 3 gangs of harrows, 3 foot ploughs, double Tom, 3 dozen hurdles, Bullock Binns etc., 6 pair Cart trace, 4 sets Thillhorse gear, dutfins, waggon ropes, plough lines, barn utensils, Rakes & forks etc., The household furniture dairy & brewing utensils consist of 3 featherbeds and bedding, 4 post bedsteads, dining, pillar & other talbes, wood seated & chamber chairs, culinary articles, seasoned beer casks, mash tubs, keelers pails etc., partitioned deal milk trays, keelers & pails, churns, cheese press & various other articles, catalogues of which will be duly distributed. The outdoor stock will be sold the first day.*

*Sale to begin each morning at 10 o'clock.*

*Jemima was the wife of Robert Plant.*

*Martley Hall lies on the boundary of Easton Park Farm, Jemima plus seven others are all buried in a neat line in the Churchyard at the East end of the Church but as far as I can see, and they were very hard to read, none matched up with any baptisms of my family BUT two had the Christian name of Henry. Henry is the earliest that I can find in my direct line and his children were being baptised in Easton around 1735. After the family moved to Nacton and, via a round about route, Walton, they appear in the Baptist records, albeit mainly of the "Backsliders" variety.*

*Will I ever sort them out: well maybe.*

*I submitted the above article to my local Family History Society, Felixstowe FHS. I had just set foot inside my door after delivering the article to the Editor when the phone rang and a voice said "Have I got this right, was it you who was interested in the Plant Family?" This was a local historian. He had just purchased a large number of old East Anglian Magazines and was going through them for interesting pieces.*

*The result was a lovely article written, in 1970, by a local historian who remembered "Old Mr Plant of Felixstowe" in the 1880's & 90's. It is rather difficult to decide who the article is about, but it can only be my 3<sup>rd</sup> Great Grandfather, or one of his two sons, my 2<sup>nd</sup> Great Grandfather or his brother. Or possible a mixture of all three.*

*Regards Margaret Lake                      Member No. 90"*

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*"Dear Mr Plant*

*Having so little information on my Plants I thought it useless to write about them, but Linda Wilks (No. 132) in issue No. 17 of Roots and Branches, was quite right, it is up to us members.*

*When I joined the Plant History Society all I had on Sarah Ann Plant was her birth, marriage and death certificates. These told me she was born in Kidsgrove, Brieryhurst, District of Tunstall, Stoke-on-Trent on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April 1857, parents Josiah Plant, a collier, and Mary Moors, that she married Edward Johnson, a potter of 4<sup>th</sup> of August 1875 in St. Paul's Burslem, S.O.T., her residence was Howard Street, one of the witnesses was John Leigh. Sarah died in Wood Street Tunstall on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May 1882. Following this up, I found she was buried in Tunstall Cemetery on the 28<sup>th</sup> of May and that there were also two children in her grave, Annie and Sydney Johnson. These were children from Edward's 2<sup>nd</sup> marriage to Rose Carr in 1885.*

*In 1871 census I found a Sarah A. Plant, 16, born Kidsgrove. A boarder in 23 Howard St. Burslem with John & Fanny Leigh, and in 1861 census a Sarah Plant, born Kidsgrove, granddaughter to James & Sarah Plant in Harding Wood. Still had not found any sign of Josiah Plant in I.G.I. or in the census 1851 and 1841, or in St Catherine's Indexes. Then on a visit to U.K. I found the baptism entry for Sarah Anne Plant in St. Thomas, Kidsgrove, here her father was stated as Jesse. In the 1851 census in Harding Wood there is a Jesse, slate miner, son of James, coal labourer, and Sarah, born Wolstanton, but I still have not found any sign of Jesse in the I.G.I. etc.*

*I have several old unmarked photos and I think one of them could be Sarah Ann Plant. I would like to hear from anyone who is interested in the above families.*

