

## MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

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Ø = New Member

● = Change of address or e-mail address.

# Rejoined

## MEMBERS INTERESTS

<u>Membership</u>		<u>Interest</u>
<u>No</u>	<u>Name</u>	
4	Mr Colin W Plant	19c North Staffordshire/
6	Mr Michael Plant	Any period South Staffs/North Worcs/
10	Mrs Pamela Plant	e19c Stockport Cheshire/
16	Mrs C Reed	L18c e19c North Staffordshire/
18	Mr Peter Johnson	L19c Manchester Lancs/19c Mid Cheshire/
20	Mr David Plant	Pre 19c Clowne Derby/19c Doncaster Yorks/ 19c Notts./ 19c Cheltenham Glos/
29	Mrs Shirley Hughes	L17c + 18c Rowley Regis Worcs/19c Dudley Worcs/L19c Sydney Australia/
32	Mrs Catherine Sproston	Any Period Cheshire/
37	Mr Patrick Pearson	Any period Stockport Cheshire/
38	Mrs Sian Plant	e19c Denton Lancs/19c Leicester/ 20c Rounds Northants/
45	Mr David Johnson	19c Kidsgrove/
47	Mrs S Robson	General/
52	Dr John S Plant	19c Sheffield Yorks/e19c Clowne Derbyshire/
59	Mr Nigel Burroughs	L18c 19c Burslem + Longton Staffs/
69	Mr Andrew Plant	M18c + M19c Little Bowden and Market Harborough/19c London
71	Mr G Brian Plant	Any period Cheshire/
74	Mrs Alice D Mercer	19c Leicester/L19c Nottingham/
75	Mr M J Plant	e19c Shropshire/e19c Cheadle Hulme Cheshire/
85	Mr John E Ransley	18c + 19c Staffordshire/
89	Mrs Estella Nobles	Any period Fenton + Cheadle + Longton Staffs/
90	Mrs M R Lake	m18c Suffolk/
95	Linda Shields Wheeler	pre 1700 Staffs/Cheshire/John Plant (emigrant)from UK to US/
98	Deanne Richards	19c Eckington Derbyshire/Sheffield



		(Brightside)/
104	Mrs Liz Plant	17c + 18c + e19c Wolverhampton/
111	Mr Malc John Plant	Any period Sibsey Lincs/
113	Mrs Heather Plant	L19c Hackney Middlesex/
114	Mr John Russel Ingamellis	18c Lincs/
115	Mrs Pat Herring	e19c Ashley Staffs/L19c Wheelock Cheshire/
116	Miss Joan Plant	e19c Bristol/
119	Mrs Florence Plant	L19c Staffordshire/
121	Kathy Compagno	19c West Bromwich + Walsall, Staffs/ L18c + e19c Brierley Hill/ e 18c Old Swinford
122	Elizabeth Messer	L19c Cheadle Staffs/
123	Dr Andrew Thomas Plant	18c + 19c Northants/19c Rutland/19c Hants + Cambs/L19c + e20c Bedfordshire
124	Mr Alan Plant	General Staffordshire/
127	Mr William T Plant	18c + e19c North Staffordshire/
131	Mrs Jean Walpole	m19c Wolverhampton Staffordshire/ L19c Camberwell, Surrey/
132	Miss Linda Wilks	Any period Potteries, Staffordshire/
138	Mrs Jean Ray	19c Sheffield
139	Mrs Judith Kirkby	Pre 1850 Macclesfield Ches/
140	Mrs J Bateman	Pre 1900 Staffs/pre1900 Worcs/Any period Dudley,Tipton Halesowen, Rowley Regis, Brierley Hill, Langley, Oldbury Cradley, West Bromwich, Smethwick/
141	Mr Malcolm Revell	18 + 19c Burslem + Longton + Stoke on Trent Staffs/
143	Miss Freda Lawrence	Any period Bloxwich, Eccleshall, Norbury, Shallowford, Stoke-on-Trent, Stone Stoweby, Chortley, Swynnerton, Yarnfield (Earnfield), Staffs.
145	Mr Graham Wingfield	19c Lower + Higher Whitley + Little Leigh, Cheshire/
147	Mr John Ronald Plant	Pre 1900 Stoke on Trent, Staffs/
153	Mrs Frances Plant	19c Leek Staffs/
162	Aloa Dereta	Any Period pre 1860 Leek Staffs/ m 19c Sheffield, Yorks/

165	Mrs Gillian Jenkins	m 19c Wolverhampton + West Bromwich, Staffs/
167	Mrs M J Plant	Any period Market Harborough, Little Bowden, Great Bowden, Foxton, Leics/Sutton St. Edmund, Halbeach, Lincs/ Brighton Sussex/Haverhill, Suffolk/Battersea, London/
168	Mr Philip Plant	As for member 167 plus North Wiltshire/
169	Mrs Hazel Morgan	19c Meerbrook, Grindon, Staffs/Ashbourne, Derby/
174	Mrs Fay Bielewicz	18c Ches (Alsager)/19c North Staffs/
177	Mr Earl John Davis	Cheadle, Staffs/
178	Mr Tony Brown	e + m 19c Laxfield, Suffolk/
179	Mrs Dorian Greenbaum	18c + 19c Dudley/Kingswinford/Brierley Hill/
181	Mr Jack Plant	19c South Yorks/North Derbyshire/
182	Linda Wagoner	Any period USA/Immigrants from UK to USA/
183	Mr Chris Plant	pre 1720 Leek/post 1720 Cheadle Staffs/
186	Mr Bill Lowe	19c Birmingham/
187	Dr Ruth Young	North Staffs/Northants/Shrop/
189	Mrs Nanette Pafumi	Any period Cheshire/
194	Mrs Ann Wilkinson	19c Newport, Shropshire/
195	Mr David Plant	Any period West Midlands/18 + 19c Dudley + Brewood, Staffs/
199	Mrs Judith Wilkinson	18 + 19c Dudley, Tipton, Halesowen, Rowley Regis, Brierley Hill, Langley, Cradley, West Bromwich/
200	Miss Simone Plant	L18 + 19c Eccleshall, Stafford/
201	Mr Ronnie Plant	L19c Dudley South Staffs/
202	Mrs Audrey Hunt	18 + 19 + 20c Castle Church, Castletown, Forebridge, Queensvill, Staffs/
203	Mrs Shirley Goodall	19c Appleby Magna, Leics/ 20c Burton-on-Trent, Staffs/
205	Mrs Christine Milner	19c Stockport (Plants Hat Block Co)/
206	Mrs Ann Plant	19c Staffs/
207	Mr John Plant	Lincolnshire/

210	Mrs Andrea Bone	L19c Peterborough Cambs/
212	Mrs Rosalie Knellar	19c Liverpool/Bradford/West Bromwich, Staffs/Warwick/Handsworth, Staffs/
213	Mr Kenneth Plant	18c + 19c South East, Leicestershire + Rutland Border/
215	Mrs Glenys Daniels	19c Burslem, Fenton, Corbridge, Stoke/
216	Mrs Jennifer Plant	18c + 19c 'Black Country'/
217	Ms Sylvia Wells	19c Market Harborough/London area/
218	Mr Walter Frederick Plant	Woodthorpe, Nr Chesterfield/Woodthorpe, Nr Loughborough/
219	Mr Michael Plant	M + L 18c Sheffield/M + L 18c NE Derbyshire
220	Mr Mark Ernest Plant	L19c Manchester, Lancs/Staffs?
221	Mrs Sue Tudor	RH + SL Plant + Company (Pottery)/
222	Dr Dale Smith	18 + 19c North Staffs/ 19 + 20c USA/
223	Mr Colin H Plant	William Plant 17c/early 19c Hundleigh, Lincs/ L18 + E19c Hundleby, Lincs/
224	Mrs Kathleen Bean	17c Grinton North Yorks/19c Cassop, Co Durham/
225	Mr Richard Plant	L19c Lincs/
226	Mrs Valerie Hall	18c Derbyshire (Hope, Bakewell, Hartington/ 18c Cheshire (Macclesfield, Taxal)/18c Staffs (Leek, Alstonfield)/
227	Miss Anna Massey	18 + 19c Black Country/
228	Irene Plant Berger	19c Birmingham/
229	Mr Benjamin John Plant	18 + 19c Lichfield, Staffs/19c Liverpool, Lancs/
230	Mr Brian John Hunt	Canning Pottery Co – Subsidiary Co of RH + SL Plant & Co.
231	Mrs Doris Howorth	18c + e 19c Manchester/
232	Mrs Michele Watson	m19c Duckmanton, Derbyshire/L19c + 20c Australia (Melbourne)/
233	Professor Dennis Wood	17c to 20c Rowley Regis + Oldbury/
234	Mrs Connie Schick	19c Brierley Hill + Dudley + Old Swinford (Descendants of Wm Plant + Mary Ann Mound/

235	Rev <sup>d</sup> Cyril D Blount	m 19c Cheadle, Staffs (James Plant)/
236	Mr Charles Poulton Plant	L 19c e 20c Wolverhampton (Charles Poulton Plant)/L 18c Brewood, Staffs/ 20c Canada
237	Mrs Yvonne Enid Wright	L 18c Elton, Hunts/e 19c Nassington + Castor Northants/m 19c Huntingdon, Cambs/ 20c Yoxford, Suffolk + Gillingham, Kent/
238	Miss Sarah Plant	Charndon, Bucks/Yorkshire/Lancashire/
239	Mr David Bartholomew	e 20c Macclesfield, Ches/
240	Col. Mike Walker	19c + 20c Longton Staffs (Samuel Lucas Plant + Frederick Sutton Plant) RH + SL Plant & Co/
241	Mrs Nicole Lankester	18c + 19c + 20c Preston, Ashton-on-Ribble, Poulton-le-Fylde (Plant Solicitors) Lancs/
242	Mr Mike Roberts	18c + 19c Dawley, New Works, Wellington, Shropshire
243	Mr Peter Robert Plant	E19c Tittesworth + Ipstones, Staff/
244	Mrs Sydney Anne Holt	M19c Hanley, Staffs/L19c Stoke, Staffs/
245	Mr Frederick Ernest Plant	20c Lower Broughton, Salford, Lancs/
246	Mrs Glenda Truman	Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, USA/ Early Plant settlers, USA/

## PAST MEMBERS INTERESTS

It is now some time since the journal included a list of Past Members Interests. If you wish to contact any of these past members please contact me and I will forward the last known address and any relevant information.

<u>Member No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Areas of Interest</u>
1	Miss Linda Lowrey	e19c Macclesfield, Cheshire/m19c Hollingwood-Darwen/Lancs
2	Mr John Plant	General
3	Mr John Plant	Any period Market Harborough + Bristol/
5	Mrs Mary Stone	m19c Altrincham, Cheshire/
7	Mrs C M O'Donoran	e19c Gnosall, Staffs/m19c Bloxwich, Staffs/
8	Mrs M Froggatt	research being carried out by Member No. 7/
9	Mrs Doris Nicholas	e19c Shropshire/e19c Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire/
11	Mrs B Jones	L18c Clowne, Derby/e19c Stavely, Derby/m19c Halton Leeds, Yorks/
12	Mrs Lois Webb	e19c Macclesfield Cheshire/m19c Hollingwood + Darwen Lancs/
13	Ms Helen Hill	e19c Ayrshire/m19c Rowley Regis, Staffs/ L19c Cradley, Staffs/
14	Rev. D A Jackson	18c 19c Ashton, Lancs/19c Dukinfield, Lancs/ e19c Mottram, Cheshire/e19c Stockport, Cheshire/ 18c Blakley, Lancs/18c Manchester, Lancs/
15	Mrs Winifred Stuart	Any period Cheshire/
17	Mrs Brenda Beaumont	`L18c, e19c, East Suffulld/
21	Mr A Fowler	m19c Lichfield, Staffs/Any period Liverpool/
22	Mr John Plant	General/
23	Mrs J Wallace	18c Nottingham/m19c London/m19c New Zealand/ 20c Australia/
24	Mr George Plant	19c Rushton Biddulph, Norton, Staffs/
25	Elvin U Plant	19c Holmes Chapel, Cheshire/
26	Ms Janis Kirby	m19c Willenhall, Staffs/L19c Manchester/ e19c Wellington, Shropshire
27	Mrs P E Ormerod	e19c Sandbach, Cheshire/m19c Church Hulme, Cheshire/
28	Susan Mackay	L19c Derbyshire/
30	Mrs C L Plant	General/

