

## NEW MEMBERS

A total of nine new members have joined the Group since the issue of the last Journal.

**No. 247      Ron Ellis      Selby, North Yorkshire**

Ron learnt of the Plant Family History Group through the Guild of One Name Studies (GOONS) website, his connection with the Plant family being through his wife's 5<sup>th</sup> G.Grandfather, Thomas Plant bn., c1714, living in Eyke, Suffolk in 1739 when John King was born to Martha King and Thomas Plant and christened in Eyke 23 September 1739.

The next step is to find the birth/baptism of Thomas Plant c1714. There is no record in the IGI and it will probably be necessary to check the P.R., starting initially with Eyke followed by adjoining parishes.

**No. 248      Mrs KS Cosgrove      Lach Dennis, Cheshire**

Mrs Cosgrove's forebears on her father's side originally came from Walsall, Wood, Staffordshire with a possible Wolverhampton connection. Her grandfather, Thomas Plant, moved to New Brighton, Cheshire, where some of his children remained, although some were also living in Staffordshire.

Thomas Plant born c1888, was the son of Thomas/James Plant and Ann Wells. He married Ann Addis, 23 December 1908 and their eldest son, also named Thomas was born 14 November 1910 in Wallasey, Cheshire. There was a total of eight children, Thomas, Emily, Benjamin, Irene, Francis, Rhoda, Edith and Eric.

The only other known information is that Thomas Plant (born c1888) had at least three siblings, James, George and Annie.

I searched the 1891 & 1901 Census for a Thomas Plant born 1888 with parents Thomas/James & Ann, but without success. The problem is that there are numerous Thomas Plant's and without more information it is not possible to identify the correct one. I did, however, find, when looking at the GRO Index, the birth registration of James Thomas Plant, June, 1885 at Walsall, Vol. 6b, page 687. It may, therefore, be an idea to apply for a copy of this certificate provided the parents are stated to be Thomas/James & Ann (maiden name Wells).

**No. 249      Richard George Plant      Queensland, Australia**

The parents of Richard's paternal grandparents were Richard Plant (born Lincolnshire 1825/6) and Salome Elizabeth Wiltshire (born 1844)5 in Surrey). Richard's father was James, a farmer and mother was Mary, nee King, and they emigrated to Australia c1855.

This information immediately 'rang a bell' as Journal No. 10 included an article giving an account of James Plant's Voyage to Australia. This James is James Jnr born at Sibsey, Lincolnshire in 1835 and the brother of Richard referred to by our new member (Richard George)

The family, other than James Snr who probably died in 1852, sailed to Australia in 1855 on the Galconda. The Index to Inward Passenger lists held by Victoria's Archives P.R.O., Ref. Code B, Fiche 084, page 006 contains the following information relative to this family.

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Given Names</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Ship</u>
Plant	Ann	18	Jan	1855	Galconda
"	James	19	"	"	"
"	Joseph	13	"	"	"
"	Maria	21	"	"	"
"	Mary	52	"	"	"
"	Olive	10	"	"	"

“	Richard	28	“	“	“
“	Sarah	29	“	“	“

Richard (our new member) has recently written and published a book entitled ‘*Life’s A Ball*’ the story and observations of his life. It is now available to view, and to purchase, on website [www.poseidon books.com](http://www.poseidonbooks.com).

**No 250 Linda Brice Pontypridd, South Wales**

In January this year I received the following e-mail from Linda:

*‘As my maternal grandfather bore the surname Plant, and therefore my mother’s and her sister’s maiden name was Plant, I have always had an interest in the name. although I took with a pinch of salt, a cousin’s insistence that the name was ‘special’ I must confess to having been intrigued. My grandfather’s name was also William Gordon Plant born in 1900. His father, whose name was also William, was born in Cheshire. My grandfather himself wasn’t born in Cheshire as his father was working elsewhere at the time – possibly in Yorkshire’*

That is what was known (or believed) – So – lets look at the 1901 Census for a William Gordon Plant born c1900 – No luck, the only possibility was a William G Plant born 1898, Bloxwich, son of William a coal miner, age 41, born Shropshire.

However, that didn’t feel correct and Linda confirmed that she knew he was born in 1900 as she remembers him saying that he missed the incoming of the new century being born in January of that year.

So, now, lets look at the GRO Index – success:

Name	William Gordon Plant
When registered	June Qtr 1900
Registration District	Wakefield, Yorkshire
Vol. No.	9c
Page No.	65

Now, back to the 1901 Census, this time looking for a WG Plant, i.e., just the initials and yes a probable family is found in Purston com Featherstone which is not far from Wakefield

William Plant	H	M	32	Coal Hewer	born Gresley, Derby
Alice Plant	W	M	32		born Pontefract, Yorks.
Reuben Plant	S		9		born “ “
George Plant	S		7		born “ “
Emma Plant	D		5		born “ “
WG Plant	S		2		born “ “
Isaac Plant	S		7m		born “ “
Rueben	Father	W	59	Coal Hewer	born Cheadle, Staffs.

To confirm all the aforementioned information a copy of WG’s birth certificate will be required.

**No. 251 Ian Plant Ryton on Dunsmore, Warwick’s**

Ian is fairly new to Family History and thought at first that he was quite a rare Plant that was until he found our web site.

He had got back to a Samuel Plant born 1853 who married a Mary Brierley and lived at 17 Vernon Street, Sedgley.

First thing to check was the 1861 Census on Ancestry Co.uk – but due to the number of Samuel’s listed, it would be a long job checking each one. So let’s see if we can find the family in the 1881 Census, (assuming Samuel would have been married by then,) using the Mormons discs which contain full family information on one record sheet. Immediate success

Samuel Plant	H	M	28	Iron Roller	born Bilston, Staffs
Mary Plant	W	M	29		born Rowley, Staffs
Samuel Plant	S		6		born Sedgley, Staffs
Albert J Plant	S		4		born Sedgley, Staffs
Elizabeth Plant	D		10m		born Sedgley, Staffs

So armed with this additional information (place of birth mainly) search the 1861 Census in Ancestry.co.uk for Samuel born 1853

Again immediate success – recorded in parish of Bilston, St Mary’s was:

James Plant	H	M	50	Forge Iron Roller	born Bradley, Staffs
Hephribah Plant	W	M	52		born Birstall, Yorkshire
Mary E Plant	D	U	15	Scholar	born Calderbark, Scotland
William Plant	S		11	Labourer in Iron Works	born Salop Row, Staffs
Betsey Plant	D		14		born Salop Row, Staffs
Samuel Plant	S		8	Scholar	born Salop Row, Staffs

Based on the above, James and Hephribah went with Mary E to Scotland c1846 (and possibly some older children not listed above) looking for work in the Glasgow area which, at that time, contained a large number of iron works, but returned within one year as Betsey was born in Staffs.

The next step is to find the marriage of James and Hephribah c1835 to c1845. According to the Census returns, Hephribah was born in Birstall, Yorkshire, so the marriage could have taken place in that area. It would also be of interest to obtain a copy of Mary E Plant’s birth certificate.

**No. 252                      Mr Christopher Johnson                      Banbury**

Christopher’s family is descended from the Plants who were living in Edensar, Derbyshire in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century and during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, his connection being Ann Plant who married William Johnson in Edensar in 1799 at St Peter’s Parish Church.

A detailed list of Plants has been made available to the Group by Chris, starting with Roger Plant, the great grandfather of Ann Plant who married Wm Johnson.

So starting with Roger Plant as the first generation the line is as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Generation Roger Plant and Elizabeth

Johes Plant	b 1654	bt Bakewell
Margerie Plant	b 1663	bt Bakewell
Robert Plant	b 1665	m Anna Carswell or Cresswell or Cowsrell
Thomas Plant	b 1667	bt Bakewell
Dorothy Plant	b 1670	bt Bakewell

2<sup>nd</sup> Generation Robert Plant and Anna Carswell or Cresswell or Cowsrell

Margaret Plant	b 1688
Alice Plant	b 1687
Peter Plant	b 1690
Robert Plant	b 1691
John Plant	b 1693
Michael Plant	b 1697    m Sarah Bolton

3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Michael Plant and Sarah Bolton

Ann Plant	b 1726
Robert Plant	b 1728
John Plant	b 1730
Michael Plant	b 1733
Nicholas Plant	b 1738



Victoria Plant            born 1900      Oldham

This would mean that William and Emily married c1890.

Moving back now to the 1891 Census to look for William Plant born 1868 in Sheffield we find him and his family living in Bedminster, Bristol, the family comprising:

William Plant	born 1868	Sheffield	Draper
Emily G Plant	born 1868	Chester	
Emily M Plant	born 1890	Lancaster	
Nellie Harris	born	Glamorgan	Visitor
Baby Plant	born 1891	Bristol	

Baby Plant must have died when a baby.

In 1881 William born 1868 was living with his father, [also called William] at Nether Hallam, Yorkshire the full entry being as follows:

William Plant	born 1830	Sheffield	Steel Roller
Ann Plant	born 1829	Worksop	
Tom Plant	born 1853	Holmes, Nr Rotherham	
			Labourer in Steel works
Evangeline Plant	born 1855	Sheffield	
William Plant	born 1868	Sheffield	Assistant to Pawnbroker

This means that William and Ann married c1850:

Ten years earlier in 1871 William, born 1868 was living with his father and mother (William & Ann) and his siblings at Brightside, Sheffield the Census return showing:

William Plant	born 1830	Attercliffe, Yorkshire	Sheet Steel Roller
Ann Plant	born 1829		
Tom Plant	born 1853		Apprentice
John Plant	born 1858	Brightside, Yorkshire	“
Harriet Plant	born 1864	Brightside, Yorkshire	Scholar
William Plant	born 1868	Sheffield, Yorkshire	

Now going back a further 20 years to 1851 to look for a William Plant born 1830, we find him unmarried, still living with his father, John Plant, his mother, Elizabeth, and all his siblings at Brightside, Bierlow.

There were 7 children, the full record as follows:

John Plant	born 1805	Adwick on Deam, Yorks.	Farm labourer
Elizabeth Plant	born 1810	Wadsley, Yorkshire	
William Plant	born 1830	Brightside, Yorkshire	Steel Roller
Mary Ann Plant	born 1834	“	“
			Dressmaker's
			Apprentice
Elizabeth Plant	born 1839	“	“
			Scholar
Sarah Plant	born 1841	“	“
			“
John Plant	born 1844	“	“
			“
Joseph Plant	born 1847	“	“
			“
Harriot Plant	born 1850	“	“
			“

This means that John & Elizabeth were married c1828/30

Using the IGI John Plant, son of William and Ann Plant was baptised at Adwick on Dearne on 28 August 1805 and a William Plant married Ann Askew also at Adwick on Dearne on 27 November 1803. The next step is to find the birth of William c1780 in Adwick-upon-Dearne or neighbouring parishes.

The family appears to have moved around a bit but using the Census returns it is possible to establish their movements and occupations through the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**No. 255**

**`Linda Mockford**

Linda's great grandmother's name was Elizabeth Osbourne who married a William Plant c1882, possibly in Dudley. Their children were Annie, Sarah, Edward, Ginny, Kate, Edith and Jimmy.

The marriage of William and Elizabeth is critical in order to trace further backwards. Ancestry.co.uk does not contain a reference to this marriage, but as I have found that certain pages from the GRO have been missed by Ancestry, I have started looking through the microfiche copies of the GRO Index. To date, having looked at 1880 to 1882, no luck though, I did think that I had found a possible when I found an Elizabeth Osbourne marriage in Dudley in 1880. Unfortunately there was no Plant connection.

The 'Black Country Brigade' are helping in this search using the census returns to try and find family members listed above. It may mean checking all the William and Elizabeth Plant's of which there are many, until some of the family names appear.

*Welcome to all new members and if you feel like contributing an article on any matters relating to the Plants or where they lived, please do so.*

## CORRESPONDENCE

The following letter was received from Sue Tudor – Member 221

*“Dear Keith*

*I have been in touch with a John Pascoe in Australia via Genes Reunited. He is connected to the Benjamin Plant and Ann Clewlow Line via Charles Myatt Plant who married Elizabeth Hill.*

*I have enclosed a copy of his very comprehensive information as I think it may be useful to members who are trying to link the Plants in North Staffordshire with the Plants in Liverpool, and with the connection to the Shelley Pottery Family.*

*I have passed the Plant Society information on to a number of people looking for information on the Pottery Plants, hope they have been in touch and become members.*

The Plant connection is through Elizabeth Hill who married Charles Myatt Plant c September 1846 at Liverpool and had 7 children between 1848 and 1866. Charles Myatt Plant was one of six children.