*Yours faithfully*

*Mrs D. Johnson*

*Member No. 45."*

---

*Dear Keith*

*"I recently came across a couple more miscellaneous Plant mentions, which I herewith pass on in the hope that they will interest one of the members.*

*A friend tells me that the IG\*I for Lancashire includes the following: -*

*Mary Finney married George Plant at Manchester Cathedral on 29.4.1841.*

*In the Practical Family History magazine for December 1998 there is a section on unwanted certificates. There is one which relates to Mary Plant giving birth to George Robert Seamans in December 1865 at Wolstanton, Staffs. The father is recorded as "unkown". This certificate is offered by Mrs J Leitch of Lakeside Crescent, Somerwest Works, Minehead, Somerset TA24 5SH.*

*Respondents to these advertisements are, of course, expected to sent a S.A.E. for reply, and in some cases are asked to pay a nominal sum towards the cost of the certificate.*

*Best wishes*

*Judith Kirkby*

*Member No. 139*

## WREKIN DISTRICT ROLL OF HONOUR

During a recent visit to Shropshire, Judith Kirkby (Member No. 139) saw the Wrekin District Roll of Honour which gave biographies of local soldiers, including the following: -

"88975            Bombadier Clement E Plant,            Royal Garrison Artillery - Son of Mrs Plant, 20 Vicar Street, Oakengates. Killed in action in Flanders 30.6.1917. Brother of Edward and Sydney.

200253            Serg. George Plant, 1/4<sup>th</sup> Bn. Kings Shropshire Light Infantry. Born Ironbridge, lived Madeley. Killed in action at Battle of Welch Ridge Cambrai. 30.12.1917.

7371                Private John Edward Plant. 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. Kings Shropshire Light Infantry. Husband of Mrs Plant, 10 Vicar Street, Oakengates. Son of Mrs Plant, 20 Vicar Street, Oakengates. Killed in action at Ypres 25.8(5?). 1915. A national Reservist, was in the Shropshire Yeomanry for 6 years and served in South Africa in Boer War, rejoined K.S.L.I. as soon as war broke out. Left widow and 5 children Brother to Clement E and Sidney.

201007            Private Joseph Plant 1/4<sup>th</sup> Bn. Kings Shropshire Light Infantry, Youngest son of Mr & Mrs J Plant, Dark Lane, Matinslee. Killed in action at Battle of Welch Ridge, Cambrai. 31.12.1917. Worked for Lilleshal Company before joining up shortly after the outbreak of war. Served in China and after eastern stations before being drafted to France. Age 23. Brother to Mrs J Harley, Church Street, Wellington and Mrs V Gough, Lightmoor, Dawley.

28606            Private John Thomas Plant 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. Prince of Wales's (N. Staffs Regiment) Born Wellington lived Spring Hill, Wellington. Killed in France 10.6.1917. Formerly 16757 Kings Shropshire Light Infantry.

10704            Private Sidney Plant 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. The King's (Liverpool Regiment) Son of Mrs Plant, 20 Vicar Street, Oakengates. Killed in Flanders 27.9.1917. Employed at Liverpool, on outbreak of war immediately joined the King's Liverpool and was drafted overseas on completion of his training. At first, officially reported as missing but later confirmed as killed in action. Age 31, unmarried. Brother of Clement E and John Edward.

86605            Sapper Thomas Plant. Royal Engineers. Eldest son of Mr & Mrs Henry Plant of Ketley Bank. Killed in Flanders 16.8.1917 aged 37.

My heart goes out to Mrs Plant senior, losing 3 sons, and to her daughter-in-law, left with five children to support.

I hope you find this interesting and useful.

Judith Kirkby (Member No. 139)

**THE DIARY OF JOHN PLANT OF HAZZLEWOOD FARM  
LEEKFRITH NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE**

Previous journals have included details taken from John Plant's diary compiled between 30<sup>th</sup> December 1848 to 30<sup>th</sup> August 1853, the last journal completing the record when John returned from holiday in the Isle of Man.