31	Mr John Plant Harthan	Any period Elworth Hall, Cheshire/
33	Miss Aileen Plant	17c 18c 19c Stockport, Cheshire/
34	Mrs S R Hough	e19c Biddulph, Staffs/
35	Mr Arnold Plant	General/
36	Mr Graeme R Plant	m19c Sibsey, Lincoln/Any period Australia/
39	Mr & Mrs Gordon H Vick	19c Clowne, Derby/19c Staveley, Derby/ L19c Halifax, Yorks/
40	Mrs Jean McDonald	m19c Wolverhampton, Staffs/L17c + 18c Rowley Regis, Worcs/19c Dudley, Worcs/
41	Val Edmonds	m19c Stepney + Limehouse, Middlesex/
42	Mr John Roberts	Any period Cheadle, Staffs/
43	Mrs J A Stebbing	m19c London
46	J H Plant	L18c 19c Longton, Staffs/any period RH + SL Plant Ltd/
48	Mrs S Allan	General/
49	Mrs Elizabeth Bass	General/
50	Mrs Jean Plant	General/
51	Mr Gerald Plant	m19c Goostrey, Cheshire/L19c e20c Salford, Lancs/
53	Mrs P L Pritchard	Any period Clowne, Derbyshire/
54	W Plant	General/
55	Mr Brian David Burton	e19c Cheadle, Staffs/
56	Frances M J Westwood	Any period Cheadle, Staffs/
57	Mrs Shipley	Any period Kidsgrove/
58	B S Plant	General/
60	Mrs R Terry	19c Burslem + Longton, Staffs/any period RH + SL Plant Ltd/
61	Mr G Plant	General/
62	Mrs M Upton	General/
63	Ian Brindley	General/
64	Albert Edward Plant	General/
65	Mr D J Plant	Any Period Cheadle, Staffs/
66	Sandra Cuming	L19c Wandsworth, London/e19c Leicester/ 20c Australia/

67	Mrs J Bastom	m19c Astbury, Cheshire/m19c Biddulph, Staffs/
68	Mr W Perry	18c Congleton + Prestbury, Cheshire/
70	Geoffrey W Plant	General/
72	William Plant	General/
73	Miss F A Curtis	General/
76	Mrs M A Powell	e19c Shropshire/e19c Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire/
77	Mr G J Thomas	e19c Shropshire/e19c Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire/
78	Mr D W Plant	e19c Shropshire/e19c Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire/
79	Mr E G B Powell	Any period Leicestershire/
80	Miss J Nicholas	e19c Shropshire/e19c Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire/
81	Mr Richard S Plant	Any period Staffordshire/RH + SL Plant Ltd/
82	Mr John Plant	General/
83	Miss Kathleen Plant	L19c Hyde, Cheshire/
84	Mrs Shirley Connaghan	19c Long Crendon, Buckingham/20c Australia/
86	Miss Karen Miller	m19c Fradswell + Colwich + Weston, Staffs/
87	Mrs Esmae M Davies	Any period Staffordshire/RH + SL Plant Ltd/
88	Mr John Ackroyd	19c Birmingham/Plant + Green Ltd/
91	Mr Fred Faulkner	Any period Yarnfield + Stafford/
92	Mrs Kathleen Turner	Any period North Staffs/
93	Cordelia R L Shields	17c Stafford/any period Connecticut USA/
94	Mr Ross Plant	m19c County Cavin, Ireland/
96	Mrs Yvonne May	19c Syston + Loughborough + Desford + Rotheby, Leicester/
97	Mrs Margaret Walker	19c Dudley + Rowley Regis, Staffs/
99	Bryan Charles Plant	m19c Kent/
100	Lauren Essex	17c Stafford/General/
101	Mrs P Handley	19c Gnosall, Staffs/
102	Mr S R Fowler	17c + 18c + 19c Lichfield, Staffs/m19c Liverpool/
103	Mrs Janine Oliver	L19c Shelton, Staffs/
105	William John Plant	m19c Kent/
106	Mrs Isabel McQuoid	L19c Leeds/

107	Mrs Joan E Pebbles	18c + 19c Suffolk/
108	Stella Kornfein	L 19c Wisbech Cambs/L 19c Battersea London/
109	Caryn Plant	General/
110	Myrtle L Reid	L19c + e20c Darlaston + Walsall + West Bromwich, Staffs/
112	Mrs Helen Seamer	19c Willenhall, Staffs/
117	Mrs Lana J Fox	e19c Ontario, Canada/
118	Eileen Plant	e19c Calais Maine, USA/
120	Mr L Edwin Clements	Leicestershire/
125	Mr Ronald George Plant	e20c Rugeley Staffordshire/
126	Mr Bryan Alvey	17c Bakewell + Youlgreave, Derbyshire/
128	Mr Robert Harry Plant	19c Gnosall, Staffordshire/20c Saskatchewan, Canada/
129	Mrs Denise North	19c West Midlands/
130	Mr Tom Plant	TBA
133	Mr Nick Dykes	Any period RH + SL Plant Ltd/
134	Mrs Hillary Bell	19c Haslington, Cheshire/
135	Helen Plant	Pre 1828 Hanley, Staffs/
136	Mrs Joyce E Shaw	Pre 1881 Leek, Staffs/1881 onwards Manchester + Salford/
142	Mr Hugh Middleton	20c Islington/
144	Mr Ron Plant	General/
146	Miss J A Rigby	Pre 1900 Stoke on Trent, Staffs/
148	Miss Mgt. M Scholefield	e19c Leek, Staffs/
149	John Farmer Plant	19c Birmingham/
150	Mr Stephen Ward	19c Leek, Staffs/
151	Miss Tessa Pilsbury	18c + 19c Congleton, Cheshire/18 + 19c Horton + Leek, Staffs/
152	Mrs Alma Joan Malpass	19c Sheffield/
154	Mrs Susan E Woods	19c Staffs/
155	Mrs Betty Pyman	3 20c Guildford, Surrey/
156	Christine M Page	m 19c York, Yorkshire/Army/



157	Mr Nicholas J Homes	L 19c London/
158	Miss Kerry Ann Cooke	L19c West Bromwich/Barnsley, Yorks/
159	Mrs Pat Galloway	Any period, Shropshire/
160	Mrs Beverley Dronjak	19c Staffs/Pottery/
161	Mr Antony C H Farnath	19c 20c Black Country, West Midlands/
163	Mrs Joyce Thomas	m 18c L19c Lillishall, Staffs? m 19c L19c Newport, Shropshire
164	Miss Evelyn M Pitts	L 19c Barrow, Lancs/m19c Cradley Heath, Staffs/
166	Mrs Margaret Insley	m19c Hulme, Lancs/L19c + 20c Australia (Victoria)/
170	Mrs Sharon Marie Walsh	18c + 19c Holmes Chapel, Sandbach, Knutsford, Cheshire/
171	Mr Bradd Scott	e19c Peterborough/m19c Wiltshire + Devon
172	Janice Wilson	m 19c Staffordshire/
173	Mr John Riley	L18c + 19c Clowne Derbyshire/Harthill + Anston Yorks/
175	Mr Alan Farthing	e19c Lydd, Kent/Little Bowden, Notts/ m19c Holborn/L19c Bethnal Green Hackney/
176	Mr Nick Shelley	19c Cheshire/
180	Valeria London	19c Potteries/
184	Dr Sarah-Jane Plant	South Staffs/Shropshire/
185	Mr Wayne Titmus	19c Wolverhampton + Black Country
188	Jeen M Ruff	Any period France/Quebec, Canada/Minnesota, USA/
190	Mr Richardd Sillitto	18c Hurdlow + Leek, Staffs/
191	Mrs Frances Reeve	17 + 18 + 19c Cheadle, Staffs/
192	Mr Dennis Booth	18 + 19c East Cheshire/North Staffs/
193	Mr Raymond Plante	Any period Canada/
196	Mrs Janet Padrazolla	18 + 19c Piddington, Oxford/18 + 19c Crendon, Bucks/
197	Mr Frank J Robinson	19c Eastport, Maine, USA/
198	Mr Patrick Thomas Plant	19c Suffolk
204	Mrs Marion Szezesniak	19c Dudley, Worcs/
208	Mrs Celia Maughon	19c Rowley Regis/

209	Mr Stephen Bladon	19c Norfolk (Wheatacre)/Shropshire (Wellington + Iron bridge/Staffs (Cheadle) L19c Staffs (Newcastle)/
211	Barbara Plant	17c Staffs/17c + 18c + 19c USA(Branford)
214	Mrs Margaret Davell	18c + 19c Desford + Newbold, Verdon, Leics/

## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the four new members who have joined since the issue of the last Journal.

### 243 Peter Robert Plant Holyhead, Isle of Anglesey

Peter's ancestors lived in the Tittesworth (Leek) area in the early part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Henry Plant being born in 1850 in Ipstones and his father, Samuel, born 1810 in Tittesworth.

It was possible to locate Samuel and his family in both the 1851 and 1881 Census returns as follows:

#### 1851 Census

<i>Hurdlow Samuel Plant</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>(born 1810) Farmer of 101 acres</i>	<i>born Leek, Staffs</i>
<i>Elizabeth Plant</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>(born 1815)</i>	<i>born Onecote, Staffs</i>
<i>Ralph Redfern</i>	<i>S.Son</i>		<i>14</i>	<i>(born 1837) Stepson</i>	<i>born Leek, Staffs</i>
<i>Elizabeth Redfern</i>	<i>S.Dau</i>		<i>10</i>	<i>(born 1841) Step daughter</i>	<i>born Leek, Staffs</i>
<i>John Plant</i>	<i>Son</i>		<i>3</i>	<i>(born 1848)</i>	<i>born Leek, Staffs</i>
<i>Henry Plant</i>	<i>Son</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>(born 1850)</i>	<i>born Onecote, Staffs</i>

#### 1881 Census

##### Far Lane

<i>Ipstones Samuel Plant</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>(born 1810) Farmer of 42 acres</i>	<i>born Tittesworth, Staffs</i>
<i>Elizabeth Plant</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>(born 1815) Farmer's wife</i>	<i>born Onecote, Staffs</i>
<i>Mary Ellen Wood</i>	<i>Dau</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>(born 1857) Farmer's daughter</i>	<i>born Ipstones, Staffs</i>
<i>Bernard Plant</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>(born 1854) Farmer's son</i>	<i>born Ipstones, Staffs</i>
<i>Samuel Plant</i>	<i>G.S.</i>		<i>5</i>	<i>(born 1876)</i>	<i>born Ipstones, Staffs</i>
<i>Thomas S Wood</i>	<i>G.S.</i>		<i>4</i>	<i>(born 1877)</i>	<i>born Norton in the Moor</i>
<i>Robert Wood</i>	<i>G.S.</i>		<i>1</i>	<i>(born 1880)</i>	<i>born Ipstones, Staffs</i>

Based on the information in the Census return, it was possible to establish that Elizabeth (Samuel's wife) had been married before and that Samuel married her circa 1844/6. There are two possibles in the GRO Index, both registered in Macclesfield and it should be possible to obtain a copy of the appropriate certificate by writing to Macclesfield Civil Registration Office requesting a copy, provided the name of Samuel's wife is Elizabeth. However, a word of warning – she may have said she was a spinster (not a widow) and may have used her maiden name, not her married name. At that time it was quite common to do this.

Peter, identified Hurdlow Farm where Samuel and his family lived in 1851 and it is still a working farm with the additional income (as farms have to do these days) from holiday lets.

I wonder if there is any connection between this family and John Plant of Hazzlewood House Farm whose 1848 to 53 diaries were serialised in earlier journals. Incidentally, copies of the complete diary are available at £3.00 per copy. Both farms are in the same area of the country.

Registration Index Numbers have been found for the births of a number of children and Peter now has to decide whether or not he requires copies.

By 1881 Henry, born 1850, son of Samuel & Elizabeth Plant had left home, married and was living at Village St., Drayton Barrett as can be seen from the following entry in the Census of that year:

<i>Village St Henry Plant</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>Master Blacksmith</i>	<i>born Oncote, Staffs</i>
<i>Mary Ann Plant</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>28</i>		<i>born Leeds, Yorks</i>
<i>John Massey Plant</i>	<i>Son</i>		<i>4</i>		<i>born Ipstones, Staffs</i>
<i>Edwin Plant</i>	<i>Son</i>		<i>2</i>		<i>born Ipstones, Staffs</i>
<i>Uriah Plant</i>	<i>Son</i>		<i>2</i>		<i>born Ipstones, Staffs</i>
<i>Charles Plant</i>	<i>Son</i>		<i>4m</i>		<i>born Drayton Bassett, Staffs</i>
<i>Uriah Corden Massey</i>	<i>Apprentice</i>	<i>U</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>Blacksmith's Apprentice</i>	<i>born Ipstones, Staffs</i>

James Stanley      Servant      U 41    Journey Blacksmith      born Smethwick, Staffs

Therefore Henry married c1876 and moved to Drayton Bennett 1880, probably to take up the position of Blacksmith in the village.