If any member would like a copy of the extensive information provided by Sue, please contact me (WKP)

~~~~~

The following letter was received from Chris Plant – Member No. 183

*Keith*

*There appears to be an error in the Staffordshire Marriage Index Journal No. 31. You have*

*346 Robert married to Catherine Wilshaw on 19/03/1805 at Cheadle*

*I have a George Plant who married Catherine Wilshaw on 19/03/1805 at Cheadle who appeared to have the following children:*

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Phoebe*</i>   | <i>12/01/1806</i> |
| <i>Thomas</i>    | <i>19/06/1809</i> |
| <i>Margaret</i>  | <i>10/11/1811</i> |
| <i>Elizabeth</i> | <i>10/07/1814</i> |
| <i>Ann</i>       | <i>22/12/1816</i> |
| <i>Jane</i>      | <i>18/09/1820</i> |
| <i>George</i>    | <i>06/01/1822</i> |
| <i>Kate</i>      | <i>13/06/1824</i> |
| <i>Fanny</i>     | <i>15/04/1827</i> |

\*Phoebe/Phebe may be the same one in the list (no. 284) who married Robert Hammersley on 14/06/1830. Phebe had an illegitimate daughter Jane, on 4/10/1929.

I'm not sure where I got my marriage data from.

There was only one Robert Plant at the time, George's older brother, but he married Hannah Phillips on 19/03/1800. The coincidence of dates i.e. 19<sup>th</sup> March in bit cases suggests some transcription error somewhere. They had the following children.

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Elizabeth</i> | <i>24/11/1805</i> |
| <i>Thomas</i>    | <i>3/11/1808</i>  |
| <i>Margaret</i>  | <i>05/08/1809</i> |
| <i>Jane</i>      | <i>22/12/1811</i> |
| <i>Hannah</i>    | <i>10/02/1814</i> |
| <i>James</i>     | <i>19/01/1817</i> |

There are no couples Robert/Catherine in Cheadle that I could find.

*WKP note – I extracted the information in Journal No. 31 from the Staffordshire Marriage Index compiled by the Birmingham & Midland Society for Genealogy & Heraldry. I agree that a transcription error caused this incorrect entry.*



## Chapter 32

# Geoffrey Plantagenet: surname inspirer

May 2006. One of a series of Chapters by Dr. John S. Plant, Keele University, England, ST5 5BG.

### THE LIKELY TRANSMISSION OF A SURNAME CULTURE FROM MEDIEVAL FRANCE TO ENGLAND

The nickname *Plante Genest* of Geoffrey, count of Anjou is generally taken to have inspired *Plantagenet* even though this is not in evidence as a royal surname until three hundred years after his death. In the intervening years, it seems that the Plant surname could have been influenced by Geoffrey's fame. This Chapter outlines some information for count Geoffrey and his illegitimate descendants who may have helped to transmit the culture of his nickname to the formative Plant surname for which there was also a likely Welsh influence, giving it an 'offspring' meaning. More generally, Plant-like names such as *Plantapilosa*, *Plante Genest*, *Plantefolie*, *Plente* and *Plante* can be related to a 'growing shoot' metaphor, to which a bawdy sense can be attached which, in particular, may have delayed the adoption of *Plantagenet* as an official royal surname. This was eventually overcome, it seems, by a developing philosophy of sacred creation competing with baser generation as is evidenced by Robert Grosseteste's thirteenth-century efforts to elevate the vegetable soul to divine status in opposition to some others' views.

## 32.1 Sense to the Plantagenet surname

Most people who have considered origins for *Plantagenet* have ignored a tradition of similar Plant-like names though that context leads to further insights for the meaning of the *Plantagenet* surname. In the first century AD, Julius Planta is recorded in the Italian Alps though it is not until the thirteenth century that there is evidence for the noble Swiss Planta family. By that time Bernard Plantevelu had founded a new Duchy of Aquitaine in what is now SW France and, just to the north, Geoffrey *Plante Genest* in the twelfth century had germinated the shoots of the Angevin Empire.

The *Plantagenet* name is often incorrectly applied as though it were the surname of all (or many) of the English kings throughout the 350 years from *Plante Genest*'s son Henry II to Richard III. John Gillingham (2001)<sup>1</sup> redresses this with:

But although Henry II's father Count Geoffrey was known as *Plantagenet* it was not until the fifteenth century that this term came to be used as a family name, ...

He then continues:

... and for the story that the name came from the sprig of broom (*Planta Genista*) that he liked to wear in his hat to be put into writing we have to wait until the nineteenth century.

This is wrong in so far as it was not as late as the nineteenth century – two centuries sooner, in 1605, William Camden had written of *Plante Genest* that he was so called because '*he ware commonly a broom-stalk in his bonnet*'. Even so, even though the story of a broom stalk in Geoffrey's bonnet can be traced back to 1605, this is still long after the first evidence in the 1170s for Geoffrey's *Plantegenest* nickname.

---

<sup>1</sup>John Gillingham, *The Angevin Empire*, Second Edition (London, 2001), p 3.

The Encyclopedia Britannica (2000 version) makes similar points to those of John Gillingham though it credits a different story of how Geoffrey's nickname could have originated. It mentions the sprig-wearing story but then liberally opines that it considers a hunting explanation to be more likely:

Although well established, the surname Plantagenet has little historical justification. It seems to have originated as a nickname for Count Geoffrey and has been variously explained as referring to his practice of wearing a sprig of broom (Latin *genista*) in his hat or, more probably, to his habit of planting brooms to improve his hunting covers. It was not, however, a hereditary surname, and Geoffrey's descendants in England remained without one for more than 250 years, although surnames became universal outside the royal family. ... The first official use of the surname Plantagenet by any descendant of Count Geoffrey occurred in 1460, when Richard, Duke of York, claimed the throne as "Richard Plantaginet".

A hunting explanation for the name is given short shrift, however, in the Complete Peerage<sup>2</sup>, which favours the traditional story that Geoffrey wore a 'sprig of broom' in his hat:

Mrs Green says that Geoffrey was so called "from his love of hunting over heath and broom" (Henry II, p. 6). This may be deduced from Wace (*loc. cit.*):

E al contre Geffrei son frere,  
Que l'en clamont Plante Genest,  
Qui mult amout bois e forest.

However, it is more likely that Geoffrey's love of wood and forest was inserted for the purpose of rime than as an explanation of his nickname.

In spite of the opinion of the Encyclopedia Britannica, its hunting explanation seems dubious. Instead, we might consider an elaboration of the more traditional story: by wearing a sprig of broom in his hat Geoffrey could have been reinforcing that his nickname Plantegenest was an echo of his conquering predecessor's name – Plantevelu. Plantevelu means a 'hairy shoot' and a sprig of broom, which is one, could have recalled Plantevelu's tradition of winning a new duchy. Plantevelu had founded a new Duchy of Aquitaine and Plantegenest conquered the Duchy of Normandy. Geoffrey's love of wood and forest, in Wace's contemporary poem, may not have alluded so much to hunting as to a love of augmenting his lands: the sprig of broom in his hat had a vegetable soul which empowered a man with augmentation.

## 32.2 Geoffrey Plante Genest: germinator of an Empire and a surname

There is little doubt that the nickname, Plante Genest, means 'sprig of broom' and this recalls the 'hairy shoot' meaning of the name of the ninth-century founder of a new Duchy of Aquitaine, Bernard Plantevelu. The associated 'renewal metaphor' gives rise to the same semantic system for Plant, though the meaning of the Plant surname is perhaps best narrowed to 'offspring': this is discussed further later in this Chapter. First, this Chapter outlines the role of Geoffrey Plante Genest in germinating an Empire and this is followed by evidence that a cultural influence from his name led on first to the Plant surname and then eventually to the royal Plantagenet surname.

Geoffrey Plante Genest's father, Fulk V, count of Anjou had co-operated with the English-Norman king, Henry I to form a strategy. To prevent a France-Flanders-Anjou alliance against England, the English-Norman king, Henry I, arranged for his only legitimate son William to marry Fulk V's daughter Matilda. However, William was drowned in the White Ship disaster in 1120, so in 1127 Henry arranged instead for his daughter, another Matilda, to marry Fulk's son and heir, Geoffrey Plante Genest. This union led on to a powerful Empire which lasted for three centuries though it became much reduced in extent for most of its history.

In view of his relevance, the next section outlines some detailed information about Geoffrey.

<sup>2</sup>Complete Peerage, Volume XI Appendices, p. 141.

### 32.2.1 John of Marmoutier's biography of Geoffrey Plante Genest

About 1170, John of Marmoutier wrote a highly laudatory and sometimes florid biography of Geoffrey Plante Genest, with the intention of pleasing Geoffrey's son, Henry II. A translation appears in *The Plantagenet Chronicles*<sup>3</sup>, and the following is a brief précis of some extracts.

Not only was Geoffrey unusually skilled at warfare: it was with outstanding competence that he returned the principality to peace and his people to a quiet life. He was exceptionally well educated, generous to all, tall in stature, handsome and red-headed, the father of his country and the scourge of pride. Gentle and gracious, he had the kindest soul; clement to his citizens, he bore offences and injuries with equanimity. Such was his goodness and generosity that those whom he had subdued by force, he overcame rather by his mercy as I will relate in the following narrative.

When he turned fifteen, in 1128, Geoffrey was ending his boyhood, blooming in the first flower of youth. His celebrated name reached the ears of that most glorious king, Henry I of England. The king was well aware that the young man's forefathers were distinguished and sprung from ancient stock, upright in their customs and skilled in the arts of war. Hearing that the youth was no exception to this, the king decided to join his only daughter Matilda, widow of Emperor Henry V, to the young man in lawful matrimony.

Heralds were therefore dispatched to make petitions to young Geoffrey's father, Fulk V, count of Anjou. On the king's instruction, the count agreed to send his son to be knighted amid regal festivals at Rouen [in Normandy].

The following Whitsun, Geoffrey entered the hall of the royal palace surrounded by his own men and the king's. The king, who was accustomed to stand for nobody, rose and went to meet him and gave him a little kiss as though he were his son. The king, whose profound admiration grew at every moment, was delighted with the youth's sense and his replies and so the whole day was spent in rejoicing and exultation.

The next day, the horses were drawn up. To the Angevin, a Spanish horse was led, marvellously bedecked and reputed to outstrip many birds as it ran. That day, our young soldier, who was to be the new flower of knighthood, was completely devoted to the practice of military games and to attending to the glory of the body. For no less than seven days, the magnificent celebration of the first campaign of knighthood continued at court.

Eight days after Whitsun, King Henry I of England set out from Rouen with Fulk's son and his daughter and arrived in Le Mans [in Maine, belonging to Anjou]. From different quarters, they assembled for the service of nuptial sacrament. Both consented and each promised their faith to the other, and solemn Masses blessing their marriage were celebrated. For three weeks, the marriage was celebrated without a break and, when it was over, no one left without a gift.

Count Fulk of Anjou returned with the couple to Angers. The new lord and lady were received by priest and people with solemn dances.

Once his father had been elevated to the kingdom of Jerusalem, Count Geoffrey devoted his time to feats of arms and strove for honour.

Before long, a day was named for a tournament to be held between the Normans and the Bretons on a sandy hill pasture at Mont-Saint-Michel. When Geoffrey saw that the Breton troops were few, he broke away from the multitude and offered his services to them. The company assembled and the lines joined battle. Saddles were emptied and horsemen flung to the ground. Geoffrey sought out and attacked his enemies and, hurling lances and brandishing his sword, he deprived many of their lives. The Bretons pursued their hope of victory, with the count leading the way. The Angevin pressed on more ferocious than the lion; the Breton phalanx pushed forward. The majority were defeated by the few and the Normans, disheartened by the unexpected confusion, proposed single combat to the Bretons.

When talk of the tournament spread beyond the sea, a Saxon soldier of enormous stature arrived giving the Normans confidence to assume victory. The Saxon taunted the Breton line and dared them to name a man to meet him in individual combat. Geoffrey yelled ferociously and, refusing to suffer the taunts, rode forward on his horse. The fight was hard: that man, whose force was superhuman, had a lance like a beam and when he attacked the Angevin, he pierced the count's shield and cuirass, not without spilling much blood. But our hero remained

<sup>3</sup>*The Plantagenet Chronicles*, General Editor Elizabeth Hallam, (Tiger Books, London, 1995), pps 43-64.

immovable, as though rooted to his horse, and he transfixed his assailant by hurling his javelin. Then, standing over his impaled adversary, he beheaded him with his sword.

Geffrey enjoyed hunting when he could afford the time. On this particular occasion, the count hurries to anticipate the winding, circling paths of his almost runaway dogs, and although he believes himself to be nearer his companions than to his dogs, he is in fact further away. At last, as the sun was hastening to close the day, he caught sight of a peasant amid the undergrowth of a coppice. Geffrey greeted the man kindly and asked him, 'Can you tell me, my good man, if you know a road which leads to the castle at Loches?' 'Master', said the peasant, 'if I stop work, I perish and my family with me.' Geffrey replied, 'I will pay for the price of your journey.' The peasant agreed and the count gratefully embraced him and bade him sit behind on his horse. The count strikes up a friendly conversation with the peasant and asks, 'What do men say of our count?' The other answered, 'As for the count, we neither say nor feel anything bad of him. But as for us, lord, we suffer many enemies of whom he is unaware.' 'Then', said the count, 'tell me more about these enemies. For, when the time is ripe, I will not be silent before the count.' 'Lord, our oppressors are the reeves, bailiffs and other servants of our lord the count. Whenever he comes to one of his castles, his servants seize goods on credit. Then lord, pitiful to relate, they either totally deny owing anything or they defer payment until their creditors are glad to accept half of what is owed.' Then our wise hero said, smiling to the peasant, 'But they have fertile land for nothing. Peace, peace. But it is not peace when the land is so badly devastated by domestic enemies. Vengeance is mine and I will bring retribution on them before long. Tell me more and keep nothing back. Would that the count (and here he spoke of himself) knew of their misdeeds.'

Meanwhile, in his court, each man asked the others of Geffrey's whereabouts and no one replied with good news. With terrified eyes on the road by which he was accustomed to return from the forest, one and all hung motionless when suddenly the longed for figure arrives.

Then the peasant realised whose guide he had been. Convinced he could no longer cling to the count's back, he suddenly tried to jump off to the ground. The count held him back and said with a smile, 'So, ought I to dispense of my guide through whose assistance I have been brought back to my people? That will not do.' And with the crowd flocking round all sides, the peasant was borne high on the count's horse, whether he liked it or not. The peasant was honoured with the most sumptuous dishes of food. When the count had returned from Mass the next day, he ordered his guide to be summoned and said, 'I free you and your heirs from all exactions and services and I ordain that you be a freeman.' Having said this, the count ordered the man be escorted back to his own parts.

In 1132, in the fourth year since the aforesaid marriage of Geffrey and Matilda, his first son, Henry was born. He was the future King Henry II of England. In the fifth year, Geoffrey was born and in the sixth year William.

John of Marmoutier goes on to give, amongst other things, an idealised account of Geffrey Plante Genest's conquest of Normandy (1142-4) which suggests – inaccurately – that the count's progress was met with more enthusiasm than hostility in the duchy.

### 32.2.2 Plante Genest's conquest of Normandy

The planting of the Angevin Empire began with Geffrey's conquest of Normandy. The two chroniclers best placed to observe the events in Normandy were Orderic Vitalis and Robert of Toringi; both commented on the scale of the invasion and, in Orderic's case the ferocity of the fighting<sup>4</sup>.

In 1128, King Baldwin II of Jerusalem consulted Louis VI of France about a suitor to wed his heiress daughter and to become heir to the kingdom of Jerusalem: they chose Fulk V, count of Anjou.

That same year, Fulk's son – Geffrey Plante Genest – soon to become count of Anjou, married the haughty Empress Matilda, daughter and designated heiress of Henry I, king of England and duke of Normandy. Henry I thereby agreed that Geffrey and Matilda and their heirs should inherit the throne of England. However, he ill-prepared the way for them and

<sup>4</sup>John Gillingham, *The Angevin Empire*, Second Edition (London, 2001), p. 13.

Matilda's cousin Stephen of Blois seized the crown when Henry I died in 1135. Over the next 19 years, the houses of Anjou and Blois fought for control of England and Normandy.

Upon hearing of Henry I's death (Nov. 1135) Geoffrey Plante Genest sent his wife Matilda from Anjou and Maine to Normandy to take possession of her rights. Geoffrey and his troops followed some distance behind. This gave them a foothold in southern Normandy though Geoffrey had to return to quash a rebellion by Robert of Sablé, the most powerful baron in the north east of Anjou. The impetus was hence lost to Stephen who had taken advantage of his proximity to England to be anointed king on 22 Dec. 1135, thereby giving him leverage also over the Norman barons who typically held lands in both Normandy and England.

It was not until Sep. 1136 that Geoffrey was free to invade Normandy again. Stephen, however, had not taken the opportunity until the summer to restore order in Normandy, leaving Geoffrey with grounds for cautious hope. Geoffrey mustered a large army and had attracted powerful allies including the duke of Aquitaine; and he drove northwards as far as Lisieux; but Stephen was spared defeat by two strokes of good fortune. First, Geoffrey was wounded in the foot and had to be taken back on a litter to Anjou. Secondly, an outbreak of diarrhoea devastated the Angevin army.

By the time Geoffrey was ready to make another attempt, Stephen had arrived in Normandy. The campaign of 1137 ended in a confused stalemate.

Geoffrey's next invasion was in June 1138. By that time, Geoffrey had persuaded Robert of Gloucester to switch to his side from Stephen's, meaning that he had gained such strongholds as Caen and Bayeux without a fight. But Stephen's position remained strong and it became clear that Geoffrey and Matilda would need to challenge Stephen's authority in England, if only to defend Robert of Gloucester's possessions there.

So, in 1139, Matilda and Robert crossed the Channel while Geoffrey stayed to maintain pressure in Normandy. The capture of Stephen at the battle of Lincoln (2 Feb. 1141) was immediately followed by the collapse of his authority in Normandy, and by April 1141 Geoffrey was in control of almost all of the duchy west of the Seine and east of a line between Bayeux and Domfront. Geoffrey held on to his gains in Normandy, but Matilda's arrogance and her inability to be magnanimous in victory meant that by September 1141 she had lost her gains in England.

Geoffrey refused to go to England but sent his 9 year old eldest son Henry in his place. This marked a redefinition of roles, with Geoffrey effectively giving up his right to become king of England. He remained concentrated on Normandy. In 1142 he overran the Avranchin and Mortain. In 1143 he completed the conquest of western Normandy and launched his first attacks across the Seine. In 1144 the traditional ducal capital, Rouen, surrendered and Geoffrey had himself invested as duke. In return for Gisors he obtained the assistance of Louis VII of France and, when Arques fell in 1145, there remained no doubt that Duke Geoffrey was master of Normandy.

Even so, he made no effort to conquer England, remaining a safe distance from his wife's problems there. Instead he concentrated on securing his position around Anjou, quashing a rebellion by his younger brother Helie, who had demanded the right to Maine. After a four year struggle he invoked the fury of Louis VII by capturing and imprisoning Gerald Berlay, lord of Montreuil-Bellay on the southern borders of Anjou.

In this context of overriding concern for Anjou, Geoffrey transferred Normandy to his eldest son Henry in 1150 though, in practice, he continued to play a dominant role in Norman affairs. This nominal transfer was to prepare the way for his heir. A charter of 1145 implies that Geoffrey had envisaged Henry's succession in Anjou as well, though he appears to have been having second thoughts about that by 1150. However, according to a story first told in the 1190s, the dying Geoffrey decided in Sep. 1151 to leave both Normandy and Anjou to his son Henry on condition that Henry transferred Anjou to his younger brother Geoffrey upon having used this strong base to wrest England from Stephen.

### 32.2.3 Plante Genest's demise: a powerful vine

Plante Genest died suddenly on 7 Sep. 1151, aged forty-one. According to John of Marmoutier, he was returning from a royal council when he was stricken with fever. He arrived at Château-du-Loir, collapsed on a couch, made bequests of gifts and charities, and died. He was buried at St Julien's in Le Mans.

A further unexpected twist was the divorce of Louis VII's wife, Eleanor of Aquitaine, in March 1152, and her remarriage to Plante Genest's heir Henry.

In January 1153 Henry boldly crossed the channel to England. As a final twist, Stephen's son Eustace died unexpectedly in the August and, in the November, Stephen formally gave up the struggle for his own family at the treaty of Winchester. Henry succeeded to the English crown when Stephen died in October 1154.

To summarise, the aggregation of the Angevin Empire stemmed largely from the marriage and campaigns of Geoffrey Plante Genest (1128-51). Geoffrey's father, Fulk V, had died in 1143 and, by 1144, Geoffrey had added the Duchy of Normandy to his possessions around Anjou. Then in 1152 his eldest son and successor, Henry Fitz Empress, acquired Aquitaine by marriage, also becoming king of England in 1154 in culmination of his parents' battles against Stephen. Henry then failed to honour his oath to his father and kept Anjou to himself as a bridge between his wife's Aquitaine to the south and Normandy and England to the north. An end to this matter was sealed when the counter-claim of Henry's younger brother Geoffrey died with him in 1158.

The scholastics believed that the vegetable soul of a hairy shoot had powers of augmentation and generation – it had given Plante Genest the power not only to augment Angevin lands but also to father the most powerful king in Western Europe, Henry II. This offshoot of Plante Genest's gallantry grew. It led on to a powerful dynasty, albeit that its prestige was diminished in 1202-4 when Henry's youngest son, king John, lost Anjou, Normandy and much of Poitou (the northern part of the Duchy of Aquitaine). Thereafter the dynasty became more firmly based in England, making just occasional visits to Gascony, the southern part of Aquitaine. Plante Genest had seeded a royal vine and, though it soon lost its roots in its Angevin homeland, it ramified anew in England where it clung on to the throne for a further three centuries.

#### 32.2.4 Rise and fall of the Angevin Empire

The Angevin Empire (Figure 32.1) was not fully realised until the times of Plante Genest's eldest son, Henry II king of England, but it was Plante Genest who had prepared the way. Henry II's empire only lasted in its full extent for fifty years (1154-1204) though English ties to Gascony (the southern part of Aquitaine) survived for another 250 years and were especially strong to the towns of Bordeaux and Bayonne.

The two most closely linked provinces of the Angevin Empire – England and Normandy – were split apart in the débâcle of 1203 which owed most to the personal ambitions and weaknesses of the French and English kings – Philip and John. Philip was the able son and successor of Louis VII of France while king John was the youngest son of king Henry II. Philip, with his base at Paris, was less interested in remote parts and, as a result, the two provinces of the Angevin Empire with the weakest family ties - England and Gascony - stayed together the longest.

The towns tended to remain most loyal longest to the Angevins (*i.e.* to the so-called 'Plantagenet' family) and it was not until the fall of La Rochelle in 1224 that the real end to the Angevin Empire was marked with the removal of all hope of regaining the homeland of Anjou by sea. It was not until 1259, however, that John's son, Henry III, formally relinquished his claims to Normandy, Maine, Anjou and Touraine. The loyalty of Bordeaux and Bayonne in 1224 kept Hugh of Lusignan at bay and so ensured the survival of English Gascony. This loyalty may have stemmed largely from the benefits of business in trade. The Atlantic sea route hugging the western and north-western coasts of France was a vital life-force in that connection.

#### 32.2.5 The Angevin Empire as a cultural context for Plant-like names

Apart from a communication of ideas by trade and apart from particular family interests, there is little evidence for a common culture to the Angevin Empire. It may well be that a spread of Plant-like names to England was associated with the cultures surrounding Plante Genest's close family



members themselves. Though there is little evidence for the Plantagenet name before the mid-fifteenth century, Plant-like names had arisen in England by the thirteenth century close to Plante Genest's illegitimate descendants.

The Plant surname, it would appear, could have formed around the times when most surnames were forming in southern England and East Anglia. Claims of earlier origins of the Plant surname, before the thirteenth century, are just speculation. There have been fictional accounts of an earlier origin to the name *Planta* in England<sup>5</sup> but this may be set aside so that we can restrict ourselves to a narrative that is more credible for being based on well established facts.

Restricting the narrative to surviving evidence throws up a need for a different note of caution however. There may be missing evidence which, if it had been available, would have given a fuller picture than that given by the extant evidence. There are significantly more records for the Angevin Empire after 1199 than before, including new types of evidence; and so there is a danger of incorrectly presuming that similar names to Plant did not exist before then when this may be a false impression arising from the fact that either no record was kept or none has survived. Similarly, the evidence may be misleadingly skewed towards England, since there is significantly more evidence, both chronicle and record evidence, for England than for any other part of the Angevin dominions. That said, the *surviving* evidence indicates that the Plant surname originated in thirteenth-century England in proximity to some illegitimate descendants of Geoffrey Plante Genest.

The names Plantevelu, Plante Genest and Plant can be associated with a 'growing shoot of renewal' metaphor. This metaphor fits neatly into the culture of the troubadours at the south of the Angevin Empire, and this influence evidently came particularly to the fore for English royalty with the marriage of Henry II to Eleanor of Aquitaine. The troubadour culture was more widespread than the southern extremities of the Angevin Empire however, and it can be ascribed to a much earlier Moorish influence spreading through the same cultural world as the Angevin Empire's rivals in Toulouse, Marseilles and Barcelona. The French surname *Plante* is found in that cultural region though it is not as yet clear whether that surname had its roots in the Swiss and Italian name *Planta* transported along the Mediterranean coast or whether it related somehow to the English surname *Plant*. That said, we might consider a supposition that the English *Plant* surname derived from a northward spread along the Angevin Empire's Atlantic coast of a culture for such names as *Plantevelu* and *Plante Genest*.

The reasoning is hence that there was a development of the 'hairy shoot' metaphor through *Plantevelu* and then *Plante Genest* and then to the English *Plant* surname. It seems that the Angevin Empire played its part in transmitting a troubadour sense of renewing life's flesh by a shoot (*planta*). However, it seems that this 'renewal' metaphor was more widespread than just one region of the Angevin Empire: similar sense is found also in the Welsh word *plant* with its 'offspring' meaning.

Evidence for the development of an 'offspring' meaning for *plant* from its 'shoot' or 'offshoot' meaning is particularly strong in Wales where there is also the verb *planta* with the functional meaning 'to beget children'. Looking at it another way, we can choose between two qualia roles – one of function, the other of origins – and so we can consider either the function of an 'establisher shoot' or the origins of an 'offspring'. Both a tradition of Plant-like names from France and the Welsh literal meanings fit with a 'shoot' metaphor for the renewal of life in connection with the word *plant* and some associated names.

### 32.3 Royal government and early Plant-like names

The fame of Plante Genest, who germinated the Angevin Empire as a family concern, apparently lived on in the culture of his illegitimate offspring. The Warenne earls for example were illegitimate descendants of Plante Genest and they had connections to Wales providing a connection to both the Plante Genest and Welsh traditions – either or both of these could have sprung the sense of a

<sup>5</sup>Michael Baigent, Richard Leigh and Henry Lincoln (1996) *The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail*.



‘growing shoot’ or ‘offspring’ for the nearby Plant surname. A ‘shoot of renewal’ metaphor can ultimately be extended to sense in the germination of offspring or the generation of products as is still evident for the meaning of the word *plant* in its industrial sense. This is an instance of the so-called ‘Creation is Birth’ metaphor, which is found in many cultures, and so we can say for example that Geoffrey Plante Genest ‘planted the seeds of’ or ‘fathered’ a new Empire, rather as an industrial plant creates a product. In particular, a culture from the Plante Genest nickname could have been transmitted to the early by-names Plente, Plantin and Plauntegenet, as will be outlined below.

The legitimate descent of Geoffrey Plante Genest included a dynasty of kings. Since the itinerant king was normally absent from any given province, the work of organising and directing local administration had to be undertaken by somebody else, to check the accounts of the prévôts and baillis. Whenever possible, most rulers seemed to have preferred to use members of their own family for this. For example, Henry II appointed his son Geoffrey as ‘Seneschall of Brittany’.

One of the king’s greatest powers was the right to arrange or sell the marriages of under-age heiresses and widows. In 1164, king Henry II arranged for his illegitimate half-brother Hamelin to marry one of the richest heiresses in England, the widowed Isabel de Warenne. Hamelin and his heirs thereby became the Warenne earls of Surrey with widespread lands in England.

One aspect of the authority of the crown was a special jurisdiction around the itinerant king’s person. Twelve miles around the royal person was the verge, an area where ordinary local courts did not have jurisdiction and where justice was done through the courts of the royal household. The size of the itinerant royal household varied but it was typically around 500. The sizes of the households of the greatest magnates, such as the Warenne earl of Surrey, was unlikely to exceed two or three hundred. The royal household issued instructions to the Chancery and the Exchequer. The Close Rolls and Patent Rolls relate to such matters as land conveyance as recorded by the Chancery; whereas the Pipe Rolls record the annual accounts rendered by the county sheriffs to the Exchequer, which was responsible for collecting royal revenue.

### 32.3.1 Plente, Plantin and Plauntegenet: possible surname precursors

In 1219 [3 Henry III Pipe Rolls] Peter Haliwell’ and Radulphus *Plente* oversaw £23 3s 4d for Oxford castle and 65s for the king’s dwelling [Woodstock palace] outside the town. The role of Radulphus Plente is not clear but he may have been a bailiff under the sheriff of Oxfordshire. Radulphus is mentioned in 1230-1 in *A cartulary of the Hospitals of St John the baptist*<sup>6</sup>. As a bailiff, he could have originated from elsewhere before his appointment: in 1180, English outsiders had been amongst those used for the baillis of Normandy, such as Richard of Cardiff and Geoffrey of Ripon. By 1200, there were about 25 baillis in the Duchy of Normandy at any one time. In England, each county or pair of counties had a sheriff and under sheriff and a number of clerks; there were in addition bailiffs and sub-bailiffs.

In the Close Rolls of 1254, 1258 and 1268, there are records of a Roger *Plantin* or *Plantyn* or *Planteng*’ as well as in the Patent Rolls of 1258. Roger Plantin held lands in Norfolk and was the serjent or butler of Roger Bigod, earl of Norfolk making him one of the earl’s senior officials. The earl of Norfolk, Roger Bigod, had family ties to descendants of Plante Genest and he was influential in the king’s council

The king’s council consisted of the land’s greatest magnates: bishops, earls and barons. In 1237, for example, the young Warenne earl of Surrey joined the council. A particularly stormy meeting in 1258 is known as the Provisions of Oxford. The earl of Norfolk took the lead in demanding the removal from favour of the Lusignans and other foreigners though his half-brother, the earl Warenne, had been heartbroken when his wife Alice Lusignan had died in 1256. The earl of Norfolk’s brother, Hugh Bigod, was appointed Justiciar of England and he conducted extensive investigations into allegations of corruption in local and central government. There was animosity between the king’s brother Richard, earl of Cornwall and brother-in-law Simon de Montfort about the inheritance of

<sup>6</sup>ed. H.E. Slater (1914) in Oxford Historical Society Publications, 68, p. 202.

the Pembroke estates. These estates will be mentioned again later. The animosity surrounding them eventually led on to the Battle of Lewes (1264) at which Simon de Montfort captured the king and Richard, earl of Cornwall. The conflict is known as the Barons War. The tables were turned at the Battle of Evesham (1265) at which Simon was obscenely mutilated and killed.

After the Barons War, in 1266 [51 Henry III Close Rolls 20 December], an instruction was given at Woodstock [near Oxford] to two people to carry the king's garderobe. The instruction was given in the name of the king by 35 named people including a Galfrido *Plauntegenet*. Though Galfrido's genealogy is unknown, this is rare evidence for the early use of the Plantagenet name. Galfrido was apparently one of the sergeants-at-arms of the itinerant royal household. A list of the king's household in the 1330s includes 26 sergeants-at-arms and 20 carters, for example.

### 32.3.2 The possibility of a Warenne transmission of the Plante Genest culture

Recent evidence suggests that some of the medieval migrations of the Plant family could have been associated with Warenne lands and the culture that engulfed early Plant-like names may have overlapped partly with the culture of Plante Genest's Warenne descendants. There are hints of playfulness with the Warenne name in that the earl's steward in the 1260s was called John la Ware; and, on the fourteenth-century seal of the earl John Warenne, there was a visual pun of rabbits in their warren. There may have been similar playfulness with the Plantegenest nickname: the earl Bigod's butler around the 1260s was called Planteng' or Plantin. There is earlier evidence for another Plant-like name:

**Plente.** As well as the aforementioned evidence for Radulphus Plente in association with the burbhothe of Oxford, there is also in 1219 mention of William Plente in Kent; and, in 1230, Simon Plente at York.

We may consider whether the meaning 'abundant' or 'fertile' of the name *Plente* echoed a sense of fertile growth for the 'hairy broom shoot'. It is not clear whether the Plente name was closely associated with the Warenne earls. However, the possibility can be entertained that the Plente name formed within the range of influence of a Plante Genest culture transmitted by the Warennes.

The DNA evidence indicates that Plant is a single-family name and its early widespread distribution may have derived from the travels of an earlier Plente family. It can be added that the distribution of the early Plente name, whether it belonged to a single family or not, was within range of the travels of the Warenne earls with their Plante Genest ancestry:

**Warenne.** The travels of the Warenne earl William (1166-1240) can be exemplified as follows. On 30 November 1206 he was directed to escort the King of Scots to York – as well as elsewhere, he held substantial lands in south Yorkshire. On 16 May 1216 he was appointed Warden of the Cinque Ports (Kent) and on 24 August 1217 he took part in a naval battle in which Eustace the Monk was defeated and slain. In October 1223 he was in North Wales and in August 1224 with the King at Bedford, prior to his marriage to Matilda Marshal of Pembroke by October 1225.

There were of course also other lines of possible influence for transmitting the culture of the Plante Genest nickname to the Plente by-name, other than the travels of the Warennes. For example, Henry II's mistress 'Fair Rosamund' lived at the royal palace of Woodstock, near Oxford, which the king refurbished for her during the two or three years before she died in 1176. She had been openly acknowledged by the king when he was in his 40s and she in her 30s. Two of Henry's bastard sons, Geoffrey archbishop of York and William Longspée (Long Sword), were given recognition and honours, the latter becoming earl of Salisbury, a title that descended only unofficially to his crusading son William Longspée II (d 1249).

**William Longspée (Longsword)** was an illegitimate son of Henry II. His mother was unknown for many years though she has recently been identified as the subsequent wife Ida of Roger Bigod, second earl of Norfolk (d 1221). William Longspée (c1176-1226) received the honour of Appleby in Lincolnshire in 1188; he received the hand ten years later of the heiress Ela, countess of Salisbury; he was sheriff of Wiltshire, lieutenant of Gascony, constable of Dover in Kent and warden of the Cinque Ports and then, later, he became warden of the Welsh Marches. He commanded the English forces that defeated Philip II of France at the Battle of Damme (1213). He also received the honour of Eye in Suffolk.

Even though a culture for the Plante Genest nickname may have remained close mainly to his family, it seems possible that the travels of his illegitimate and legitimate descendants, including

Longspée and Warenne as well as the royal line, could have played their part in transmitting a culture of the Plante Genest nickname to nearby names such as Plente and Plant. For example, an eponymous descendant of William Longspée held land close to the bailiff Robert Plonte.

### 32.3.3 Robert Plonte of Saltford once bailiff of *Marsfelde*

Robert Plonte (circa 1280) of Saltford near Bath had been the bailiff of *Marsfelde*. There are several records for Bath in Somerset including *explicit* evidence that the Plant family surname was hereditary there by 1328: Plonte is the most usual early spelling of the Plant surname in the west of England.

Somerset is just across the Bristol Channel from the Strigul (Chepstow) estate which was part of the Pembroke estate in south Wales which had featured in the run up to the Barons War. The situation in Somerset also begs mention of Robert Burnell who remained as the king's great chancellor until his death in 1292 though he had become bishop of Bath and Wells. He had built a country house at Acton Burnell in Shropshire and the Statute of Acton Burnell, in 1283, allowed merchants to register debts with the mayors of London, York and Bristol. Bristol is near Saltford near Bath and the role of a bailiff here holds some historical significance.

Often the local lord would appoint the bailiff of a hundred, for example, but it would differ very little from a hundred in royal hands; its officials would act just like a royal one and be answerable to the county sheriff. There is some evidence of corruption in those times and also, quite naturally, of unpopularity. Popular poetry contains complaints about the heavy hand of government.

Justices, sheriffs, mayors, bailiffs, if I read right  
They can make the fair day into the dark night  
...  
And bailiffs and bedels under the sheriff  
Each one finds how best men to grieve.  
The poor men are all summoned to the assize  
And the rich sit at home, and to shine their silver they rise.

However, the evidence does not suggest that the problem of corruption was as extensive or as serious as some of the complaints imply. Though this might be seen as an unnecessarily bureaucratic age, the overriding impression is of men who were doing their best and working very hard to meet the challenges that faced them<sup>7</sup>. As bailiff of *Marsfelde*, Robert Plonte of Saltford may have been such a man.

Since early evidence for the Plant name is widespread and since bailiffs often travelled to take up their appointment, it is appropriate to keep an open mind when considering the location of *Marsfelde*. There is a Maresfield in Sussex and this demense manor is in the Honour of Aquila in the Rape of Pevensey which had been given in 1241 to the Queen's uncle, Peter of Savoy. This adjoined the Warenne honour of Lewes. However, there is no evidence that Maresfield had a bailiff, just a reeve<sup>8</sup>. It is perhaps more likely that Robert Plonte of Saltford had been the bailiff of Marshfield in south Gloucestershire, just 6 miles from Saltford, which is recorded as *Maresfeld* in 1221<sup>9</sup>. In January 1234, this Marshfield was granted a market by the king, which was revoked in the August, and then a document of 1287 cites that the market had been granted again in 1265 by the king to the Abbot and Convent of Keynsham<sup>10</sup>; Keynsham is just 2 miles from Saltford.

It may also be noted that Saltford lies just 8 miles north of Charlton. Charlton manor was said to have been acquired before 1217 by Hubert de Burgh, earl of Kent<sup>11</sup> and overlordship descended with the earldom of Kent on the honour of Camel until 1411 or later. However, the terre tenancy for

<sup>7</sup>Michael Prestwich, in the series The New Oxford History of England, *Plantagenet England 1225-1360*, (Oxford, 2005), pp. 75-77.

<sup>8</sup>I am grateful to Christopher Whittick of the East Sussex Record Office for this information.

<sup>9</sup>Ekwal, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English place-names*, (Oxford, 1960), p. 316.

<sup>10</sup><http://www.history.ac.uk/cmh/gaz/gloucs.html>

<sup>11</sup>Rot. Litt. Claus. (Rec. Com.), i, 296b.

Charlton passed from his mother (d 1252) to Geoffrey Plante Genest's illegitimate royal descendant William Longspée III (d 1257). A charter was granted on 20 December 1252 by Henry III to this William *Lungspee*<sup>12</sup> to hold a market at the manor. William's daughter Margaret married Henry de Lacy, earl of Lincoln (d 1311) and their daughter Alice married Thomas, earl of Lancaster (d 1322). In 1317, earl John Warenne helped Alice to elope with her lover, starting a feud with Lancaster who temporarily seized Warenne lands; John Warenne (d 1347) acquired Charlton manor for life in 1319<sup>13</sup>.

Thus, explicit evidence for the hereditary Plonte surname in Bath (1328) dates to the times of the Warenne tenancy (1319-47) of nearby Charlton but there are earlier Plonte records here dating back (circa 1280) to the times of William Longspée III and his descendants (1252-1319). Both Longspée and Warenne were illegitimate descendants of Geoffrey Plante Genest and they may have transmitted a culture for his nickname.

The extent of a connection between the bailiff, Robert Plonte of Saltford and the nearby lords of Charlton is uncertain, though we can note a remark of Michael Prestwich (2005)<sup>14</sup>.

There were various ways in which the groupings around magnates were formed. Family and neighbourhood connections were probably as important as formal contracts, and the natural desire to obtain the protection that a great lord could provide was another element. Shared interests led to sensible local alliances and the construction of networks of lordship and influence.

### 32.3.4 Possible connections around the Bristol Channel

Heiresses brought great lordships around the Bristol Channel to men who had had little direct interest in Welsh affairs. Geoffrey Plante Genest's royal grandson John Lackland acquired Glamorgan by his marriage with Isabel of Gloucester. Similarly, William Marshal through the heiress of Richard, earl of Pembroke (Strongbow), became the possessor of that earldom and of the enormous, if scattered, estates of the family of Clare in England (*e.g.* at Clare in Suffolk), Ireland, and south Wales.

As husband of Isabel Marshal (de Clare), who was a daughter of William the Marshal earl of Pembroke (d 1219), Richard earl of Cornwall had a connection to the disputed Pembroke estate in the lead up to the Barons War as so also did, for example, Simon de Montfort who married the widow Eleanor of William Marshal II earl of Pembroke (d 1231). Successive earls of Pembroke died and, after the death of the fifth Marshal brother, Anselm, the estate was divided between the sisters Matilda (Maud) Marshal (Strigul estate), Joan (Pembroke estate) and Eva (Cilgeran estate).

The eldest sister, Maud Marshal in particular features in connection with early Plant-like names:

- she married first Hugh Bigod, earl of Norfolk (d 1225) bearing Roger Bigod whose butler or sergeant was called Roger *Plantin* or *Planteng*; her husband's evident<sup>15</sup> half-brother was William Longspée who was a grandson through Henry II of Geoffrey *Plante Genest*; William Longspée's grandson of the same name held Charlton manor, which was near the aforementioned Robert *Plonte* of Saltford;
- in 1225, she remarried William earl Warenne, grandson through Hamelin of Geoffrey *Plante Genest*, bearing John who can be connected to the *Plant* surname near Warenne lands; and,
- a manor called *la Planteland* is mentioned in 1310<sup>16</sup> in connection with Maud's inherited estate of Strigul.

Maud (Matilda) was through marriage countess of both Norfolk and Warenne. After her brothers' deaths, she also took the title of Marshal of England. Her father, William the Marshal, had led England out of civil war following the death of king John when Henry III was aged only 9.

The multiple evidence for Plant-like names in association with Maud Marshal connects the early Plant surname both to a likely influence from Plante Genest's noble descendants and to the Welsh

<sup>12</sup>Calendar of Charter Rolls, 1226-57, p. 413.

<sup>13</sup><http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.asp?compid=18740>

<sup>14</sup>Michael Prestwich, *Plantagenet England 1225-1360*, (Oxford, 2005), p. 382.

<sup>15</sup>[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_de\\_Longsp%C3%A9e%2C\\_3rd\\_Earl\\_of\\_Salisbury](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_de_Longsp%C3%A9e%2C_3rd_Earl_of_Salisbury)

<sup>16</sup>Calendar of Patent Rolls 1310 Oct 10. Carmyle.

meaning *offspring* of plant. In those times, the Welsh language was important. In 1244, the royal justiciar in south Wales was advised by Marcher lords, '*It is not easy in our region to reward or restrain the Welsh, unless this is done by someone of their own tongue.*'

### 32.3.5 A possible Savoyard influence

It may also be relevant to mention Plant-like names in far-away Switzerland while considering the origins of the English Plant-like names. In his youth John, earl Warenne (1231-1305) had been under the wardship of Peter of Savoy. Savoy was near the emerging noble Planta surname in Switzerland.

Savoyard influence can be detected for example in the country house built at Acton Burnell and in the great castles of late thirteenth-century north Wales. This influence can be related back to Henry III's marriage in 1236 to Eleanor of Provence whose mother was Beatrice of Savoy. Rarely did a queen use her influence to advance her compatriots so greatly and her uncle, Peter of Savoy, came to England in 1240 where he and his compatriots received generous gifts. For young and ambitious Savoyards, both laymen and clerics, England must have seemed like the Promised Land<sup>17</sup>. The link between England and Savoy was cemented when the count of Savoy agreed in a treaty of 1246 to become Henry III's vassal for four castles, which controlled major Alpine passes. Earlier, in 1173, Geoffrey Plante Genest's royal grandson, John Lackland, who was Henry III's father, had been intended to marry Alice, daughter of Humbert III, count of Maurienne, though Alice died soon after<sup>18</sup>. Maurienne was on the borders of Germany and Italy and comprised what came to be known as Piedmont and Savoy. Another link to this distant part of Europe arose when John's son Richard, earl of Cornwall was elected king of the Romans (effectively Germany) in 1257. The river Planta and emerging evidence for the noble Swiss Planta family were in the Grisons nearby.

### 32.3.6 Medieval migrations of the Plant surname

Since recent DNA evidence indicates that Plant is a single-ancestor, rather than a multi-origin surname<sup>19</sup>, it is appropriate to consider that early evidence for the Plant name may represent the migrations of a single family.

The early evidence for this hereditary surname near the Bristol Channel is not incompatible with the mention in 1262 of William Plaunte in far away Essex. The local and family historian David Hey<sup>20</sup> remarks that there are many Welsh names in early Essex and wonders whether they arrived by sea. The shortest sea route would be from the Bristol Channel. A similar distance away, across the English Channel at Rouen, there were in 1273 three merchants called *de la Plaunt* or *Plaunt* at a time when compensation was being paid for Flemish piracy. Nearer the Bristol Channel (circa 1280) there was a Robert Plonte of Saltford near the Longspée manor of Charlton (Somerset) which passed to Warenne hands. The earl Warenne also held the hundred of Gallow and Brothecross on the north Norfolk coast and there are several records of Plant-like names nearby: William Plente (Norfolk, 1272-84), William Plauntes (Norfolk, 1275), William Plante (Cambridgeshire, 1279), Henry de Plantes (Huntingdonshire, 1282). It is also in Norfolk that Geoffrey Plante Genest's grandson, the Warenne earl William (1166-1240) is said to have spent much time on his estate at Castle Acre and Plante Genest's royal great grandson, Henry III, is reported as visiting as a guest several times possibly while on pilgrimage to nearby Walsingham<sup>21</sup>.

As well as in Somerset, Essex and Norfolk, there are early Plant records in north Wales and Kent, and sea travel may help to explain this. Early in the second Welsh War, in October 1282, Henry III's son Edward I made a major grant of land at Bromfield and Yale in north Wales to William's son, earl

<sup>17</sup>Michael Prestwich, *Plantagenet England 1225-1360*, (Oxford, 2005), p. 93.

<sup>18</sup>A.L. Poole, *From Domesday Book to Magna Carta 1087-1216* in Oxford History of England series, 2nd edition (Oxford, 1993), p. 330.

<sup>19</sup>John S. Plant (2005) *Modern methods and a Controversial Surname: Plant*, Nomina, vol. 28, pp. 115-33.

<sup>20</sup>David Hey, *Family Names and Family History*, (London and New York, 2000), p. 39.

<sup>21</sup><http://www.castles-abbeyes.co.uk/Castle-Acre-Castle-Priory.html>

John Warenne (1231-1305). The Warenne earl of Surrey and Sussex was evidently concerned with the commissariat and it is from around his sphere of influence in SE England that 1,500 quarters of wheat and 2,000 of oats each were requested from Essex, Surrey, Sussex, Kent and Hampshire: the intention was clearly to bring them by sea. Near the earl's north Wales property of Bromfield and Yale, at Eweloe in 1301, Richard Plant was granted rights to coal. Far away, in Kent, Johannes Plonte is recorded in the Canterbury freeman's rolls of 1303.

There are a dozen records for the hereditary Plonte name at Bath in the first half of the fourteenth century. Another record, on the Bristol Channel is in Gloucestershire in 1386; this is for a chaplain William Plonte and rent in Olveston for land of the prior and convent of Bath. In another neighbouring county of Somerset, in Devon, there is evidence of the spelling Plente which may have been, at least sometimes, a variant spelling of the same name. In modern times<sup>22</sup>, the surname Plenty – likely derived from the spelling Plente – is clustered around Somerset with a secondary cluster on the Essex coast. Between 1364 and 1368 there are several mentions of the merchant and king's minister in Devon, Roger Plente of Exeter, and his ship 'le George' of Exmouth. That he travelled far is evidenced by his license '*to take 20 packs of large cloth of divers colours from port of Exeter to Gascony, Spain, and other parts beyond seas; and to return with wine and other merchandise to the ports of London, Suthampton, Sandwich or Exeter.*' In 1368 he was the collector of customs in the port of Exeter.

The circumstances of the king's minister in Devon, Roger Plente, can be set in a context of Edward III's consultations with merchants. In 1341, for example, assemblies of merchants had been summoned, one as many as 110 men, to negotiate the contract by which they were allowed to export wool in return for massive loans of £200,000 to the crown. In 1347 seventy-nine merchants received individual summons, while the sheriffs were to select four or six men to accompany them. In 1353 a further merchant assembly took place. The crown eventually abandoned its attempts to negotiate customs directly with mercantile assemblies since the merchants showed insufficient unity and carried insufficient political power and it was acknowledged that customs duties was the business of Parliament.

The early Plant surname may well have ramified through trade (*e.g.* the three Rouen merchants in 1273); this may have carried Plants around the coast of southern England. The Plant name's ramification may also have involved the interests of some itinerant noble households, such the earl Warenne's.

### 32.3.7 Arrival of the Plants in their main homeland

When the last Warenne earl of Surrey died in 1347 he left no legitimate children and, for example, his north Norfolk lands passed to the Lancastrians. However, his illegitimate son, Sir Edward de Warren and heirs, settled at Poynton in east Cheshire. It is around there that the main homeland of the Plants is subsequently found.

That the Plant name remained also in East Anglia is evidenced by the 1381 Poll tax returns for *agricole Johannes Plante 6d* (Great Finsborough, Suffolk) and *famulus/labor' Walterus Plante ux' 12d* (Pentlow, Essex). That a Plant entered into service with the Lancastrians is indicated by the 1394 testimony at Lincoln of servant John Plaint, aged 60 years or more; he was a senior witness to the proof of age of a son of Katherine Swynford, who was the mistress of the Duke of Lancaster, John of Gaunt; the Duke fathered through her the illegitimate Beaufort line which has living male-line descendants surnamed Somerset. It may have been such a Plant as John Plaint who received the Plant blazon which indicates illegitimate cadetship with a subsequent allegiance to the (Lancastrian) red rose.

It seems that the Plant name may have migrated with the Warennes to east Cheshire. At least six, including a James Plant, of those named in 1352 for removing goods from erstwhile Warenne lands in north Norfolk had a surname (or by-name) that is then found amongst later fourteenth-

<sup>22</sup><http://cetl.geog.ucl.ac.uk/uclnames/Surnames.aspx>

century residents in Macclesfield manor in east Cheshire. For example, Honde Plonte is mentioned for pannage of pigs at Lyme, adjoining the Warenne seat of Poynton. Nearby, a Ralph Plont is mentioned repeatedly from 1369 to 1374 for his straying animals in Macclesfield forest. Ranulph Plont is mentioned in 1383/4 for renting a parcel of land from John Walshe and he appears further with land at Rainow, sheep, draught beasts, working horses and pigs. His son John Plant senior and then John Plant junior remained at Rainow and this may be the same John Plant junior as he who is listed amongst ninety-eight '*Knights, Gentlemen and Freeholders*' in Macclesfield hundred in 1445. Since those times, the main Plant homeland has migrated slightly to the south into north Staffordshire.

There are now an estimated 12,000 Plants living in England, mainly in the west midlands near Wales, and a further 5,000 in the USA for example. The DNA evidence indicates that this is a single-ancestor name. The identity of the founding father of this prolific family is not known.

### 32.4 Fertility of the Plante Genest metaphor for Plant-like names

There are claims, dating back at least to the nineteenth century, that the Plant surname is a corruption of Plantagenet. There is *some* credibility to this *in so far as* there may have been a *cultural* influence from the Plante Genest nickname on the formative Plant surname. It should be stressed, however, that there is no proof of a genetic connection. Even so, this does not discount the possibility of a cultural connection, as the fame of the Plante Genest nickname could have been transmitted to the early Plant surname given the proximities of early Plants to the lands of the Longspée and Warenne descendants of Geoffrey Plante Genest.

In this connection, account needs to be taken of the fact that the Plante Genest nickname did not lead on immediately to the royal Plantagenet surname. It is relevant to consider how the fame of the Plante Genest nickname may have spread. Contemporary attitudes seem relevant<sup>23</sup>. A credible explanation is that impolite or frivolous insinuations for the Plante Genest name could not be ignored initially but that this problem was eventually overcome.

An impolite tradition can be traced back to the by-name of Bernard Plantevelu, the ninth-century founder of a new duchy of Aquitaine. In contemporary documents he is called Plantapilosa which, like Plantevelu, means either a 'hairy shoot for propagation' or a 'hairy sole of foot'. There is evidence for the name Plantapilosa in writings of 880 by Hincmar of Rheims<sup>24</sup> and, in her translation, Janet Nelson claims that Plantapilosa means 'hairy paw'. She goes on to suggest that 'hairy paw' has negative connotations of 'foxiness' though we might well ask: "Why associate a hairy sole of foot particularly with a fox?" Why not a wolf or a badger or a bear or a rabbit or a hare? Discussing 'hairy paw' avoids the problem of sounding rude but it does not lead as directly as 'hairy shoot' to a convincing meaning. It can be safely assumed that Bernard Plantapilosa did not literally have a hairy paw but that he did have a 'hairy shoot'. Though politeness is admirable, the veiled blush of a fox's brush has less place on a ninth-century battle field than the direct translation 'hairy shoot' which would have cried out a pertinent sense for Plantapilosa – the 'hairy shoot' translation of Plantapilosa immediately draws attention to his virility or gallantry forming a fitting epithet for a War Lord.

When John of Marmoutier referred to Geoffrey Plantagenest in the 1170s he was writing to please Plante Genest's son Henry II (nicknamed Fitz Empress) and, with the Plantagenest nickname, he

<sup>23</sup>There is a fiction to dispel. Dan Brown's book *The Da Vinci Code* takes ideas from elsewhere. According to *Les Dossiers Secrets*, to which he refers, the Plantards were relatives of the Plantagenets and they had spawned an English family called Planta. In reality of course there is no evidence of a blood-link between Planta, Plantagenet and Plantard. Though Dan Brown's book does not do justice to the true philosophical setting, it features a fertility cult which links man's generation to divine creation.

<sup>24</sup>Hincmar of Rheims in *Annals of Saint-Bertin*, sub anno 880. The original runs: ... *In quo itinere ejectis de castro Matiscano Bosonis hominibus, ipsum castellum ceperunt* [that is, the two kings Louis III and his brother Caroloman, king of Aquitaine], *et ceum comitatum Bernardo cognomento Planta-pilosa dederunt* ... [1871 ed., p. 285]. See also: <http://archiver.rootsweb.com/th/read/GEN-MEDIEVAL/2006-02/1140027441>

may well have been alluding to Geoffrey's gallantry in a tradition of the 'hairy shoot' name. Geoffrey Plante Genest was most famous for his marriage in 1128 to the heiress apparent to the English throne and for his conquest of Normandy in 1144. This may have been to the fore in the mind of the Norman poet Wace (1135-74) when he wrote his poem mentioning Plante Genest with his love of wood and forest which may allude to Geoffrey's love of increasing his lands like his predecessor Plantevelu. His augmentation by marriage and conquest can be taken to be evoked by the Plante Genest metaphor of a germinating shoot. Another contemporary, Ralph de Diceto<sup>25</sup>, used the Plantegenest nickname when writing<sup>26</sup> for the year 1150:

Dum Gaufridus Plantegenest comes Andegavorum rediret Parisius a curia regis Francorum, concessit in fata apud Castrum Lidii, sepultus est autem Cenomannis in ecclesia Sancti Juliani.

The Latin meaning 'shoot for propagation' of *planta* had led on to a 'hairy shoot' symbol of gallantry for Plantapilosa – subsequently, the 'sprig of broom' emblem corresponding to the Plantegenest nickname can be taken to be a more euphemistic depiction of that same symbol.

Then there was the English by-name Plantefolie. *Folie* means wickedness or lewdness in Middle English and the adjective *foli* means wicked or lascivious, so it is quite inescapable that Plantefolie meant 'lewd shoot'. This might be glossed to 'wickedness offshoot' or 'bastard child' but an underlying lewdness remains. This name is found throughout England in the thirteenth century: Leicestershire in 1209; Somerset in 1226; and, Yorkshire in 1270. There seems little doubt that such names as Plantapilosa and Plantefolie had attracted priapic and phallic insinuation.

Impolite sense can be attached also to Plantagenet and that may well have formed an impediment to recording Plantagenet as an official royal surname around that time in England. In Welsh, *planta* means to impregnate, which can be related to the planting of seed or semen<sup>27</sup> or offspring. In his dictionary of archaic English, Samuel Johnson came out and said that *to plant* can mean to procreate and *genet* means a small Spanish horse. Plantagenet hence carried a sense of bestiality, as well as meaning 'sprig of broom' which is a hairy shoot and hence an echo of Plantapilosa. Though not polite images, these may have garnished Plantagenet with a common intrigue bringing prominence to the name. This would have been with a sense that was sufficiently offensive, however, to render the name unsuitable for official royal purposes. Censorship can explain the sparsity of early mentions of Plantagenet though there is a record of Galfrido Plauntegenet in 1266 – this was in connection with a garderobe and, since that lacked gravitas anyway, it may have been deemed that there was little point to cleansing that particular record by removing the offending name Plauntegenet.

That is not to say that there may not have been other, more respectable meanings to Plantagenet. According to Jim Bradbury<sup>28</sup>, the Plantagenet nickname "is commonly found in chronicles and charters of the twelfth *and later* [my emphasis] centuries and was applied to several members of the same family: to Geoffrey le Bel [*i.e.* Plante Genest]; to [his son] Henry II; to Henry II's son Geoffrey [who held high office in Brittany]. A survey of the possibilities for the surname appeared in J. Chartrou, *L'Anjou de 1109 à 1151*, Paris 1928, pp. 83-5 and Bradbury goes on to suggest that the 'sprig of broom' name might have derived from a yellow flower mentioned in a fragment of Angevin history that is ascribed to Fulk of Anjou:

*Urban was led from the church of St Maurice to the church of St Martin. Then he gave me a golden flower, which he carried in his hand. I decided, in commemoration and from love of him, that from then on I and my successors would always carry it on Palm Sunday.*

<sup>25</sup>Early in his career, Ralph de Diceto was Archdeacon of Middlesex, and afterwards served as Dean of St. Paul's from 1180/1-c1201. Diana Greenway, *Fasti Ecclesiae Anglicanae 1066-1300: volume 1: St. Paul's, London* (1968), pp. 4-8.

<sup>26</sup>Stubbs, *Hist. Works of Master Ralph de Diceto, Dean of London*, 1 (Rolls Ser. 68) (1876): 293.

<sup>27</sup>Semen is the Latin word for seed. See also Genesis 38.

<sup>28</sup>Jim Bradbury, *Fulk le Réchin and the Origin of the Plantagenets*, in *Studies in Medieval History presented to R. Allen Brown*, (Boydell Press, 1989), pp. 27-41. See also:

<http://archiver.rootsweb.com/th/read/GEN-MEDIEVAL/2006-02/1140112140>



There are some misgivings about this theory however. First, the story applies to Fulk Rechin, who was the grandfather of Geoffrey Plante Genest, whereas the *contemporary* evidence associates the Plantagenest nickname only with Geoffrey. Also, Geoffrey's nickname suggests a young sprig of broom rather than a nonspecific golden flower: though the flowers of the fully-grown common broom are yellow, they are small and tightly attached to each branch making them rather unsuitable to be carried singly in the hand. Though it is likely that there were those who preferred that Plantagenet be more pious than bawdy and though the yellow flower story can be conjectured to relate partly to that wish, this may have been insufficient to quell bawdy rumours - involving procreation with horses - which could have been spread by some of the early English subjects of the royal Plantagenets.

Those who knew of scholastic teachings would have been aware of plant-like aspects to man from the outset. Johannes Scotus Erigena wrote in the ninth century that bone, nail and hair contained only insensitive vegetable life; and so Plantevelu's name may have been intended to reflect that he had a sturdy frame of unflinching vegetable life. Atto, bishop of Vercelli (924-61) complained of the practises of meretriculae in his diocese who baptised turves and branches as coparents, and this suggests that beliefs were prevalent that human conception was akin to vegetable life being placed in receptive soil. Avicenna (c980-1036) maintained that the soul of plants was shared with animals and humans; and Averroes (1126-98) reiterated a scheme for the generation of life from the elements, such as clay, through plants and animals to man. Connotations of generation should be placed in such a context of late medieval metaphysics, rather than allowing biology to distract us with modern concepts, such as that man's seed fertilises the female ovum - rather, his seed was seen as the carrier of man's vegetable soul to her blood.

In early so-called "Plantagenet times", Western European scholastics were developing elaborate schemes for man's soul with its vegetable, animal and intellective components. Robert Grosseteste (c1175-1253) and others wrote significantly about the vegetable soul with its powers of nutrition, augmentation (*cf.* Planterose, Planteporrets) and generation (*cf.* Plantevelu, Plantegenest). The human soul had three components - vegetable, sensory, intellective - and Roger Bacon (c1214-c1294) said modern philosophers taught that only the intellective soul was directly created by God. By later "Plantagenet times", this had led on to more advanced concepts of the *planting* of soul in man by God, though it is not known how this inter-related with an unknown timing for the formation of the Swiss names Plantefoi, Plantamour, and Plantefor.

It is known that names of philandering were popular. That said, with the Queen's uncle Boniface of Savoy as archbishop of Canterbury and his compatriot Peter of Aigueblanche as bishop of Hereford, the Savoyard influence may have been more godly than the 'hairy shoot' tradition suggests. With the mid-thirteenth-century Savoyard connection, there may have been some interchange of influence between English and Swiss Plant-like names:

|              |             |                  |         |               |                    |
|--------------|-------------|------------------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| 13th century |             |                  | undated |               |                    |
| English:     | Plantebene  | pleasant shoot   | Swiss:  | Plantefoi     | planted faith      |
|              | Plantefolie | wickedness shoot |         | Plantamour    | planted love       |
|              | Planterose  | risen shoot      |         | Planteporrets | porrected shoot    |
|              |             |                  |         | Plantefor     | planted conscience |

The name Planterose, in particular, had additional meanings such as an 'establisher of ephemeral life' as is indicated by the symbolism of Alain de Lille (c1115-1202) who wrote "*The rose depicts our station, a fitting explanation of our lot, a reading of our life, which while it blooms in early morning, 'flowers out', the flower deflowered*". The rose was also eternal, however, through regeneration. As a part of his theory of universals, Peter Abelard (1079-1142) wrote "*Once we allow the proposition, 'If there is a rose, there is a flower', it is always true and necessary*", even if the rose no longer exists or has never existed<sup>29</sup>.

<sup>29</sup>A.J. Haft, J.G. White and R.J. White, *The Key to "The Name of the Rose"*, (The University of Michigan Press, 1999), p. 29.

As scholastic ideas became better known, a more developed metaphysical explanation for the Plantagenet name may have come more to the fore. Transubstantiation had become an article of Christian faith in 1079 though it had been believed by many earlier. Plantagenet can be associated with transubstantiation through the vegetable (*planta*), animal (*genet* as a civet cat or horse) and human genera. The civet cat is elongated and hairy – this may be compared with the Swiss name Plantaporrets, associated with the elongated leek plant, as well as with the ‘hairy shoot’ meaning of Plantevelu and the ‘Long Sword’ epithet of a bastard line of Plante Genest’s descendants. However, for many, the Plantagenet name may have come to evoke an image of the young Geoffrey, as a scion or establisher shoot (*planta*), at one with his mount in 1128 in his pre-nuptial joustings at Rouen (Marmoutier’s chronicle) in which his Spanish horse (*genet*?) features.

### 32.5 Birth of the Plant and Plantagenet surnames

Gravitas in the face of frivolity<sup>30</sup> may be relevant to answering the question: “Why in the fifteenth century did Richard, duke of York adopt as a surname the nickname of Geoffrey Plantagenet, who was not even a king, instead of the by-name of a more prestigious and recent forefather?” One possible answer is that, some three hundred years earlier, Geoffrey had fathered the Angevin Empire which extended far beyond England and reclaiming dominion over France had remained important in such times as those of Edward III and Henry V. In discussing the royal succession in this connection, it would have been pertinent that an intact male-line of kings dated back to when Plante Genest of Anjou had planted legitimate male issue in Matilda. This suggests that there could have been quasi-continuous mention from one reign to the next of the Plantagenet nickname, rather as though it were a surname, but that leaves unanswered the question of why Plantagenet does not appear earlier in documents as a hereditary royal surname. A likely explanation is that there were salacious connotations for Plantagenet which were not adequately sanitised for official purposes though the name had caught the imagination of some neighbouring commoners long before the mid-fifteenth century.

The Plant surname had formed by the mid-thirteenth century. Irrespective of whether the Plant surname’s origins were with the culture of the Plante Genest nickname or with the ‘abundant’ or ‘fertile’ meaning of *plente* or with the ‘offspring’ meaning of *plaut*, we can associate it with a ‘growing shoot’ metaphor of life’s renewal. Sense of a ‘growing shoot of renewal’ could apply to either a ‘gallant establisher’, as is appropriate for Plante Genest, or an ‘offspring of renewed life’ as is appropriate to the single-family surname Plant. It seems that sense relating to this metaphoric system of shoot growth, regeneration and abundance developed for the Plant surname before Plantagenet became used as a hereditary royal surname.

Though some family branches with early ‘Plant’ name spellings may have died out, much of the medieval evidence for the formative Plant surname might represent the travels of a single family. Speculations that even the earlier Plente spelling could be related to the subsequent Plant surname are not entirely amiss since spellings similar to Plant were widespread a little later and the recent DNA evidence has categorised Plant as a single-ancestor prolific surname – it *could have* originated from an earlier Plente ancestor. The distribution of the medieval Plant surname can be explained by a combination of sea travel and an association with Warenne lands. As one possibility, it can be conjectured that the Plants were a family from Wales, with the ‘offspring’ meaning to their name, who migrated around the coast to East Anglia as well as arriving in east Cheshire. For example, they may have originated near the Chepstow estate of Maud Marshal (d 1248) who was countess of both Norfolk and Warenne and their trade and official duties may have become associated with Longspée and Warenne lands; Maud’s first husband was evidently Longspée’s half brother and her second husband was the earl Warenne himself, both descendants of Geoffrey Plante Genest.

The following evidence indicates how a cleansing of Plant-like surnames, such as Plant and

<sup>30</sup><http://archiver.rootsweb.com/th/read/GEN-MEDIEVAL/2006-02/1140003577>

Plantagenet, may have progressed.

The name Plente may have been inspired by noble extravagance and its spelling could have been amended to Plante out of respect for religious austerity. The augmentative and generative powers of a hairy shoot could have been an inspiration for the Plente name with its ‘abundance’ or ‘fertile’ meaning. However, both abundance and sexuality were renounced by the Franciscan ‘spirituals’ as well as the Cistercians. For example, Joachim of Calabria (c1135-1202) had left the austere Cistercian order at Corazzo to found in Fiore and even more rigorous branch of the order; and, though this had resulted in his denunciation as a renegade by the Cistercian General Chapter, he became one of the most respected religious figures by the thirteenth century. Austere sentiments could have led, by the mid-thirteenth century, to an incentive to ameliorate the spelling of Plente to Plante or its dialect equivalent Plonte – by such a revision the name’s meaning was sanitised to ‘offspring’.

There is early evidence for the Plant surname in Somerset, in proximity to the lands of the Longspée (Long Sword) descent of Plante Genest. In particular, Robert Plonte of Saltford (c1280) was betwixt a ‘Long Sword’ insinuation of a ‘hairy shoot’ tradition at Charlton and the Augustinian Abbey at Keynsham. Keynsham Abbey, which had a dependent chapel at Charlton, was visited by Edward I in 1276 on his way from Bath to Bristol<sup>31</sup>; and, Robert Plonte (c1280) had been bailiff of Maresfelde which was apparently Marshfield with its market granted by the king in 1265 to the Abbot and Convent of Keynsham. It is around here that the surname Plenty (a corruption of Plente or Plonte?) is now clustered, though it has not yet been DNA tested whether Plenty belongs to the same male-line family as Plant. Regardless of such detail of possible genetic connections, it seems that there were competing views here relating to phallic insinuation and the sanctity of human creation: there is evidence for the philandering name Plantefolie in Somerset in 1226 followed by Plonte by c1280.

Bawdy sense could have threatened to diminish royal gravitas. It seems likely that sense of bestial generation for Plantagenet was eventually overcome by Grosseteste’s philosophy of godly creation though this suggests that there would have been an understandable delay before Plantagenet became acceptable, not least to the church, as a royal surname.

Robert Grosseteste (c1175-1253) had been at the royal court and at Oxford, and he became bishop of Lincoln. He may have been aware that, regardless of officially-preferred meaning, there were salacious connotations to the Plante Genest name. He became eminent for his scholastic writings and he devised a scheme whereby the vegetable soul was powered by celestial light, raising its power of generation for example to a more godly status. Whereas other scholastics, at Paris and Bologna (*e.g.* St Thomas Aquinas), considered that man’s vegetable soul was baser than his sensory and intellective souls, Grosseteste considered that the three souls were indivisible. Is it a coincidence that he attempted, in the times of a “Plant-like name controversy”, to raise the vegetable soul to a more godly height? It was in Grosseteste’s time that there is the first evidence for the name spelling Plente and, by 1262, there is the spelling Plante. Putting meanings of the word *plente* together with Grosseteste’s three powers of the vegetable soul we get nutritive generosity, abundant growth, and fertile generation. Plente had meanings associated with abundance or fertility and there was a new-life sense to Plant with its meaning ‘offspring’. The name Plantagenet could have attracted gossip about its connotations of impregnating a horse and this may have built its infamy – such gossip could have delayed the name’s adoption for official royal purposes until a cleansed sense of divine creation came more to the fore. Grosseteste’s early thirteenth-century scholasticism had a wide impact eventually. In Middle English by the fourteenth century, there is reference to faith, the Word of God, and gentleness all being planted into man. The word *plant* was evidently becoming more associated with God’s creation instead of just procreation. It seems that the salacious by-name Plantefolie had, by then, died out.

<sup>31</sup><http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.asp?compid=40930> reproduces the article ‘Houses of the Augustinian canons: The abbey of Keynsham’, in *A History of the County of Somerset: Volume 2* (Victoria County Histories, 1911), pp. 129-32. In 1272 and 1277 the Abbot is called Robert.

Towards the end of the fourteenth century, there was a scandal when John of Gaunt married his mistress Katherine Swynford, not because he had a mistress but because he married her. Shortly afterwards, the poet laureate, John Gower, wrote to Gaunt's son, the new Lancastrian king, Henry IV:

*My lord, in whom evere yit be founde Pite withoute spot of violence,  
Kep thilke pes alwei withinne bounde, Which god hathe planted in thi conscience;*

The king is cautioned to keep his *pes* (peace or seed?) always within bounds and there is an emphasis on planted conscience. Peas alludes aptly to his seed: the broom plant has hairy pea-like pods. It seems that attempts to cleanse the meaning of *plant*, in connection with Plante Genest's royal descendants, were continuing and it may be for similar reasons that the spelling *Plaint* was used, apparently instead of *Plente* or *Plante*, for a witness relating to a child of Henry IV's step-mother, Katherine Swynford. *Plaint* has the innocent meaning 'petition' which would avoid any embarrassments that might otherwise have arisen from the meanings 'fertile' or 'offspring' of *Plente* or *Plante* in official proceedings surrounding the Swynford scandal.

A few decades later, Richard duke of York adopted "Plantagenet" as a royal surname. By then, it seems that the need to emphasise his centuries-old lineage was more important than avoiding the echoes of an earlier bawdy sense to the name. Moreover, reasserting his virility, in a hairy shoot tradition, may have mattered to Richard: there were rumours that Richard was not the true father of Edward IV and, in 1483, Dominic Marcini alleged that Edward's mother had confessed to this. Edward IV of the "Plantagenet" House of York came to take over the crown in the wake of allegations of the cowardice, weakness and naïvety, and then the madness of the rival Lancastrian king, Henry VI. The Plantagenet name embodied a sense of a more virile generative renewal as well as implying that the House of York had descended, like that of Lancaster, from Geoffrey Plante Genest, an asserted forefather of some three hundred years earlier. There was also by then a growing sense of God's planting of faith and intellect into man to counter an earlier problem of bawdy insinuation.

The Plantagenet surname has since come to be used freely, for the whole dynasty, with little concern as to why there is a lack of evidence for its early official use. A grasp of developing connotations of man's generation and God's creation seems key to understanding why there was a faltering and delayed acceptance of this royal surname; and the early evidence for some similar names – such as *Plantepilosa*, *Plantefolie*, *Plente* and *Plant* – helps to illuminate the explanation.

## SNIPPETS

Plants interred in St Matthews Churchyard, Mearbrook, Staffs.

Information provided by Peter Robert Plant (Member No. 243)

1. *The late Thomas brough of  
Hazzlewood house – Died Jan  
31<sup>st</sup> 1869 aged 66  
Also  
John Plant Brough,  
Son of the above  
Also  
Ellen Plant Ash/Ask? (not sure of Spelling  
1852?*
2. *Lawrence Plant of Hazzlewood House Oct 21<sup>st</sup> 1806  
21<sup>st</sup> year of his age*

*Kezia Plant  
Mother of the above died April 22<sup>nd</sup> 1840  
In her 90<sup>th</sup> year of her age.*

*John Plant  
Her husband died March 24<sup>th</sup> 1846 89<sup>th</sup> year  
Of his age.*

*John Plant  
Their son died Feb 13<sup>th</sup> 1855 Aged 70.  
(Isiah 64v6)*

ISAIAH 64 VERS 6 SAYS: -

*“And we became like someone unclean, all of us. And our acts of  
righteousness are like a garment for periods of menstruation. And we  
shall fade away like leakage of all of us, and our errors themselves will  
carry us away just like the wind”*

*Why such an insulting epitaph?  
Had someone at Hazzlewood house done something really awful?  
Does anyone know of any old scandal?*

*WKP note See also previous journals. The Diary of John Plant of Hazzlewood House Farm,  
Leekfrith 1849-1853.*

~~~~~

SNIPPETS continued.....

PLANT CONNECTION WITH THE BLACK DEATH EYAM 1665

Chris Plant (Member No. 183)

I have just come across a reference to the name PLANT in a book that may be of interest to others and to Dr John Plant in particular.

In a book titled: "Return of the Black Death" by Susan Scott and Christopher Duncan (Wiley 2004), there is a chapter on the village of Eyam in the Peaks District of Derbyshire. This village is famous for placing itself under quarantine in 1665 when the Plague struck, thereby preventing the further spread of this highly infectious disease.

Contrary to widely held views of both the public and historians, the cordon sanitaire was effective in preventing the spread of the disease to other neighbouring communities. Neither did it condemn the villagers to a certain death. In fact, a goodly number survived, including the rector who organised the quarantine. Two others who survived were brother and sister, Francis and Margaret Blackwell. Margaret contracted the Plague but recovered. Francis never contracted the disease. A direct descendent of Francis is now living in Eyam today. Her name is Joan Plant.

The reason put forward in the book as to why Francis survived is that he carried a genetic mutation that gave him resistance to the disease. Joan Plant carries what is called the CCR5-delta32 mutation.

CCR5 refers to a receptor on white blood cells. This acts as an entry port that HIV (and possibly smallpox) uses to gain entry in to the cell. The delta32 prevents this so people carrying this mutation are more resistant to HIV. Only Europeans have this mutation. Only Europeans (and Middle-easterners?) encountered the Plague. Hence, along with other reasons, it is postulated that this mutation gave resistance to the Plague and those who survived were able to pass this advantage onto their offspring – who then had a fortuitous resistance to the modern-day plague.

The book puts forward a very convincing case to argue that the Black Death was not Bubonic Plague. The only thing they have in common is a swelling of the lymph glands or 'bubae'. The bubonic plague is a bacteria and so could not have used the CCR5 entry port, and could not have given the delta32 mutation a comparative advantage. The book is a fascinating (but easy) read.

It would be good if someone could get in contact with Joan Plant to get her story for inclusion in the next issue.