To complete this document the following information should be recorded: -

**REVIEW OF THE YEARS 1852 AND 1853**

Goodbye, Smiler" For a good year the old horse has shown signs of failings so obvious as to embolden the knackers agent to put in an offer. His owner had angrily retorted that "his bones should rest" .... Not go for glue and dog meat. We notice however that they rested without their hide, this being worth 5s!.... which didn't go far towards the £26 paid for Juel (presumably Jewel)

Thomas (Brough) was so ill during the year that he "rote his Will". This Will was fortunately not needed yet; but also fortunately it survives along with the diary and confirms for us that besides his brothers, William yeoman of Middlehulme and John the shoemaker of The New Cottage, were three sisters, Mrs Ann Johnson, Mrs Hannah Wain, the wife of a wheelwright, and Miss Benedicta Brough; that "Benna" who lived with her mother in Leek.

In the summer of 1853 Thomas goes to look at a small farm, but we hear no more about it. Whether John Plant talked him out of it or whether Thomas couldn't bring himself to go we can never know.

Hazzlewood was left in Thomas's hands whilst the old man went "abroad" to the Isle of Man. What a disappointment that his entries are the usual formal ones. He must perforce have experienced new treats and surprises. Middle England was unaccustomed to fresh fish of the seas and he must have eaten them and told his friends about them! If only he had shared it with us!

Then there were the mementoes, so openhanded a friend would surely bring home treats to please and surprise, and how dearly we would like to have known what they were! What did he tell them of his experiences sea-bathing? And did he and Mr Pimlott hire bathing costumes and hats? Or did they buy their own. Oh that there had been snapshots then; and that they had been pasted into the diary!

The Day of Appeal to which Thomas went was a day of prayer and supplication for the passing of the threat of the Crimea War.

**THE LAST WORDS OF JOHN PLANT**

The next writing we have to hand is that of his Will, written in October of 1854; he died in February 1855. "My friend Wm Taylor of Brownsword Farmer and Thomas Brough Farm Bailliff" his Executors, to whom he left £50 each.

To Thomas he left a further £50 and all his personal effects. He was also to have "for a fair sum" the household furniture, equipment of husbandry, agriculture, brewing, dairy and cheesemaking; and all the animals and all cheese and bacon on the premises.

The estates of Hazzlewood, Far Barn, and Whitehill were his to have for all of his lifetime at a low rent which was to go to sister Ellen Hassal.

Not until the death of Thomas would the estate be sold and divided between the children of John Plant's sister, Ellen Hassal, and the late Mrs Shufflebotham.

That he was so well provided for by their uncle probably failed to win Thomas friends among the Shuffebotham and Hassal clan; and that they got nothing until Thomas died held a possibility of his outliving some or all of them

### JOHN PLANT'S FAMILY, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS

The churchyard at Meerbrook is filled with individuals and with family names that we have come to know so well within the pages of the diary. For instance William Taylor of Brownsett lies near the church door on the left-hand side of the path, and the Reverend James Turner and his family lie opposite. Near to them John Plant's sister Ellen Hassall and her husband lie behind the handsome carved stone that is the work of their son Richard, who became the restorer of antiquities at the British Museum. In fact, Richard and his brother, William, are interred beside their parents.

At the east end of the church, William Pimlott, that other traveller to the Isle of Man, is buried near to William Brough of Middlehulme and his wife. Their youngest daughter, Hannah, is also there, with her husband, James Clulowe. On the north side William Brough, the eldest surviving son of Thomas and his wife lie near to the tall white cross which is over Edmund yeoman, son of William of Middlehulme. Edmund's twin sister, Mrs Joseph Oulsnam, lies under a much-eroded stone next to Wm Taylor of Brownsett.

At the west end of the church is our friend John Plant himself, with his parents and his eldest brother, Laurence, and beside them a fascinating Hazzlewood tombstone dated just prior to the diary. It reads.....

“Dedicated to the Memory of Ellen Brown, a just and honest woman who did true and faithful service at Hazzlewood House for a space of 34 years. She retired to rest in her usual state of health on the night of 26<sup>th</sup> of March 1845, and on the following morning was found a lifeless corpse, aged 50 years. Thus saith the Lord, set thine house in order for thou shalt die and not live. 11 Kings XX.

May this be a warning to you all that your house may be set in order and ere you retire to rest be always prepared to meet your god for the hour of death may come as suddenly to you as it came to me.”

Close to her Uncle John the tragic Ellen Plant Ash lies under the stone erected by her brute of a husband, Moses.

On the other side of John Plant, Thomas Brough rests with his child, John Plant Brough.

Closer to the church on the west end, Thomas's brother, John Brough, of the New Cottage and their father and grandfather, both William Brough yeomen of Middlehulme, are beneath a stone now flat on the ground; and of course Hannah, the widow Brough whose funeral the diary records.

To locate Hazzlewood House/Farm, firstly locate Meerbrook which is on Buxton Road out of Leek. After 2¼ miles turn left at the Three Horseshoes on Blackshawmoor. Travel one mile, passing The Cottage and Little Benthead on your right; over the humped-back bridge and past ancient Middlehulme on the left; then over the neck of the reservoir and into the yard of the other Three Horse Shoes in the village square.

In the hills to the west is Hazzlewood House. It is now more visible for having been stone-cleaned and fields shorn of hedges and stands of trees.

## LEEK – STAFFORDSHIRE

Aloa Deretta – (Member No. 162) has carried out a very detailed investigation into the records for Leek with the first Plant reference dated 1352. A copy of this listing has been forwarded to The Wm Salt Library, Stafford for their 'safe keeping' with the other Plant records connected to Staffordshire.

For the period up to 1634 the Chronology of Interests to the Plant family of Leek is as follows -

### CHRONOLOGY OF INTEREST TO PLANTS OF LEEK

- 1199 King John ascends the throne.
- 1214 Dieulacresse Abbey founded by Ranulph de Blondeville, 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Chester.
- 1216 Henry III ascends the throne.
- 1272 Edward I crowned king. For 200 years the crusades had been going on Llewellyn Ab Gruffyd ruling Welsh, Edward overcame him.
- 1297 The battle of Stirling Bridge fought in Scotland. Wallace prevailed.
- 1307 Edward II is king.
- 1314 Edward went against the Scots at Bannockburn. Robert the Bruce prevailed.
- 1327 Edward III is king.
- 1340 Geoffrey Chaucer born
- 1346 The Plague struck England, peaked in 1347.

**Ancient Parish of Leek p.93 1352-26<sup>th</sup> Jan 5 Edward (1352) assessment of Laurencis Plounte 10s each.**

- 1353 Peasant revolt in Cheshire because of the Black Prince's assessments.
- 1361 Plague struck again, and again in 1368 and half the population of England succumbed.
- 1376 Black Prince (eldest son of Edward III and father of Richard II) dies -- recruited the Cheshire archers from Macclesfield area for wars with France.
- 1377 Edward III dies; Richard II is King. John of Gaunt builds the Savoy. Richard demands a tenth and fifteenth of all national revenue.
- 1381 **Thomas Plonte surrendered himself at Stafford to the complaint by the widow of John de Warton that he had abetted other Leek men in her husband's murder. Thomas was released on finding security for good behaviour.**

**Ancient Parish of Leek p. 140. 1395 – John Plont is witness to a deed wherein John de Grenley conveys land to Thomas Payge of Leek.**

- 1399 Henry IV ascends the throne after Richard II is deposed. Owen Glendower led Welsh against him.
- 1406 Edward Plont gained from the Abbott of Dieulacres a lease for 39 years of two messuages and one croft called Calwo-heyde de Roche Graunge.
- 1413 Henry V crowned a great king but reigned only 9 years.



- 1422 Henry VI becomes king – almost insane; Margaret fought to secure throne for her son Edward.
- 1422-61 **A deed from the Abbott gives leave to Richard Plant of Stonecliffe to make an enclosure near a place called Lingrene.**
- 1453 commenced loyalties to the red and white. Both contenders were sons of John of Gaunt. Widespread suffering in England
- 1461 reign of Edward IV.
- 1462 **Richard Plante of Stonecliffe given permission for an enclosure.**
- 1483 reign of Edward V; renaissance sweeping Europe, hate and intrigue in England. Cannon became in use. William Caxton introduced printing. He died 1491.
- 1483 Richard III crowned – Last Plantagenet King
- 1485 Henry VII is king, reign of the Tudors commences; 500 years of Plantagenet reign ends.
- 1504 Laurence Plonte of Redc-erth sold the Boghes to Rauffe Rydror (prob same as below).

Ancient parish of Leek p. 159. 2 Mar 1505, 20 Henry VII – Lawrence Plant, granted to Ralph Rudyard a tenement within Rudyard called Battles.

- 1509 Henry VIII becomes king – succeeding years saw dissolution of the abbeys and termination of Catholic Church hold on England
- 1516 Laurence Plont summoned that he let an accused of murder hide in his house.

Ancient Parish of Leek p. 33. 1528 – On John Plant's deed of Stony Cliffe "...this name is supposed to be corrupted from Plantagenet."

- 1530 Nicholas Plant and others broke down hedges and destroyed grass of John Legle.
- 1532 Census of Archdeaconry of Stafford, Leekfrith families included Robert Plount and Agnes his wife.

A List of Families in the Archdeaconry of Stafford 1532-3, Staffordshire Record Society

**Robert Plount, wife Agnes**  
**Thomas Plant, wife Joan**  
 Robert, William, Emma, Richard, Thomas, Edward

**Richard Plonte, wife Ellen**  
 Elizabeth

**William Plont, wife Alice**  
 Margaret, Richard, Agnes, Elizabeth, Ellen

**John Plontt, wife Ellen**  
 John, Richard

**....Plountt, wife Ellen**  
 John, William, Robert

- 1535 Nichalos Plont supported his kinsman Richard Mountfort in his appeal to the King against the Abbott of Dieulacres for his family property, Heysinge.

Will 30 Nov 1537, Thomas Plant (copy almost unreadable)

Ancient Parish of Leek p. 65. 1539 – Pensions and stipends appointed and allotted ... by the commission ... Item: (p.66).... Laurence Plunte

1539 In the list of arms issued to Leekfrith men at the General Muster Nicholas Plonte was given a horse and harness, Roger Plonte a bowe.

Will 1540 Roger Plant of Leek.

Staf Chamber Depositions Henry VIII xiii f. 188 3 May 1545 complaint of William Plant:

To the King, our most dread sovereign Lord: complaineth your faithful subject and daily orator William Plant, otherwise Plont, that whereas, the late Prior of St John of Jerusalem in England and his co-brethren of the same by their deed of indented bearing date the 30<sup>th</sup> of May in the 28<sup>th</sup> year of your reign [1536] demised and let to farm to Sir Henry Delves knight all that his manor of Kele, county Stafford and Salop [Shropshire] and all their lands, etc. to the said manor belonging for forty years. The said Sir Henry Delves, about two years last, let to farm to your said subject two pastures of land, parcel of the said manor, called Gorsty Hyll and Kele Wood, and divers other lands and tenements, parcel of the said manor, for eight years which yet enduring one John Burton of Newcastle under Lyme, yeoman, Randolle Harryson of the same town, saddler, and Richard Harryson of the same town, labourer, with divers other evil and riotous persons the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of May in the 37<sup>th</sup> year of your reign [1543] with force and arms, that is to wit, with swords, staves and knives and other warlike weapons in manner of war arraye, by the commandment of William Snede of Bradwall, County Stafford, esquire, forcibly entered into the said two pastures and took and drove away ten kine and twenty calves, price £14, of your said subjects, and one of the said kine with great strokes did beat so that the said kowe thereof died, and the je of oon other of the scid kyne aforeseid then and there stroke out, and the residue of the said kine and calves did so beat and strike and did so unreasonably drive and chase them so that the said beasts are lost and destroyed, to the damage of £24; and also the said riotous persons by the commandment of the said William Snede with force and arms expelled your beseechers out of the possession of the said two pastures: please your Highness to grant your writs of supoena to be directed to the said riotous persons to appear in your Sterryd Chambre in answer to the premises. To answer on the morrow of All Saints.

1547 King Edward VI became king.

Will 1550 Thomas Plant of Astonfield  
Wife Jane, sons Richard, William, Thomas (copy in possession)

Will 1550 Henry Plant of Newcastle (copy in possession)

1553 Queen Mary (Bloody Mary) – attempt to re-establish Catholicism.

1558 Elizabeth I becomes Queen – reinstatement of established church.

Will 13 Nov 1560 William Plant of Leek

Ancient Parish of Leek p. 152. 1565 – By deed dated 2 Feb, 7 Elizabeth (1565) Ralph Bagnall, Knight, built a chapel at Marbrooke and appoints his well-beloved in Christ.... Trustees of said chapel. Possession was given in the presence of... Robert Plaunt.

Pedes Finium Trinity 7 Elizabeth Stafford PRO

17 Jun 1565, Between Elizabeth Plante, complainant, and Ralph Bagnall, knight, deforciant, of tenements in Lecke, otherwise Leek.

Will dated 20 Apr 1567 Richard Plant

Will dated 27 Apr 1576 William Plant

Will dated 9 Feb 1583 Robert Plant of Tettisworth, Johanne Pillsbourie, daughter

Will dated 30 Jan 1587 Reginald Plant

Will dated 29 Jul 1588 Lawrence Plant (all Latin) Eliz. Plant, wife and a William mentioned. (copy in possession)

Pedes Finium Easter 33 ElizabethPRO

17 Apr 1591 Between Thomas Greene and Lawrence Plont, complainants, and James Davenport, deforciant, of a messuage, a garden, an orchard, 100 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, 100 acres of pasture, 3 acres of wood, 100 acres of moor in Leek and Leekfrith. James remitted all right to Thomas and Lawrence and to the heirs of Thomas, for which Thomas and Lawrence gave him 130 marks of silver..

Will dated 22 Sep 1591 Christopher Plant

Ancient Parish of Leek p. 22. 1597 – In a deed signed by ... Lawrence Plant. (Could be Lawrence will dated 1558, Bur 20 Dec 1645.)

1603 King James said Staffordshire was fit only to be cut into thongs to make highways for the rest of the kingdom

Will dated 11 Nov 1623 John Plant

1625 Charles I slept at Leek. From then until 1745 no royalty came to or through Leek.

Charles I, son of James I, on throne.

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The document itself is 167 pages long with approximately 14 entries per page and therefore probably too long to repeat in one of the Journals. If any member wants a specific check against the document, please contact.

PALMER'S INDEX TO THE TIMES, 1790-1905

Continued from Journal No. 17.

By Brad Scott (Member No. 171).

The items relating to the names Plant and Plante and listed in Journal No. 17 under, Summary of Items breaks down into the following categories: -

109	Civil actions, business, bankruptcies
25	criminal, murders etc
8	inquests
6	deaths
3	divorce
3	other
154	TOTAL

The bulk of the index entries are notices and bankruptcies and legal notices of civil actions, further details of which will be available from central archives, which are probably held at the PRO. The three items below illustrate the type of information that can be gleaned from the newspaper. The records of bankruptcy merely note the name of the bankrupt and the dates on which the hearings will take place:

20 October 1824 (2a)

**BANKRUPTS**

Uriah Plant, Wharton, Cheshire, flour-dealer, Oct. 29, 30, Nov. 30, at the Crown Inn, Northwich; solicitor, Mr Hostage, Northwich.

Details of the civil actions are more extensive, though do not uniquely identify the parties to the cases, so further work in the relevant archives will be necessary:

7 March 1868

Norfolk Circuit, Northampton, 6 March

Nisi Prius Court [Before Mr Baron Martin and a Common Jury]

Plant v Rawsom

This was an action for breach of promise of marriage.

Mr Bulwer, Q.C., and Mr Merewether appeared for the plaintiff; Mr O'Malley, Q.C. for the defendant. From the evidence of the plaintiff's witnesses, as well as from the defendant's letters, there was no doubt about the fact that the defendant (who was proved to be a haberdasher and general dealer in a good way of business) had engaged himself to the plaintiff, and had afterwards broken the engagement by marrying another woman. The real question in dispute, therefore, was one of damages, and as to this it was urged for the plaintiff that, besides the injury to her feelings, she was entitled to substantial damages for loss of position as the defendant's wife, and of business, she having at the defendant's request given up her employment as dressmaker.

The jury found a verdict for the plaintiff, with 75 /. Damages.

15 December 1857

Court of Common Pleas, Second Court

(Before Mr Justice Cresswell and a Common Jury)

Plant and Another V. Gavila

Mr Serjeant Pigott and Mr Holland appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr Honyman for the defendant

This was an action on a special agreement, by which the defendant, who is a Spanish fruit merchant residing at Denia, in Spain, undertook to consign goods to the plaintiffs, who are fruit brokers, carrying on business in Fenchurch-street, and to no other persons, and to pay commission upon orders which they should obtain for him. The plaintiffs proved that they had given orders, but that their commission had not been paid to them; also that the defendant had consigned goods to other persons than the plaintiffs. The plaintiffs also sued for money paid by them for the defendant. The defendant, by his pleas, traversed the breaches and his liability. After hearing the plaintiff's witnesses and a long correspondence read the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiffs for 728 /, the defendant having leave to move the Court to reduce the damages by 126 /.

Reports of inquests are well illustrated by the following:

10 October 1881

The Fatal Prize Fight

The inquiry into the death of John Plant, who was killed at a recent prize fight at Coventry, was concluded on Saturday. A witness stated that there was no 'sparring' in the fight; it was a regular bulldog affair. The post-mortem examination showed three broken ribs, nose completely smashed, effusion of blood on the brain, and shocking confusions on the chest and head. Dr. Wimberley expressed his opinion that no man could break another's ribs with his fists unless he was held or propped up, but witnesses denied that the deceased was so supported. A verdict of 'Manslaughter' against Arnold, the man who fought with the deceased, was returned.

The only Plant-related items in the database that have not been included in the list in the Appendix are the regular meteorological columns contributed by Thomas Plant. Further information about his person can be gleaned from the *Dictionary of National Biography CD-Rom*, which notes that Thomas Livesley Plant, 1819-83, meteorologist, was the 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.

It is hoped to include in subsequent Journals details on the following cases:

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 5 Sept 1874 | Police: Isaac Plant for selling bad hams – Sheffield Corporation.                     |
| 18 Mar 1868 | Police: Robert, Thomas-David Plant, horse stealing – Tooting – Peckham.               |
| 17 Dec 1857 | Criminal Trials : Ann Plant for murder – Sedgley, Wolverhampton.                      |
| 14 Mar 1859 | Criminal Trials: George Plant for murder of William Wilson of Sheffield.              |
| 22 Aug 1836 | Criminal Trial – Louisa Plant and another for murder of Edward Plant of Macclesfield. |