Relative to the birth of Samuel c 1810, I think the answer may be in the P.R. Tittesworth (or Tillesworth) is just to the north of Leek and I would have thought that his birth would have been in the Leek records, or copy of which the group has. However, there is no reference to a birth of a Samuel in 1810, though there are a number of references at the turn of the 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century to a family of Plants in Tittesworth, namely Thomas Plant + Joyce Deovil. Perhaps he was baptised in an adjoining parish

If any member is connected to this branch of the family or has information that may be of interest to Peter, please contact him direct.

**244      Mrs Sydney Anne Holt      Tempe, AZ, USA**

Another link with Staffordshire - Syd's G Grandmother was Ellen Plant, born August 1854 at (according to her registration certificate) Hanley. Her parents were William Plant and Sarah Bates who, in 1861, 1871 and 1881 Census lived in High St., Stoke-on-Trent, the centre of the pottery industry at that time and immortalised in the novels of Arnold Bennett. (Anna of the Five Towns is very descriptive of life in the potteries at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century).

William himself was a Potters Handler, his son a Potters Presser and his daughter a Potters Warehouse woman. The full record in this 1881 Census is as follows:

William Plant	Head	M	60	Potters Handler	born	Hanley
Sarah Plant	Wife	M	58		born	Hanley
Frederick Plant	Son	M	22	Potters Presser	born	Hanley
Sarah Ann Plant	Dau	U	20	Potters Warehouse	"	Hanley

Ellen (born 1854) had married a William Glover in 1872 and in 1881 lived further down the road from her parents also in High St., Stoke. She is shown as Hellen in the 1881 Census, the entry being as follows:

William Glover	Head	M	31	Coal Miner	born	Stoke
Hellen Glover	Wife	M	26	Potters Paintress	born	Hanley
Sarah A Glover	Dau		7	Scholar	born	Hanley
Adaline Glover	Dau		4	Scholar	born	Hanley
William Glover	Son		2	Infant	born	Hanley

According to Syd, Wm & Ellen (Hellen) Glover had a daughter Ellen (i.e. Syd's grandmother) born 1879. But in 1881 she was not living with her parents – see 1881 Census above. However, there was a son, William, also aged 2. Were William and Ellen twins born 1879 and maybe Ellen was living with relatives. A search of the 1881 Census has failed to find an Ellen Glover age 2.

I notice that Hellen (wife of William Glover) was, in 1881, a Potters Paintress – quite a skilled job and the same job that Clarice Cliff had before she became well known, producing pottery which is now very collectible and very very expensive.

So we have information that William Plant was born in Hanley circa 1820 and, from his marriage certificate, father's name also William. The IGI has a couple of possibilities but, as the IGI is notoriously suspect, the safest check will be the Hanley (and/or surrounding parishes) parish registers. Within the next month I will be visiting Staffordshire Record Office in connection with a project relative to workhouse apprentices who moved to Quarry Bank Textile Mill late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century and, if time permits, I will check the appropriate records. If anybody can offer any further information which might save me some considerable time, please contact me.

One other thing – the 1881 Census can be searched under neighbours which will give a list of all families living in High St., Stoke-on-Trent and it would be interesting to find out how many Plant and

Glover families there are in this one street. I wonder if the street is still standing. If you turn up a Plant family in High St., then check neighbours and the names of all the other residents in the street will be shown.

Once we sort out William Plant, born circa 1820, then we can move backwards into the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

**245 Frederick Ernest Plant Whitefield, Manchester**

Fred has only recently become interested in tracing his Plant roots and as yet is stuck in the 20<sup>th</sup> century in Lower Broughton, Salford, Lancashire.

What we need to do as a start is to establish dates for the birth of his father. We can then hopefully find the GRO Index for the registration of his birth and obtain a copy of the certificate. Once we are back into the 19<sup>th</sup> century it generally becomes a bit easier with access to Census returns.

As Lancashire is not a 'hot bed' for Plants, I think it probable that Fred's ancestors may have migrated North from Cheshire/Staffs to seek work in the textile mills of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Fred – are you by any chance related to Frederick Plant of Manchester, 13<sup>th</sup> September 1903 to 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1972 who, after serving an apprenticeship in the oil-engine industry in Manchester, travelled the world advising on matters of engineering including those connected with the Potteries. There was a short profile of him in the very first Journal published in 1990.

As soon as we have basic information relative to your immediate family the hard work can begin.

**246 Mrs Glenda Truman Hot Springs, AZ, USA**

Glenda's main areas of interest are Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee plus information on early Plant settlers in Virginia.

From known information it does appear that Plants were among the early settlers in America. However, what is not known is (other than the St Louis Plants who came from Macclesfield) where they came from in the UK. There is a belief that they originated in Staffordshire though this has never been proven. As Staffordshire is, and has always been, a 'hot bed' of Plants, this is quite possible. What is know for certain, as proved by the DNA project, is that the US Plants are originally UK Plants emigrating to the US early 1600's.

This is the background to Glenda's interests in the UK origin but obviously a considerable amount of research is still to be done.

I have just received on e-mail from Linda Plant Wagoner (Member No. 182) informing me that she is at present working, transcribing some records she found in Branford, Connecticut pertaining to John Plant, an early member of the American Plant clan – so, as they say – watch this space.

Perhaps, for record purposes, Glenda can forward to me details of her own American ancestors – they must fit into the world wide Plant family tree.

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## CORRESPONDENCE

### 1. e-mail received from Lucy Evans [Lucy.Evans@bl.uk](mailto:Lucy.Evans@bl.uk).

*I hope you don't mind my contacting you but I wonder if you could allow me to see a copy of the article on John Plant, Librarian of Salford, in Journal No.7.*

*I am writing a biography of Andrea Crestadoro who was Chief Librarian of Manchester Free Libraries 1864-1879 and before that he seems to have lived in Salford 1849-1852. I hope I may find he had a connection with the Library there, hence my interest in John Plant.*

My reply was as follows:- taken from an obituary on 6<sup>th</sup> January 1894 issue of the Manchester City News.

*"John Plant FRGS died on Wednesday night January 3rd 1894 at his residence in Rhosneigr, Anglesea. Mr Plant was well known to the residents of Manchester and Salford as curator of the Peel Park Museum and Chief Librarian of borough of Salford, a post which he held since the foundation of those institutions in the year 1849. Owing to failing health he retired from active service early in 1892 when he went to reside in Anglesea. Mr Plant has recently enjoyed fair health and was out as lately as Saturday last but on Wednesday night he was seized with Paralysis and died at midnight aged 74 years. His death will be regretted by many old friends especially in Salford where he passed an active life in connection with the corporation, the volunteers and the working Men's College. He was a member of the Manchester Literature Club from 1873 - 1886 and an active worker in connection with a Manchester Scientific Students Association, a society which was dissolved a few years ago. He was also well known as a Geologist and a member of the Library Association."*

*He was born 1821 at St. Margarets Leicester, his wife, Francis Caroline born 1829 at Southwork, Surrey.*

*If, as you say, Andea Crestadora was Chief Librarian of Manchester Free Libraries between 1864 and 1879 there must have been at least a working connection with John Plant. I presume that you have already contacted Manchester Central Library to see what they have relative to both these librarians. I know they have something on John Plant.*

Lucy then replied as follows:

*I feel quite excited by the information on John Plant as one of the mysteries I'm trying to uncover is what brought Andrea Crestadoro in the first place to Salford and Manchester. I suspect he had a connection there who linked into his scientific or library interests and from your information John Plant looks like the best candidate so far. The mention of the Working Men's College may be another clue as I think Andrea Crestadoro may have been involved in the movement though again I have no definite evidence.*

*The problem is that very little is known of Andrea Crestadoro and most of what I've put together is concerned with his official working life at Manchester. I've been working through the In and Out Library letters there and there is correspondence with Salford but nothing personal with John Plant. Next time I go (hopefully in Nov as I work full time so opportunities are limited!) I'll look at the John Plant letters listed in the catalogue and let you know what's in them.*

*I visited Salford Local History Library and Archives last week but was dismayed to find the Archives are "mothballed" indefinitely and also that their library records only date back to the 1890s.*

*This is a real shame as I feel that Salford is (probably) the first ever Free Public Library and John Plant should be better remembered - just as I feel with Andrea Crestadoro who has been unfairly*

*overshadowed by those who came after him. It would be wonderful to find out if they were friends. I'm sure they must have known each other through the various society circles and movement they were in.*

*Anyway I'll certainly pass on anything I come across.*

I was about to send this journal (10 January) to the printers when I received the following e-mail from Lucy.

*"I just thought you might be interested to know that I have come across a marvellous manuscript journal called "Odds and Ends" at the Manchester Central Library Archive.*

*I haven't had time to really look at this but clearly it ran for a number of years from the 1860s onwards and John Plant seems to have been a member of the Literary and Educational Society (I need to check the exact name) who produced it. I found a wonderful article by him called the Medals of Creation - written in his own hand with many photographs of fossils.*

*I was so excited by the two volumes I looked at as I have never come across a manuscript journal before - there are many original photographs/drawings and each member has written articles on a huge range of subjects. There are even autograph letters from Palmerston, Whistler, John Bright etc etc and the Archivist said there are Lowry drawings in the later volumes!*

*Although I was hoping to find a mention of Crestadoro in the two volumes and there are a couple of references he was not a member. I will explore further as there are at least thirty volumes (but as limited time so I won't get a day there now till February) but meanwhile thought you would like to know about the John Plant link.*

*If you're interested in this, I'll keep track of anything further I come across in "Odds and Ends" on or by John Plant,*

*Best wishes  
Lucy"*

**2. E-mail received from Marion Szesesniak [chattenoir2000@yahoo.com](mailto:chattenoir2000@yahoo.com).**

*Hi Keith,*

*How are you doing? It's been awhile since I was in touch, but I have been working on other familytree branches this summer. However, the reason I am in touch now, is that I found lots of PLANT information submitted by a David WARD, does anyone know anything about his research at all on the PLANT families? He seems to have submitted my ancestor, James PLANT and his second wife Sarah WARDLEY DAVIS, and from then, the information is totally different to the line that I had established. Has his research been checked? If so, then my tree is a total mess! I would greatly appreciate it if you or other members of the group could take a look and let me know what you think. Many thanks,  
Marion Greenfield Szczesniak*

**3. Andrew T Plant Member No. 103**

Early in 2005 an Australian Member (name forgotten) was trying to contact Andrew Plant by e-mail. However, due to various computer difficulties, contact was never made. The problem is that I (WKP) cannot recall who it was that was trying to contact Andrew. Therefore, whoever it was, please contact Andrew by post (see list of members for address) as he is still not accessible by e-mail.

## PLANTS CONNECTION WITH NELSON AND TRAFALGAR

The Battle of Trafalgar was fought on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October 1805 off Cape Trafalgar on the Spanish coast between the combined fleets of Spain and France and the Royal Navy. To commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the National Archives have launched a Nelson Exhibition web site [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/nelson/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/nelson/). Known as the Trafalgar web site, the web site lists all those who fought under Nelson's command during various conflicts at sea and those who actually fought at Trafalgar.

The list includes Royal Navy commissioned and warrant officers, ratings, supernumeraries and Royal Marines.

The 33 ships under Nelson's command, attacked in two columns (an unusual tactic at that time) an equal number of combined French and Spanish ships under Admiral Villeneuve, just before midday. By the end of the hostilities six hours later 19 French and Spanish ships were lost: 6953 French and Spanish casualties, including 4408 dead, compared to the British who lost no ships at all and just 1690 casualties (449 dead). One of them of course was Nelson, hit by musket fire at 13.25. He died at 16.30 by which time victory was ensured. To quote the site: British victory at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 decisively changed the balance of power and ensured that invasion was no longer likely.

According to the web site, four Plants saved under Nelson including one Richard Plant at Trafalgar.

1. Name Richard Plant  
Age -  
Place of birth -  
Ship HMS Africa  
Rank/Rating Private, Marine  
Ships pay book number (ML19)  
Period of Service` 4 August 1805 to 15 February 1806  
(WKP note He therefore entered the service ten weeks before Trafalgar – I wonder if he was 'pressed'.)

HMS Africa had a total of 64 guns and was commanded by Captain Henry Digby. During the Battle of Trafalgar 18 of the crew were killed and forty four wounded.

2. Name Robert Plant  
Age 17  
Place of birth Plymouth Dock, Devon  
Ship HMS Spartiate  
Rank/Rating Boy  
Ships pay book No. -  
Period of Service 16 June 1804 to 12 May 1805

The ratings of boy first, second and third class were introduced in 1794 to replace that of captain's servant. Those under the age of 15 were rated boys third class and those 15 to 17 as second class.

3. Name Samuel Plant  
Age 27  
Place of birth London  
Ship HMS Minotour  
Rank/Rating Able Seaman  
Ship's pay book NO. (SB707)  
Period of Service  
(WKP note – not stated but listed as a Volunteer which probably means he was 'pressed' on 28<sup>th</sup> April 1805 – alternatively this date could have been when he was discharged.