*WKP note The wife of Chritopher Duncan is a Volunteer researcher at the Cheshire County Record Office, Chester and I have met her on numerous occasions. When this book was published it generated considerable discussions at the Hay on Wye Book Festival of 2005 due to its arguments that the accepted cause of the Black Death was at the best, suspect.*

*I was not aware of this Plant connection and will endeavour to make contact.*

~~~~~

EXTRACTED FROM – NORTHWICH HUNDRED  
POLL TAX 1660 AND HEARTH TAX 1664

Published in 1979 by The Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire.

|            |           |                                 |              |
|------------|-----------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Hearth tax | Lawton    | Edward Plant                    | 2 chargeable |
| Poll tax   | Congleton | James Plant & Margaret his wife | 1s 0p        |
| Hearth tax | Congleton | James Plant                     | 1 chargeable |

|            |                 |                               |              |
|------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Poll tax   | Congleton       | Thos Plant – husbandman £5 pa | 2s 0p        |
| Poll tax   | Congleton       | Margaret Plant – widow        | 1s 0p        |
| Poll tax   | Odd Rode        | Thos Plant – husbandman       | 1s 0p        |
| Hearth tax | Newbold Astbury | Thos Plant                    | 1 chargeable |



Kathy Compagno (member No. 121) pictured at junction of Plant ct and Plant Avenue, Webster Groves, Missouri.

Named after the Plant family who migrated from Macclesfield, Cheshire and settled in St Louis, Missouri establishing a large Flour Mill.

For more information relative to this family see journals 3 and 8.

## JACK PLANT – SINGER

Some time ago (and it was some time ago) I bought a 33rpm long play record (do you remember those) titled Pennies from Heaven featuring songs included in a UK Television Play of the same name and starring Bob Hoskins.

One of the songs was ‘I only have eyes for you’ played by Scott Wood and His orchestra with Jack Plant as vocal, the original recording being made in 1938.

Ever since purchasing this record I wanted to find out more about Jack Plant but without success. That was until Richard Plant (member No. 225) joined the Group. He also was interested in Jack Plant’s singing career and informed me that a music magazine called ‘Memory Lane’ had recently published an article on Jack Plant.

With the permission of Ray Pollitt, editor of *Memory Lane* PO 1939, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 3UH, the article appears below.

According to the piece in *Memory Lane* he was born in Partington on 26 August 1896 and began his working life as a clerk with Co-operative Wholesale Society. That was interesting – Partington is only 5 miles from where I was born and in my youth I played cricket on their ground for a team called Atlantic. In fact the last time I played there, was the week before I began my National Service in 1957 – that’s why I remember it.

With his birth information, the first thing that I did was to look at the 1901 Census to see if I could tie him in to one of the Plant lines. Sure enough, there he was.

|            |                 |      |   |    |                  |                         |
|------------|-----------------|------|---|----|------------------|-------------------------|
| Hall Lane  | William Plant   | Head | M | 66 | Labourer in mill | bn Stanton, Shropshire  |
| Partington | Jane Plant      | Wife | M | 65 |                  | bn Stanton Shropshire   |
|            | Kathleen Plant  | Dau  | S | 25 |                  | bn Madeley, Shropshire  |
|            | Ernest Plant    | Son  | S | 21 |                  | bn Stanton, Shropshire  |
|            | John Rose Plant | Son  |   | 4  |                  | bn Partington, Cheshire |

Now John Rose (Jack) cannot be the son of William and Jane. I wonder if he was the illegitimate son of Kathleen Plant. The birth registration certificate may throw some light on the matter. Registered Sep 1896, Altrincham, Vol 8a, page 192.

### Jack Plant the Secret singer

#### By Ray Pallett

*“A singer whose voice over the air or on the records is heard by millions – but whose personality is known to few.” These are the words that introduced a Pathé film clip in 1935. And I believe it is an accurate assessment of the career of Jack Plant, the singer featured in the film. If you possess 78 rpms of the English dance bands, you are certain to have encountered this vocalist with almost perfect diction on records by top West End bands including, Roy Fox, Ray Noble, Savoy Hotel Orpheans, Jack Hylton, Sydney Lipton, Teddy Joyce, Hal Swain plus less famous or local bands such as those led by Bertini, Harry Bidgood, Howard Godfrey, Tommy Kinsman and many others. However, frequently his name is not given label credit, or if it is, it would be a pseudonym.*

*Although he did not make as many records as Sam Browne he almost certainly would be in the top ten of British vocalists of the 1930’s. Bandleader Sydney Kyte was another to record the voice of Jack Plant with his band and later recalled in an interview that Jack was a quiet unassuming man but lacking in personality. Perhaps this may explain why he never made to the top with a regular long-*



*lasting engagement with a West End band. He seems only to have stayed a matter of months with each band he joined. Maybe he was a shy man, not very ambitious and certainly never got the attention from the musical press accorded to his 'rivals' such as Al Bowlly and Sam Browne. It has been estimated that he made around 1,000 recordings, which does put him on a par with Al Bowlly. I have heard Jack Plant singing on a number of records but I had not previously realised how prolific his output was. But the more I hear him, the more I consider he had his own charm and style.*

*Jack Plant was born in Partington, near Manchester on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1896 and began his working life as a clerk with Co-operative Wholesale Society salt works in Irlam. His first singing of note was as a member of the choir at the Congregational Church in Partington. Jack was called up in 1914 and served in the newly-formed Tank Corps and spent three-and-a-half years in France. It was whilst in the army that he began to sing entertaining fellow servicemen in Concert Parties.*

*Following the war, Jack re-joined the CWS and also became a member of the Manchester Bloom Street Choir and even appeared in an Eisteddfod near Pontypridd in the Rhonda Valley where he won a prize. Ivor Novello's mother exclaimed, "What a beautiful voice". Jack managed to get an introduction to Webster Miller, a leading tenor at the Beecham Opera House, who brought him to London and gave him singing lessons, whilst his secretary trained him in elocution. However, his voice did not develop as expected and as it was not considered strong enough for grand opera so he took up chorus work and toured with musical comedy companies up to 1928. He appeared in many musical comedies such as The Beggar's Opera.*

*Around this time renowned singer Maurice Elvin was beginning to become well-known with the bandleaders in London and introduced Jack to the world of the dance bands. He must have made a good impression because in late 1929, having apparently abandoned an operatic career, he was singing with the Savoy Orpheans with whom he was to become resident vocalist. He appears on a number of the band's records, even duetting with Jessie Matthews on a 12 inch 78 rpm, [The Cat and The Fiddle] selection (Columbia DX 348). Jack also broadcast with Carroll Gibbons from the Savoy Hotel in London.*

*In 1930 he was hired by Jack Hylton to supplement his regular vocalist Pat O'Malley, although he was never a regular member of the band. The first record Jack made with Hylton was, Far Away which dates from February 1930. Jack appeared with Jack Hylton at the London Palladium. During the early 1930's Jack Plant recorded with both these bands. In fact, he took part in the historic Hylton live broadcast to America on 15<sup>th</sup> December 1931. Jack sang the opening number, a concert arrangement of [My Sunshine Is You].*

*During 1930, Jack Plant was engaged by Ray Noble regularly to sing with his New Mayfair Dance Orchestra. In one notable recording session, Ray Noble booked him to record his own composition [I'll Be Good Because Of You]. A classic recording. An observer at the time could be forgiven for thinking that Jack was going to become Ray's regular singer. But Ray had used another singer a couple of times by then and by February 1931 this other singer had become Ray's regular vocalist virtually excluding Jack. The other singer, by the way, was until shortly before an out-of-work vocalist named Al Bowlly.*

*When Lew Stone took over the Monseigneur Dance Band from Roy Fox, the latter had to form an almost entirely new band for his new contract with the Café Anglais in Leicester Square. Roy had met Jack in a club and, remembering him from his Savoy Hotel days, hired him as vocalist. Jack Plant sang on most of Roy's records from October 1932 to the end of 1933 when Denny Dennis joined the band. Jack appeared with the Fox band in concerts in Holland and back home at the Palladium. Among the titles recorded by Jack with the Fox band were ['Love Me Tonight, My Romance, Please, Here Lies Love and Isn't it Romantic'].*

*Jack's next engagement was with Canadian Teddy Joyce's band which he joined in September 1934 and sang on most of Joyce's records for the rest of that year. By January 1935, Eric Whitley had taken the vocalist's role. However, this was not before Jack had made some fine records with the orchestra including, ['Then I'll Be Tired Of You, Lost In A Fog, I Never Slept A Wink Last Night and London On A Rainy Night].*

*From January to July 1935 Jack Plant was the principal vocalist with Sydney Kyte and his Piccadilly Hotel band. Jack went on tour with Kyte. A number of records were made for the Panachord label and today these are in the main rare collectors' items. If you are lucky enough to hear any of them, good examples of Jack's singing can be heard on such titles as, ['Stars Fell On Alabama, Dancing With My Shadow and The Oregon Trail'].*

*During the 1930's Jack could be heard with many bandleaders with whom he sang on records in a free-lance capacity. But he also recorded prolifically as a soloist on the more obscure labels, mostly using pseudonyms. Jack himself reckoned that he made nearly 400 records as a soloist. He recorded as Jack Gordon on Imperial and some of his 1930/31 sides for this label include: ['Dream Lover, You're Always In My Arms, What Have I Done, Meet Me In My Dreams Tonight, Horatio Nicholls Gypsy Melody, Say A Little Prayer For Me, Ma Cherie, Heartaches, Faithfully Yours, Vienna City Of My Dreams, Time alone Will Tell, Sally and Kiss Me Goodnight, Not Goodbye']. It should be noted that not all records on Imperial shown as by Jack Gordon are by Jack Plant. Some are by Val Rosing or Billy Scott-Coomber! One wonders what the record-buying public thought – or indeed, whether they even noticed! One interesting record on this label is Imperial Revels Part 1 and 2 (Imperial 2359). This features many artistes and they all signed the 'wax', including Elsie Carlisle, Wag Abbey, Len Fillis and others including Jack. On the records Jack is introduced as Jack Gordon, and in the 'wax' he signed his name as Jack Gordon.*

*On Eclipse he recorded as Carol Porter. Some 1931/32 sides include: ['I Surrender Dear, Rose of Old Japan, Lonesome, For You, Just A Song Called Home Sweet Home, Would You Take Me Back Again, Dreamy Egypt, Gipsy (sic) Moon, and This Love In My Heart For You, While We Danced At The Mardi Gras'].*

*On Victory, Jack seems to have started in 1930 as Don Davies, examples including ['Dream Mother and When The Organ Played At Twilight']. He then becomes G. Jack, and recorded among others, ['Will The Angels Play Their Harps For Me, Molly, Two Dark Red Roses, After Your Kiss, Meet Me In My Dreams Tonight and Happy Days Are Here Again'].*

*Other pseudonyms he used were G. Jack, Vernon Wallace, Al Terry, Percy Clifford, Albert Carr, Don Davis and the Velvet Voice. He also supplied the vocal refrain for many accordion band records. Most of Jack's records were made using an assumed name or as an un-named singer with a band. But on Columbia Jack Plant did record under his own name in the early 1930's with piano accompaniments by Arthur Young or Harry S Pepper and sometimes with an orchestra conducted by Len Fillis. Among the titles he recorded were, ['Absence Makes The Heart Grow Fonder, My Heart Belongs To The Girl Who Loves Somebody Else, When You Were My Sweetheart, You Were The Kid Next Door, Underneath The Lover's Moon, I surrender Dear, It Must Be True, Just Two Hearts and Lovely Lady'].*

*In the 1933/34 period, American organist, Jesse Crawford, made a number of records in London on HMV and Jack Plant provided the vocal refrain on 6 of them, the titles being, ['My Love Song, The Old Spinning Wheel, Drifting Down The Shalimar, Hold Me, Friends Once More United and In The Valley of the Moon']. An interesting aside, these recordings were made at the console of the Empire Wurlitzer in Leicester Square. Jesse Crawford was uncomfortable when the HMV engineers hooked up one small microphone to record the Empire organ. In fact, he protested. Victor Record engineers in the United States had told him that large theatres simply swallowed up the sound. The HMV engineers assured him that one microphone would be adequate. The results bore them out. Sound recording in England was clearly more advanced than in America! The first of these records revealed this and Crawford was extremely pleased. Jack also recorded with other famous organists including Reginald Foort and Sandy McPherson.*

*Also in 1934, we find Jack's solo records on Decca, among the titles recorded were Wagon Wheels, Beside My Caravan, Ol' Pappy and Let's Fall In Love.*

*Jack also recorded as a vocalist with what might be called 'light orchestras', rather than dance bands, for example the Splendide Hawaiian Quartette and The New Mayfair Orchestra both conducted by Ray Noble, the Columbia Light Opera Company and Alfredo and his Orchestra. In 1938 he was accompanied by Felix Mendelssohn and his Orchestra on Decca F6832 which was their second 'Singers on Parade' release. On this Jack sings Time And Time Again.*

*Pathé* filmed Jack Plant in 1935 in their series *Pathé Pictorial*. Dressed in black tie and dinner jacket, Jack stands before a microphone on a set made to look like a radio studio. He sings *The Isle of Capri* accompanied by piano and Hawaiian style guitar played on the lap. Jack is interrupted by a radio announcer [also in black tie and dinner jacket] who says they have a few minutes until they go on air. He asks Jack how many times he has broadcast and Jack replies he has lost count. When asked which bands he has sung with he says, 'Nearly all the leading broadcasting bands'. Asked which is his favourite number he says, 'The Isle of Capri' and sings the refrain. The announcer says 'Quiet boys' then steps up to the microphone. He announces Jack, who then sings *What A Difference A Day Makes*.

Jack also appears on two *Mantovani Pathétone* shorts made in 1939. Jack is featured with *Stella Roberta* in both and sings *Violin In Vienna* and *Hear My Son, Violetta*. Having Viewed all these films, I think Sydney Kyte was being a little unkind when he saw Jack as lacking in personality. In these films at least, Jack comes over as an accomplished and relaxed performer.

By 1939, Jack was *Mantovani's* regular vocalist making records and personal appearances with the orchestra. In 1939 *Billy Butlin* booked *Mantovani* for the Summer Season alternating between the holiday camps at *Clacton-on-Sea* and *Skegness*. Jack Plant shared the vocalist's duties with *Mantovani's* sister, *Stella Roberts*.

In 1942, Jack joined *Henry Hall's* orchestra with which he had previously recorded and stayed for a short period. With Henry, Jack could be found entertaining the troops including an *ENSA* tour and broadcasting on the *Forces Programme* from places like *Wrexham* and *Bristol*. Worthy of note was that on one such broadcast on 5<sup>th</sup> February 1942, one of Jack's songs was *Some Chicken, Some Neck*. The story behind this song was that *Winston Churchill* addressed the *Canadian Parliament* in *Ottawa* and mentioned that the *French generals* had prophesied that *Britain* would get its neck rung like a chicken. Back in *Britain*, an enterprising songwriter got to work and the song was quite popular for a few weeks, although it was never recorded.

Among his other more notable engagements around this time was a broadcast as a guest singer with *Ambrose and His Orchestra* from the *Regent Cinema, Marble Arch*. He sang *Humpty Dumpty Heart* on this broadcast.

Post war he broadcast regularly into the 1950's. His professional career ended around 1960 following a broadcast in *Henry Hall's Guest Night* and an appearance in *Variety Bandbox* with *Frankie Howerd* and *Derek Roy*. His last broadcast was as a pianist duetting with *Billy Mayer!* Not many people knew that he was a talented pianist although he seldom played in public.

In retirement he used to entertain the other pensioners in the *Evelyn Norris House*, just off the sea front in *Worthing*, a *Harmony Trust Home* for retired show-biz folk where he lived for the last three years of his life. *Memory Lane* correspondent, *Doug Wilkins*, visited him there. *Doug* recalls, 'It was infuriating. Several times I tackled him, trying to discover details of his earlier life – but to no avail. His memory was very poor and he constantly "drifted" away from anything I asked him". However, his last few years were happy and enjoyed in reasonable health up until his final illness. He was overjoyed that people still remembered him, although he had previously suffered a period of hardship and even despair, including a broken leg, which failed to heal properly making walking difficult. He did marry and I believe to a *Roman Catholic*. (I also believe he, himself, was half *Jewish*.) Jack had one son who came from *Nottingham*. As far as I know, the cause of death was a heart attack whilst in *Southlands Hospital, Shoreham-by-Sea*. I was present when it happened. During the last couple of years of Jack's life, I got to know him quite well, entertaining him at home and the occasional visit to the local pub. Jack did manage to recall that he had recorded a series for *Radio Nottingham* about his life under the title *Music From The Thirties* but I do not know if they were ever broadcast.

*Doug Wilkins* unearthed a tape of a talk Jack gave in 1972. On the tape inlay card it mentions that it was recorded at *Penlee House*, although *Doug* is unable to say where that is. Jack gives a rather sketchy outline of his career but says nothing of his family life. It was always his ambition to make records, he recalls and ends up by saying that he broke his leg in 1958 which finished his career.

*Jack died on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> August 1973, having been hospitalised as an emergency a week earlier. The funeral took place on 24<sup>th</sup> August 1973 at the Downs Crematorium in nearby Brighton. Doug Wilkins recalls that there were not many mourners present and the floral tributes were small in number. A full obituary appeared in the local newspaper, but the only nationals to report it were the Evening Standard and the Daily Telegraph which both gave Jack just minimal coverage.*

*Jack Plant was a small man, always neat and well dressed, with a voice which has been described as 'plaintiff'. One can detect his 'operatic' background quite easily. Chris Hayes recalled, 'he never earned what he deserved because he didn't ask the fees to which he was entitled with his enormous versatility and soft warm voice.' Jack had a great love of life, of nature and birds. As a young man he was a good athlete, able to run 100 yards in 10.2 seconds and an excellent sportsman; in 1920 he actually had a trial for Manchester United!*

Thanks are due to Ray Pallet of 'Memory Lane' for permission to include his article and to Richard Plant (Member No. 225) for getting me started once again on Jack Plant.

If any member has anything to add to this article, please contact me.

PS

Since preparing this article the mystery of Jack Plant's birth has deepened. A copy of his birth registration has been obtained and it shows John Rose Plant, the son of Jane Plant (a Sorter at a Paper Mill) born, Hall Lane, Partington, on 26 August 1896.

Now as mentioned before, and if we accept the 1901 Census as correct, the Jane Plant recorded in the Census would have been 60 when John was born. Obviously too old.

This means that there is two possibilities – Kathleen (daughter of William and Jane) was actually the mother but calling herself Jane or there was another daughter, Jane, who had left the household by 1901.

According to Ray Pallett in his article above, Jack was half Jewish. I wonder if his father's name was Rose and he was given this name to record some information relative to his father. The birth certificate and the 1901 Census has him as John Rose Plant.

## EARLY PLANTS IN NORTH AMERICA

See also journals 2, 13, 22, 25 and 29

Previous journals have contained information relating to the 'early Plants' settling in North America including one particular family, possibly originating, according to family legend, from Stafford, England, which settled early in the 17<sup>th</sup> century in Branford, Connecticut.

During recent transcribing in Branford, Linda Wagoner (Member No. 182) has come across information relative to this family.

Firstly, however, she found information on Ancestry.com's world tree stating that John Plant of Branford, mid 1600's, was the son of John Bland born in London 1612.

*WKP note – I think that this was a transcription or typing error and that the reference to John Bland should have been John Plant – this would then tie up with previous supposition that this John was born c1615 and travelled to America with Saltonstalls Company in c1639)*

Details extracted by Linda included:

1. Source – Branford Vital Statistics 1691-1788, Vol. 3, Book 1 of 2, Located in Branford Town Hall, Connecticut..  
Page 179
  - 1.1 Branford May 9<sup>th</sup> 1751 – Abraham Plant and Hannah Hoadley both of Branford were joined in wedlock – Philimom Robbins, Clerk.
  - 1.2 Hannah Plant the wife of Abraham Plant departed this life April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1755.
  - 1.3 Branford May 5<sup>th</sup> 1763 – Abraham Plant and Tamar Frisbie, both of Branford, were joined in wedlock – Plilimom Robbins, Clerk.
  - 1.4 Eli Plant son of Abraham by Tamar his wife was born in Branford August 4<sup>th</sup> 1763.  
  
Page 62.
  - 1.5 Abraham Plant son of John Plant and Hannah his wife was born in Branford, Sept., 20<sup>th</sup> 1727.
2. Source – Branford Records Part 1, Vol. 2, - Branford Town Hall,
  - 2.1 Page 43 February 20<sup>th</sup> 1683  
  
The Towne have given unto John Plant 6 acres of land lying upon Molliners Hill (commonly called) between old cart path leading to the farms and the lower end of the hill provided he do improve it within 2 years and it is hereby provided that he do not sell it or dispose of it

without the consent of ye Towne and Samuel Pond and John Rose are appointed to lay it out.

- 2.2 Page 44 – We whose names are under written being chosen by the Towne to lay out a parcel of land for John Plant upon Mulliner Hil have layed it out below the path according to Towne order. Bounded by the West corner with a great white oak tree marked and on the North corner with a small walnut tree marked and at the East corner with a black oake tree and a walnut tree at the south corner.

The land layed out is about six acres – Feb 28<sup>th</sup> 1683 Saml L. L. Pond, John Rose.

- 2.3 Page 71 – James the son of John Plant born Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> 1685 (*WKP note – The John Plant above would be John Plant sn<sup>r</sup>, the original settler and James therefore the brother of John Plant jn<sup>r</sup> – see page 16, Journal No. 22).*)

- 2.4 Page 101 – April 3<sup>rd</sup> 1688 – John Plant is chosen Haward for Cannoe Brook Quarter.

- 2.5 Page 104 – A towne meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in May Anno 1688 which is the 21<sup>st</sup> day of May – the inhabitants propriators have given unto Francis Tyler, Bartholomew Goodrich, Charles Tyler, Jonathan Frisbie and John Plant to each man 6 acres of cow pastureland.

- 2.6 Page 140 – April 8<sup>th</sup> 1690 ---,----John Plant, -----,----- were sworn Freemen of the colony of Connecticut by me Mr William Jones.

- 2.7 Page 286 – Jan 29<sup>th</sup> 1699 – Warned by Thomas Harrison Jr by order of the Select men ----- the Towne have, by a unanimous vote, given and granted to John Plant the land layed out to him on Mulliners Hill as it lyes now fenced.

3. Source Branford Town Records 1786-1848 – Branford Town Hall

- 3.1 Page 203 – The following town officers were appointed for the year ensuing, Asa Norton and Edmund Palmer 2<sup>nd</sup> grandjurors, Timothy Barker, John Plant, John Tyler, Augustus Blackstone, Orrin Hoadley and JB Sheldon, Tythingmen.

*WKP Thanks are due to Linda for this additional information – does the area described above still exist or has it by now been covered by building? John must have become a prominent figure in the area. I wonder where he came from in England – the missing information is the birth of a John Plant c1615, possibly Staffordshire. If any member has a John born about this date, who subsequently disappears from the records, please let me know. As time permits I have been making a list of early Plant (Staffordshire) births but the only one found as a possible was bt 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar 1617/18, John Plant son of Jeams (James) Plant at Muckleston, Staffs. This family is quite well documented, the Muckleston Parish Registers containing the following baptisms.*

*17 Mar 1568/9 William s of William Plant & Marjerie  
22 Dec 1572 Margerie d of William Plant & Margerie  
1 Nov 1575 Jeams s of William Plant & Margerie*

*15 Mar 1579/80 Margaret d of William Plant & Margerie  
6 Jan 1608/09 William Plant s of Jeams Plante  
17 Oct 1615 Elnor Plant d of James (William erased later) Plant & Elizabeth  
22 Mar 1617/18 John Plant s of Jeams Plant  
23 Oct 1619 Thomas Plant s of James Plant & Katherine*

*Whether or not this is the same family that migrated to America is doubtful and unless more information is 'unearthed' in America or a John Plant born London c1615 is found perhaps we shall never know.*

## EXTRACTS FROM OXFORD DICTIONARY OF NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY

### Thomas Livesley Plant 1819-1883

Plant, Thomas Livesley (1819-1883), commission agent and meteorologist, was born at Low Moor, near Bradford, and baptised on 26 February 1820 at Wibsey, Yorkshire, the son of George Halewood Plant, iron merchant, and his wife, Ann Livesley. After schooling at St Cuthbert's College, Ushaw, near Durham, he moved in 1844 to Birmingham, where he married, on 21 June 1845, Jane Horne, the daughter of William Wallis Horne, a builder. In 1849 Plant set up an advertising system for W.H. Smith & Son, which, as commission agent, he supervised until 1881, and he acted as agent for various other firms. One of his two sons followed him in this business.

Before arriving in Birmingham, Plant had developed an interest in meteorology, and from about 1837 he kept systematic records. As well as publishing *Meteorology: its Study Important for our Good* (1862), he read two papers at meetings of the British Association and lectured on the subject in various towns. Plant was a prolific correspondent to the local press on meteorological subjects, and contributed meteorological information to *The Times*. He also campaigned to provide Birmingham with a pure water supply, and worked to establish the post of medical officer of health for the growing town.

When he retired Plant and his wife moved to Devon Cottage, Alcester Road, King's Heath, near Birmingham, Worcestershire, where a niece cared for the elderly couple. It was from that station on 31 August 1883 that he boarded the train for his usual journey into Birmingham, only to suffer a heart attack from which he had died by the time the train reached New Street Station, Birmingham. He was survived by his wife.

#### Sources

Aris's Birmingham Gazette (1 Sep 1883)

The Times (1 Sep 1883)

Wibsey Parish Registers

Archives

Meteorological Office, Bracknell, Berkshire



## **FROM FARMERS TO BLACKSMITHS TO SOLDIER TO FIREFIGHTERS**

As told by Peter Robert Plant (Member No. 243)

This is a brief account of our family history from the early 1800's to the present. My research is not yet complete so any uncertainties will be presented in the form of a question.

Our story starts in the valley to the North of Leek which stretches up to the crags of Millstone known as the Roaches. This fertile farm valley is hemmed in by higher moorlands and is the gateway to the Peak District beyond. The valley includes the township of Leekfrith and the Civil Parish of Tittesworth, along with the hamlets of Mearbrook, Thoracliffe and Upper Hulme. The Plant family had been residence in this area for hundreds of years.

A history of the county of Stafford Volume VII says: - "Three farms in Tittesworth being held by three members of the (Plant) family in 1542".

The 1851 Census shows the family of Samuel Plant as living on a farm called Hurdlow, which is still a working form and has holiday lets. He is married to Elizabeth, formerly Redfearn who has sons, Francis and Ralph and daughter, Elizabeth, from a previous marriage. They also have two sons of their own, John and Henry (my great grandfather). Another farm in the vicinity, Leek Moorside, is occupied by Thomas and Joyce Plant – were they Samuel's parents?

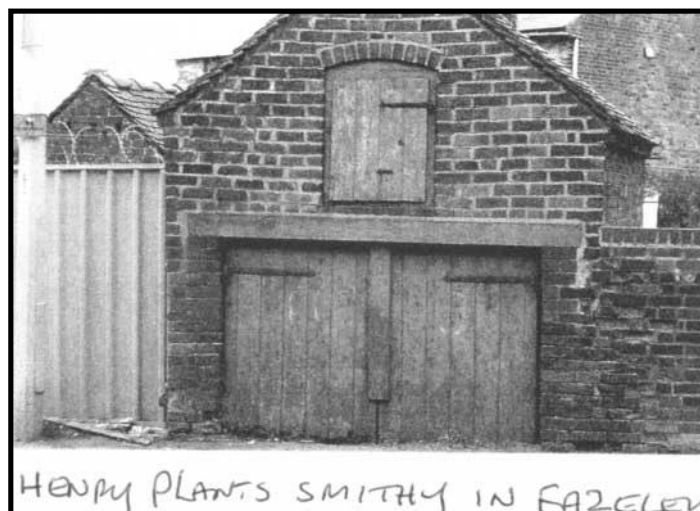
By 1861 Samuels family had moved to Ipstones, a few miles south, and are shown on the Census as living in 'farm' on Far Lane and Mill Lane. This building is identified on the map of 1890, and is still standing today, although does not appear to be a working form. My great grandfather, Henry, does not appear in the Census at this address, but as a blacksmith's apprentice in the village of Hem Heath, Trentham. Interestingly, he is apprenticed to one James Massey. Samuel's neighbours on both sides were Masseys and Samuel's daughter, Caroline, married one of the Masseys. Was James Massey a relative of the Ipstones Masseys? Samuel Plant lived until 1893, and I have yet to discover where he was buried.

Henry Plant appears in the 1871 Census living in the (then) village of Moss Side, near Manchester, the address given is 270 Plymouth Terrace, and the 'head' of the house is his half-brother, Francis Redfearn. Also, interestingly, there is a 'visitor' at the house by the name of Mary A Williams from Leeds. Henry and Mary were married in 1874 at St Leonards Church back in Ipstones.

In 1881 Henry and Mary had moved to the village of Drayton Bassett and were living at Church Farm. Their first born was John Massey Plant, followed by twins, Edwin and Uriah (who were both tragically to die young) and Charles Thomas Plant. Interestingly, Henry's apprentice was one Uriah Corden Massey, born in Ipstones.

1891 records then living in 'Village Street', Drayton Bassett. There is an old brick Cottage opposite the Parish Church which appears to have a smaller abutment building added on to it which could well have been a smithy. I need to check this out

through old maps etc. Also, my grandfather, Edwin Cordon Plant is shown on the Census as just a year old!



1901 Census had Henry living in the Village of Fazeley, not far from Drayton Basset on Lichfield Street, the old A5 from London to Holyhead. Mary his wife is recorded as living with their eldest son, John, another blacksmith in the village of Newton Regis in Warwickshire. By now the family was quite large, and the siblings were:

John Massey Plant, Edwin 1 & Uriah (twins deceased), Charles Thomas, Samuel, Henry, Mary Elizabeth, Bernard, Edwin Corden, Elsie, Helen, Sidney, - did they have any more?

The house where they lived still stands, and alongside is the smithy with its flaking Victorian paint on the doors, the pavement level has been raised by about 2 feet over the years giving the smithy a rather sunken look. I assume my grandfather, Edwin Cordon, served his apprenticeship at this place.

Did the family move on from here? I can find no record of Henry's death, also, none of his sons are listed among the commonwealth war graves records. I have a theory based on a conversation heard when I was young, that all or some of the family moved to Leamington Spa. This idea was strengthened recently by two things. My late mother told me that my grandfather, Edwin Cordon, tried hard but vainly to get my grandmother, Sarah Jane, to move to Leamington Spa (she was a Colclough; very old Tunstall family). Also I was very kindly given a hymn book recently (thank you Estella!) with the words SJ Plant, 4 Clapham Sq., Leamington Spa written inside. Does anyone know of any connections in this area?

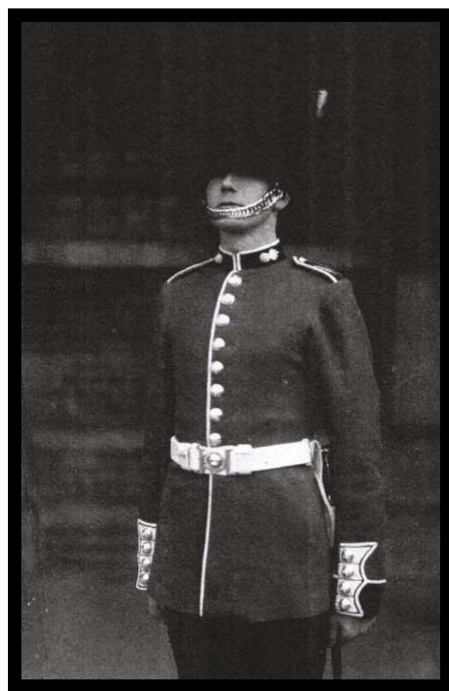
My Grandfather, Edwin Cordon, married Sarah Jane in 1916 at Christchurch, Tunstall, S-O-T and they lived at No. 92, Sun St., (now St Aidens St) where my father Edwin Baker (Bob) was born. Siblings were: Jane, Harry and Margaret (Peggy). Edwin Cordon served as an army blacksmith during the First World War and was a larger than life, boisterous but restless character. After efforts to persuade Sara Jane to move to Leamington Spa failed, he ran off for about 3 years to Canada, and suffered imprisonment for abandonment on his return home. Sarah Jane died in the 1930's (I can't find any record) and Edwin C moved to Warwick and re-married a

lady called Hilda. My father, Bob, told me that Edwin C worked as a farrier at Warwick racecourse, and once shod a Derby winner!



Edwin Cordon Plant and Apprentice Approx. 1930

My father, Edwin Robert Plant, joined the Grenadier Guards in 1937 and was soon in the elite 'Kings Company' 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. He served right through the War from Dunkirk, North Africa, Italy and into Germany. He was posted to the North German City of Lübeck. There he met a pretty young widow called Katha Baresel. She had a little daughter called Ricarda. With great difficulty they were eventually married and returned to Warwick. Hilda was not impressed, and Bob and 'Kitty' were not made welcome. 'My dad married the enemy' later became a family joke! Bob and Kitty moved into a farm with his sister, Peggy, in the village of Weston-in-Garden in Somerset. After Bob was de-mobbed from the Army in 1948, he joined the imperial smelting works in Avonmouth, Bristol. I was born in 1954 and my brother, John, in 1959. Ricarda married and moved to the USA.



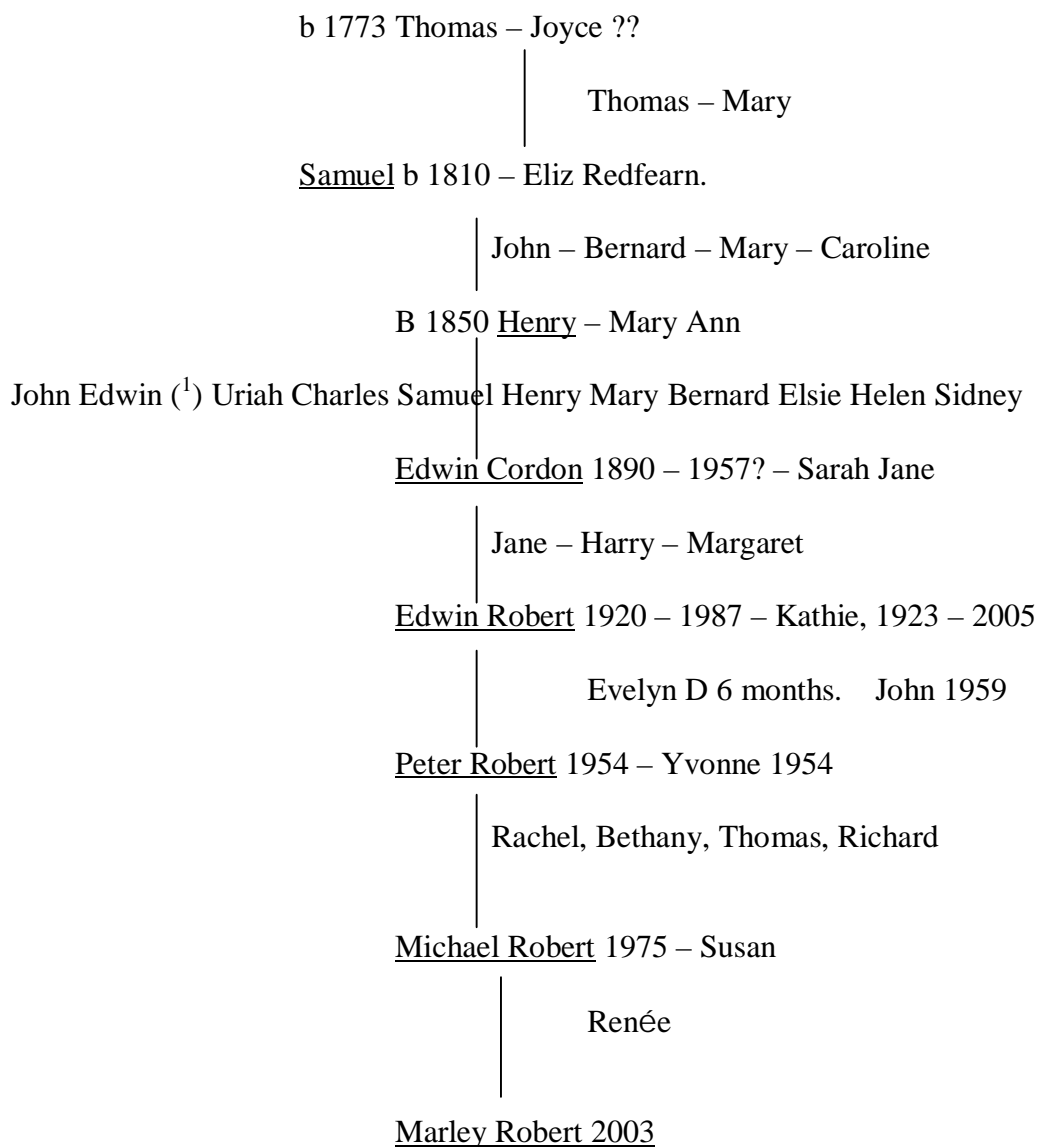
In 1971 Bob was made redundant from the Smelting Works and offered another position at the Aluminium Smelter in Holyhead where we live now.

My wife, Yvonne, and I have 5 children and 5 grandchildren. Myself and two of my sons are firefighters with North Wales Fire & Rescue Service.

If any readers have any connection to our family history, or particularly any photographs of Henry or Samuel we would love to hear.

~~~~~

### FAMILY TREE



## STAFFORDSHIRE MARRIAGE INDEX 1500'S TO 1837

From Samuel to Sarah

No.	Name	Status	Occupation	Residence	Name	Status	Occupation	Residence	Date	Place	Notes	Banns/Lic.
357	Sam			Redearth	Turner, Ann			Ipstones	30 April 1657	Leek		
358	Sam			The Redearth	Lownes, Mary				4 April 1660	Leek	W d/o Peter Lownes	
359	Sam			Leek	Shoplebothum, Mary			Wincle	28 Sept 1680	Leek		
360	Sam			Leek	Finny, Elz			Leek	6 Jan 1728/9	Leek		
361	Sam				Ball, Ann	s		Stoke-on-Trent	1 July 1777	Stoke-on-Trent		b
362	Sam		Potter		Lees, Ellen	s			16 May 1785	Stoke-on-Trent		b
363	Sam			Stoke-on-Trent	Buston, Anne			Stoke-on-Trent	12 Sept 1729	Caverswall		l
364	Saml				Wright, Mary				5 Aug 1810	Norton-le-Moors		
365	Sampson				Bagnold, Joan				May 1568	Stone		
366	Samuel			Leek	Eardley, Jane			Horton	14 Jan 1708/9	Leek		
367	Samuel			Castlechurch	Goldsmith, Joanna			Castlechurch	9 July 1730	Castlechurch		
368	Samuel				Stevenson, Mary			Bearson	28 Dec 1735	Muckleston		
369	Samuel				James, Esther				28 Dec 1748	Wolverhampton		b
370	Samuel			Leek	Steel, Anne			Leek	10 Feb 1750	Leek		
371	Samuel			Sudbury	Amery, Mary			Bubridge	2 July 1754	Horton		
372	Samuel				Bernard, Catherine				30 Jun 1767	Lichfield, St Chad		l
373	Samuel	b			Rushton, Hannah	s		Alvington	4 Jan 1775	Uttoxeter		l
374	Samuel	b			Plant, Margaret	s			6 Apr 1778	Wolverhampton		
375	Samuel	b		Leek	Pickford, Ellen	s		Leek	30 Apr 1789	Leek		
376	Samuel			Stoke	Plant, Alice				15 Jun 1794	Whitmore		
377	Samuel		Collier		Heely, Hannah	s			13 Oct 1795	Cheadle		l
378	Samuel	b			Bate, Mary	s			7 Jun 1802	Wolverhampton		

No.	Name	Status	Occupation	Residence	Name	Status	Occupation	Residence	Date	Place	Notes	Banns/Lic.
379	Samuel			Stoke	Johnson, Ann			Stoke	15 Nov 1803	Newcastle-under-lyme		
380	Samuel				Smith, Elizabeth				17 Apr 1804	Keele		
381	Samuel	b			Brough, Elizabeth	s			13 Oct 1815	Leek		
382	Samuel				Withington, Amelia				29 Feb 1816	Fulford		
383	Samuel	w	Labourer		Allman, Hannah	s			8 June 1823	Stoke-on-Trent		
384	Samuel				Roston, Mary				5 Jul 1825	Cheadle		
385	Samuel	b	Cordwainer		Cook, Hannah	s			19 Jun 1826	Wolstanton		
386	Samuel	b	Twister		Kenzal, June	s			17 Dec 1827	Leek		
387	Samuel				Yeomans, Mary				2 Apr 1832	Forton		
388	Samuel	b			Tew, Elizabeth	s			24 Jun 1832	Stoke-on-Trent		
389	Samuel	b	Miner		Simons, Maria	s			10 Feb 1834	Wolstanton		
390	Samuel			Astonfield	Bagaley, Anne			Astonfield	3 Feb 1679/0	CHS, Prestbury		
391	Sar	w			Lymmer, Rich	w			28 Dec 1806	Caverswall		1
392	Sar	s		Maer	Hitchin, Wm	b	Farmer	Maer	4 Jul 1811	Maer		1
393	Sara				Spencer, Robert				Oct 1721	Leigh		
394	Sarah				Watson, John				25 Mar 1637	Leek		
395	Sarah				Clowes, James				23 Oct 1651	Leek		
396	Sarah			Alstonefield	Redfear Wm			Alstonefield	13 Sept 1687	Alstonefield		
397	Sarah				Poyser, Richard			Stanton	20 Jan 1691	Ellastone		
398	Sarah				Rogers, Tho				8 Nov 1694	Leek		
399	Sarah			Alstonefield	Yates, Nathan			Alstonefield	14 May 1701	Cavonsnall		
400	Sarah				Barton, Thomas				25 Aug 1708	Uttoxeter		
401	Sarah			Leek	Clulave, James				29 Dec 1708	Leek		
402	Sarah			Alstonefield	Tunncliffe, Nic			Alstonefield	9 Sep 1709	Alstonefield		
403	Sarah				Malkin, James				11 Nov 1716	Horton		
404	Sarah			Leek	Mitchell, W			Leek	7 Dec 1720	Leek		
405	Sarah				Welch, John				20 April 1726	Stoke-on-Trent		
406	Sarah				Rowley, Thomas				20 Mar 1727	Horton		
407	Sarah			Leek	Myott, Rich				17 Apr 1733	Leek		
408	Sarah				Hubball, Thomas				5 Dec 1737	Stafford, St Mary		
409	Sarah			Leek	Buckstone, Daniel				5 Jun 1740	CHS, Prestbury		
410	Sarah			Leek	Meakin, Tho			Leek	15 Oct 1740	Leek		
411	Sarah			Leek	Davel, John				22 Jul 1751	Leek		

No.	Name	Status	Occupation	Residence	Name	Status	Occupation	Residence	Date	Place	Notes	Banns/Lic.
412	Sarah			Leek	Birch, Thomas			Leek	19 Sep 1751	Leek		
413	Sarah			Leek	Bott, George			Stoke	1 Jan 1753	Leek		
414	Sarah				Cheese, Edward				25 Dec 1753	Kingswinford		
415	Sarah			Ipstones	Adams, William				16 Feb 1756	Checkley,		wcp 1
416	Sarah	s			Boor, Saml	b			6 Dec 1757	Leek		
417	Sarah	s			Gravenor, Edward				25 Dec 1760	Lapley		
418	Sarah			Waterfall	Millard, Thomas			Waterfall	20 Oct 1763	Waterfall	Milward signs Millard	1
419	Duplicated	as	418									
420	Sarah	s			Gratton, Wm	b			23 Oct 1765	Leek		
421	Sarah			Stoke-on-Trent	Allen, Harry	b		Stoke-on-Trent	25 Sep 1768	Barslem		1
422	Sarah			Brewood	Duncalf, Richard			SAL Tong	3 Nov 1768	SAL Tong		
423	Sarah			Stoke	Bagnal, John			Stoke	27 Mar 1769	Bucknall		
424	Sarah				Westwood, Edward				12 Jun 1770	Kingswinford		
425	Sarah	w			Newam, Joseph	w			7 Sep 1776	Leek		1
426	Sarah				Lockley, Anthony				5 Nov 1776	Gnosall		
427	Sarah	s			Birchall, Samuel		Blacksmith		30 Dec 1776	Madeley		b
428	Sarah				Tomlinson, John			Trentham	9 Dec 1777	Eccleshall		1
429	Sarah	s		Sheriffhales	York, William	b		Sheriffhales	9 Sep 1778	SAL Sheriffhales		b
430	Sarah			Wolstanton	Bourne, Jonathan		Potter	Wolstanton	28 Jun 1779	Wolstanton		
431	Sarah	s			Pyott, John	w			14 Nov 1780	Leek		
432	Sarah				Filkin, Thomas				3 Aug 1781	Stone		1
433	Sarah			Forton	Booker, James	b		Norbury	30 Dec 1784	Forton		1
434	Sarah				Turner, Lot				29 Dec 1787	Kingswinford		
435	Sarah				Young Christopher				7 Nov 1790	Kingswinford		
436	Sarah	s			Lovatt, Samuel	b			13 Jun 1793	Leek		
437	Sarah				Bate, John			High Offley	20 Jun 1793	Brewood,	From Bts	1
438	Sarah	s			Moors, George	b			2 Nov 1793	Leek		1
439	Sarah				Venables, Thomas				26 Dec 1793	Gnosall		
440	Sarah				Porter, John				30 Oct 1794	Stone		
441	Sarah			Stoke	Sherratt, Joseph		Collier	Stoke	7 Feb 1796	Newcastle-under-Lyme		

No.	Name	Status	Occupation	Residence	Name	Status	Occupation	Residence	Date	Place	Notes	Banns/Lic.
442	Sarah			Stoke	Whateley, Wm		Potter	Stoke	5 Jun 1796	Newcastle-under-Lyme		
443	Sarah	s		Leek	Deaville, John	b			19 Feb 1798	Leek		1
444	Sarah			Eccleshall	Parterick, John			Eccleshall	17 Jun 1799	Eccleshall		
445	Sarah			Stoke	Shaw, Daniel		Boat builder	Stoke	7 Oct 1799	Newcastle-under-Lyme		
446	Sarah				Meese, John				15 Feb 1801	Kingswinford		
447	Sarah				Griffiths, Thomas			LAN Liverpool	16 Jun 1802	Checkley		
448	Sarah				Main, Rich				13 Jan 1803	Alstonefield		1
449	Sarah			Stoke	Bowiston, Samuel			Stoke	29 May 1803	Newcastle-under-Lyme		
450	Sarah	s			Beardmore, John	b	Hatter	Newcastle	16 Jun 1806	Stoke-on-Trent		
451	Sarah				Shufflebotham, Thomas				17 Feb 1807	Lichfield, St Chad		
452	Sarah	s		Burton-on-Trent	Petty, Thomas		Hatter	Burton-on-Trent	10 Aug 1807	Burton-on-Trent		
453	Sarah	s			Dethick, John	b		Stoke	15 Oct 1807	Seighford		1
454	Sarah	s			Taylor, Robert	b			6 Dec 1807	Uttoxeter		
455	Sarah	s		Leek	Hill, Joseph	b		Leek	18 Oct 1812	Leek		1
456	Sarah	s			Buxton, Thomas	b	Bricklayer		23 Aug 1813	Stoke-on-Trent		
457	Sarah	s			White, Samuel	b			8 Sep 1814	Horton		
458	Sarah	s			Stringer, William	b			8 May 1815	Wolverhampton		
459	Sarah	s			Campbell, Peter	b			4 Jul 1815	Leek		
460	Sarah				Ainsworth, Thomas				17 Jul 1815	Biddulph		
461	Sarah				Higginson, John				20 Oct 1816	Norton-le-Moors		
462	Sarah				Eccleshall, Moses				15 Mar 1819	Forton		
463	Sarah				Turnock, Thomas				22 Sep 1819	Biddulph		
464	Sarah				Wain, John	w			4 Jun 1821	Alstonefield		
465	Sarah				Wilshaw, Joseph				14 Nov 1821	Biddulph		
466	Sarah	s			Becket, Aaron	b			9 Apr 1822	Tipton		
467	Sarah	s			Allen, James	b			4 Aug 1822	Leek		
468	Sarah	s			Cartwright, William	b			19 Dec 1822	Pattingham		1



No.	Name	Status	Occupation	Residence	Name	Status	Occupation	Residence	Date	Place	Notes	Banns/Lic.
469	Sarah	s			Moreton, Edward	b			17 Mar 1823	Tipton		
470	Sarah	w			Phillips, Richard		Warper		29 Sep 1823	Leek		
471	Sarah	s			Spilsbury, George	b	Silkworker		2 Oct 1825	Leek		
472	Sarah	s			Pickford, Thomas	w	Joiner		28 Jul 1827	Leek		
473	Sarah				Seabridge, Edward				30 Sep 1828	Swynnerton		
474	Sarah	s			Cartlidge, Richard	b	Shoemaker		25 Dec 1828	Stoke-on-Trent		
475	Sarah	w			Hulme, Joseph	w	Hus.		28 Dec 1829	Leek		
476	Sarah				Muchel, Secil				30 Dec 1829	Cheddleton		
477	Sarah	s			Shallcross, John	b	Dyer		18 Oct 1830	Leek		
478	Sarah	s			Holmes, Joseph		Labr.		4 Jan 1831	Barlaston		
479	Sarah				Dicken, Perry				18 Jan 1831	Fradswell		
480	Sarah	s			French, George		Servant	Thorp Constantine	4 Sep 1831	Lichfield, St Mary		1
481	Sarah				Hambrey, John				21 Apr 1833	Kingswinford		
482	Sarah	s			Lowe, Ralph		Lab.		16 Jun 1833	Audley		
483	Sarah	w			Bellingham, George	b	Lab.		4 Oct 1833	Wolstanton		
484	Sarah				Clan, James			SAL, Newport	28 Nov 1833	Norbury	W, wcp	1
485	Sarah	s			Steele, Samuel	b			29 Dec 1833	Stoke-on-Trent		
486	Sarah	s`			Tompson, Edward	b			29 Apr 1834	Stoke-on-Trent		
487	Sarah	s			Wild, John	b	Farmer		30 Mar 1835	Sheen		
488	Sarah				Turner, William			Wolverhamp ton	19 Mar 1836	Stone		
489	Sarah	s			Harrison, John	b			27 June 1836	Stoke-on-Trent		
490	Sarah	s			Bryan, Benjamin	b			13 Nov 1836	Caverswall		
491	Sarah				Plant, John				26 May 1837	Bagnall		

## 1881 British Census

### Berkshire, Hampshire and Oxfordshire

Not an area heavily populated with Plants.

A total of 14 recorded in Berkshire but 7 of these, the name is shown as Plance so it is doubtful that there is any connection with the Plant name. Of the remaining 7, one is recorded as a Servant in Wokingham and the other six in two families living in Sonning with a possible connection to Woodley.

Hampshire includes a total of 27, the majority of which are in the Military with one in Prison at Portsea.

Charles Arthur Plant, Lance Corporal U 21, born Weymouth, Dorset – (Army Service Corps' South Camp, Aldershot).

William Plant, Private 5 Fusiliers M 36 born Stafford - ('Tipnon Barrocks', Portsea).

William Plant, Convict, Cigar Maker M 41 born London (HM Convict Prison, Portsmouth, Portsea).

William Plant, Gunner RM Artillery M 32 born London ('Royal Marine Artillery Barracks' Eastney – 11<sup>th</sup> Co, Portsey).

John Plant, Colour Sergeant, RM Artillery M 37 born Leek ('Royal Marine Artillery Barracks', Eastrey, Portea).

*Recorded with the above John Plant were his family who must have been living with him on camp.*

<i>Name</i>	<i>Relationship</i>	<i>Marr.</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Born</i>
<i>Avis Plant</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Dressmaker Rogate, Sussex</i>	
<i>Avis Mary Plant</i>	<i>Daug.</i>		<i>7</i>	<i>F</i>		<i>Southsea, Hampshire</i>
<i>John FH Plant</i>	<i>Son</i>		<i>4</i>	<i>M</i>		<i>Southsea, Hampshire</i>
<i>William E Plant</i>	<i>Son</i>		<i>3</i>	<i>M</i>		<i>Southsea, Hampshire</i>
<i>Sidney M Plant</i>	<i>Son</i>		<i>10m</i>	<i>M</i>		<i>Southsea, Hampshire</i>
<i>Ann Darling</i>	<i>Visitor</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Dressmaker Rogate, Sussex</i>	

Ralph Plant Gunner RM Artillery U 24 Born Burslem ('Royal Marine Artillery Barracks' Eastrey – 8<sup>th</sup> Co. Portsea)

George H Plant Private Royal Marine M 25 Born Stafford (Living at 6 Nelson Place, Alverstoke, Hampshire with his wife, Anna – age 25 – born Titchfield, Hampshire and his daughter, Anne, age 1 also born Titchfield.

The remaining Plant references were as follows:

10 St Mary's at Portsmouth

William Collins	Beerhousekeeper	W	73	born Beaminster, Dorset
William Plant	Son-in-law	M	27	born Debenham, Suffolk
Georgina Plant	Dau	M	35	born Beaminster, Dorset.

85 Hyde Park Rd., Portsea

George Plant Dockyard Pensioner M 72 born Chatham, Kent  
Fanny Plant M 50 born Newport, Isle of Wight

Minstead, Hampshire

Rebecca Plant M 60 born Minstead  
Abraham Plant Son – Coachman U 27 born Minstead  
Charles Plant Son – Labourer U 26 born Minstead

18 Orchard St, Southampton Head = George Pratt age 55 included:

Abraham Plant Visitor Coachman U 28 born Minstead

Highfield, South Stoneham, Hampshire – Head = George Hobbs included:

Mary Plant Visitor Laundress W 58 born Minstead  
Robert W Plant Boarder 1 born Minstead  
(note Robert is shown as Servant so either the occupation or the age is incorrect.)

Millbrook Rd., Millbrook, Hampshire Head = Mary Emmett included:

GW Plant Lodger Groom U 25 born Minstead

16 Christ Church Rd., St Faith, Winchester

Head = Edward Crofton Lieutenant Rifle Brigade, age 26 included:

Margaret Plant Servant U 28 born Wicklow

Farnham + Hartley Wintney District School, Crondall included

George Plant Scholar 13 born Reading, Berkshire  
(note: - A total of 167 Scholars are listed – large school for the period – ages ranged from 5 to 15).

Oxfordshire has a total of 30 Plant references – see next page.