

## Chapter 19

# Errant Plantagenets and settled Plants

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### THE PLANTAGENET SURNAME AND SOME EARLY PROXIMITIES OF THE PLANTS

The royal “Plantagenets” (so called) seemingly had no need for a surname. [Around when they first ascended the throne of England in 1154, however, the “Plante Genest” nickname was used for their forebear Geoffrey, count of Anjou.] Important noble relatives included the “Warren” descendants of the 1164 marriage of Isabel de Warenne to Henry II’s illegitimate half-brother, Hamelin (1130-1202). It was not until about a quarter of a millennium later that for example another line, the Lancastrian “Plantagenets”, married back into the royal line.

The formative Pl(a/e)nte name is in evidence by 1219. A subsequent east Cheshire homeland for the settled Plant surname evidently dates from around the times of the mid 14th century.

A consistent explanation of such developments can be constructed with the aid of a unifying theorem which couples early influences from the place name Plontone with ones of ongoing proximities of Plants to the Warren “Plantagenets”. Amongst various interpretations of Plant(agenet)-related names, it can be noted that there is a ‘life cycle’ of *fertile*, *child*, and *establisher* meanings tightly linked to religious interpretations based on *plenarity*. Such meanings can be related to a medieval ethos of the errant knight in a courtly context in “Plantagenet times”.

## 19.1 Likely influences on the formative Plant name

 Given a pervasive “Plantagenet” influence in late medieval times and a range of possible meanings for ‘Plant related’ names, there may have been a number of different strands of influence giving rise to the formative Plant name. Various theorems have been developed in preceding Chapters and most of these (*viz.* theorems 1, 2, and 3(c)) relate at least partly to a “Plantagenet influence”.

Theorem 3(a) however considers various possible *locative* influences which may have led on to such forms as *de la Plaunt*. In particular, an early such influence is attributable to the place name *Plontone* which evidently later became Plumpton.

On this basis, a pairing of two general influences — one locative and the other Plant(agenet)-related — can be considered. A particular coupling of such influences, which will be outlined below, evidently holds validity in two different contexts, *viz.*:-

- for the formative Plant name in the early 13th century south east of England; and also,
- for the settlement of the Plant name by the late 14th century in east Cheshire.

### 19.1.1 A more unified theorem for the early Plant name

The Pl(a/e)nt(e) name existed by 1219. A ‘component A’ of influence for its formation can be considered to have been operative in SE England at that time, as was discussed in the preceding Chapter, in as much as the bye-name Plantan’ is recorded in Suffolk by 1220 and this can be

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considered to have been a corruption of the place name Plontone. An additional ‘component B’ of influence can be related to evidence for an early proximity of the Pl(a/e)nte name to the Plantagenet surname of the Warren earls of Surrey. Thus:-

**theorem 4:** two major components of influence may have amalgamated to form the Plant surname, perhaps first in the early 13th century in south east England and then in mid 14th century east Cheshire, and this may have promoted particular aspects of meaning:-

**component A:** the place name Plontone, in Sussex and Lancashire for example, might have had connotations Plente-Tun meaning ‘fertile enclosure’; and,

**component B:** the Plantagenet surname of the Warren earls of Surrey, whose illegitimate descent settled in east Cheshire, may have had ‘chivalrous knight’ connotations.

A pairing of the influences of ‘component A’ and ‘component B’ seems to be in evidence further around the times of the inter-marriage (c1340) between..

- the NE Cheshire *de Stockport* family, whose many lands had included Plumpton or Plontone (component A) in Lancashire (c1240), and
- the illegitimate descent of the Warren Plantagenets (component B) who are known to have settled in east Cheshire.

Component B of this theorem, in particular, will be considered later in this Chapter.

### 19.1.2 Some likely implications for the early meaning of Plant

There may have been an amalgamation of the meanings of *plente* and *plante* (theorem 3(b)), for the place name Plontone as well as for ‘Plant related’ bye-names, leading to associations with the meanings *abundance*, *plenarty*, *fertile*, *establisher*, and *child* (cf. Table 19.1). In particular, a combination of ‘establisher’ and ‘child’ meanings seems to be consistent with the heraldic Plant blazon, which can be interpreted to mean ‘illegitimate cadet line with a subsequent allegiance to the red rose’. Some possible background leading on to such a development of meaning can be outlined briefly as follows.

Early ‘sole of foot’ and ‘bouture’ meanings of *plant* may have infused Celtic lands — the ‘bouture’ meaning, in particular, may have coupled to the old Irish meaning ‘offspring’ of *cland* to produce the ‘child’ meaning of *plant* for the Welsh. The Wessex legend of Edgar Atheling or Edgar Childe is said to have led on to a meaning ‘princely young man’ for the English surname Child(e) and such sentiments may have flowed on into an ‘(illegitimate noble) child’ meaning for the English surname Plant.

It may be noted, in particular, that the eldest daughter of the earl of Pembroke, Maud Marshall, first wed a Bigod and then a Warren Plantagenet and this links the surname Plantagenet directly to Maud’s connection with Monmouthshire in the Welsh borders. Indeed, this links on to the name *Plantyn* of the next Bigod’s butler such that Plantyn can be taken to be a diminutive of the Plantagenet surname, suggesting a possible meaning ‘(illegitimate noble) child’.

Such ‘child’ meanings can be developed into ‘establisher child’ meanings. Table 19.1 outlines a set of meanings ‘messianic child’, ‘bastard child’, ‘love child’, and ‘chivalrous princeling’, which can be linked to ‘establisher’ meanings when a traditional ‘young man’ interpretation of ‘child’ is taken into account. The child meanings accordingly link tightly to corresponding ‘establisher’ meanings, as indicated in Table 19.1, such as ‘fine establisher’, ‘wickedness establisher’, ‘courtly establisher’ and ‘horse borne establisher’.

It has been suggested by Reaney (1958)<sup>1</sup> that the surname Plant is a metonymic for ‘one who plants’ and a fuller appreciation of this aspect of meaning can be achieved with the help of the MED<sup>2</sup>,

<sup>1</sup>P.H.Reaney (1958) *A Dictionary of British surnames*.

<sup>2</sup>Kurath and Kahn (1983) *Middle English Dictionary*.

	Plantebene 1199	Plantefolie 1209	Planterose 1230	Plantegenet 1266
Plente 1219	hallowed plenarty	wickedness plenarty	prayers plenarty	horse-borne abundance
Plaunte 1262	prosperous founder	establisher of wickedness	courtly establisher	horse-borne establisher
Langland c1370	messianic child	bastard child	courtly child	chilvalrous child

Table 19.1: A tightly-linked pattern of consistent meanings for a set of 4 Plant(agenet) related names yielding a set of plenarty, establisher, and child meanings. Plenarty means the office of benefice when filled. The ‘establisher’ and ‘child’ meanings seem to be associable with an ‘errant knight’ or ‘crusading’ ethos.

which lists various medieval meanings of the verb *to plant*, many of which can be said loosely to mean ‘to establish’. Such meanings include:-

*to instill (a virtue), to implant (the natural law), to impart (the word of God), to establish (a colony), to settle (a people), to found (a religious house), to institute (a religion), to set (something) down in writing, to insert (something) in a treatise, to engage (in combat), to enter (battle), or to lay (a siege).*

For the Welsh, *planta* means ‘to beget children’, implying a variant connotation ‘child establisher’.

It can accordingly be seen quite readily how a medieval concept of an ‘errant knight’ can be related to the Wessex tradition of a ‘chivalrous child’ which links to a meaning ‘horse borne establisher’ for *Plantagenet*. Compatible meanings can be associated with other ‘*Plant(agenet) related*’ names.

## 19.2 A likely ‘Plantagenet influence’ on Plant origins

The name “Plantagenet” is associated with a royal dynasty of exceptional duration (1154-1485) though the “Plantagenet kings” themselves are generally considered to have not needed a surname. It is, more particularly, *some of* their relatives who bore Plantagenet as a family name<sup>3</sup> such that, for example, the name Plantagenet was evidently used as a surname around 1150-1280 by *some of* the family of the Warren earls of Surrey (Figures 19.1 and 19.2) and then (c1280–1370) by *most of* the family of the earls, then dukes, of Lancaster (Figure 19.4).

### 19.2.1 Early ‘Plants’ and the Warren Plantagenets

An ‘errant knight’ meaning can be associated with the fact that noble families and their entourage were generally more mobile than the settled peasantry. For example, Figures 19.1 and 19.2 indicate how the noble *Plantagenet* descendants of Hamelin Plantagenet (1130-1202) had

<sup>3</sup>The information in Figures 19.1, 19.2, 19.4 and 19.5 is taken from *FamilySearch Ancestral File* which can currently be found on the web page <http://www.familysearch.org/>

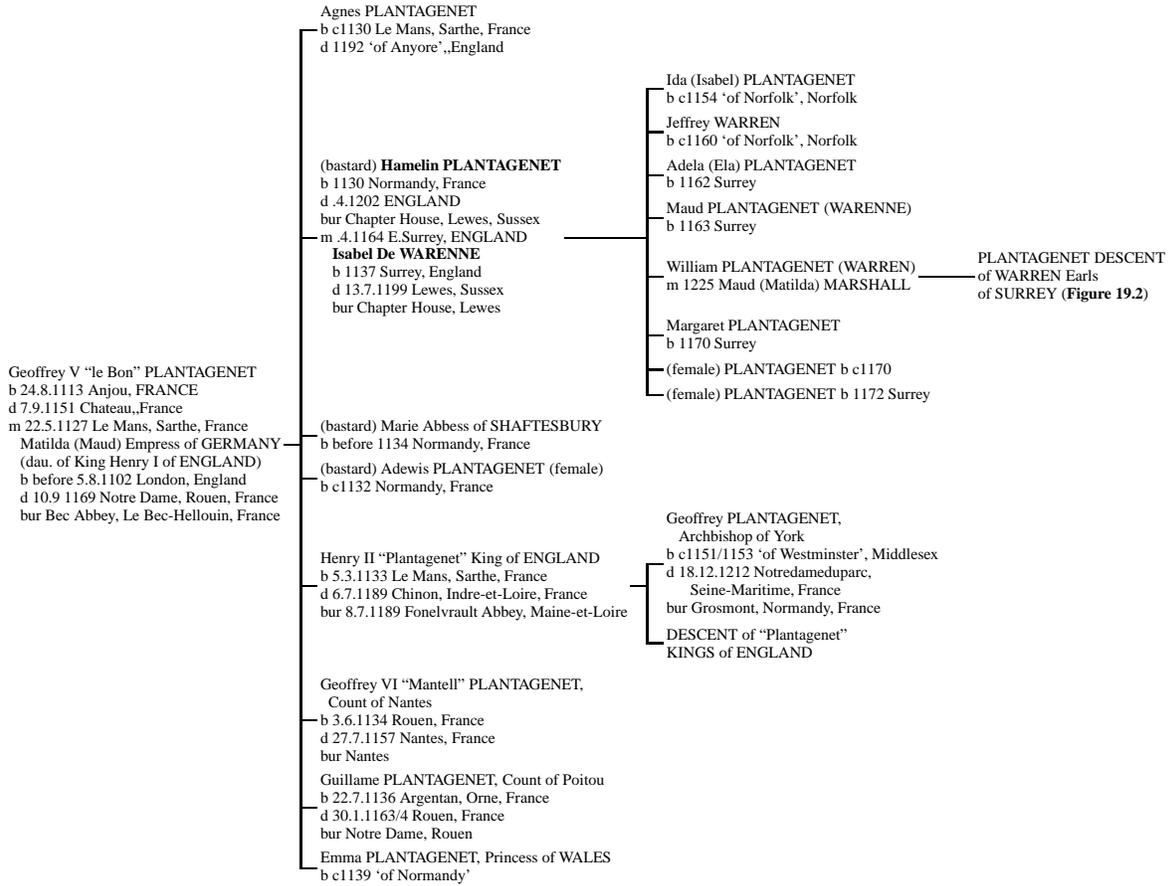


Figure 19.1: Descent of the PLANTAGENET 'Warren lines' and the "Plantagenet" Kings

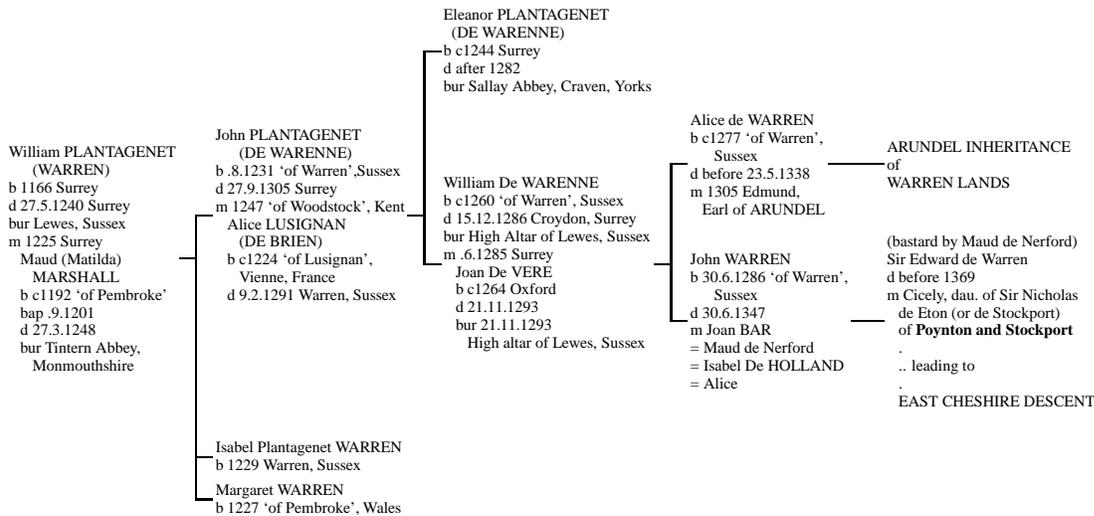


Figure 19.2: PLANTAGENET "Warren lines" and EAST CHESHIRE descent

there were Warren Plantagenet <i>family</i> connections to Norfolk (1154, 1160), Surrey (1162-72, 1225, 1240-4, 1305), Sussex (1202, 1229-31, 1240) and Oxford/Kent (1247) — this family also wielded influence elsewhere; and,	there were occurrences of Plente in Oxford/Kent 1219, Plente at York 1230, Plaunte in Essex 1262, and Plente and Plauntes in Norfolk c1275.
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The 13th century distribution of the formative Plant name can hence be considered to have been, in broad terms, close to an expectable influence from the contemporary surname Plantagenet.

Moreover, a supposed influence of the Plantagenet name on other ‘Plant like’ names can be considered in connection with additional evidence. Thus, for example, the Plantagenet Warren lines carried the epithet ‘*Plantagenet of Norfolk*’ for a child Ida (b c1154) from around the beginnings of ‘Plantagenet times’ and this can be compared with a subsequent ‘similar’ name in Norfolk:-

**A ‘Plant related’ name in Norfolk, c1200** — The name *Plantebene* occurs in Norfolk in 1199 and interpretations of its meaning range from ‘gardener’ to ‘prosperous founder’ to ‘fine establisher’. A hypothetical variant spelling *Plentebene* can be interpreted to mean ‘hallowed plenarty’, seemingly implying a blessing of religious donation. In connection with monastic activities, for example, this would reinforce an interpretation of *Plantebene* as a ‘fine or prosperous founder’ with the OED<sup>4</sup> listing a meaning of *plant* as ‘to found, especially a colony, town, or religious establishment’.

An evident variant spelling *Plente* of the formative Plant name occurs, seemingly initially, in Kent and Oxford. This, also, can be compared with the known contemporary activities of the Warren Plantagenets:-

**First known Plentes, c1220** — In 1219 (Chapter 18), Radulphus *Plente* appears as an auxiliary to the king, for the burbhothe of Oxford and for the maintenance of the royal household (?presumably Woodstock) outside the town — the name *Plente* appears, that same year, also in Kent.

**Warren Plantagenets, c1220** — Hamelin’s son, William *Plantagenet* (Warren)<sup>5</sup>, can be expected to have had connections with Oxford, in as much as there was a royal palace at Woodstock (near Oxford) from the 11th to the 17th centuries<sup>6</sup> — also, he was amongst other things warden of the Cinque Ports in Kent (c1216).

Records for other similar names occur around the same time and these also can be related loosely to an influence from William Plantagenet:-

**Another ‘Plant related’ name, c1210** — The name *Plantefolie* occurs in Leicestershire by 1209, and soon afterwards quite widely elsewhere. In the historical context of the introduction of itinerant justice, it seems that this name can best be interpreted to mean an ‘establisher of wickedness’. This is reinforced by a possible religious interpretation (*Plentefolie*) ‘wickedness plenarty’. This name can be related to the influence of the justiciar in a context connected to William Plantagenet (Warren), as will be described more fully below.

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<sup>4</sup>Oxford English Dictionary.

<sup>5</sup>The main activities of William Plantagenet (Warren) (1166-1240), more generally around that time, can be summarised briefly as follows. He was 5th earl of Surrey (1202-40) and warden of the Cinque Ports (1214) (Elizabeth Hallam (1996) *ibid*, p 204). His family estates were confiscated in 1204, when Phillip II of France seized the duchy. William supported his cousin, king John of England, against the barons and acted as one of the king’s guarantors in 1215 for the keeping of the Magna Carta. The following year however, William supported Prince Louis, son of Phillip II of France, when he tried to wrest England from John; even so, after the king’s death later in that year of 1216, he declared himself a loyal vassal of John’s infant son and successor, Henry III. William Plantagenet’s lands were restored in 1221.

<sup>6</sup>Elizabeth Hallam (1996) *The Plantagenet Encyclopedia*, p 212

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**A ‘Plant related’ name in the Welsh borders, c1230** — The name *Planterose* occurs near the Welsh borders by 1230 and its possible meaning ‘courtly establisher’ can be reassessed in this context, given the Welsh meaning ‘child’ of *plant*, to give a possible meaning ‘courtly child’. As will be described below, William Plantagenet (Warren) is known to have had a connection to Wales (Pembroke) and to the Welsh borders (Monmouthshire) by 1225.

### 19.2.2 The Welsh borders and more Plant-like names in Norfolk

A key to understanding the origins of ‘Plant(agenet) related’ names seems to relate to the role of the wife of William Plantagenet (Warren), who was Maud (Matilda) Marshal (Figure 19.2). She was the eldest daughter of William the Marshall, earl of Pembroke (Figure 19.3) who had been appointed a co-justiciar of England in 1184<sup>7</sup> and, immediately after king John’s arrival in England, became earl of Striguil (Monmouthshire)<sup>8</sup>.

In 1225, Maud Marshall’s first husband Hugh le Bigod, earl of Norfolk died and she remarried William Plantagenet (Warren), earl of Surrey. The Striguil estate passed to Maud’s son, the next earl of Norfolk, Roger le Bigod, whose butler is known to have been called Roger *Plantin* by 1254. The name *Plant(i/y)n* can be compared with such diminutives as Hodgkin and Hopkin and this then suggests a possible interpretation ‘illegitimate Plantagenet child’. Such an interpretation could perhaps be taken to imply a bastard of Bigod’s half-brother John Plantagenet (de Warenne) (b 1231) or of de Warenne’s sister Isabel (b 1229) (Figure 19.2), or descent from earlier Plantagenet relatives such as Ida (b c1154), Adela (b 1162), Maud (b 1163), or Margaret (b 1170) (Figure 19.1).

Evidence for ‘Plant like’ names in Norfolk has already been mentioned in connection with Ida Plantagenet (b c1154) and Ralph Plantebene (1199) and this continues on with further ‘Plant like’ names in Norfolk:-

**Plant-like names in Norfolk, c1255** — William *Plantagenet* (Warren) married the widowed mother of Roger le Bigod, earl of Norfolk whose butler and serjent, Roger *Plantyn* (Norfolk 1254-8) was granted the lands of William le May of Causton (Norfolk 1258) — Cawston was 15 miles SW of the Plantagenet (Warenne) manor of Gimmingham.

**Plant-like names in Norfolk, c1275** — The names William *Plauntes* and William *Plente* are known to have coexisted in Norfolk around 1275 with, for example, William Plente of Ormesby and then his widow Gerbegia owning land between 1272 and 1284 at Hemesby — Ormesby and Hemesby are 15 miles SE along the Norfolk coast from the Plantagenet (Warenne) manor of Gimmingham.

### 19.2.3 Late 13th century developments for the Plantagenet name

William Plantagenet’s son, John Plantagenet (de Warenne) (1231-1305), was 6th earl of Surrey (1240-1304)<sup>9</sup>, styled earl of Sussex (1282)<sup>10</sup>, custodian of the shires north of the Trent (1295), and warden of Scotland (1296-7)<sup>11</sup>. He evidently retained Warren lands in Norfolk.

<sup>7</sup>In 1199, William the Marshall was charged with a commission as regent for the new king John to maintain order in England along with the archbishop, Hubert Walter, who introduced the keeping of legal records in the Chancery Rolls.

<sup>8</sup>William the Marshall had earlier received income from Striguil (Chepstowe) near the mouth of the river Wye in Monmouthshire, at the southern extremity of the Welsh borders.

<sup>9</sup>After his father’s 1240 death, John became a ward of Henry III and supported the king against the rebellious barons in 1258. Though John aided the barons from about 1260 to 1263, he rejoined Henry and fought for him at Lewes in May 1264 at which battle the king was captured. John Plantagenet fled to France. However he returned to England with the future Edward I in 1265, and freed Henry III at the battle of Evesham.

<sup>10</sup>In 1282 John Plantagenet assumed the title of earl of Sussex but his claim was uncertain.

<sup>11</sup>John Plantagenet (de Warenne) joined Edward I’s invasion of Scotland in 1296. He took Dunbar castle in April that year and became warden of Scotland in August. On 11 September 1297 his troops were routed by William Wallace at Stirling Bridge, but the following year he helped Edward defeat Wallace at Falkirk.

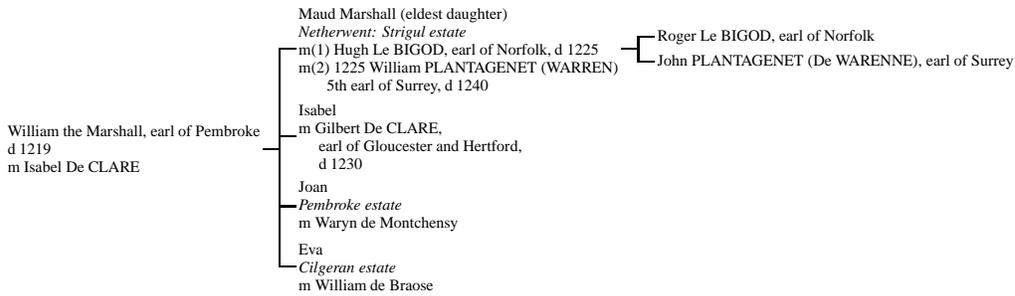


Figure 19.3: Descent of the Monmouthshire Strigul estate (cf. PLANTELAND) through Maud Marshall to the Bigods despite her remarriage to William PLANTAGENET (WARREN)

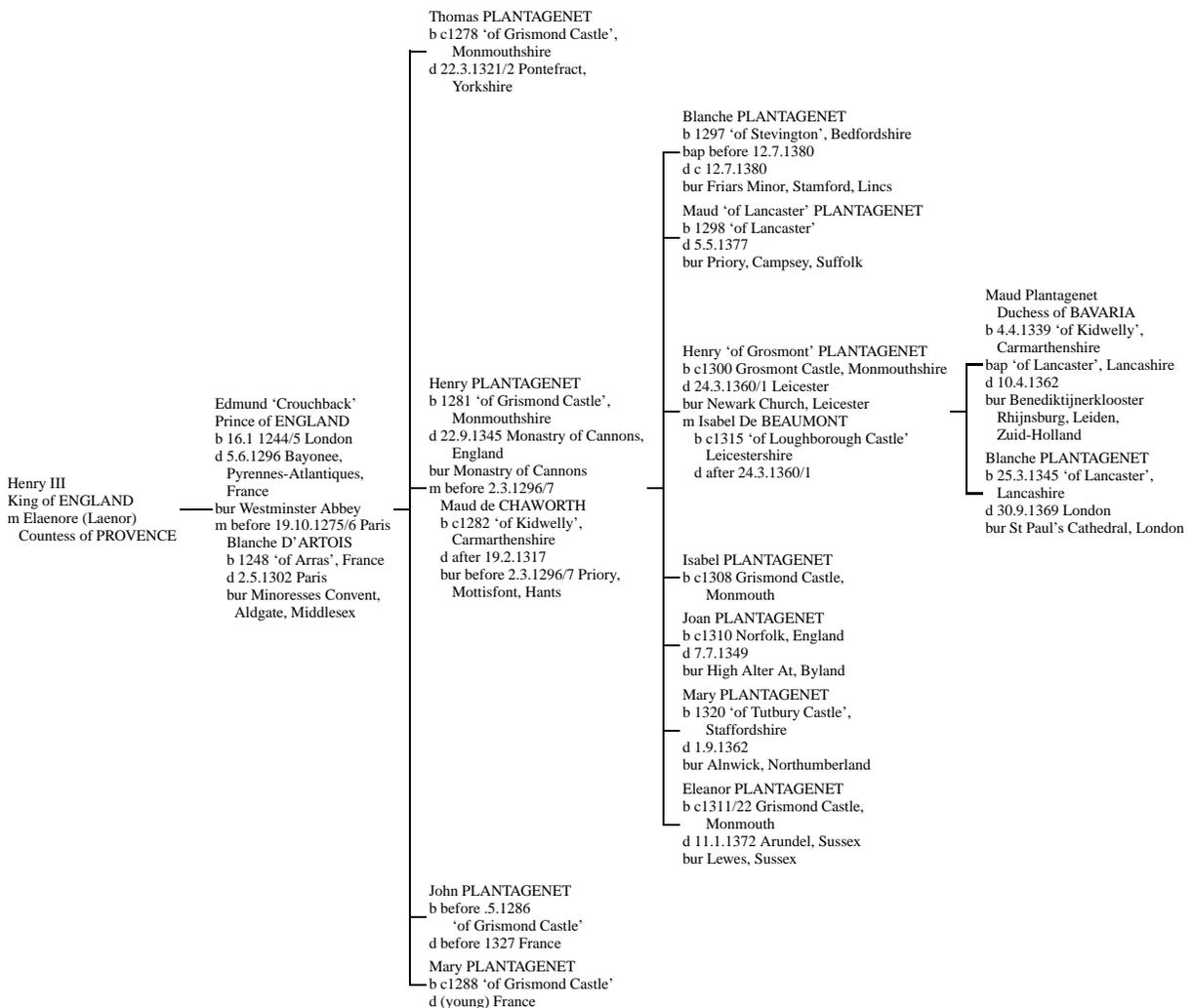


Figure 19.4: Some pre-1350 Lancastrian PLANTAGENET records

William PLANTAGENET  
b before 1136 'of Peyton', England

Edyth PLANTAGENET  
b c1162 'of Peyton', England  
m c1188 William De WINDSOR

John 'Lackland' King of ENGLAND  
m Isabella De TAILLEFER

Richard Prince of ENGLAND  
b 5.1.1208/9 Winchester, Hampshire  
d 2.4.1272 Berkhamsted, Herts  
bur 13.4.1272 Hailes Abbey, Gloucestershire  
m(1) 30.3.1231 Fawley, Buckinghamshire  
Isabel MARSHALL  
b 1206 Pembrokehire, Wales  
bap .4.1206 St Davids, Pembrokeshire  
d 16.1.1240 Berkhamstead, Herts  
bur Beaulieu, Southampton  
m(2) 23.11.1243 Westminster Abbey, Middlesex  
Sancha Countess of PROVENCE  
b c1225 'of Aix En Provence', Provence  
d 9.11.1261 Berkhamstead, Herts  
bur Hailes Abbey, Gloucestershire

John PLANTAGENET  
b 31.1.1232 England  
d 22.9.1232 Great Marlowe, Buckinghamshire  
bur Reading, England

Isabel PLANTAGENET  
b .9.1234 Cornwall  
d 6.10.1234  
bur Reading, England

Henry 'd'Almayne' PLANTAGENET  
b 2.11.1235 Hailes, Gloucestershire  
d 13.3.1271 St Silvester, Viterbo, Latium, Italy  
bur 21.5.1271 Hayles Abbey, Gloucestershire

Richard PLANTAGENET  
b 1237/8 Cornwall  
d before 1246 England  
bur Hailes, Gloucestershire

Nicholas PLANTAGENET  
b 12.1.1240 Berkhamstead, Herts  
d .1.1240

Richard PLANTAGENET  
b .7.1246 Wallingford, Berkshire  
d 15.8.1246 Wallingford, Berks  
bur Hayles, Gloucestershire

Edmund PLANTAGENET  
b 5.12.1250 Berkhamstead, Herts  
d 26.9.1300 Ashridge, Bucks  
bur Hayles, Gloucestershire

Richard PLANTAGENET  
b c1252 'of Berkhamstead', Herts  
d 1296 Berwick, Northumberland  
bur Hayles, Gloucestershire

Richard PLANTAGENET  
b 1214 Winchester, Hampshire  
m 1240 Winchester, Hampshire

Richard (plantagenet) CORNWALL  
b 1244 Kinlet, Salop, England

Walter CORNWALL  
b 1245 'of Branel', Hertfordshire

Thomas PLANTAGENET  
b before 1289 'of., Kent'  
m Marie (Mary) ROOS  
b c1293 'of., Kent'  
bur before 20.6.1362

Edmond DEINCOURT  
b c1290 'of Sprotborough', Yorkshire  
m c1315 Ella PLANTAGENET

Maud DEINCOURT  
b c1320 'of Sprotborough', Yorkshire

Edward I 'Longshanks' King of ENGLAND  
m Marguerite Princess of FRANCE  
m Joan FITZBERNARD OR DE FENES

Thomas 'of Brotherton' Prince of ENGLAND, Earl of NORFOLK  
b 1.6.1300 Brotherton, Yorkshire  
d c4.8.1338  
bur Abbey, Bury St Edmonds, Suffolk  
m c1318 'of Harwich', Essex  
Alice De HALES, Countess of NORFOLK  
b c1302 'of Harwich', Essex  
d c1327

Edmund 'of Woodstock' Prince of ENGLAND  
b 5.8.1301 Woodstock, Oxfordshire  
d 19.3.1330 (executed) Winchester, Hampshire  
bur 31.3.1330 Friars Minors, Winchester, Hants  
m 6.10.1325 Blisworth, Northamptonshire  
Margaret WAKE  
b c1295 Liddel, Cumberland  
d 29.9.1349 'of Liddel', Cumberland

Edward PLANTAGENET  
b c1320 'of Norfolk'  
d before 1332

Margaret PLANTAGENET  
b c 1322 'of Norfolk'  
d 24.3.1398/9

Alice PLANTAGENET, Princess of ENGLAND  
b c1324 'of Norfolk'  
d bur before 30.1.1351/2

Edmund Prince of ENGLAND  
b c1326 'of Woodstock', Kent  
d before 5.10.1331

Robert PLANTAGENET  
b c1327 'of Woodstock', Kent  
d 5.10.1331

Joan 'Fair Maid of Kent' Princess of WALES  
b 29.9.1328 'of Woodstock', Kent  
d 8.8.1385 Wallingford Castle, Wallingford, Berks  
bur 29.1.1385/6 Grey Friars Church, Stamford, Lincs

Thomas Prince of ENGLAND  
b c1329 'of Woodstock', Kent  
d 1329

John Prince of ENGLAND  
b 7.4.1330 Arundel, Sussex  
bap 7.4.1330 Pynham Priory, Arundel  
d 26/27.12.1352  
bur Grey Friars Church, Winchester

Margaret Princess of ENGLAND  
b c1332 'of Woodstock', Kent

Figure 19.5: Some other pre-1350 PLANTAGENET records

From around those times onwards however, the Warren earls appear to have dropped Plantagenet as a surname and, evidently around the same time, this surname appears to have been taken over by their rather distant relatives, the Lancastrians, who evidently also had family links to Monmouthshire.

The primary family association of the Lancastrian Plantagenets was evidently with Monmouthshire, albeit some 20 miles upstream from Strigul (*i.e.* Chepstowe) which had been associated with the *de Warenne* John Plantagenet's mother Maud (d 1248). Thomas Plantagenet, 2nd earl of Lancaster (1298-1322), was born c1278 in Monmouthshire, as were also his Plantagenet siblings Henry (1281), John (1286), and Mary (c1288), as well as his Plantagenet nephews and nieces Henry (c1300), Isabel (c1308), and later Eleanor (c1311/22) (Figure 19.4).

Subsequently, the Lancastrian, Joan Plantagenet, was born in Norfolk c1310<sup>12</sup>.

## 19.3 The link to east Cheshire

As has been indicated above, it seems there were a number of proximities of the Warren Plantagenets to the formative Plant name, in Norfolk for example. As will be outlined more fully below, there is then evidence of a link of the Plantagenet name to the place name *la Planteland* in Monmouthshire and a proximity of the Plant surname to territory near Chester of the *de Warenne* Plantagenets.

An arrival of the Plant surname in south Lincolnshire and east Cheshire may have occurred thereafter through a migration of Plants themselves, or for example from a growing Plantagenet influence in east Cheshire which may have related, at least partly, to the known arrival there of an illegitimate Warren descent<sup>13</sup>.

### 19.3.1 A possible ongoing Plant connection with the Warren affinity

Around 1301-10, there is extant evidence for the surname *Plant* and for the place name *la Planteland*, both in proximity to the activities of the *de Warenne* Plantagenets in the Welsh borders.

**Plant in the northern Welsh borders** — The territory of Hawarden in NE Wales is near the northern extremity of the Welsh borders (Figure 19.6) near the territory of Bromfield and Yale which had passed to John *Plantagenet* (*de Warenne*) in 1282. Hawarden is the location of the first known record for a Plant near the north west of England — this is a 1301 record for a Richard *Plant* of Eweloe.

**Planteland in the southern Welsh borders** — There is a 1310 reference to the manor of *la Planteland*<sup>14</sup> in Monmouthshire, in connection with Struguyll castle which had been associated with the wife Maud (d 1248) of William *Plantagenet* (Warren), though this is followed by a 1311 reference there to *Plateland*<sup>15</sup>.

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<sup>12</sup>Also, in 1312, Edward I's son Thomas 'of Brotherton' became earl of Norfolk, in the place of the Bigods, and the recorded epithet 'Plantagenet of Norfolk' for his children (b c1320-4) (Figure 19.5) provides further evidence of an ongoing association of the Plantagenet name with Norfolk.

<sup>13</sup>It is also possible that there may have been some reinforcing influences for the Plant name, such as from the Macclesfield visits (1353-8) of Chester's earl, the "Plantagenet" Black Prince, and from the adopted family name Plantagenet of the Lancastrians who held key lands near the Plants' east Cheshire homeland. For example, the High Peak passed to Lancastrian hands in 1372 by when it seems possible that the Plants may have begun a shifting allegiance towards the Lancastrian affinity.

<sup>14</sup>In the Callendar of Patent Rolls there is **1310 Oct. 10. Carmyle. Commission to John ap Adam, Master John Martel and John de Pateshulle to enquire ...; also to report on any defects in the castles of Struguyll and Turegi and manors of la Planteland, Tudenham and Berton, the weir, and the fencing of the park, what men Hugh le Despenser had placed on the works of the castle and manors, and what the works were.**

<sup>15</sup>Also in the Callendar of Patent Rolls there is **1311 March 7. Berwick-on-Tweed Commission to John ap Adam, Walter de Gloucester and Miles de Rodeberure to view the king's castles of Struguyll and Torrogy, his manors of Plateland, Todenham and Berton, and the fencing of his parks in the honor of Stuguyll.**



Figure 19.6: North Wales at the 1284 Statute of Rhuddlan, showing territory conquered during the wars of 1277 and 1282-3 (black) and crown lordships (striped). (After William Rees (1972) *An Historical Atlas of Wales from Early to Modern Times*). The first known record for a *Plant* near the north west of England is in 1301 in the white area of the English nobility, at Hawarden near the Bromfield and Yale territory of John *Plantagenet* (de Warenne).

There is hence evidence to support a contention that it could have been the Plantagenet surname of the Warren Plantagenets that influenced the formation of ‘Plant like’ names. There is also scant evidence to support a contention of ongoing links to the subsequent Plant clusters in south Lincolnshire and east Cheshire, as will be outlined below.

The subsequent ‘south Lincolnshire cluster’ for the Plant name appears to be in evidence by 1344. This was just across The Wash from the Warren Plantagenet hundreds of Brothercross and Gallow, in north Norfolk. A Plant was evidently in dispute with the Lancastrian affinity, here in north Norfolk, by 1352.

Possibly the first evidence of a subsequent ‘east Cheshire homeland’ for the Plants occurs also in 1344. Such evidence is compared in some detail below with such facts as:-

- the Warren Plantagenet line had acquired the High Peak, adjoining east Cheshire, by 1310; and,
- there was a Warren family connection to east Cheshire itself by around 1340.

From around those times, the national importance of the Warren Plantagenet affinity seemingly declined and the Warrens, like the Plants, became more settled in east Cheshire. The High Peak passed into Lancastrian hands in 1372, by when the Warren descent was illegitimate and its affinity had seemingly begun a shifting allegiance towards the Lancastrian affinity. The Warrens still retained an association with Norfolk by as late as 1386.

### 19.3.2 Warren, the High Peak, and the feud with Lancaster

John Plantagenet’s son, William de Warenne (c1260-86), had died before his father and it was John’s grandson, John Warren (1286-1347), who had become the 7th earl of Surrey (1304-47) and was also styled earl of Sussex (1304). His failure to produce heirs by his wife and his feud with the Lancastrian Plantagenets, to whom his sister’s family the Arundels became allied<sup>16</sup>, foreshadowed an apparent lasting decline in the influence of the Warren Plantagenets. This may have

<sup>16</sup>In 1305, John Warren’s sister Alice de Warenne had married Edmund earl of Arundel at a time when no-one could have known that John would die without legitimate heirs. It has been contended that the associated disinheritance would

19.3: THE LINK TO EAST CHESHIRE 29

had lasting implications for the subsequent distribution of the Plant surname, as both it and the illegitimated Warren affinity became more settled in east Cheshire, though it can not be *entirely* ruled out that there *may have been* (as yet unknown) Plants in east Cheshire as early as before the earl of Surrey, John Warren's acquisition of the adjoining High Peak in 1310.

In 1310, the young earl of Surrey, John Warren<sup>17</sup> joined Edward II's invasion of Scotland and, that same year, Edward II gave Warren '*the castle and honour of High Peak, for life, together with the improvement of its wastes, with its knights' fees, advowsons, wardships, and other appurtenances, to hold as fully as William Peveler, sometime Lord thereof, had held the same; but subject to a yearly payment to the Exchequer of £437.6s.8d*'<sup>18</sup>.

In 1312, with other barons, Warren rebelled against Edward's extravagance and misgovernment and took the king's favourite Piers Gaveston prisoner at Knaresborough, though the king pardoned him in 1313. Following Warren's liaison with Maud de Nerford and his claim, in May 1313, to have obtained a Papal Bull for a Divorce from the king's niece Joan, the king appears to have responded vigorously and, in February 1314, he issued the following from Canterbury '*To the sheriff of Derby. Order to take into the King's hands, without delay, the castle, town, and manor of the High Peak, and the forest of the same lately committed to John de Warenne, Earl of Surrey, arresting any person who shall resist the execution of this order, taking with him for this purpose a sufficient force*'<sup>19</sup>.

It may be that the roots of Warren's subsequent feud with the earl of Lancaster, Thomas Plantagenet, may lie in Lancaster's presence at the council which urged, probably in 1316, the Bishop of Chichester, John Langton to prosecute Warenne for his liaison with Maud de Neirford (Figure 19.2) with whom Warren had attempted to divorce his wife, the king's niece Joan of Bar. Certainly by 1317, the feud was firmly established when John Warren helped Alice Lacy, the wife of Thomas Plantagenet of Lancaster (c1278-1321/2) (Figure 19.4), to elope with her lover.

Thomas Plantagenet seized much of John Warren's land between 1317 and 1319. Around 1316-8, the people of Bromfield and Yale in NE Wales wrote to their lord, John Warren, to tell him that they had been threatened by Thomas, earl of Lancaster, who had written to them to say that he would have their land by one means or another<sup>20</sup>. The chronicles of St Werburgh's, Chester, record the devastation of all of Warren's lands north of the Trent at this time<sup>21</sup> and, at Wakefield, Warren's mistress Maud de Neirford was amongst those ejected from their lands by Lancaster<sup>22</sup>. Thomas, earl of Lancaster also seized Warren's Norfolk lands, comprising the manors of Gimtingham, Methwold, and Thetford as well as the Hundreds of Gallow and Brothecross<sup>23</sup>.

In 1322, Thomas Plantagenet of Lancaster was defeated by John Warren and the king at a battle near Burton-on-Trent. The last 'Plantagenet' earl of Surrey, John Warren, thereby regained some of

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not have happened, however, if the Arundels had not exerted the strongest political pressure to prevent Warren from settling the estate on his bastard sons (G.A.Holmes (1957) *The estates of the Higher Nobility in 14th century England*, p 7).

<sup>17</sup>F. Royston Fairbank (1907) *The last earl of Warenne and Surrey*, Yorkshire Archeological journal, Vol XIX, pps 193-4, 197-206. The last Plantagenet earl of Surrey, John Warren, was a posthumous child and was made a ward of Edward I whose grand-daughter, Joan de Bar, he married when she was 10 and he 19 in 1306. As late as 1309, John Warren was apparently part of Thomas Plantagenet of Lancaster's retinue at the Dunstable tournament to which he had apparently been drawn, with his brother-in-law Arundel, by Lancaster with a view to opposing the king over the Gaveston affair at the forthcoming Parliament (J.R.Maddicott (1970) *Thomas of Lancaster*, p56). Gaveston was afterwards executed, but John was reconciled with Edward II, who pardoned him in 1313. In 1316, Warren was excommunicated by Pope John XXII for adultery.

<sup>18</sup>F. Royston Fairbank (1907) *ibid*, p 195. Ca.Pat.Rolls 1307-13, p 283.

<sup>19</sup>F. Royston Fairbank (1907) *ibid*, p199. Cal.Close Rolls 1313-18, p 38.

<sup>20</sup>J.R.Maddicott (1970) *Thomas of Lancaster 1307-22*, p 220. Warren forwarded a copy of their petition to the king, asking for speedy help from the justices and the King's men in those parts, for the defense of his lands and the King's honour. Warren was told to go to Bromfield to defend his own lands if he wished while Lancaster was ordered to refrain from breaking the peace in that region.

<sup>21</sup>On 3rd November 1317, the king ordered Thomas Plantagenet, earl of Lancaster, to stop attacking Warren's Yorkshire castles.

<sup>22</sup>J.R.Maddicott (1970) *Thomas of Lancaster 1307-22*, p232-7.

<sup>23</sup>Simon Walker (1990) *The Lancastrian Affinity 1361-1399*, pps 184-5.

his lands, recovering the rest in 1326<sup>24</sup>, though only for the duration of his life (d 1347).

### 19.3.3 Plentes during Warren's dispute with arbitrary rule

Coinciding with a restive period (1341-3) of dispute between Warren and the king, there are various records of *Plentes* participating in disputes such as in 1342 when Walter Plente, in the company of the mayor of Exeter, attracted the complaint of a Flander's merchant (Table 19.2). In February 1343 John Plente, as vicar of the Cathedral church of Chichester, participated in impeding the bishop of Chichester from carrying out the king's orders<sup>25</sup>. By 1344 however, a Nicholas Plente was amongst many who were '*pardoned*' by the king '*for good service*'.

Some background to this dispute can be outlined as follows. The first phase of the so-called 'Hundred Years War' with France took place around 1339-60 and, for want of money, Edward III had been compelled to call a Parliament. When the archbishop was prevented, in the name of the king, from taking his place in Parliament<sup>26</sup>, the aging earl of Surrey, John Warren, complained and he was supported by his nephew, Richard of Arundel. Eventually the archbishop was admitted but the matter had stirred considerable unrest and a Parliamentary committee was appointed to look into the case. The effective outcome was that the king, rather than the archbishop, was judged by Parliament in a manner evocative of Magna Carta. It was not until two years later that the next Parliament was called — this was in April 1343 when the papers of enquiry were destroyed, at the king's command, as untrue and contrary to reason.

### 19.3.4 A possible Plant link between S Lincolnshire and E Cheshire

The first known evidence (so far) for a NW Plant can be taken to be the 1301 record for Richard Plant of Eweloe, near the Bromfield and Yale territory of John Plantagenet (de Warenne), earl of Surrey. It might then be considered whether the name Blount was sufficiently similar to Plont for considering that the known connection, by 1315, of the 'Blount name' between Chester and Adlington could be regarded as providing a phonetic link for the 'Plant name' between its occurrences in Eweloe and east Cheshire.

Apart from this possibility involving the 'phonetically similar' name Blount (subtheorem 3(c)), the first known evidence (so far) however for a *possible Plant connection* with east Cheshire can be taken to be a 1344 record for John son of Alan Plant of Burgh.

This 1344 record is the first one known for the subsequent 'south Lincolnshire Plant cluster' (Table 19.3) and it refers to a license for John Plant to hand over to the '*pryor and convent of Bolyngton*' a messuage at Burgh le Marsh by Wainfleet. The '*pryor and convent of Bolyngton*' mentioned in this record may perhaps refer to the Bollington near Bowdon (mid north Cheshire) whose church was appropriated to the Benedictine Priory of St James, Birkenhead and which also had strong links to the adjoining Baronial seat of Dunham Massey. Such an identity for *Bolyngton prior and convent* is suggested by the evidence which is outlined further in Table 19.4. If this association of Bolyngton Priory with mid north Cheshire is correct, it could be taken to be evidence for an early link of the Plant name between south Lincolnshire and NE Cheshire (*cf.* Figure 19.7).

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<sup>24</sup>In 1326, John supported Edward II during his wife Isabella's invasion of England. After Edward's forced abdication in 1327 John made his peace with Isabella.

<sup>25</sup>The bishop of Chichester (1337-62) was Robert Stratford who was the brother of John Stratford, archbishop of Canterbury (1333-48).

<sup>26</sup>On Thursday 26 April 1341, the Archbishop of Canterbury, John Stratford entered the Painted Chamber with his brother Robert Stratford, bishop of Chichester and nephew Ralph Stratford, bishop of London. On the following day however, the archbishop refused to go to the Exchequer and he was prevented, in the name of the king, from taking his place in Parliament. Michael Packe (1983) *King Edward III*, pps 102-3.

During the initial phase (1339-60) of the so-called ‘Hundred Years War’ with France, there are various records for the *Plente* name, mainly along the southern and eastern coasts of England:-

- 1342 Walter Plente of Exeter was subjected to a commission of oyer and terminer on complaint that he had, with others including the mayor of Exeter Henry de Hugheton, carried away the goods of a Flanders merchant<sup>a</sup>.
- In Feb. 1343, John Plente, vicar of Holy Trinity, Chichester was amongst 26 named ecclesiastics who, together with 67 other named and an unspecified number unnamed, impeded the bishop of Chichester in carrying out an order of the king ‘*to make and cause to be made in the churches of the city of Chichester and throughout the diocese masses, processions and prayers for the safety and success of him (the king) and his army*’<sup>b</sup>.
- Also in 1343, a John Plente was amongst 9 witnesses on a deed at Theydene Boys for land of the rector of the church of St Bartholomew, London<sup>c</sup>.
- On 8 June 1343 the ship ‘*la Plente*’ was ‘arrested for the King’ along with many other ships that were being pressed into service<sup>d</sup>.
- On 29 June 1344, Nicholas Plente was amongst 305 named men ‘*all of Great Yarmouth*’ who received ‘*for (their) good service*’ a pardon from the king for ‘*felonies, plunderings, oppressions, taking arms and victuals to his enemies, imprisonment of men and excesses*’.

As has already been mentioned in earlier Chapters, there are also various records (1364-8) during the 1360-70 lull in the Hundred Years War for the king’s minister in Devon Roger Plente with his ship ‘*le George of Exmouth*’.

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<sup>a</sup>Patent Rolls 1342 July 8. Westminster.

<sup>b</sup>Patent Rolls 1343 Feb 4. Kennington.

<sup>c</sup>Close Rolls 1343, deed dated at Theydene Boys on Sunday after Trinity 17 Edward II and acknowledged at Westminster on 7 July 1343.

<sup>d</sup>The particular entry for *la Plente* is in the 1343 Close Rolls and reads.. **1343 June 8. Westminster.** — *The mayor and bailiffs of Kyngeston upon Hull for ‘la Leonard’, ‘la Plente’, ‘la cog Johan’, ‘la Esmon’, ‘la Trinite’, ‘la Katerine’ and ‘la Blythe’ of Kyngeston, Ranulph Hynd, Roger de Ravenesere, Adam Holleye, John de Danarico, Robert de Patrynton, Peter Bigod and Ralph de Pole, masters.*

Table 19.2: Some Plente records during the initial phase of the Hundred Years War, around the times of the 1347 death of John Warren

**1344 May 2. Westminster.** — Licence for the alienation in mortmain to the prior and convent of Bolyngton, in satisfaction of 18s. of the 40 marks yearly of land which they had the licence of Edward II to acquire, ... (1st item<sup>a</sup>) ... by John son of Alan Plant of Burgh, of a messuage in the same town and ... (3rd item<sup>b</sup>) ... etc.<sup>c</sup>. (Patent Rolls).

<sup>a</sup>This reads.. by Richard Grannach of Burgh by Waynfleet, of a messuage and 4 acres of land in Burgh.

<sup>b</sup>This reads.. by William de la Chaumbre of Bolyngton and John Castelere of Kyme, of a messuage and 5 acres of land in Bolyngton.

<sup>c</sup>This reads.. These are of the value of 9s. 6d. yearly, as appears by inquisition taken by Saier de Rocheford, escheator in the county of Lincoln.

Table 19.3: The first known record for the south Lincolnshire Plant cluster

**Three Different Bollingtons** — John Bartholomew<sup>a</sup> lists three different Bollingtons and a Bollington Cross. There is a Bollington in mid north Cheshire, near the river Bollin, 3m SW of Altrincham; also, Bollington, east Cheshire, 2.5 miles NE of Macclesfield; also, Bollington Cross, east Cheshire, 1.3 miles SW of this Bollington; and also, Bollington, west Essex, 4 miles N of Bishop's Stortford. It may hence be considered whether Bolyngton Priory mentioned in the 1344 record of a John Plant might relate to any of these known Bollingtons. The Victoria County History for Essex mentions no priory at Bollington, Essex. Bollington in mid north Cheshire, however, is near Bowdon and Dunham Massey (Figure 19.7) and, though the Victoria County History<sup>b</sup> for Cheshire comments on the uncertainties surrounding the foundation of Birkenhead Priory, it notes this Priory's strong connections to Bowdon and the adjoining NE Cheshire baronial seat of Dunham Massey:-

*The traditional date (for the foundation of the priory of St James the Great at Birkenhead) is 1150 but there is no documentary evidence that the priory existed before the second half of the reign of Henry II. The nature of the priory's endowment suggests that a member of the Massey family of Dunham founded it, probably the second Hamon de Massey who died in 1185. ... Most of the lands and churches held by the priory at its dissolution had been part of the Massey fee in the 11th century and probably formed the original 12th-century endowment. ... Half of the manor (of Bowdon) was probably held by the house from its foundation and, in the early 1270s, the prior claimed that a predecessor at the beginning of the 13th century had presented to the church (though the dispute was settled in favour of the Massey family). ... in 1278 the fifth Hamon de Masey granted the advowson, together with a small holding of land at Dunham, to the priory; in return he and his ancestors and heirs were admitted to all the benefits of the house.*

<sup>a</sup>John Bartholomew (1943) *The Survey Gazetteer of the British Isles*.

<sup>b</sup>Victoria County History for Cheshire (1980) Vol 3, pps 128-31.

Table 19.4: Three different Bollingtons and a connection of one to Dunham Massey



### 19.3.5 Changing fortunes and the Black Death

Sir Edward de Warren was a bastard son of the last Warren earl of Surrey, John Warren, and his mistress Maud de Neirford (Figure 19.2). Around 1340, he married into a NE Cheshire gentry family<sup>27</sup>.

In 1345, the 3rd earl of Lancaster (1324-45) died and his daughter Eleanor Plantagenet (b c1311/22) married John Warren's nephew, Richard earl of Arundel (Figure 19.2). Eleanor's brother, the subsequent 4th earl (1347-51) and 1st duke (1351-61) of Lancaster, was able to make good his reversionary claim on John Warren's lands when Warren died in 1347, with lands also going to Arundel, who thereby received almost a doubling of the Arundel estates<sup>28</sup>.

The Black Death (1348-9 and some subsequent years) seemingly came *after* the marriage (c1340) of Sir Edward de Warren into the NE Cheshire *de Stockport* family and the aforementioned possible links of the Plant name to east Cheshire. The Black Death may have been relevant to the conditions under which the Warren affinity were beginning their settlement in NE Cheshire. It may also have impacted on their family traditions related to the herein supposed (*cf.* theorem 4) symbolic meanings of 'Plant(agenet)-related' names. For example, meanings such as 'wickedness establisher' and 'courtly establisher' for Plantefolie and Planterose may have turned, with a hypothetical variant spelling Plaint, to 'lamerter of wickedness' and 'lamerter of love'. Also, hopes associable with the various 'child' meanings of 'Plant(agenet) related' names may have come more to the fore with the aspirations of the Warren affinity for improved fortunes in their new beginnings in east Cheshire.

Shortly after the 1348-9 plague, the heir to the "Plantagenet" crown of England, the Black Prince, was an occasional visitor to east Cheshire (1353-8) with, in 1353 for example, orders being sent out for six roses to be brought from Macclesfield Forrest for his banquet. The Black Death had led to vacant lands in east Cheshire for those who were rich enough to afford them, around the times when the rich were closing their houses in London and other cities in the hope of finding safer territory elsewhere.

Robert Browning's 19th century poem, '*The Pied Piper of Hamelin*', was based on widespread earlier myths<sup>29</sup> which are said to have related mainly to the 13th century town of Hamelin in Germany rather than to the 12th century name of Henry II's illegitimate half-brother Hamelin Plantagenet, who fathered the Warren Plantagenets. It is accordingly:-

**doubtful** that there was a *significant* connection of the Warren affinity to this poem; but,

**likely** that the following sentiments in the poem may hold some relevance to the times of the Black Death, around when the Warren affinity was beginning to establish itself in east Cheshire:-

*Rats!*  
*They fought the dogs and killed the cats, And bit the babies in the cradles,*  
*And ate the cheeses out of the vats, And licked the soup from the cook's own ladles.*

etc...

*Out came the children running, All the little boys and girls*  
*Tripping and skipping, ran merrily after The wonderful music with shouting and laughter.*

In particular, it remains:-

**doubtful** that the plague was the *primary* reason for the arrival of the Warren affinity in east Cheshire; but,

<sup>27</sup>J.P.Earwaker (1877) *ibid*, Vol.I, pps 333, 337, 343.

<sup>28</sup>G.A.Holmes (1957) *ibid*, p 50.

<sup>29</sup>I was told at an early age by my father that there *may have been* some connection between the myths of the Pied Piper and the early Plant family.

**1352 Jan. 28. Westminster.** — Commision of oyer and terminer to Richard de Kelleshull, Robert de Causton and Robert Clere, on complaint by Ralph, earl of Stafford, and Andrew Ansem of Suthflete that ... (6 names<sup>a</sup>) ... James Plant ... (24 more names<sup>b</sup>) ... and others, carried away their goods at Welles, Warham and Styvekey, co. Norfolk. — For 20s. to be paid to the king. (Patent Rolls)

<sup>a</sup>These 6 names are John Bullok of Warham, Alan de Hall, John Seem, Richard de Kent, Reynold Brid, Richard Seem.

<sup>b</sup>These 24 names are Simon May, Robert Gunolf, Roger de Haston, Richard Grumme, Alan Lovel, Geoffrey Dolowe, Thomas Horrowe of Warham, Nicholas Bethaghe of Blakeneye, John May, Simon Dalkesone, John Bataille, Robert Wigennaille, John Lagham, Thomas Knyght, John Heryng, Thomas Carmer, William Hamund of Welles, Ralph Raumalkynessone, John Grigge, John Bulwere, John Nichol, Simon Grigge, John Elyot, Augustine Elyot.

**Some background to this dispute.** — The extensive de Clare lands of Gilbert (d 1314), earl of Gloucester and Hertford<sup>a</sup> were distributed to his sisters, Eleanor wife of Hugh le Despenser the Younger, Margaret widow of Piers Gaveston, and Elizabeth widow of John de Burgh<sup>b</sup>. Gaveston's widow, Margaret, married Hugh d'Audley, in 1317, who disputed bitterly with Hugh le Despenser the Younger over the distribution of the lands. It can be noted, for example, that subsequently the de Clare manor of Walsingham adjoined the 1352 dispute involving James Plant and it had evidently been passed down the de Burgh line which had married with the sister, Maud Plantagenet, of the 1st duke of Lancaster. It may also be noted that Lancaster's daughter, another Maud Plantagenet, was briefly married to the eldest son of Ralph, 1st earl of Stafford, who was the complainant in the 1352 dispute involving James Plant and who was a close companion of the 4th earl (1347-51) then 1st duke (1351-61) of Lancaster<sup>c</sup>.

<sup>a</sup>Some marital inter-connections, providing some background to this dispute, can be outlined briefly as follows. The wife of John Plantagenet (de Warenne) was Alice Lusignan (Figure 19.2) who was a half sister of Henry III and sister to William de Valence, earl of Pembroke (d 1296) whose niece Alice married Gilbert de Clare, earl of Gloucester and Hertford (d 1295). Gilbert's heir, Gilbert (d 1314), was killed at Bannockburn.

<sup>b</sup>Elizabeth's son William de Burgh (d 1333), earl of Ulster, married Maud 'of Lancaster' Plantagenet (Figure 19.4), daughter of the blind (from 1330) Henry Plantagenet, 3rd earl of Lancaster (1324-45). G.A.Holmes (1957) *ibid*, pps 36, 87.

<sup>c</sup>G.A.Holmes (1957) *ibid*, pps 37, 39, 49. Simon Walker (1990) *ibid*, p 214.

Table 19.5: A north Norfolk dispute involving James Plant near ex-Warren lands

**likely** that it quickly soured the generally perceived nature of their arrival (*cf.* vinegar was used for purification during the plague and, in south Cheshire dialect, *plant* means the scum that rises to the top of the vinegar).

### 19.3.6 A Plant in dispute in north Norfolk

An episode in the displacement of the main centre of 'Plant like' names from Norfolk to the two subsequent main locations for Plant clusters — namely to south Lincolnshire, just across The Wash, and further afield to east Cheshire — can seemingly be found in evidence for an apparent disinheritance of a Plant in Norfolk...

The 1347 Inquest into the lands<sup>30</sup> of John Warren, last earl of Surrey mentions for example that the north Norfolk Hundreds of Brothercross and Gallow were to pass to Henry, earl of Lancaster along with for example rents in the adjacent town of Welles and

<sup>30</sup>Calendar of Inquisitions, ix, No 54.

30 CHAPTER 19: LANCASTRIAN PLANTAGENETS AND SETTLED PLANTS  
pleas etc. of the courts and leets of Welles. A 1352 complaint was made (Table 19.5)<sup>31</sup> against the removal by James Plant and others of goods from Welles and adjacent places such as Warham. One of the complainants in this dispute was Ralph de Stafford, who had become the 1st earl of Stafford in 1351 after inheriting the de Clare estates of his father-in-law Hugh d' Audley in 1347, which included<sup>32</sup> Welles with Warham.

It can be noted from further considerations, which are outlined in Table 19.5, that the complainant, the newly created earl of Stafford, Ralph, was allied to an emerging powerful Lancastrian affinity. The Lancastrians had feuded with the Warren Plantagenets and had inherited their north Norfolk land rights which, it seems, that Stafford was now alleging included the goods that James Plant and others had carried away. To the extent that it can be supposed that Stafford was disputing with traditional rights that could well have been granted by the Warrens, it can be considered that this James Plant could have been part of a disinherited Warren affinity.

### 19.3.7 An eventual shift of allegiance to the Lancastrian affinity

As well as uncertainties about when the Plant name first arrived in east Cheshire, there are uncertainties about the date when the Plants first became allied to the Lancastrian affinity, though the red rose of the Plant blazon suggests that such a transfer of allegiance may have occurred at some stage. It seems possible that some of the Plants *may have* followed a similar course to the Warrens for modifying their allegiance and, for the Warrens, the evidence is a little clearer.

Sir Edward Warren's link to east Cheshire (*cf.* Figure 19.2) was through marriage (c1340) to Cicely de Eton. Cicely was a great grand-daughter of Sir Robert de Stockport whose family had held Stockport and other lands in east Cheshire and Lancashire<sup>33</sup> direct from the royal earls of Chester 'by reason of the forfeiture of Hugh Despencer<sup>34</sup>'. In 1370 Sir Edward Warren's son John, later Sir John de Warren, was found heir to the NE Cheshire estates of his cousin, Isabel de Stokeport (née Davenport)<sup>35</sup>. This was around the time when he married (c1371) Margaret, daughter and heiress of Sir John de Stafford of Wickham, Norfolk.

The east Cheshire inheritance acquired by the illegitimate Warren descent formed a lasting basis for a long and eminent association of the Warrens with Stockport and Poynton. It seems that (some of) the illegitimate descent of the Warren Plantagenets *may have* begun a shifting allegiance towards the Lancastrian affinity around the times of Sir John's marriage to Margaret, who evidently had Lancastrian sympathies. After his 1386/7 death, Sir John de Warren was buried at Boton, Norfolk and his widow Margaret remarried John Mainwaring<sup>36</sup> of Over Peover (east mid Cheshire). Margaret's memorial effigy (c1420) in Over Peover church shows her wearing the Lancastrian SS livery collar

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<sup>31</sup>The places mentioned in this 1352 record are evidently Welles-next-the-sea, Warham, and Stiffkey which, though 20 miles west along the Norfolk coast from the ex-Warrene manor of Gimmingham, are all just a couple of miles east from the ex-Warrene Hundreds of Brothecross and Gallow.

<sup>32</sup>Calendar of Inquisitions, ix, No 55.

<sup>33</sup>Sir Robert de Stockport (d ?1239/49) was 'a man of very considerable property' holding for example a great part of Stockport, Poynton, Woodford, Bredbury, Romiley, Werneth, Hattersley, Wodeley, Offerton, Etchells, and Cheadle, all in Cheshire; and Plumpton and Formby in Lancashire.

<sup>34</sup>Hugh Despenser, Bishop of Winchester was appointed last justiciar of England (1260-1, 1263) in opposition to Henry III and he was killed fighting against the king at Evesham in 1265. His barony was in NE Cheshire and extended from Bollington, near Macclesfield, Butley on the Bollin, Chelford, through Stockport to Mottram in Longendale (F.M.Powicke (1947) *King Henry II and the lord Edward*, Vol II, p 420). His son, Hugh le Despenser (1261-1326), and grandson, Hugh le Despenser the Younger (c1290-1326) were lone supporters of Gaveston, bitter enemies of Thomas Plantagenet, 2nd earl of Lancaster (1298-1322), and favourites of Edward II.

<sup>35</sup>This is confirmed by a 1418 record (J.P.Earwaker (1880) *East Cheshire: Past and Present*, Vol II pps 274-5, 286).. *And the Jury further say that Sir John Warren, Knt., is next of kin of the said Robert, son of Nicholas de Eton, namely, the son of Cicely ....*

<sup>36</sup>At some time between 1337 and 1450 the 'manor of Werford' in east Cheshire passed to the Masseys of Poddington — Warford, along with other east Cheshire townships such as North Rode and Snelson, appear in the Domesday survey (1086) as being held by the ancestor, Ranulph or Randle, of the Mainwaring family. J.P.Earwaker (1880) *ibid*, Vol.II, pps 425, 641, 643.

of which few examples have been found on a woman, another rare example being on the effigy of the wife, Joan of Navarre (d 1397), of the subsequent first Lancastrian king<sup>37</sup>.

In the Inquisition Post Mortem for Sir John Warren's wife Margaret (d 6 April 1418) there is a reference to Stockport and Poynton (NE Cheshire) and to the Davenport maiden name of Sir John's cousin, Isabel de Stokeport...

*That a certain Ralph de Davenport and John de Davenport of Henbury were lately seised of the manors of Stockport and Poynton in their demense as of fee, and they conceded the said manors to Sir John de Warren, Knt., and Margaret his wife, and their heirs ....*

(?This disinherited) Ranulph of Davenport and 5 others had commanded the bodyguard of watches, whose major part had been drawn by Richard II from Cheshire. These men were described in those embittered political times as 'arrogant insolent ruffians'<sup>38</sup>. The growing Lancastrian affinity had progressively included Stafford and the High Peak and, along with the Lancastrians' dominant hold over Lancashire, it had increasingly surrounded Cheshire and had ultimately led on, in 1399, to the capture of the last "Plantagenet king" Richard II at Chester.

## 19.4 The chameleon-like name Plant

 It seems clear that the detailed meaning of the Plant name has changed down the centuries. Early influences may have arisen in proximity to the place name *Plontone* and to the surname *Plantagenet*. A 'life cycle' of *fertile*, *abundance*, *establisher*, and *child* meanings may have progressed on to such meanings as 'love child' and 'noble young heir', before attaining any significant connotations of 'industry' or 'gardening'.

### 19.4.1 Early formation of the name

Geoffrey V 'le bon' Plantagenet was born in 1113 in Anjou western France and, in 1154, his legitimate son became King Henry II of England. Henry's illegitimate half-brother Hamelin fathered Plantagenet as a surname, for the Warren earls of Surrey and their close family.

Proximities of the formative Pl(a/e)nt(e) name to the Warren Plantagenets suggest that the Plants may have been offshoots of that affinity. For example, the 'similar' mid 13th century name *Plantyn* can be taken to be a playful diminutive of the Plantagenet surname of those *de Warennes*. Roger Plantyn can be connected directly to the wife, Maud, of William Plantagenet (Warren) and her association with Monmouthshire provides a likely link to the Welsh meaning 'child' of *plant*.

As well as an association of the Warren Plantagenets with Monmouthshire (c1225-50), there was also an ongoing association of their surname with Monmouthshire which became a temporary homeland (c1280-1310) for the Lancastrians who evidently adopted Plantagenet as their surname around that time. Such events, when compared with possible 'horse borne abundance' or 'horse borne establisher' (re-)interpretations of the Pl(a/e)nt(a/e)genet name, might be thought to have related to contemporary activities, such as of horse-borne transport opening up the south Wales wool fulling area, though the detail of those early times is sparse.

### 19.4.2 A restatement of the 4 theorems

A fuller deliberation of the evidence, for the Plant name, can be presented in the form of four theorems which, in the light of the current evidence, might be restated as:-

1. royalist auxiliary (e.g. Radulphus Plente with duties to the king at Oxford in 1219)

<sup>37</sup>J.P.Earwaker (1880) *ibid*, Vol.II, pps 119, 286.

<sup>38</sup>H.J.Hewitt (1967) *Cheshire under the Three Edwards*, p 107. P.W.Cullen and R.Horden (1986) *The Castles of Cheshire*, p 13.

<p><b>1435</b> Misyn, <i>Fire of Love</i>, 5</p> <p>Fyer of fraward lufe, the whilk wastis burionyng of verteu, &amp; norrysches the <b>plantes</b> of all vyce.</p>	<p><b>1500-20</b> Dunbar, <i>Poems</i>, lxxxvii, 30</p> <p>Great Gode ws graunt that we have long desirit, A <b>plaunt</b> to spring of thi succession.</p>
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Table 19.6: Evident ‘love child’ and ‘heir’ meanings of the word *plant*, as listed in the Oxford English Dictionary

2. Plantagenet child (*cf.* connections of the Warren Plantagenets to Norfolk and Monmouthshire around 1225 and their direct link to the bye-name Plantyn)
3. possible secondary associations with..
  - (a) from *Plontone* or from *la Planteland* (Monmouthshire)
  - (b) meanings associated with foundation, growth and plenty
  - (c) a diminutive of the Bloundeville name associable with a diminutive of the Plantagenet name, both having associations with the Palatine of Chester.
4. an amalgam of meaning associated with *Pl(a/e)nte-Tun* and *Pl(a/e)nte-Genet*, perhaps arising first in the south east of England and then revived in connection with a c1340 marriage between an illegitimate descendant of the Warren *Plantagenets* and the heiress of the NE Cheshire *de Stockport* family — this family had owned *Plontone* in Lancashire.

Meanings embodied in theorems 1 and 2 can be associated with Warren Plantagenet activities in the south east of England, and also in the Welsh borders, around the times of the first known evidence for the formative Plant name.

Similar meanings may then have been revived around the times of a more permanent settlement of the illegitimate Warren (Plantagenet) descent in mid 14th century east Cheshire, which was also around the times of the first known evidence for the Plant name in its subsequent east Cheshire homeland. Such an evident settlement of Warrens and Plants may have taken place in a context of a diminishing national influence for the Warren affinity and an amalgamation of meanings, as indicated by theorems 3(b) and 4.

Earlier meanings associated with ‘plenty’ may have become suppressed following, for example, the deprivations of the Black Death and a greater emphasis may have become placed on ‘establisher child’ meanings for the subsequently more settled Plant surname in east Cheshire. More generally, ‘Plant(agenet) related’ names may be said to have carried particular connotations of an ‘establisher young man’, fitting them loosely into a general surname category of ‘title or early occupational’ surnames<sup>39</sup>.

### 19.4.3 Some subsequent developments for the name’s meaning

William Langland’s reference (c1380) to the ‘*pl(a/e)nte of pes*’ as the issue of ‘*love ... the greatest gift yr lord giveth*’ suggests a meaning for Plant similar to that of Childe, namely a ‘princely young man’ albeit with messianic (*cf.* Prince of Peace) or ‘love child’ overtones.

Some further usages of the word *plant*, along these lines of ‘love child’ or ‘heir’, are indicated in Table 19.6.

<sup>39</sup>The surname Child, when taken in conjunction with the Wessex Childe tradition, is already widely held to be a surname of that type.

By c1621, a ‘noble young heir’ meaning to *plant* seems to be in evidence in the Plants’ Cheshire homeland in a passage describing Sir John Savage<sup>40</sup>:-

*... the xith Knight of that noble Race, and Name, Sir John Savage ... six times High Sheriff, thrice Major of this city of Chester ... concerning the great hope and worth of his Issue, in the person of his Grandchild, then a young **Plant** and newly sent to the Innes of Court, to be trained up answerably to his Birth and Dignity ...*

*That hopeful **Plant**, that is the apparent Heir  
Of all his glory, and this great Discent;  
Oh! be the rest, as his beginnings are,  
That Savages may still be excellent.*

By the late 18th century an industrial meaning was evidently becoming widely recognised for the chameleonic word and surname Plant as characterised by, for example, a *Plants Yard* base for the conversion of initially just a few of Sheffield’s many water-powered grinding wheels into water and steam powered forges (Chapters 12, 13, and 14). The Plant of this *Plant’s Yard* had married into a prominent Sheffield family who, amongst other things, repeatedly held the title ‘The Master Cutler’ — a nephew of this Plant’s wife was for example the 1816 Master Cutler and also a close friend of the Historian, Joseph Hunter — it was Hunter who proved the *illegitimacy* of the east Cheshire Warren descent (Figure 19.2) from the Plantagenet (de Warenne) earls of Surrey<sup>41</sup>.

A 20th century context has more recently, it seems, led us into placing a dominant emphasis on a ‘gardener interpretation’ for the Plant name.

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<sup>40</sup>This appears in the book by Daniel King (1656) entitled ‘*Vale Royal of England or the County Palatine of Chester illustrated*’ which includes an account by William Webb written c1621 entitled ‘*A description of the city of Chester; compiled by Mr Webb, Mr of Arts and sometime under-sherrif to Sir Richard Lee of Lee, in Cheshire*’.

<sup>41</sup>J.Hunter (1828) *History of South Yorkshire*, Vol I, pps 104-100 notes that Edward de Warren is named as one of the sons of the last Earl of Warren in his will, dated 1347, and as the Earl was never divorced from his wife Joan de Barre, grand-daughter of Edward I, all his children were illegitimate. J.P.Earwaker (1880) *East Cheshire: Past and Present*, Vol II, p275.