The system of rating seaman 'ordinary' or 'able' was introduced in 1652. An able seaman was considered to be an experienced sailor familiar with his duties. The rating of seaman was usually the responsibility of the captain in consultation with the master and the boatswain. An

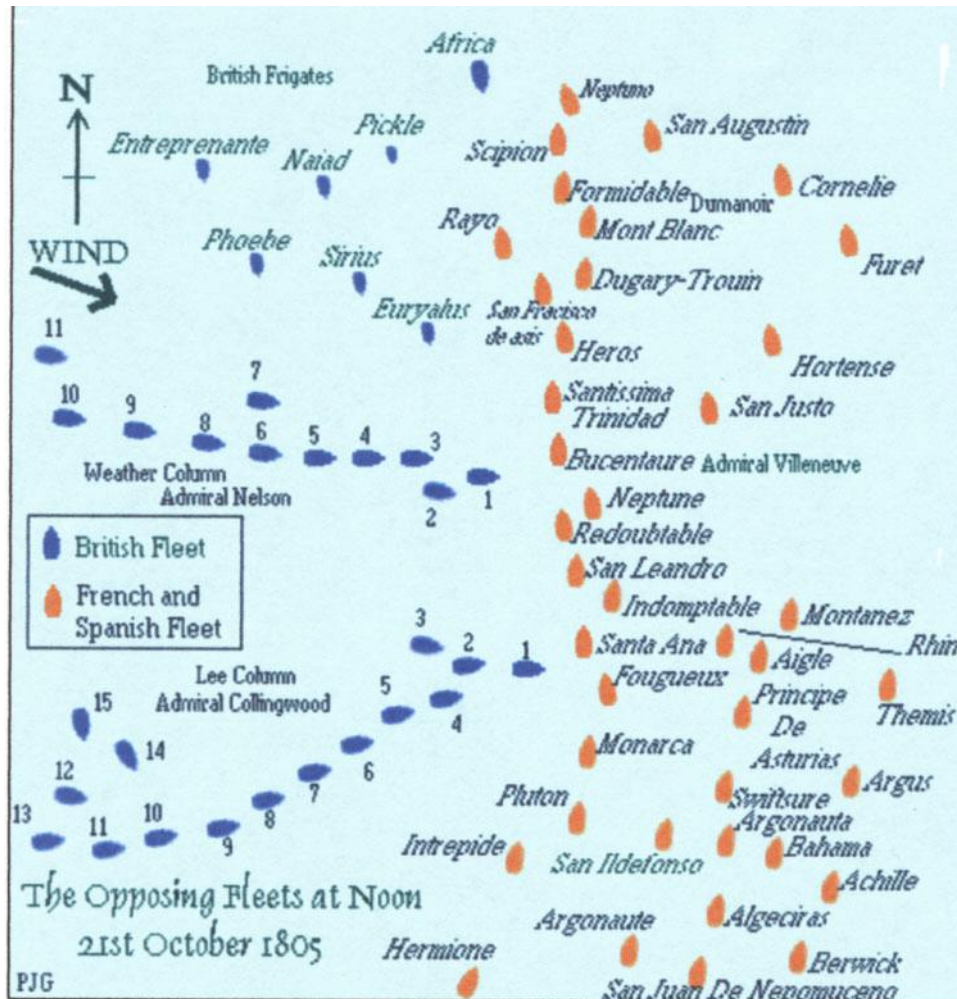


able seaman had to be at least 20 years old with five years experience at sea. He was expected to have all the skills of an ordinary seaman and, in addition, be able to take over as the under helmsman keeping the ship on course.

4. Name Sephen Plant  
 Age -  
 Place of birth -  
 Ship HMS Colossus  
 Rank/Rating Corporal, Marine  
 Ships pay book no. (ML54)  
 Period of service  
 (WKP note – Some confusion here – on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1804 his rank is Corporal but from 1 January 1805 to 1 May 1805 his rank is stated as Private)

~ Order Battle ~

HMS Africa with Richard Plant on board on extreme North of fleet to engage any Franch/Spanish ships trying to sail behind the Royal Navy Fleet.



**WEATHER COLUMN COMPRISING    LEE COLUMN COMPRISING**

- |              |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| 1. Victory   | 1. Royal Sovereign |
| 2. Temeraire | 2. Bellisle        |
| 3. Neptune   | 3. Colossus        |
| 4. Leviathan | 4. Mars            |
| 5. Conqueror | 5. Tonnant         |

6. Agamemnon
7. Britannia
8. Ajax
9. Orion
10. Minotaur
11. Spartiate

6. Bellerophon
7. Achille
8. Polyphemus
9. Revenge
10. Swifteure
11. Defence
12. Thundera
13. Defiance
14. Prince
15. Dreadnought

## Chapter 31

# The Plant bloodline: myth and fact

November 2005. One of a series of Chapters by Dr. John S. Plant, Keele University, England, ST5 5BG.

### PUTTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT ABOUT FICTIONAL ORIGINS FOR THE PLANT SURNAME

There is evidence that the Plants had a cultural connection to the Plantagenets though this is less well known than a modern fiction about a blood-link to Plantard.

### 31.1 The Aquitainian tradition of the Plant surname

A line of influence can be traced through the names Plantevelue and Plante Genest, starting in Aquitaine in France and leading on to the Plant surname in England.

After Bernard *Plantevelue*'s 9th century founding of the Duchy of Aquitaine, it passed to William I of Poitiers in 951 and, by 1086-1126, to the troubadour grandfather of Eleanor of Aquitaine. The love poetry of William IX, duke of Aquitaine (1086-1126) was blasphemous, erotic, amoral and sensitive as in: "*To refresh my heart in her/ To renew my flesh in her/ So that I shall never grow old*". His granddaughter, Eleanor, married Geoffrey Plante Genest's son, king Henry II of England, and their sons, including Richard I and king John, continued the troubadour tradition of 'courtly love'.

The name Plantevelue means 'hairy shoot' and the nickname *Plante Genest* means 'sprig of broom' which is an instance of a hairy shoot. This can be set in the troubadour context of 'renewal' by a fresh shoot of the family tree. Even by the times of Desiderius Erasmus (d 1536) 'renewal' was still associated with the word *plante* (meaning 'shoot'): "*By this polecyte nature hath provided in our chylderne and newewes we may be renewed and florysh fresh agayne ... she thus maketh one thyng to yssue out of an other (lyke as a yonge plante which is cut off, from ye tree springeth freshly vp)*".

Geoffrey *Plante Genest*, count of Anjou and Maine was the father of king Henry II of England and, amongst others, Hamelin, Warren earl of Surrey – it is near Hamelin's de Warenne descendants that the subsequent English Plant surname is found. In 1200, king John married Isabella of Angouleme in Aquitaine who subsequently married Hugh de Lusignan, the most prominent baron of Aquitaine. In 1247, John de Warenne married Alice Lusignan (de Brien) and English resentments of favouritism towards the 'foreign' Lusignans led on to the Baron's revolt in England, leading to the capture of king Henry III at Lewes (1264), though the king was freed by John de Warenne at Evesham (1265).

There is evidence that the name *Plante Genest* (hence Plantagenet) was used for Geoffrey by the 1160s; but, evidence for subsequent use of the name is weak until the mid 15th century. A rare early mention is in the Close Rolls (1266): this refers to Galfrido *Plauntegenet*, serjant at arms, Wodestock, with garderode duties to the king. Also at Woodstock, with duties to the royal palace, there is the first evidence for the spelling *Plente* which is found in 1219 just after the times of Henry II's son, the lecherous king John; and this spelling can be associated with the meaning 'abundance' or 'fertile'.

The name spelling *Plante* occurs in England by 1262. In modern France, this spelling is clustered around Aquitaine. Though ‘Plant like’ names may have arrived in England earlier, an Aquitanian influence could relate to possibilities of such names arriving in the times of the Angevin Empire, which comprised three blocks: Anglo-Norman; Angevin; and Aquitanian. There is particular reason to suppose an influence on the formation of the Plant surname in England from Geoffrey Plante Genest’s nickname, which fathered the subsequent royal surname, Plantagenet, as well as evidently influencing more immediately the formation of such names as Plant.

The Plant surname is found in close proximity to various de Warenne lands around England until the mid 14th century; this is when the Plants settled in their principal homeland of east Cheshire which is also where the disinherited de Warenne family settled. It seems likely that there was an influence from the Plante Genest nickname on the English Plant surname, though this may have just been through the popularity around de Warenne lands of the *Plante Genest* metaphor for renewing life’s origins. The possibility of a Welsh influence on the name may also be considered. There was an early Welsh influence on the de Warennes through a 1225 marriage to Maud (Matilda) Marshall of Pembroke; and the subsequent homeland of the de Warennes, along with that of the Plants, was near Wales. In Welsh, plant means children and, in Old Irish, cland means family: both cland and plant are said to come from an early adoption of the Latin word *planta*. Phonetically similar words in modern English are clan and plant, though we now use other words for life’s foundations: land; sole; sprig; scion; and child. Sprig and scion have both human and vegetable meanings, which is appropriate to a medieval view of life’s origins as shoots from the land (man’s vegetable soul) as well as offshoots of the Lord in His kingdom (intellective soul). Man’s vegetable soul can be traced back to primitive beliefs about human life’s emergence from the land.

The DNA evidence is in keeping with the Welsh. Though the meaning may have been *slightly* different in the medieval Welsh Marches and beyond, the meaning of Plant was probably ‘shoot’ or ‘offspring’ and the DNA evidence shows that they were the offspring of a single family. But whose? That the first Plants had a cultural connection to the *Plante Genest* name is better evidenced than the modern myth of a claimed blood-link of the name *Planta* to Plantard.

## 31.2 Modern myth and the fictional Plant bloodline

A popular and controversial myth is circulating about the origins of the Plant bloodline. The plot of the international bestseller, the 2004 book *The Da Vinci Code* (DVC), by Dan Brown, is derived from the pseudo-history contained in the 1982 book *The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail* (commonly abbreviated to HBHG) which was written by the British authors Baigent, Leigh, and Lincoln. In turn, much of the plot of HBHG was inspired by the so-called Dossier secrets of the Priory of Sion, which were deposited in 1967 in the National Library of France at Paris. These secrets alleged that living descendants of the Merovingian kings were the Plantard family, with a branch in England called *Planta*.

In the Dossier secrets, the Plantard family was said to include Bernard *Planta-Pilus* (*Planteveleu*) and it was said to have descended from the Merovingian king Dagobert II. The family is said to have been exiled to Brittany after a failed uprising against Louis II in 881 such that, by the late 9th century, Merovingian blood had flowed into both Aquitaine (now Western France) and Brittany (now NW France). It is true that evidence exists for the Plantard family in Brittany as well for the spelling *Plante* in Brittany in the 16th to 19th centuries. However, most academics consider that the Dossier’s genealogy for Plantard and *Planta* is an elaborate hoax.

It was claimed in the Dossier secrets that an early Grand Master of the guardians of the secrets was married to a de Warenne relative of the Plantagenets. It is the de Warennes in particular who are associated with the English Plant family; and, it was alleged that the fifth Grand Master (1336-51) of the Priory of Sion was Jeanne de Barre (1295-1361), who was Edward I’s grand-daughter and Edward II’s niece, and who was betrothed to the last de Warenne earl of Surrey in 1306. The authors of HBHG went further and made an inept family link between the Plantard genealogy and

the Plantagenets.

The originating Dossier secrets of Merovingian descent have been associated, by many, with right-wing French nationalism. For the benefit of an English audience, this was embellished with a heresy of Christian notions by the authors of HBHG and in the further book *The Messianic Legacy*. Though repudiated by Pierre Plantard (1920-2000) of the Priory of Sion, Plantard descent from the Merovingian kings was elaborated in the book HBHG such that it had stemmed from a covered-up marriage between Jesus and Mary Magdalene. A still wider audience has now been reached with Dan Brown's fiction (DVC), which emphasises the descent to Plantard of the 'sacred feminine' of Jesus' apostle of the apostles, Mary Magdalene.

The HBHG link from Mary Magdalene to the Merovingian kings has provoked particular controversy, though the associated aspect of the 'sacred feminine' in the DVC has attracted some serious attention from female academics in America for example. The link from the Merovingian kings to the Plantard family is also usually treated with extreme scepticism. This descent is claimed, in the Dossier secrets, to be through the son Sigisbert of the last Merovingian king Dagobert II. The HBHG states:

There is no question that Sigisbert existed and that he was Dagobert's heir. According to all sources other than the 'Prieuré documents', however, it is unclear what happened to him ... There is no record of Sigisbert's death. Nor is there any record - apart from the evidence in the 'Prieuré documents' - of his survival ...

The validity of the claimed Merovingian-Plantard link is even less certain than the HBHG suggests: there is even some dispute about whether this Sigisbert existed at all. The tradition for his existence comes from a record of the tenth-century life of St Arbogast, where it states that Dagobert II married Mathildis and had by her a son Sigisbert; however this source has been questioned as being too late and it has been argued that there could be a confusion with Dagobert I, his wife Nanthildis and son Sigebert. In any event, the tradition is that Sigisbert is the son of Dagobert II and his wife Mathildis, not of his subsequent wife Giselle de Razes; it is from the latter that it is claimed, in the 'secret Priory documents', that the title of the counts of Razes descended through a so-called Plantard family.

An association has been made for Plantard with the Messianic prophecy of Isaiah 53:2: *For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground*. However, it should be noted that the early meaning of plant is simply 'shoot' and the metaphorical association of 'shoot' or 'offshoot' with 'offspring' is widespread. This metaphorical association is more likely the basis of the early meaning of the surname Plant, rather than there being any allusion to a specifically divine descent for the name Plant or Plantard.

### 31.3 Mary Magdalen down the ages: sacred mother?

For many years, I have been trying to concentrate on the true facts of the origins of the Plant name; and, to this end, I have been trying largely to ignore the myths of the so-called Razes genealogy. However, as this fiction is now more widely known than the academically established facts, I feel obliged to make some comment. I apologise wholeheartedly if the following fiction, not of my making, offends anyone's beliefs.

Dan Brown's fiction *The Da Vinci code* is based on the pseudo-history of *The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail* in which a bloodline descends from Mary Magdalen through the Merovingian kings, the French Plantards, and the English Planta and Plantagenet families. The first link in this chain is particularly controversial; and, to be fair, it is rather more discussed than stated unequivocally in both of the above books. Nonetheless, the possibility, or lack of it, that the Magdalen had a child has attracted some serious debate. For example, in this new age of political correctness, it has been suggested that the harlotisation of Mary Magdalen by the early church fathers was a deliberate

attempt to discredit the role of women in the church; many feel that a more respectful myth for her is overdue. Dan Brown, in this connection, refers often to the 'sacred feminine'.

In the 1993 book *Mary Magdalen: Myth and Metaphor*, Susan Haskins comments:

Rabbis were often, if not usually married, so it has often been suggested that Christ must also have been, although there is nothing in the Gospels to suggest this. We have no evidence of a child and the Merovingian link is very unlikely.

In the Nag Hammadi codices, which were discovered in Egypt in 1947, the early Christian Gospel of Phillip 63.34-35 states:

The Saviour loved Mary Magdalen more than the disciples, and kissed her on the mouth often.

However, the same Gospel had stated earlier:

The promise comes from the mouth, for the Word has come from there and has been nourished from the mouth and become perfect. The perfect conceive through a kiss and give birth. Because of this we also kiss one another. We receive conception from the grace which we have among us.

There is some confusion here in connection with the so-called "Creation is Birth" metaphor, whereby *conceive* could be related to physically giving birth, such as is literally believed by many for the Virgin mother of Christ; or, *conception* can be related metaphorically to that of mental creativity. Ester de Boer explains this in her 1996 book *Mary Magdalen: Beyond the Myth* with:

Mary Magdalen is made fruitful through the grace which is in Christ. Receiving his grace makes her born again.

Deidre Good, in Dan Burnstein's 2004 book *Secrets of the Code*, adds:

In both the *Second* and the *Third Apocalypse of James*, Jesus and James kiss and embrace each other as an indication of their special relationship. In the so-called *Secret Gospel of Mark*, Jesus reveals the mysteries of the kingdom of God to a young man he loves. In the fourth-century Coptic text *Pistis Sophia*, Philip, John, James, and Matthew, along with Mariamme (Mary), are all spoken of as beloved by Jesus. This probably indicates their special capacity for spiritual insight.

In the better known Gospels, which were included in the Roman canonical Bible, Mary Magdalen is apostle to the apostles in as much as she brought word of Christ's resurrection to the disciples. Hence, as well as conjectures about her being the holy chalice of a blood-line, she has been seen as a source of wisdom. Diane Apostolis-Cappadone of the Centre for Muslim-Christian understanding at Georgetown University considers that the *Santa Maria Sopra Minerva* church in Rome was so-named because of a connection between Mary Magdalen and Minerva as goddesses of wisdom.

Mary Magdalen's greatest fame has been as a reformed prostitute and this dates back to Pope Gregory the Great, who declared in a sermon in 591:

She whom Luke calls the sinful woman, whom John calls Mary (of Bethany), we believe to be Mary from whom seven devils were ejected according to Mark.

There was then a presumption that the named sinful woman was a prostitute, though her seven devils could have implied a passing mental illness. This conflation of references to (?different) Marys was officially rescinded by the Roman Catholic Church in 1969, so that the Magdalen has lost this aspect of her status as Christianity's most beloved penitent. A different story was current for the Magdalen in the different times of the first evidence for the Plant name however.

The main empire of Geoffrey Plante Genest, count of Anjou, forefather of the English Plantagenet kings, was the region that is now western France. In the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, huge pilgrimages grew around the more famous shrines: pilgrims flocked from all over France to touch the tomb of Mary Magdalen in the French town of Vézelay in Burgundy. Some came from as far as England. As Susan Haskins explains in *Mary Magdalen: Myth and Metaphor*, an excuse for not exposing the remains appears in a late twelfth-century manuscript which told of an occasion when the abbot of Vézelay had decided to remove the Magdalen's relics from the little crypt where they had been found to put them in a precious reliquary. The church had suddenly been plunged into darkness and all those present had suffered. It had henceforth been decided to relinquish all ideas of opening the holy tomb. By the thirteenth century a confusing array of stories existed of how the Magdalen's body had arrived in Provence (SE France) where she had been buried between the years 882 to 884. This has been elaborated into tales of the Black Virgin and the arrival of a bloodline from Mary Magdalen in France.

Most recently, *fiction* has dwelt on a contentious link through the bloodline of the Merovingian kings to the names Plantard, Plantevelue, Plantagenet, and Planta in France and England. Turning more to fact, it seems that the red rose of the Plant blazon relates to the mid-fourteenth-century submission of the de Warenne descendants of Geoffrey Plante Genest to their distant Lancastrian cousins. The symbolism of the gold rose of young Edward I and the red rose of his brother Edmund of Lancaster, in the mid-thirteenth century, can be debated and it may have related to an earlier Christian symbolism.

Roses were related to a variety of female saints, but Mary Magdalen was not one of them. Dan Brown suggests in his fiction that the rose has always been the premier signal of female sexuality. However, Diane Appostolos-Cappadona notes that the rose was the flower sacred to Venus or Aphrodite who was concerned with romantic love, not just sexual. The rose became a symbol of Mary the Mother's role in human salvation. For early and medieval Christians, there were only four colours of rose: white signified innocent or pure love; pink, first love; red, true love; and yellow spurned love. Some early illustrations of the thirteenth-century epic poem *Roman de la Rose* included sexual and romantic as well as religious scenes, a mix that is often called 'courtly love'; and, such love was a feature of early Plantagenet times: this may have helped to inspire the gold rose of Edward I and the red rose of his brother Edmund of Lancaster, with the latter passing into the Plant blazon.

### 31.4 Debunking the family link between Plantagenet and Plantard

The earliest evidence for the Plant surname in England is found in proximity to the de Warenne descendants of Geoffrey Plante Genest (1113-51), who was the eldest son of Fulk V, count of Anjou. Fulk V (1092-1143) had married the only daughter of Elias, count of Maine in 1109, thereby uniting Anjou and Maine; but Geoffrey Plante Genest's mother, Eremburge died in 1126; and his subsequent step-mother, Mélisande, married Fulk V in 1129. It is Mélisande who provides the supposed family link to Plantard in the pseudo-history of the book *The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail* (HBHG).

The book HBHG draws heavily on the so-called Razes genealogy of Henri Lobineau, which includes Hughes de Plantard and which ends with Badouin (d 1118), king of Jerusalem as the brother of Godfroi de Bouillon. However, the authors of the HBHG then make a particularly inept family link to "the Plantagenet family", as indicated in the following extract from HBHG:

In 1131, he (Fulk V) married Godfroi de Bouillon's niece, the legendary Melusine, and became King of Jerusalem. According to the 'Prieuré documents', the lords of Anjou - the Plantagenet family - were thus allied to the Merovingian bloodline.

Though there is a linkage through successive kings of Jerusalem, the statement that this involved a niece of Godfroi is erroneous. Godfroi, who became king of Jerusalem in 1099, was succeeded

by his brother Baudoin; but this Baldwin did not father Melusine who married Fulk V. The HBHG linkage is incorrect in two ways:

- it was Mélisande, not Melusine, who married Fulk V; and,
- Mélisande was the daughter of king Baldwin II, not Baldwin I; Baldwin II was a distant cousin<sup>1</sup> of Baldwin I; Mélisande was hence only a distant relative of Godfroi and she became the step-mother of Geoffrey Plante Genest.

The “happy go lucky” approach of the HBHG, which includes only partial truths, can be contrasted with the more meticulous work of serious historians who have scrutinised the contemporary records for Geoffrey Plante Genest and his relatives. For a better appraisal of the evidence, a primary source is the *Chronicles of the Counts of Anjou*, which is the work of several writers including Thomas of Loches, a chaplain of Count Fulk V; and, this work was given its final form in the 1160s by John, a monk of Marmoutier Abbey. A paraphrase of the entries for the years 1128 and 1129 reads:

**1128.** While Fulk was ruling Anjou, Touraine and the county of Maine in prosperity, King Baldwin II of Jerusalem sent envoys who were to consult prudent men and then to persuade a suitable man to wed his daughter and accept the kingdom of Jerusalem. On the advice of King Louis VI of France, the bishops and many distinguished men, they chose Fulk V of Anjou who had lost his wife.

**1129.** Crossing the sea with a large force, Fulk consummated his marriage with the King’s daughter and became King of Jerusalem in 1129.

As already mentioned, the HBHG refers to Melusine, not Mélisande; but Melusine appears in a quite different story from this one about Fulk V and his marriage to Baldwin’s daughter Mélisande. The story of Melusine is by Gerald of Wales who penned hostile and vindictive satire on the fate which overcame the sinful ruler, with particular reference to Geoffrey Plante Genest’s son Henry II. Fuller details are given in, for example, *The Plantagenet Chronicles*, General Editor: Elizabeth Hallam (Tiger Books, 1995):

In Gerald’s story, an early count of Anjou returned from a journey with a woman, Melusine, famous for her beauty, whom he married. There were many strange things about her, the most shocking of which was that she was always absent from Mass at the consecration of the Host. Her true identity was discovered when her husband forced her to stay and see the body of Christ - a sight no evil spirit could contemplate. Melusine flew screaming out of the window and was never seen again. She left behind two sons, from whom the later counts were descended.

This story was associated with the saying “*From the Devil they came and to the Devil they will return*”; this saying was known to king Richard I who joked about the story.

Notwithstanding its shortcomings of credibility, the HBHG continues undaunted with:

The ‘Priuré documents’ furnished us with the most plausible - perhaps, indeed, the first plausible - genealogy of Godfroi de Bouillon that has yet come to light ... it convincingly bridged a number of perplexing historical gaps. According to the genealogy of the ‘Priuré documents’, Godfroi de Bouillon - by virtue of his great-grandmother, who married Hughes de Plantard in 1009 - was a lineal descendant of the Plantard family. In other words Godfroi was of Merovingian blood. ... In the ninth century the bloodline of Guillem de Gellone had culminated in the first dukes of Aquitaine. It also became aligned with the ducal house of Brittany. And in the tenth century a certain Hugues de Plantard - nicknamed ‘Long Nose’ and a descendant of the bloodline of

<sup>1</sup><http://genforum.genealogy.com/plantagenet/messages/1285.html>



both Dagobert II and Guillem de Gellone - became the father of Eustache, first count of Boulogne. Eustache's grandson was Godfroi de Bouillon, Duke of Lorraine and conqueror of Jerusalem.

Snippets of this are true; for example, it is generally accepted that Bernard Plantevelu of Aquitaine was a descendant of Guillem de Gellone<sup>2</sup>; but, as the authors of HBHG themselves say, their account controversially bridges “a number of perplexing historical gaps”.

There is quite direct evidence to link the Plant surname in England to the de Warenne descendants of Geoffrey Plante Genest, though caution dictates that the similarity of the Plant and Plante Genest names could well stem from a cultural rather than a genetic connection. On the other hand, the HBHG invokes a long and tenuous family route to link an English bloodline Planta in England with Plantard in France and, in turn, with the Plantagenet family. This latter tenuous linkage of family connections is rightly debunked by serious academics, though perhaps the HBHG could be getting a *little* closer to the mark when it states: “*And the name Plantagenet might even have been intended to echo the name ‘Plant-Ard’ or Plantard*”. Even with this, the book seems to be missing the point however. It is specifically the name Plantevelu that may have come from the same culture as the later name Plante Genest (hence Plantagenet)<sup>3</sup>; but, that involves points of onomastics, semantics, and philosophy; and that is not the stuff of popular fiction.

### 31.5 Putting the record straight

In the Razes genealogy, an English blood line Planta is claimed to have originated in the early tenth century:

In this debunked genealogy of Henri Lobineau of the Dossier secrets, it is claimed that a daughter of the Carolingian king Charles le Chauve married Bernard Plantevelu's nephew, Sigisbert VI Plantard, who became known as Prince Ursus before his rebellion and exile to Brittany in 881AD. Sigisbert's son, Guillaume II Plantard, is then said to have sought refuge in England in 914AD to escape Viking raids and to have established an English blood-line called Planta.

For this same Plantard family, there is also claimed to be a link to the Plantagenet kings of England:

The debunked genealogy claims that, from the Merovingian blood line of Dagobert II, through his son Sigisbert IV, came Godfroi de Bouillon, who captured Jerusalem in 1099 and formed the Knights Templars, as well as the Prieuré de Sion. It is claimed that a niece, Melusine, of Godfroi (1061-1100) married Fulques V, count of Anjou whose son, Geoffrey Plante Genest, fathered the Plantagenet kings of England.

Turning to more serious academic research, I know of no evidence for the Plant family name from as early as the 10th century in England. On the other hand, the DNA evidence indicates that the Plant family descends from a single male-line ancestor and that it was spreading around England from as early as the 13th century after the accession to the English throne in 1154 of Geoffrey Plante Genest's son, Henry II. What can be said with some caution is that, though there is as yet no evidence for a male-line genetic connection, there is some evidence for an association dating back to the 13th century between the English Plant family and the Plantagenets. I have published this in, for example, the academic journal *Nomina*<sup>4</sup>. Though Plantagenet was not used as a royal surname until the mid-15th century, there were several similar names in proximity to Geoffrey Plante Genest's

<sup>2</sup>Nathaniel L Taylor (1997) in *The American Genealogist*, 72 pp. 203-221; see also J S Plant (2003) *Plantevelu and the meaning of Plant* in *Roots and Branches*, 26, pp. 23-41.

<sup>3</sup>John S Plant (2005) *Nomina*, 28, pp. 115-133, esp. pp. 123-24.

<sup>4</sup>John S Plant (2005), *Modern methods and a Controversial Surname: Plant*, *Nomina*, vol. 28, pp. 115-133.

illegitimate offspring, the de Warennes; and these names provide the real evidence for the origins of the English Plant family surname as well as that of the royal Plantagenets.

The real evidence is rather more fragmentary than the usual stuff of popular fiction and pseudo-history. Poetic licence could turn it into a beguiling spectacle; but, I shall stick to a cold description of the facts. The evidence indicates that the Plant surname was associated with the de Warenne descendants of Geoffrey Plante Genest; and, I shall outline this evidence in the next few paragraphs.

In 1164, Geoffrey Plante Genest's illegitimate son, Hamelin (1130-1202), married Isabel de Warenne and thereby acquired the title of the earldom of Surrey, becoming the 5th earl. Their son and heir William de Warenne (1166-1240), married Maud (Matilda) Marshall of Pembroke in 1225 who was the widow of Hugh le Bigod, earl of Norfolk, whose son and heir had a butler and *serjent* who was called Roger Planteng' or Plantyn or Plantin in Norfolk records (1254-68). Early spellings of the Plant name occur nearby: Plente (1272-84) and Plauntes (1275) in Norfolk; Plante in Cambridgeshire (1279); and, de Plantes in Huntingdonshire (1282).

The Plant name is found near *de Warenne* lands in Sussex, Somerset, north Wales, north Norfolk, and east Cheshire. The many proximities between the early Plant family and de Warenne lands can be taken to be more than just a meaningless coincidence. The proximities may be outlined more fully as follows. In c.1280, 'Robert Plonte of Saltforde, once bailif of Marsfelde' is mentioned in records for Bath: Maresfield adjoins the *de Warenne* honour of Lewes in Sussex, and Saltford adjoins the *de Warenne* manor of Charlton in Somerset. In the late-thirteenth-century Welsh Wars, William's son and heir, John *de Warenne* (1231-1305), who had become the 7th earl in infancy, was assigned responsibility for the commissariat; and, in 1301, Richard Plant was granted a license to dig coal at Eweloe, near the *de Warenne* land of Bromfield and Yale near Chester. The 8th and last *de Warenne* earl, grandson of the 7th earl, died in 1347 without legitimate heirs, and his illegitimate son, Sir Edward *de Warren*, settled at Poynton in east Cheshire. There is a 1352 complaint about the removal of goods by James Plant and thirty others from the erstwhile *de Warenne* hundred of Gallow and Brothecross in north Norfolk; these thirty-one had twenty-six different surnames, seven of which subsequently appear around Macclesfield manor adjoining the new *de Warenne* seat at Poynton: Plont; Halle; Kent; Knyght; Lovell; Nichol; and Bataille or Batiller.

It could be speculated, for example, that the Plants were the illegitimate offspring of the *de Warenne* family; but that would be entering the realms of fantasy. With academic discipline, what can be said is:

- the meaning of Plant was probably 'offspring';
- there is an indication of illegitimacy in their heraldic blazon;
- the DNA evidence shows that they are a single family down the male line;
- an early Plant, Robert Plonte of Saltforde, had been the bailiff of Maresfield, a title which places him in the 'franklin class' of status which would have brought him into contact with a local major land-holder; and,
- the early Plants are found in geographical proximity to the de Warennes who descended from Plante Genest.

With full academic discipline, it might be surmised that there could have been a cultural influence from the name Plante Genest on the subsequent surname of the Plant offspring of a single family; but that does not, of course, prove that the Plants were the de Warennes' lesser offspring. There was a fashion for names of philandering; and, Plante Genest is an instance of a 'hairy shoot', whilst the early meaning of Planta or Plant is a shoot, offshoot, or offspring. Both 'hairy shoot' and 'offshoot' can be associated with a metaphor of life's renewal.

### 31.5.1 The Plants in proximity to the de Warennes

The evidence is consistent with an early de Warrene connection, though there is no evidence of a genetic connection between this nobility and the Plants. There is no evidence that their connection to Plante Genest was through male-line descent, though the Plant family was found in proximity to de Warrene lands and they held a title of moderate status, as might be expected for a lesser descendant of a major landholder.

Robert Plonte had been the bailiff of Maresfield. The Bailiff or Bailey or sergeant was a free man of importance as the mouthpiece of the lord by whom he was appointed<sup>5</sup>. Surviving evidence at Droxford shows that he received £6 per annum as compared with the ploughman's 8s. and the shepherd's 4s. He lived in the manor-house at the lord's expense and was the general supervisor of agricultural policy. It was his duty to see that the services due were not evaded or ill-performed and to direct and determine men's work<sup>6</sup>. Originally meaning 'carrier', later 'manager, administrator', the term was also used of the public administrator of a district, the chief officer of a hundred or of an officer of justice under a sheriff, a warrant officer, pursuivant and a catchpoll (*i.e.* tax collector).

We may also consider the Plant blazon. This indicates illegitimate cadetship with a subsequent allegiance to the red rose of the Lancastrians. The de Warennes themselves were in illegitimate cadetship to royalty, and they succumbed to their distant Lancastrian cousins after having feuded with them c.1320. It seems likely that the Plants reflected that same cultural tradition, though their blazon does not reveal their status within the de Warrene setting. The status of the de Warennes themselves was much reduced after the mid-fourteenth century, apart from a line descending from the 8th earl's uncle which is said to have removed to Ireland and then to France.

### 31.5.2 Hamelin de Warrene, son of Geoffrey Plante Genest

As outlined above, there is circumstantial evidence of a link between the Plant surname and the de Warennes. That there was also a link between the de Warrene progenitor, Hamelin, and Geoffrey Plante Genest has the authority of the *Complete Peerage*, XXI/1 pp. 499-500, where an article begins with:

V. 1164 Hammel illegit s. of Geoffrey V, styled 'Plantagenet'(b) Count of Anjou, Touraine and Maine, sometime Duke of Normandy, by an unknown woman, held lands in Touraine, presumably the gift of his half-br. Henry II, and appears to have been styled vicomte of Touraine(c). He became Earl of Surrey in consequence of his marriage to the Countess Isabel in 1164;(d) in which year he attended the Council of Northampton.(e)

...

The footnotes (b), (c), (d), (e) ... give fuller references: footnote (b) refers to an earlier article in the same volume which details how Geoffrey's nickname was initially spelled *Plante Genest* or *Plantegenest*. The usual explanation of this nickname is that Geoffrey wore a sprig of broom in his cap, though the significance of this sprig or shoot is not elaborated.

The sprig of broom is hairy, and I have conjectured<sup>7</sup> that it may relate to the earlier name Plantevelue which means 'hairy shoot'. A cultural connection between the names Plantevelu and Plantagenet seems more likely than the fiction that is currently circulating that the name Plantard led on to the Plantagenet family name.

The evidence that Hamelin de Warren was Geoffrey Plante Genest's son comes partly from the expression "*Hamelinus Comes de Warren Regis Henrici Frater*" (*i.e.* Count Hamelin de Warren brother of King Henry), which appears in contemporary acta, according to Count Raoul de Warren<sup>8</sup> though he does not specify whether these are acta of the Privy Council of Henry, Richard, or John.

<sup>5</sup>P.H.Reaney, *The Origin of English Surnames*, (London, 1967), p. 160.

<sup>6</sup>H.S.Bennett, *Life on the English Manor*, (Cambridge, 1938), pp. 162-6.

<sup>7</sup>John S Plant (2005) *Nomina*, vol. 28, pp. 115-133.

<sup>8</sup><http://genforum.genealogy.com/plantagenet/messages/1306.html>

## 31.6 A precursor to Plant: Plante Genest and the counts of Anjou

Rather than being associated with the royal Plantagenets, diligent modern research shows that the first Plants were in proximity to the de Warenne descendants of Geoffrey Plante Genest, the forefather of the royal Plantagenets. What can be said with caution is that the Plant surname may have originated with a cultural influence from the famous nickname, Plante Genest, though there is (as yet) no proof that the Plants were directly descended from him.

To look towards the future, we may consider an optimistic prospect for further Y-DNA testing. If a Y-DNA signature could be secured for the Plantagenets, or their male-line forebears, it could be compared with that of the Plants: this would help to determine whether the Plants could have been male-line descendants of Geoffrey Plante Genest. It is hence relevant to consider the descent of Geoffrey Plante Genest from his forebears, the eleventh century counts of Anjou. This may be relevant to an ongoing line of enquiry to see how widely tentatively supposed male-line descendants share the same Y-chromosome.

### 31.6.1 The legendary Angevin ancestry of Geoffrey Plante Genest

The counts of Anjou rose from inauspicious beginnings as soldiers on the frontier between Brittany and Anjou where they were recruited by Charles the Bald (840-877) of France to help defend the West of his lands around Paris against incursions by Vikings. There is debated evidence<sup>9</sup>, based on the 12th century document *Gesta Consulum*, which suggests that the beginnings of the male-line of the first Angevin counts was in the persons of Tortulfus and his son Tertullus, father of Ingelgerius.

An early historian of the house of Anjou, Count Fulk Rechin (1068-1109) admitted that he knew nothing of the first three of his line: Ingelgar; his son Fulk the Red; and Fulk the Good who ruled from 941 to 960. Chronicles survive from those times onwards, which suggest that the fortunes of the house of Anjou were founded on the prowess of Ingelgar, a semi-legendary soldier of fortune who carved out an estate for himself in the Loire valley. His son, Fulk the Red, built on these foundations and became count of Anjou by 941. The *Chronicles of the Counts of Anjou*, which was given its final form in the 1160s by John, a monk of Marmoutier Abbey, tells legendary tales of Fulk the Red's descendants, beginning with children of Ingelgar's grandson, Fulk the Good (941-960) under whom the region enjoyed a time of tranquil prosperity.

Fulk the Good had three sons. Geoffrey, the eldest, became count of Anjou; while the second, Guy, became bishop of Le Puy. Drogo the youngest and Fulk's favourite was educated in literature and the liberal arts and, through the kindness of king Hugh Capet of France, he succeeded his brother as bishop of Le Puy.

Fulk the Good's eldest son, Geoffrey, was known as Greygown after a witness to a contest picked him out at the French court. The miller, who had been summoned by the king for this express purpose, said to the king and the rest of those assembled, 'This man, who wears a grey tunic, restored our honour when he slew the Dane and struck fear into their army'. In a single-handed contest Geoffrey Greygown had defeated Ethelulf the Dane, a Goliath-like figure. The *Chronicles of the Counts of Anjou* describe Geoffrey as 'stout hearted and strong and most successful in battle'; he was count of Anjou from 960 until his death in 987.

Geoffrey Greygown was succeeded by his son Count Maurice who was 'wise, virtuous and peace-loving and who ruled in peace more as a result of wisdom than of fighting battles'. On his death in 987 his lands went to his son Fulk Nerra who, although only about 17 years old, had already proved himself as a valiant soldier.

Fulk Nerra (972-1040), by turns a brutal monster and a pious pilgrim, was count of Anjou from 987 to 1040. He started his reign by seizing Chateaudun, to secure himself against his neighbours. In 992, after winning the battle of Conquereuil against the Bretons, he pillaged and devastated the

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<sup>9</sup>Bernard S. Bachrach, Introduction to *State-Building in Medieval France: Studies in Early Angevin History*, (Great Yarmouth, 1995).

area. He built many castles in Anjou, earning a reputation as an innovative strategist. He burned his first wife for infidelity, though he also founded two abbeys and went on pilgrimage to Jerusalem three times (1002-3, c.1008, 1039). Fulk's wife gave birth to Geoffrey Martel and a daughter Adela.

Geoffrey Martel I, count of Anjou (1040-1060), is described by the *Chronicles of the Counts of Anjou* as 'bolder than all the rest of his family'. In 1044 he took Tours and the county of Touraine, using the ring of castles his father had built around them as jumping-off points. He was seized by an unexpected illness, an incurable sickness which grew worse from day to day, and he suffered right up to his death dying in great pain amidst his family.

Geoffrey Martel I had no sons of his own, so he left his lands to his nephews; leaving Anjou and Saintonge to Geoffrey the Bearded, and Touraine and Château-Landon to Fulk Rechin.

### 31.6.2 The male-line forebears of Geoffrey Plante Genest

The mother of Fulk Rechin was Ermengarde (Blanche) d'Anjou (c.1018-76) and his father was Geoffrey II "Ferreol" de Château-Landon, Count of Gatinais (c.1004-c.1044). Here begins the link to the male-line ancestry of Geoffrey Plante Genest.

The title Count of Anjou came into the paternal ancestral line of Plante Genest through Ermengarde, the daughter of Fulk Nerra. The paternal ancestry of her husband, Geoffrey Ferreol, is somewhat contentious<sup>10</sup>. It has been said to descend from the Viscounts of Orleans. According to another view however, Geoffrey Ferreol was the son of Hugh de Perche, Comte de Gatinais and Beatrice; this Hugh was the son of Geoffrey, Vicomte de Chateaudun, who married Melisinde de Rotrou (daughter of Rotrou, lord of Nogent le Rotrou); this Geoffrey was the son of Geoffrey-Hugh de Chateaudun who married Hildegardis de Blois (daughter of Duke Robert); in turn, this Geoffrey was the son of Geoffrey, Viscount of Chartres (who was in possession of Chateaudun, though he didn't use the title).

Geoffrey Ferreol's son, Fulk Rechin, count of Anjou (1066-1109) was the initiator of the *Chronicles of the Counts of Anjou* in the 1090s, which dealt with his mother's line of the Angevin title. Having inherited the right to Touraine and Château-Landon from his uncle, Geoffrey Martel I, Fulk went to war against his own brother, Geoffrey the Bearded, captured and imprisoned him in 1066 and took Anjou and Saintonge into his domains. Fulk Rechin's son, Geoffrey Martel II, later freed his uncle Geoffrey the Bearded but, according to the *Chronicles of the Counts of Anjou*, his wits had become addled in prison and he did not live long after his release. Fulk took several wives: there was the daughter of Lancelin of Beaugency; then Ermengardin, daughter of Archenbaud the Strong of Bourbon, who bore Geoffrey Martel II. The lecherous Fulk fell passionately in love with the sister, Bertrade, of Amaury of Montfont, 'whom no good man ever praised save for her beauty'. For her sake, he divorced the mother of Geoffrey Martel II; and Bertrade gave birth in 1092 to Geoffrey Plante Genest's father, Fulk V. In 1107, Geoffrey Martel II was killed in an ambush at Candé castle, supposedly with the connivance of his father and step-mother, though the *Chronicles of the Counts of Anjou* disputes this. That same year, the lecherous king Philip I of France came to Tours and, having conversed with Fulk Rechin's wife, decided to make her his queen. After the death of Fulk Rechin, in 1109, his son Fulk V is said by the *Chronicles* to have abandoned the ways of his mother and father and led an honourable life, ruling his territory wisely.

Fulk V (1092-1143), Count of Anjou (1109-29), king of Jerusalem (1131-43) married the only daughter of Elias, count of Maine, in 1109, thereby uniting Anjou and Maine. Fulk's wife, Ermengarde, heiress of Maine, bore Geoffrey Plante Genest in 1113 and died in 1126. In 1120, Fulk V went on pilgrimage to the Holy Land. In 1129, he married Mélisande, daughter of king Baldwin II of Jerusalem; and he succeeded as king of Jerusalem in 1131. To defend the holy city from the Muslim champion, Zengi, Fulk allied with the emir of Damascus and the emperor of Constantinople during the early 1130s. Turkish raiders took him prisoner in 1137, but then freed him.

<sup>10</sup><http://genforum.genealogy.com/plantagenet/messages/1302.html>

### 31.6.3 Geoffrey Plante Genest and his son Hamelin

Geoffrey IV (1113-51), count of Anjou (1129-51), bore the nicknames Plante Genest (cf. 'hairy shoot') and 'the Fair' and was said to be tall, handsome, graceful and strong. In 1128, aged 15, he was married to Matilda, daughter and heiress of king Henry I of England. They disliked each other, but maintained an uneasy political alliance and produced three sons, Henry (the future king Henry II of England), Geoffrey and William.

Geoffrey Plante Genest spent much of his youth imposing order on his unruly vassals, including his own brother Elias, count of Maine, who rebelled against him in 1131. In 1135 Henry I died, and Matilda's cousin Stephen of Blois seized the English throne, together with Normandy, though Geoffrey laid claim to the latter in his wife's right. The Norman barons opposed Geoffrey, not through loyalty to Stephen, but out of hatred to their traditional enemy, Anjou. However, Norman morale was weakened when Matilda captured Stephen at Lincoln in 1141, and Geoffrey was invested as duke of Normandy in 1144.

Geoffrey joined Louis VII of France on the abortive Second Crusade (1147-49). In 1150, he ceded Normandy to his son, Henry, who had inherited his mother's claim to the English throne, becoming king in 1154.

By an unknown woman, though some say it was the concubine Adelaide of Angers, Geoffrey Plante Genest had also fathered Hamelin, who acquired the de Warenne earldom of Surrey through marriage in 1164.

Hamelin<sup>11</sup> accompanied his half-brother Henry to Ireland in 1169. He assisted as bearer of one of the three swords of state in the coronation of his nephew, king Richard I, and he often fought with Richard in Normandy and elsewhere on the continent. He was a Privy Councillor and a commissioner to receive king Richard's ransom, and was later present at the coronation of king John in St Peter's church at Westminster, 27th May 1199, for whom he was also a Privy Councillor. Hamelin received some Angevin family lands in the Touraine from Henry, and was styled Vicomte de Touraine in addition to his other titles.

### 31.6.4 The heritage of the Plante Genest nickname

The second house of the de Warenne earls of Surrey descended from Hamelin, son of Geoffrey Plante Genest. That the 5th earl, Hamelin, was Angevin is evidenced by his twelfth-century seal, which carries the escarbuncle of Anjou<sup>12</sup>; this is still shown on the fourteenth-century crest of the 8th de Warren earl, John, which suggests that the Angevin heritage of the de Warennes' progenitor, Plante Genest, was still influential when the Plant surname formed near their lands in England. The first evidence for the spelling Plente (1219) is in the times of the 6th earl and the spelling Plante (1262) occurs in the times of the 7th earl who had married Alice de Lusignan (1224-55). Alice was from Aquitaine where the name Plante, though perhaps unrelated, is also now found.

It may be more than coincidence that it is near scattered de Warenne lands around England that the (DNA validated) single-family surname, Plant, is first found. In the absence of further evidence, however, it is important to stress that the link between the names Plante Genest and Plant may have been cultural rather than genetic, though some linkage seems evident in as much as there are proximities of both status and geography. Further Y-DNA studies are ongoing; but, even if no genetic connection is found, the Plante Genest nickname can be said to have influenced the formation of the Plant surname as well as the subsequent royal Plantagenet surname. This heritage for the English surname, Plant, is considerable and it can be tracked on to an estimated 12,000 Plants now living in England and a further 5,000 in the USA for example.

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<sup>11</sup><http://genforum.genealogy.com/plantagenet/messages/1300.html>

<sup>12</sup><http://genforum.genealogy.com/plantagenet/messages/1300.html>

## STAFFORDSHIRE MARRIAGE INDEX 1500'S TO 1837

From Mathew to Ruth

| No. | Name    | Status | Occupation | Residence | Name                      | Status | Occupation | Residence | Date          | Place            | Notes | Banns/Lic |
|-----|---------|--------|------------|-----------|---------------------------|--------|------------|-----------|---------------|------------------|-------|-----------|
| 256 | Mathew  |        |            | Horton    | Locket, Mary              |        |            |           | 20 Jan 1759   | Cheddleton       |       | .         |
| 257 | Mathew  | b      |            | Forton    | Dain, Ann                 | s      |            |           | 20 Apr 1830   | Haughton         |       | 1         |
| 258 | Matilda |        |            |           | Simcocks, John            |        |            |           | 18 Aug 1822   | Norton-le-Moors  |       |           |
| 259 | Matthew |        |            |           | Billinge, Ann             |        |            |           | 14 Jan 1677/8 | Alstonsfield     |       |           |
| 260 | Matthew |        |            | Stone     | Lander, Elizabeth         |        |            |           | 26 Feb 1733   | Sandon           |       |           |
| 261 | Matthew |        | Farmer     | Stone     | Astbury, Margaret         | s      |            |           | 1 Sep 1764    | Standon          |       | 1         |
| 262 | Matthew | b      |            |           | Cope, Ann                 | s      |            |           | 7 Oct 1802    | Swynnerton       |       | 1         |
| 263 | Matthew | b      | Boatman    |           | Bailey, Alice             | w      |            |           | 11 Jan 1813   | Stoke-on-Trent   |       |           |
| 264 | Matthew |        |            |           | Whalley, Elizabeth        |        |            |           | 13 Nov 1816   | Norton-le-Moors  |       |           |
| 265 | Matthew | b      |            |           | Berrisford, Martha Sophia | s      |            |           | 11 Mar 1828   | Caverswall       |       |           |
| 266 | Michael | b      |            |           | Cordwell, Mary            | s      |            | Barlaston | 16 Nov 1796   | Eccleshall       |       | 1         |
| 267 | Michael | b      |            | Stone     | Cordwell, Esther          | s      |            |           | 23 Jun 1825   | Stafford St Mary |       | 1         |
| 268 | Mille   |        |            |           | Perry, David              |        |            |           | 18 Aug 1822   | Norton-le-Moors  |       |           |
| 269 | Moses   | b      | Potter     |           | Hancock, Mary             | s      |            |           | 14 Jan 1827   | Burslem          |       |           |
| 270 | Moses   | b      |            |           | Nadin, Eliza              | s      |            |           | 8 Sep 1831    | Longnor          |       |           |
| 271 | Moses   | b      | Potter     |           | Phillips, Mary            | s      |            |           | 3 Mar 1834    | Wolstanton       |       |           |
| 272 | Nancy   | s      |            |           | Stones, Wm                |        | Blacksmith |           | 5 May 1777    | Stoke-on-Trent   |       | b         |
| 273 | Nancy   | s      |            |           | Marlow, Joseph            | w      |            |           | 30 May 1810   | Walsall          |       | 1         |
| 274 | Noah    | b      |            |           | Smith, Louisa             | s      |            |           | 26 Nov 1827   | Tipton           |       |           |
| 275 | Olave   | s      |            | Leek      | Salt, Sampson             |        |            | Chedleton | 24 Feb 1800   | Leek             |       |           |
| 276 | Olive   | s      |            |           | Clulow, Henry             | b      |            |           | 1 Jul 1822    | Leek             |       |           |
| 277 | Olive   | s      |            |           | Harrison, Harmel          | w      | Potter     |           | 19 Feb 1832   | Stoke-on-Trent   |       |           |

| No. | Name     | Status | Occupation | Residence            | Name                   | Status | Occupation | Residence           | Date          | Place                    | Notes | Banns/Lic |
|-----|----------|--------|------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------|------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------------------|-------|-----------|
| 278 | Olive    | s      |            |                      | Kirkham,<br>William    | b      | Lab.       |                     | 18 May 1837   | Leek                     |       | .         |
| 279 | Patience |        |            | West<br>Bromwich     | Williams, John         |        |            | West<br>Bromwich    | 17 Apr 1797   | West Bromwich            |       | b         |
| 280 | Paul     |        |            |                      | Cotton, Hannah         |        |            |                     | 26 Jul 1824   | Stone                    |       |           |
| 281 | Peter    |        |            |                      | Embery, Mary           |        |            |                     | 30 Dec 1830   | Baswich                  |       |           |
| 282 | Phebe    | s      |            |                      | Perry, John            | b      |            |                     | 29 Jan 1792   | Sedgley                  |       |           |
| 283 | Phebe    | s      |            |                      | Eardley. Enoch         | b      | Potter     |                     | 4 Sep 1810    | Burslem                  |       |           |
| 284 | Phebe    | s      |            |                      | Hammersley,<br>Robert  | b      |            |                     | 14 Jun 1830   | Cheadle                  |       | 1         |
| 285 | Pheobe   |        |            |                      | Colclough,<br>William  | b      | Potter     |                     | 8 Sep 1834    | Wolstonton               |       |           |
| 286 | Philip   |        |            | Chedleton            | Clark, Ann             |        |            |                     | 7 May 1750    | Leek                     |       |           |
| 287 | Philip   |        |            |                      | Clews, Phoebe          |        |            |                     | 7 Sep 1783    | Cheddleton               |       |           |
| 288 | Philip   |        |            |                      | Roberts, Sarah         |        |            |                     | 23 Dec 1786   | Stone                    |       |           |
| 289 | Philip   | b      |            |                      | Woodings,<br>Elizabeth | s      |            |                     | 17 Oct 1819   | Lichfield St<br>Michael  |       |           |
| 290 | Philip   | b      |            |                      | Durose, Anne           | s      |            |                     | 21 Jan 1837   | Cheadle                  |       |           |
| 291 | Phillip  |        |            |                      | Ellorton,<br>Elizabeth |        |            |                     | 19 April 1742 | Ipstones                 |       |           |
| 292 | Phillip  |        |            | Leek                 | Slack, Mary            |        |            |                     | 25 Jul 1758   | Ipstones                 |       |           |
| 293 | Phillip  |        |            |                      | Cork, Ann              |        |            |                     | 15 Apr 1777   | Ipstones                 |       |           |
| 294 | Phillip  |        | Lab.       | Stoke                | Scarratt, Ann          |        |            | Stoke               | 18 Nov 1799   | Newcastle-<br>under-Lyme |       |           |
| 295 | Phoebe   |        |            |                      | Mallen, James          |        |            |                     | 10 Nov 1822   | Kingswinford             |       |           |
| 296 | Pinson   | b      |            |                      | Brookes, Phoebe        | s      |            |                     | 7 May 1815    | Rowley Regis             |       |           |
| 297 | Prudence |        |            | Alsop in the<br>Dale | Green, Joseph          |        |            |                     | 30 Nov 1784   | Alstonefield             |       | 1         |
| 298 | Prudence |        |            | Swinerton            | Plant, John            |        |            |                     | 10 May 1788   | Stone                    |       | 1         |
| 299 | Prudence |        |            |                      | Plant, John            |        |            |                     | 22 Sep 1788   | Stowe                    |       |           |
| 300 | Prudence |        |            |                      | Shirley, William       |        |            |                     | 18 Jul 1819   | Norton-le-<br>Moors      |       |           |
| 301 | Rachel   |        |            | Swinerton            | Peak, Samuel           |        |            | Stafford St<br>Mary | 27 Oct 1729   | Chebsey                  |       | 1         |



| No. | Name    | Status | Occupation  | Residence | Name                      | Status | Occupation | Residence       | Date          | Place               | Notes        | Banns/Lic |
|-----|---------|--------|-------------|-----------|---------------------------|--------|------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------|--------------|-----------|
| 302 | Ralph   |        | Potter      |           | Malkin, Lydia             | s      |            |                 | 8 Apr 1776    | Stoke-on-Trent      |              | b         |
| 303 | Ralph   | b      | Collier     |           | Allcock, Mary             | s      |            |                 | 27 Aug 1815   | Stoke-on-Trent      |              |           |
| 304 | Ralph   |        |             |           | Simpson,<br>Hannah        |        |            |                 | 23 Oct 1815   | Bucknall            |              |           |
| 305 | Ralph   | b      | Potter      |           | Cartledge,<br>Timmison    | s      |            |                 | 26 Dec 1815   | Stoke-on-Trent      |              |           |
| 206 | Ralph   | w      | Potter      |           | Lester, Mary              | w      |            |                 | 14 May 1832   | Wolstanton          |              |           |
| 307 | Randle  |        |             |           | Shardlow, Sarah           |        |            |                 | 25 Jul 1836   | Stone               |              |           |
| 308 | Rebecca |        |             |           | Hordley, Ralph            |        |            |                 | 11 Sep 1786   | Norton-le-Moors     |              |           |
| 309 | Rebekah |        |             |           | Thornberry,<br>Thomas     |        |            | Sts Chedle      | 30 Aug 1718   | CHS<br>Gawsworth    |              |           |
| 310 | Reuben  | b      |             |           | Marsh, Maria              | s      |            |                 | 31 Mar 1833   | Kinver              |              |           |
| 311 | Rich.   |        |             |           | Allen, Thomazin           |        |            |                 | 25 Feb 1642/3 | Leek                |              |           |
| 312 | Rich.   |        |             |           | Plant, Anne               |        |            | Leeke Frith     | 3 Dec 1668    | Leek                |              |           |
| 313 | Rich.   |        |             | Kingsley  | Hassar, Mary              |        |            | Leek            | 3 Apr 1746    | Leek                |              |           |
| 314 | Rich.   |        | Earthpotter |           | Hollens, Eliz             | s      |            |                 | 19 Dep 1767   | Stoke-on-Trent      |              | b         |
| 315 | Richard |        |             | Stone     | Beech, Elizabeth          |        |            | Lawton          | 22 Apr 1722   | Cheddleton          |              |           |
| 316 | Richard |        |             | Dilhorn   | Warrilow, Ann             |        |            |                 | 27 Feb 1741/2 | Cheddleton          |              |           |
| 317 | Richard | b      |             | Walslow   | Plant, Martha             | s      |            |                 | 24 Apr 1762   | Leek                |              |           |
| 318 | Richard |        | Potter      | Stoke     | Key, Hannah               | s      |            | Stoke           | 11 Dec 1769   | Bucknall            |              |           |
| 319 | Richard |        |             |           | Webb, Mary                |        |            | Church<br>Eaton | 5 Jan 1771    | Brewood             | From<br>Bts. | l         |
| 320 | Richard |        |             | Leek      | Goodyear, Ruth            |        |            | Leek            | 30 Jul 1798   | Leek                |              |           |
| 321 | Richard |        |             | Leek      | Johnson, Eliz             | s      |            | Leek            | 27 Dec 1798   | Leek                |              |           |
| 322 | Richard |        |             |           | Hollinshead,<br>Charlotte |        |            |                 | 19 Sep 1803   | Stafford St<br>Mary |              |           |
| 323 | Richard | b      |             |           | Growcott,<br>Elizabeth    | s      |            |                 | 1 May 1809    | Sedgley             |              |           |
| 324 | Richard |        |             |           | Grocot, Maria             |        |            |                 | 27 Mar 1815   | Norton-le-Moors     |              |           |
| 325 | Richard |        |             |           | Manwaring,<br>Ellen       |        |            |                 | 5 Oct 1818    | Forton              |              |           |

| No. | Name    | Status | Occupation | Residence                    | Name                     | Status | Occupation | Residence                  | Date        | Place                    | Notes    | Banns/Lic |
|-----|---------|--------|------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------|------------|----------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|----------|-----------|
| 326 | Richard |        |            |                              | Fisher, Sarah            |        |            |                            | 29 Feb 1824 | Leek                     |          | .         |
| 327 | Richard |        |            |                              | James, Charlotte         |        |            |                            | 30 Aug 1825 | Castlechurch             | From Bts |           |
| 328 | Richard | w      | Weaver     |                              | Vickerstaff, Mary        | s      |            |                            | 11 Aug 1830 | Leek                     |          |           |
| 329 | Richard |        |            | Lichfield St<br>Mary<br>Leek | Saunders, Eliza          |        |            |                            | 3 Oct 1836  | Rugeley                  |          |           |
| 330 | Richd.  |        |            |                              | Day, Mary                |        |            | Leek                       | 7 Sep 1707  | Leek                     |          |           |
| 331 | Richd.  |        |            |                              | Hopkin, Jane             |        |            |                            | 1 Jan 1761  | Leek                     |          |           |
| 332 | Richd.  |        | Potter     | Stoke                        | Bailey, Ann              |        |            | Stoke                      | 30 Oct 1794 | Newcastle-<br>under-Lyme |          |           |
| 333 | Rob     |        |            |                              | Johnson, Eliz            |        |            |                            | 10 Jun 1642 | Leek                     |          |           |
| 334 | Rob.    |        |            |                              | Scarrat, Mary            |        |            | L. End                     | 2 Nov 1744  | Stoke-on-Trent           |          |           |
| 335 | Rob.    |        |            |                              | Wood, Hannah             |        |            |                            | 27 Aug 1778 | Alstonefield             |          |           |
| 336 | Rob.    |        |            |                              | Hope, Ellen              |        |            |                            | 27 Jun 1808 | Alstonefield             |          |           |
| 337 | Rob.    |        |            |                              | Green, Judith            |        |            |                            | 12 Aug 1811 | Alstonefield             |          |           |
| 338 | Robert  |        |            |                              | Wilsonn,<br>Margaret     |        |            |                            | 27 Apr 1597 | Audley                   |          |           |
| 339 | Robert  |        |            |                              | Barlow, Ann              |        |            |                            | 11 Jun 1619 | Sheen                    |          |           |
| 340 | Robert  |        |            |                              | Husselby,<br>Elizabeth   |        |            |                            | 19 Jan 1758 | Gnosall                  |          |           |
| 341 | Robert  |        |            | SAL Market<br>Drayton        | Garner, Mary             |        |            | STS<br>Penkridge<br>Ashley | 31 Dec 1771 | SAL Market<br>Drayton    |          | 1         |
| 342 | Robert  |        |            |                              | Layton, Mary             |        |            |                            | 8 Jun 1773  | Eccleshall               |          |           |
| 343 | Robert  |        |            |                              | Turner, Ann              |        |            |                            | 10 Jun 1781 | Kingswinford             |          |           |
| 344 | Robert  |        |            |                              | Bradshaw,<br>Martha      |        |            |                            | 17 Sep 1795 | Gnosall                  |          | 1         |
| 345 | Robert  |        |            | STS Gnosall                  | Brown, Mary              |        |            | SAL<br>Newport             | 11 Jan 1798 | SAL Newport              |          | 1         |
| 346 | Robert  |        |            |                              | Wilshaw,<br>Catherine    |        |            |                            | 19 Mar 1805 | Cheadle                  |          |           |
| 347 | Robert  |        |            |                              | Longmore, Ann<br>Caswell |        |            |                            | 6 Feb 1831  | Kingswinford             |          |           |
| 348 | Robert  | b      | Twister    |                              | Plant, Frances           | s      |            |                            | 4 Dec 1836  | Leek                     |          |           |

| No.  | Name       | Status | Occupation | Residence | Name                  | Status | Occupation | Residence | Date        | Place          | Notes | Banns/Lic |
|------|------------|--------|------------|-----------|-----------------------|--------|------------|-----------|-------------|----------------|-------|-----------|
| 349  | Robertus   |        |            |           | Cobstake,<br>Susannah |        |            |           | 20 Oct 1589 | Abbots Bromley |       | .         |
| 350  | Robertus   |        |            | Keel      | Steedman, Jana        |        |            | Keel      | ** 1721     | Keele          |       |           |
| 351  | Robt.      |        |            |           | *** , Anne            |        |            | Warslow   | 15 Sep 1729 | Alstonefield   |       |           |
| 352  | Robt.      | b      |            | Leek      | Titterton, Mary`      | s      |            | Leek      | 22 Oct 1812 | Leek           |       |           |
| 353  | Romantizer | b      |            |           | Harris, Kezia         | s      |            |           | 31 Mar 1823 | Rowley Regis   |       |           |
| 354` | Rosanna    | s      |            |           | Rogers, Joseph        | b      | Twister    |           | 1 Jun 1836  | