Chapter 9

Clowne Plants in Sheffield

SOME PLANTS ARRIVING BEFORE 1840[1]

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The unravelling of the data for a number of William Plants, for whom there are records at Clowne and at Sheffield, requires careful consideration. Some other Plants apparently came, perhaps as a family group, from Clowne to Sheffield before 1841 but the evidence is scarcer for two Williams who, even so, are believed to have made the same journey. Despite a scarcity of *direct* evidence there is an appreciable body of *indirect* evidence to support a contention that both these Williams were from the same family — the lack of *direct* evidence can be understood largely in the light of a finding that both these Williams died in 1848, not long after the instigation around 1837 of better records for keeping track of people's movements near such rapidly growing centres as Sheffield.

9.1   A contended connection with Clowne

When I was young my father asserted that the family had come to Sheffield from Clowne though the details were not clearly remembered.

Steps towards trying to confirm this start out with straight-forward genealogical studies. These show that my father's grandfather was the Sheffield-born dram flask maker James Plant (1829-1904) and that his father was a Sheffield shoemaker called William. In order to make further progress it has been found to be necessary to set aside an indicated county of birth for this shoemaker William as 'misleading' and some justification for this is presented later. This 'misleading' data appears in the 1841 Census returns which indicate that this Sheffield shoemaker had been born in the county, which was Yorkshire, and this has to be reconciled with the fact that his baptism appears to have been at Clowne which, though only 10 miles away, was in the different county of Derbyshire. The manner in which this *apparent* anomaly can be assimilated with the fuller information will be discussed later, towards the end of this chapter.

First, however, we begin by considering various Williams and we may recall from an earlier Chapter that there were three different baptisms for Williams at Clowne. In order to clarify the reasoning whereby Williams around Sheffield can be pieced together with the data for Williams at Clowne, it is helpful to label the three Williams that were baptised at Clowne as:

$W^{\underline{m}}(1)$	bap 16.3.1772	
$W^{\underline{m}}(2a)$	bap 12.9.1803	son of $W^{\underline{m}}(1)$
$W^{\underline{m}}(2b)$	bap 5.8.1801	nephew of $W^{\underline{m}}(1)$

The Clowne data was described in Chapter 3 and has appeared as *JSP, Roots and Branches, Issue No. 2, June 1991, pages 29-37*. The Clowne data in itself seems quite straight-forward and indicates that the Clowne-baptised $W^{\underline{m}}(1)$ was the eldest son of Thomas of Clowne from Sutton-Cum-Duckmanton; $W^{\underline{m}}(2a)$ and $W^{\underline{m}}(2b)$ were respectively his son and a nephew.

9.1.1   Some further family folklore

Though *fully convincing* connections for the Williams seem initially to be elusive, between Clowne and Sheffield, further progress is in fact possible. Some clues to finding a way forward arise partly from a few snippets of inherited information. In particular, some of the family folklore is borne out by data that has become available relatively recently, after 100 years privacy for the 1871 Census listings, and this provides a basis from which the evidence can be developed more completely. The useful pieces of inherited folklore are as follows.

In my childhood, my father Tom maintained *from what his father Tom (1859-1931) had told him* that:

- 'the family' came from Clowne; and, also, that

- someone *long ago* in the family had an association with mangles (my father had slightly split finger ends on his left hand, from playing with a mangle with his sisters when young, which is probably why he particularly remembered this story).

There were also the following stories. These *could have been* influenced partly by the genealogical findings of my father's sister Elsie (1903-54) though she died whilst I was still young, before some of the currently available data was uncovered[2]. Two stories, which at that time were probably composites of *suspected* genealogical theory and earlier folklore, were:

- 'the family' used to live on the site of the current town hall; and,

- my father *thought* that he had been told a story of shoemaker brothers (this story seemed to be associated with an 'atavistic' heirloom that I have inherited — a 3.4 inch painted metal figure resembling a biblical man, which was said to symbolise a Plant 'ancestor' with a biblical name).

The last of these four stories leads on to the next step in our deliberations, which is to consider a possible link between my great great grandfather, the Sheffield shoemaker William, and the family of a Clowne-born Sheffield shoemaker called Benjamin Plant. In fact, it turns out that *all four* of the above stories, not just the first and the last, are compatible with such a link.

9.1.2   An explanation of this inherited information

In particular, the above family story about mangles (section 9.1.1) originated most likely as an inherited story long before it found any confirmation in subsequent genealogical investigations. Indeed it seems probable, in the light of some 1871 Sheffield Census data, that this and *all* of the other three inherited stories above may have been passed down from my grandfather's childhood.

In the 1871 Census returns, in the same district as where my grandfather Tom was living (aged 11), the shoemaker Benjamin's family can be found at '56 New Hereford Street'. At that time my father Tom's father Tom was living with his father James (1829-1904) at nearby Bramall Lane and so close together were:

$$F_{ily}^{am}(W^{\underline{m}}) \quad = \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} Descendants\ of\ the\ shoemaker\ William, \\ namely\ my\ family\ via\ the\ line \\ W^{\underline{m}}(shoe) - James - Tom - Tom - me \end{array} \right.$$

$$F_{ily}^{am}(B^{\underline{en}}) \quad = \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} Family\ of\ the\ shoemaker\ Benjamin, \\ who\ is\ known\ to\ have\ been \\ a\ son\ of\ W^{\underline{m}}(1)\ of\ Clowne \end{array} \right.$$

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[2]Even parish records were less readily available before her death in 1954. More particularly, only *anonymised* Census data is generally available until 100 years have elapsed and, by 1954, there were no full personal name indexes available even for the released Sheffield Census listings of 1841 and 1851.

Earlier Census returns (1841 and 1851) show that Benjamin was certainly from Clowne and living, in 1841, on the site of the present town hall. The subsequently released 1871 Census data shows a household that includes Benjamin's widow, Elizth Plant (57), who is listed as a mangle woman. Thus, this 1841-71 Sheffield Census data provides confirmation that the $F_{ily}^{am}(B^{\underline{en}})$:

> ...had a connection with mangles, lived on the site of the current town hall, and came from Clowne

in good accord the inherited information.

I had always taken my father's assertions to mean that *'my'* family had come from Clowne but there is *perhaps* an alternative explanation — it seems *conceivable* that all three of the inherited snippets that have found confirmation above could have arisen from my grandfather's recollections of the $F_{ily}^{am}(B^{\underline{en}})$ since this family lived near him in his childhood. Hence, these stories may have been passed down my $F_{ily}^{am}(W^{\underline{m}})$ largely because stories about the $F_{ily}^{am}(B^{\underline{en}})$ were impressed on my father's memory following his childhood accident with a mangle. *Even if this is the case*, this interpretation of the above described 1871 data *at least* suggests the likelyhood of a close association between the $F_{ily}^{am}(B^{\underline{en}})$ and the $F_{ily}^{am}(W^{\underline{m}})$ to which the following pieces of 1871 data can be added:

> ...the unmarried children of Benjamin's widow are listed as Elizth (26), Mary A (21) and Chas ?H (18) brass turner — in particular, these two daughters from the $F_{ily}^{am}(B^{\underline{en}})$ are described as dram flask closers and, hence, presumably worked for my great grandfather, the nearby dram flask maker James Plant (1829-1904) from the $F_{ily}^{am}(W^{\underline{m}})$
> .

Thus, members of the $F_{ily}^{am}(B^{\underline{en}})$ not only lived near the $F_{ily}^{am}(W^{\underline{m}})$ but they were also, it seems, no doubt so employed.

This then just leaves us to try to confirm the remaining snippet of inherited information:

> ...that the two shoemakers were brothers

and this now forms the key to further progress. Confirming this is a little less straight-forward and relies rather more on an accumulation of *indirect* evidence, including for example the following piece of vaguely supportive evidence:

> ...a witness at the wedding of a sister of the shoemaker Benjamin had the same surname, Hartley, as the shoemaker William's wife.

Such evidence is not fully convincing *in itself* and it has to be viewed together with other evidence as indicated below.

9.1.3 A summary of the evidence

To summarize the evidence presented so far, the standard *official sources* of genealogical data produce the following deduced family groupings:

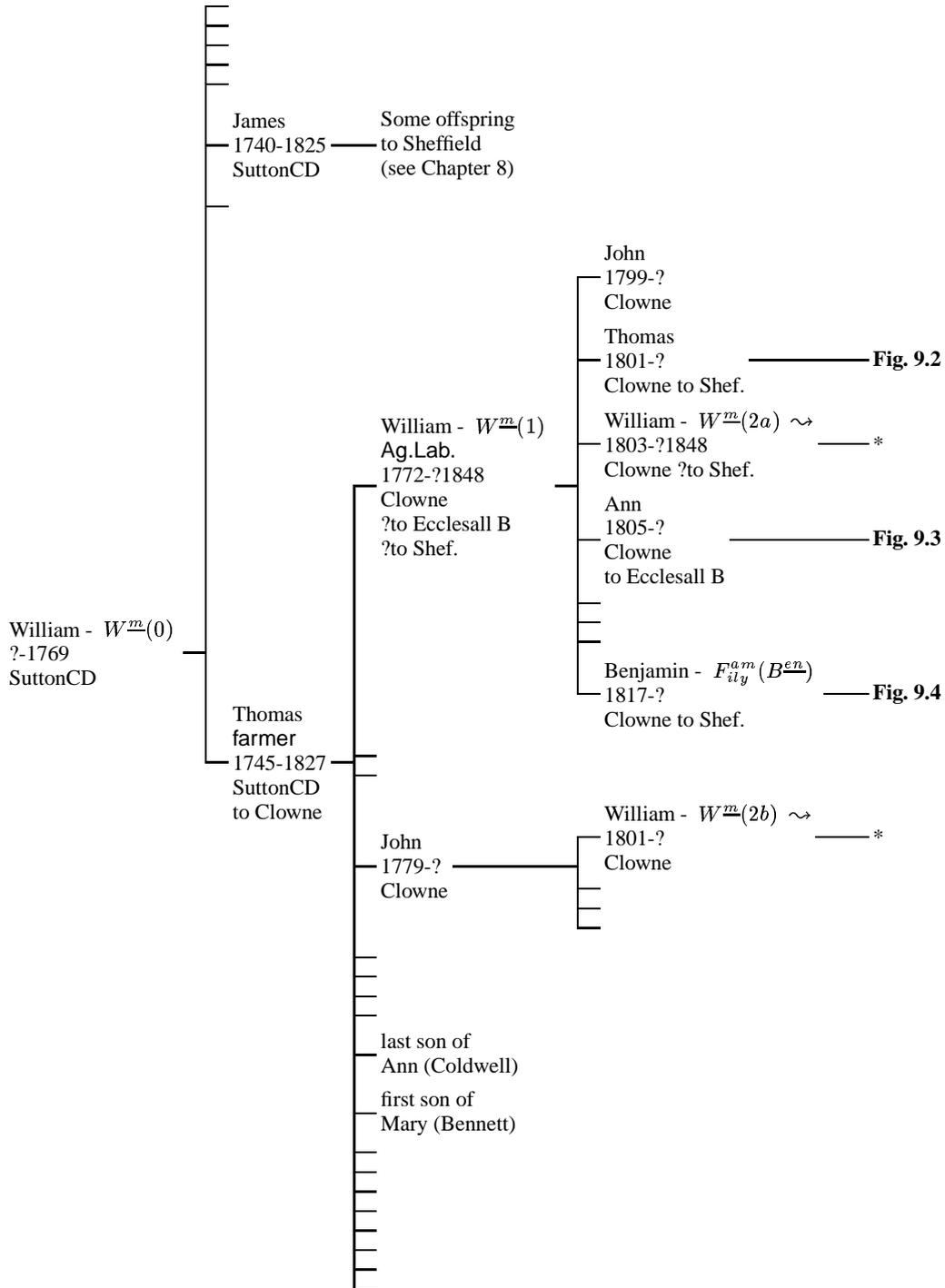| investigated data	summary of results	family groupings
Sheffield records	my agnate ancestry back to the shoemaker William	$F_{ily}^{am}(W^{\underline{m}})$
1871 Sheffield census	shoemaker William's son James *closely associated with* shoemaker Benjamin's family	$F_{ily}^{am}(W^{\underline{m}})$ $\Updownarrow$ $F_{ily}^{am}(B^{\underline{en}})$

Figure 9.1: Outline Summary of some Sheffield Plant ancestry from Clowne

If we now extend this *established* association between the $F_{ily}^{am}(W^{\underline{m}})$ and the $F_{ily}^{am}(B^{\underline{en}})$ back to form a contention that the shoemaker William was from Clowne, like the shoemaker Benjamin, we can form *possible* links, which are denoted $? \rightsquigarrow F_{ily}^{am}(W^{\underline{m}})$ below, from the Clowne Plants to the Sheffield shoemaker William:

investigated data	summary of results		family links (?)
Clowne data	$W^{\underline{m}}(1)$ was...	(1) father of shoemaker Benjamin	$\rightsquigarrow F_{ily}^{am}(B^{\underline{en}})$
		(2) father of $W^{\underline{m}}(2a)$	$? \rightsquigarrow F_{ily}^{am}(W^{\underline{m}})$
		(3) uncle of $W^{\underline{m}}(2b)$	$? \rightsquigarrow F_{ily}^{am}(W^{\underline{m}})$

In other words, we arrive at two alternatives for the shoemaker Williams's identity, namely $W^{\underline{m}}(2a)$ or $W^{\underline{m}}(2b)$. Moreover, from a wider consideration of the regional data, these are the only *known* possibilities for this shoemaker William's origins[3].

These two possibilities for the identity of the shoemaker William are indicated with adjoined *'s in Figure 9.1. Either possibility would allow for a close relationship between the shoemaker William's and Benjamin's families though Figure 9.1 helps to suggest why an association is *slightly more* expectable if the shoemaker William were $W^{\underline{m}}(2a)$ rather than $W^{\underline{m}}(2b)$. If the shoemaker William were $W^{\underline{m}}(2a)$ then he would have been a brother, rather than a cousin, of the (other) children of $W^{\underline{m}}(1)$ who are known to have travelled from Clowne to Sheffield as will be described in more detail later. Also, the 1871 dram flask closers Elizth. and Mary would then have been working for their cousin James, rather than for a second cousin. Furthermore, the shoemaker William's wife would have had a namesake as a witness at her sister-in-law's wedding, rather than at the wedding of her husband's cousin. To this may be added the evidence of the shoemaker William's Sheffield death certificate, on which his age fits *precisely* with that of $W^{\underline{m}}(2a)$ and differs by 2 years from that of $W^{\underline{m}}(2b)$.

Given the limited number of other William Plants in the area and the lack of others of a suitable age, the shoemaker William is hereafter presumed to be from Clowne and to be $W^{\underline{m}}(2a)$, rather than $W^{\underline{m}}(2b)$. In short, successive investigations have tended to strengthen, rather than weaken, the evidence that the two shoemakers were brothers and the accumulation of evidence continues to add still further support, as will continue to emerge in Chapter 10 for example.
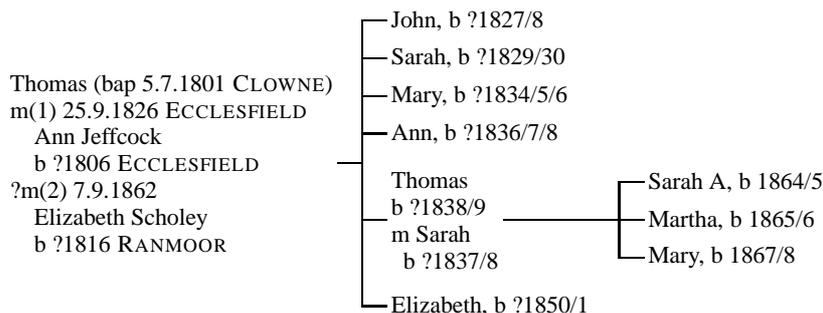
9.2   Farmer Thomas's son Wm(1)

Having accepted that an adequate body of evidence has by now been presented to establish links for two of the Clowne Williams, who turn up in Sheffield, we can move on to piecing together a story about $W^{\underline{m}}(1)$ and his children, though full details for the Sheffield shoemaker William (now presumed to be $W^{\underline{m}}(2a)$ who was baptised at Clowne) are reserved until later (Chapter 14).

The Clowne data show $W^{\underline{m}}(1)$ as a labourer at the baptisms of his children in 1813 and 1817. As he was the oldest son of the land owning farmer Thomas (1745-1827), he would most likely have been an agricultural labourer. Such a William appears in the 1841 Census returns, at Hunter Roade, Ecclesall Bierlow near Sheffield (Table 9.1), as an 'Ag.Lab.' of stated rounded age 65 which fits with the expected age 68/9 of $W^{\underline{m}}(1)$ from Clowne.

9.2.1   Wm(1)'s death in Sheffield

There is no suitable William to fit $W^{\underline{m}}(1)$ in the local Census Indexes for 1851 and, in view of his age, it seems reasonable to suppose that he had by then died. Investigations of all three deaths recorded in the Civil Registration Index throughout a wide area (South Yorkshire, Derbyshire, and

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[3]It may be recalled from Chapter 7 that there were few Plants in this region at that time and, even though a surprising number of them were called William, it seems *unlikely* that any further suitable Williams will be uncovered.

Thomas (bap 5.7.1801 CLOWNE)
m(1) 25.9.1826 ECCLESFIELD
  Ann Jeffcock
    b ?1806 ECCLESFIELD
?m(2) 7.9.1862
  Elizabeth Scholey
    b ?1816 RANMOOR

— John, b ?1827/8
— Sarah, b ?1829/30
— Mary, b ?1834/5/6
— Ann, b ?1836/7/8
— Thomas b ?1838/9 m Sarah b ?1837/8
    — Sarah A, b 1864/5
    — Martha, b 1865/6
    — Mary, b 1867/8
— Elizabeth, b ?1850/1

Figure 9.2: Wm(1)'s son Thomas from Clowne

Nottinghamshire), for William Plants between 1841 and 1851, have remained consistent with the idea that the 'Ag Lab' William of Hunter Roade is the same William as one who died in Sheffield in 1848. From the death certificates, we have:

- two Williams who died at Earl Street and in the adjoining Sylvester Street, in 1848, were of the correct ages to be father and son ($W^{\underline{m}}(1)$ and $W^{\underline{m}}(2a)$) from Clowne.

The name, age and occupation of labourer William (77) of Earl Street, on his 6.12.1848 death certificate, correspond closely with the Clowne data for $W^{\underline{m}}(1)$. His death from 'Decay of Nature' was registered by the *mark* of 'Elizabeth Plant present at death Earl Street'. It seems unlikely that this *mark* of an Elizabeth was that of his presumed daughter-in-law, the shoemaker $W^{\underline{m}}(2a)'s$ wife Elizabeth, as this shoemaker's wife had *signed* her name at her marriage in 1828 and, also, *signed* with her address given still as 'Sylvester Street' at the death of one of her sons, on 7.1.1849, just one month after this nearby Earl Street death. Another possibility is that it belonged to another daughter-in-law, the shoemaker Benjamin's wife Elizabeth. However, alongside the baptisms in the Clowne parish register is written Elizabeth Webster, suggesting a possible maiden name for $W^{\underline{m}}(1)'s$ wife, and so it *may have been* $W^{\underline{m}}(1)'s$ widow Elizabeth who placed her mark on the 1848 certificate of $W^{\underline{m}}(1)'s$ death at Earl Street.

9.3 Wm(1)'s wife and children in Sheffield

Further data indicates that several of $W^{\underline{m}}(1)'s$ family had travelled the 10 miles or so from Clowne to live near Sheffield by 1841. Certainly two of $W^{\underline{m}}(1)'s$ sons, Thomas (1801-?) and Benjamin (1817-?), had made this journey, as will be described more fully below (sections 9.3.1 and 9.3.3). To these can almost certainly be added a daughter Ann, with her mother Elizabeth (section 9.3.2). These children, and their mother, outlived the two Williams considered above and so more complete accounts can be assembled quite readily from the fuller data in later Censuses[4].

9.3.1 Wm(1)'s son Thomas from Clowne

One of those clearly shown to be from Clowne, in the 1851 Census listings, is a Thomas; this is quite certainly the second son (bap 5.7.1801) of $W^{\underline{m}}(1)$ as indicated in Figure 9.1. The IGI shows a marriage in 1826 of a Thomas Plant and Ann Jeffcock of Ecclesfield and this, together with the available Census data, forms the basis of the tree in Figure 9.2 for this Thomas of Sheffield from Clowne (1801-?).

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[4]Although the two Williams outlived the 1841 Census, this Census is less helpful than later Censuses in establishing people's origins and, as will be explained towards the end of this Chapter, the limited clues given in 1841 for these two William's households were moreover 'misleading', giving rise to a need for the above discussion of the evidence that these two Williams' origins were indeed in Clowne.

(a) 1841 Hunter Roade			
William	Roberts	39	farmer
Ann	"	38	
John	"	5	
George	"	4	
Sarah	"	3	
N K	"	1 week	(female)
Jonathan	Plant	10	
George	Drewrey	15	
Ann	Widdowson	15	F S
William	Plant	65	Ag Lab
Hannah	Roberts	60	
Jane	"	15	
William	Plant	6	

(b) 1851 Rustlings							
William	Roberts	51	head	M		Derbys	Holmsfield
Ann	"	46	wife	M	farmers wife	"	Clowne
Jonathan	"	21	son	U	farmers son	"	Clowne
John	"	16	son	U	farmers son	"	"
George	"	15	son		scholar	Yorks	Ecclesall
Sarah	"	12	daug		"	"	"
Jane	"	9	daug		"	"	"
Henry	"	1	son			"	"
Mary	"	7	daug		"	"	"
Elizabeth	Plant	75	m-i-l	W		"	Pontefract
Thomas	Barlow	12	serv	U	Farm labourer	"	Ecclesall

Table 9.1: A Roberts/Plant household in Ecclesall ecclesiastical district

The 1841 Census returns for Hill Square, Sheffield show this Thomas (rounded age 35) as a steel burr(?er) with Ann (30), John (13), Sarah (11), Mary (6), Ann (4) and Thomas (2); all are stated to have been born in Yorkshire except for the senior Thomas in this household. Their address, Hill Square, was near Hoyle Street in Sheffield, which runs from Meadow Street to Infirmary Road and this is very near the addresses where soon were to be found this Thomas's step uncle Isaac from Clowne and his son, the successful provision merchants, who were described in Chapter 8 and who lived near Meadow Street from about 1855 to 1885.

Thomas (1801-?) had moved from his 1841 address only as far as nearby 77 Hoyle Street by 1851, where he is listed as a steel refiner from Clowne; with him are his wife Ann (45) from Ecclesfield and offspring Sarah (22), Mary (15), Ann (13), Thomas (11) errand boy and Elizabeth (3 mth); finally there is also in this household Fanny E Negister (1) nurse child. All the children are shown in this Census data to have been born in Sheffield, indicating that this Thomas had moved from Clowne (via Ecclesfield) to Sheffield by as early as 1828.

In the 1871 Census listings, we find that Thomas from Clowne had moved from Hoyle Street only as far as 57 Infirmary Road where he is listed (aged 69) as a steel melter with his wife, who is here listed as Elizabeth (55) from Ranmoor[5]; the likely remarriage of Thomas to Elizabeth Scholey is included in Figure 9.2. This Thomas's son Thomas (32) is to be found as a steel refiner in 1871 in the adjoining Portland Street, in Court 25, with wife and daughters Sarah (33), Sarah A (6), Martha (5) and Mary (3).

9.3.2 Wm(1)'s daughter Ann from Clowne

Parish records show a marriage by Banns at Rotherham on 14.10.1834 between William Roberts and Ann Plant. Both were of that parish, bachelor and spinster, and both *signed* their names as did the witnesses William Plant and Amelia Hartley. It may be noted that the latter witness had the same surname as the wife of the shoemaker William Plant, who was called Elizabeth Hartley, and this provides a component of the evidence outlined above in support of a link between the shoemaker William (supposed to be $W^{\underline{m}}(2a)$) and $W^{\underline{m}}(1)$ who was baptised at Clowne. $W^{\underline{m}}(1)$ was quite surely $W^{\underline{m}}(2a)'s$ father. He was similarly surely also this bride Ann's father and he appears, in his late year's, in her household.

The date of this Ann's marriage helps to explain why, in 1841 Census data, the eldest children are called Plant and the youngest Roberts. In the 1841 Census returns for Hunter Roade, Ecclesall Bierlow (adjoining Sheffield), there is the large household that is listed in Table 9.1(a) and a similar 1851 houshold is listed alongside as part (b) of the Table. The stated occupation 'F S' of Ann Widdowson in 1841 probably denotes 'farm' or 'family' servant; Thomas Barlow appears as a servant in the later 1851 data. All, except the farmer William Roberts and Ann Roberts, are indicated in

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[5]Ranmoor is just 0.6 miles NE of the Rustlings address that is featured in section 9.3.2 below and in Chapter 11.
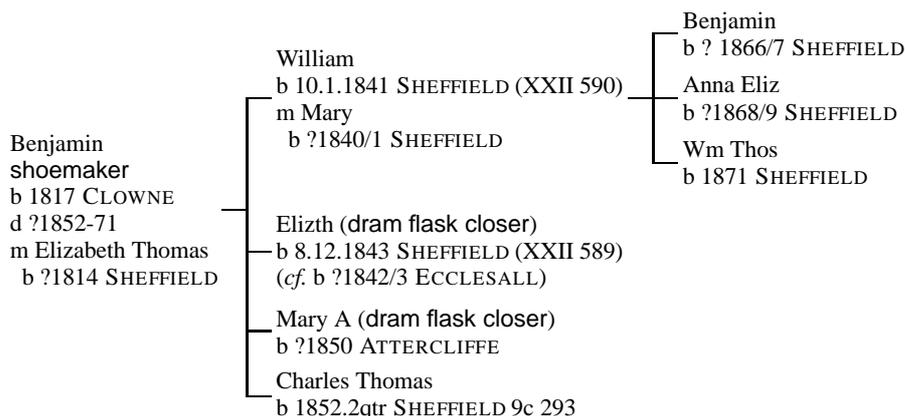
Figure 9.3: Wm(1)'s eldest daughter Ann from Clowne

1841 to have been born within the county though this is not fully borne out by the 1851 data, which shows that some others also had been born outside the county, in Derbyshire.

The 1851 Census entry for the 'Rustlings', Ecclesall Bierlow (Table 9.1(b)) appears to provide more accurate ages and it seems to confirm that this Ann Roberts, now stated to be aged 46 and to be the Clowne-born wife of farmer William Roberts, was $W^{\underline{m}}(1)'s$ eldest daughter, who had been baptised in Clowne in 1805 as indicated consistently in Figure 9.3. The 'Ag Lab William' who appears in the above 1841 household is missing in 1851, as is consistent with the supposed death of $W^{\underline{m}}(1)$ at Earl Street in 1848. However, the 1851 household now contains an Elizabeth Plant (75) who is stated to be the farmer William Roberts's 'mother in law' and a widow, born in Pontefract, Yorkshire. She can be presumed to be the widow of the Ag Lab $W^{\underline{m}}(1)$ and she is included as such in Figure 9.3.

The William Plant that was stated to be aged 6 in 1841 ($W^{\underline{m}}(3b)$ in Figure 9.3) is missing from the 1851 household but a Jonathon is still present, though now called Roberts instead of Plant. There are few known records of a Jonath(a/o)n Plant in the area but a Jonathan Edwin Plant of the correct age was baptised in Beighton on 16.5.1830, with mother called Anne Plant. This is probably the Ann Roberts (née Plant) who appears in Table 9.1 and it seems possible that her son Jonathan was baptised some 6 miles away from Clowne because he was illegitimate. Subsequently (5.7.1834), however, the further child, John (Plant/Roberts), was baptised as a son of Ann Plant at Clowne itself

Benjamin
shoemaker
b 1817 CLOWNE
d ?1852-71
m Elizabeth Thomas
  b ?1814 SHEFFIELD

William
b 10.1.1841 SHEFFIELD (XXII 590)
m Mary
  b ?1840/1 SHEFFIELD

Benjamin
b ? 1866/7 SHEFFIELD

Anna Eliz
b ?1868/9 SHEFFIELD

Wm Thos
b 1871 SHEFFIELD

Elizth (dram flask closer)
b 8.12.1843 SHEFFIELD (XXII 589)
(*cf.* b ?1842/3 ECCLESALL)

Mary A (dram flask closer)
b ?1850 ATTERCLIFFE

Charles Thomas
b 1852.2qtr SHEFFIELD 9c 293

Figure 9.4: Descendants of Benjamin from Clowne

(Figure 9.3), perhaps indicating an increased level of acceptance by this family's home circle in Clowne, though mostly the family had by then apparently moved away from Clowne anyway.

In the 1871 Census returns, the eldest known son, Jonnathan Plant (aged 41) from Clowne, is to be found as an 'Ag.Lab.' in Dobbin Hill Cottages living next door to the 'Sexton of Ecclesall Church'. Dobbin Hill was just to the south of the 'Rustlings' which was near where an earlier Plant had owned land, as will be described later (Chapter 11). With Jonathan are his wife Jane (44) from Totley and children Elizth. (16), William (13) errand boy ($W^{\underline{m}}(4)$ in Figure 9.3), Arthur (11), Anne M (8) scholar and Edward P (1); all of these children had been born in Ecclesall.

9.3.3   Wm(1)'s son Benjamin from Clowne

In *'A Century of Sheffield 1835 to 1935'* David Robins writes:

> ... in 1886 the present town hall site was bought for $49,000 with a view to general improvements being made, as the site was then a muddle of small cottages and streets, prominent among them being CHENEY SQUARE the home of several of Sheffield's most eminent men ...

though the reason for this reference to "most eminent men" is not clear from the 1841 Census listings. The shoemaker Benjamin was living there in 1841.

The birth certificate of this shoemaker Benjamin's son William (b 10.1.1841) gives the address as 5 Cheney Square and the 1841 Census return for Cheney Square shows 'shoem.' Benjamin and milliner Elizabeth with William (then aged 4 months). There is also, at this time, in Trades Directories:

- Benjamin Plant, Shoemaker, and Elizabeth, Dressmaker, 5 Cheney Square
  (*W.White's 1841*)

In the 1851 Census return, Benjamin's wife and children are shown to have been born around Sheffield (as indicated in Figure 9.4). There is only one slight inconsistency; the indicated birth place of 'Ecclesall' for the daughter Elizabeth does not tally quite exactly with the fact that her birth certificate gives her birth place as '5 Cheney Square', the same as for her older brother William, who is indicated in the same 1851 Census records to be from Sheffield not Ecclesall. This inconsistency can be set aside, however, as being small and perhaps due for example to a slight change, between the two birth dates of 1841 and 1843, in the agreed boundary, since Cheney Square was almost on the boundary of the chapelry of Ecclesall in the parish of Sheffield.

By 1851, the shoemaker Benjamin (aged 34) was living at Victoria Square, The Wicker, Sheffield where he is listed as a cordwainer (*i.e.* shoemaker) with his wife Elizabeth (35), son William (10)

errand boy and daughters Elizabeth (8) and Mary A (1). Mary's stated birthplace of Attercliffe was near The Wicker which is where the Victoria Railway Station was opened in 1851. In these 1851 Census returns, Benjamin's birth-place is given as Clowne and this is quite surely the Benjamin (bap 21.10.1817 at Clowne) who was the youngest brother of the Thomas (1801-?) and Ann (1805-?) of the preceding sections and who, as discussed earlier, was most probably also the brother and a close associate of my great great grandfather, the shoemaker William (1803-48), who has been presumed to be $W^{\underline{m}}(2a)$ of Figure 9.3.

Benjamin's eldest child William was apprently known by my grandfather, as a cousin of his father, and he is shown in 1871 Census returns at 50 Sheaf Gardens as a breech loading implement maker (aged 30) with wife Mary (30) and children Benjamin (4), Anna Eliz (2) and Wm Thos (1 day). He similarly appears in a contemporary Directory as:

- William J Plant, Breech loading implement maker, 50 Sheaf Gardens (*W.White's 1871*)

Sheaf Gardens was near the Ponds where Sheffield's other main railway station, the Midland Station was opened at this time, in 1870.

9.4   Some ambiguities of birth place

The general evidence seems to remain consistent with our underlying theory:

> ...that the 'Hunter Roade' data is for $W^{\underline{m}}(1)$ and
> ...that the Sheffield shoemaker William was $W^{\underline{m}}(1)'s$ son $W^{\underline{m}}(2a)$ who had moved
> with others of the family to live in Sheffield after being baptised at Clowne.

This is borne out further in subsequent chapters by some additional information about Plants in the area, including a rich source of information in an 1805 will (Chapter 12).

Now that we have evidence supporting these assertions, we are left with an apparent contradiction however. Both $W^{\underline{m}}(1)$ and $W^{\underline{m}}(2a)$ were baptised at Clowne, which is in Derbyshire, and this needs to be reconciled with the 1841 Census returns, which list each of these two Williams with a 'Y' to the question of whether they had been born 'in the county' which was Yorkshire, albeit near the border. This now leaves us to ponder such notions as:

- the 1841 entries of 'Y' to Yorkshire for these two Williams may have been incorrect entries that arose simply from carelessness or forgetfulness; or,

- the shoemaker $W^{\underline{m}}(2a)$ and his father $W^{\underline{m}}(1)$ (assuming he is the one indicated above to be at the Hunter Road farm of the Roberts in 1841) perhaps did not wish in Census returns to point out that they were from a different county for administrative reasons (*e.g.* around 1835, Samuel Roberts championed the protests of the poor against the prospects of their being herded into the centralized workhouses of the two new Unions of townships — *viz.* Sheffield and Ecclesall Bierlow — and the ratepayers were also discontented at the prospects of their having to share the costs of the problems of other 'foreign' townships; this may have led to some reticence in some individuals to admitting that they had come from a 'foreign' area). Further reasons why these two Williams may have taken some pride in a *local* allegiance will begin to unfold further in subsequent Chapters.

At least in the case of $W^{\underline{m}}(1)$, there is some evidence to favour possibilities in the nature of 'carelessness'. In the same 1841 Hunter Roade household as where $W^{\underline{m}}(1)$ is recorded as 'Y' to Yorkshire, just such 'carelessness' is evident in that the children Jonathon Plant and John Roberts are also recorded as 'Y' to Yorkshire, despite the 1851 Census entries which indicate that these children had been born, in fact, at Clowne in Derbyshire. It is conceivable that a sub-culture of 'carelessness', or even evasiveness, may have arisen in this household partly in connection with the illegitimacy of Ann's first children, given the contemporary emergence of a growing emphasis on

rectitude throughout early Victorian society. This evidence for 'carelessness' or 'evasiveness' is augmented, for this household, by further inaccuracies, as appear for some of the stated ages in the 1841 data, and this combines to provide ample justification for disregarding the 'Y' for $W^{\underline{m}}(1)$.

However, the explanation *might* be different for $W^{\underline{m}}(2a)$, such as:

- the mother (Elizabeth) of the shoemaker $W^{\underline{m}}(2a)$ may have returned from a visit into Yorkshire, after his (perhaps premature) birth, for a baptism at Clowne — for example, the parish of Clowne in Derbyshire almost touches the parish of Harthill in Yorkshire. Furthermore, $W^{\underline{m}}(1)'s$ widow was from Pontefract and, assuming that it was this Elizabeth who was $W^{\underline{m}}(1)'s$ wife at the time of $W^{\underline{m}}(2a)'s$ birth, it may perhaps be regarded as relevant that Pontefract is some 20 miles north into Yorkshire. It may be added that it seems that the family may have had associations with nearby Little Sheffield in Yorkshire from an early date, as will be discussed more fully later (Chapter 10). Thus, possible visits of $W^{\underline{m}}(2a)'s$ parents to Little Sheffield in Ecclesall Bierlow could provide another possible explanation of $W^{\underline{m}}(2a)'s$ stated birth place of Yorkshire.

The nature of the connection between $W^{\underline{m}}(2a)$ and *Plant's Yard* in Little Sheffield will be explored in some detail in the next Chapter and some relevant discussion of when this family may have arrived near this 'Yard' is presented in the following section. The 'link up' between Clowne Plants from Duckmanton and other Duckmanton Plants in Sheffield is confirmed by an 1805 will and the connection forms the basis of the next few Chapters which, it turns out, place Plants *quite close* to some 'mainstream' episodes of Sheffield's history around 1800.

9.5 Possible travels of this family group

In view of the foregoing considerations, it may be assumed that the 1841 statement of 'Y' to Yorkshire, for the 'Ag.Lab.' $W^{\underline{m}}(1)'s$ birthplace of 1772, could be spurious. He may not in fact have moved to Yorkshire until as late as 1835, for example, when it began that his daughter Ann's children were being born near *Plant's Yard* in Ecclesall Bierlow instead of at Clowne. On the other hand, it may be noted that the Plants had a base near Sheffield from as early as the mid 18th. century and $W^{\underline{m}}(1)'s$ wife was apparently from Pontefract in Yorkshire implying that some appreciable travelling must have been incurred by $W^{\underline{m}}(1)$ or his wife before 1799, if she is the one who by then was bearing his children. These children were being *baptised* (and according to some of the Census returns *born*) until as late as 1817 at Clowne, which is where $W^{\underline{m}}(1)'s$ father was buried in 1827 and where one of $W^{\underline{m}}(1)'s$ children was buried (aged 22) in 1833. Certainly, $W^{\underline{m}}(1)'s$ son Thomas was in Ecclesfield, near Sheffield, by 1826 and $W^{\underline{m}}(1)'s$ presumed son, the shoemaker $W^{\underline{m}}(2a)$ was married in Sheffield in 1828. Also, it may have been $W^{\underline{m}}(1)'s$ cousin Benjamin (a son of James 1740-1825 of Figure 9.1) who was the carpenter Benjamin who was in Ecclesall by 1826, as was described earlier in Chapter 8, and this will be discussed further in Chapter 10.

$W^{\underline{m}}(1)'s$ youngest son, the shoemaker Benjamin, would only have been 9 by 1826, or 18 even by 1835, and it seems reasonable to consider that he may have moved from his stated birthplace of Clowne with (one or both of) his parents and/or (some of) his siblings (such as the shoemaker $W^{\underline{m}}(2a)$), to live nearer to Sheffield whilst he was still young (perhaps between 1817 and 1826). It will be explained more fully in Chapters 10 and 11 why it may be supposed that the Duckmanton Plant family had an early base near Sheffield and it is accordingly conceivable that $W^{\underline{m}}(1)'s$ family may have travelled back and forth between Little Sheffield and Clowne from before the turn of the century. In the 1841 Census returns, there is at Clowne an Elizabeth Plant (rounded age 60, born outside Derbyshire) and this may have been $W^{\underline{m}}(1)'s$ wife, who was missing from Hunter Road near Sheffield on the Census night of 1841, and so we may suppose that she may *still* have been making the journey *even by then* between Sheffield and Clowne, perhaps by that time to visit old friends in Clowne.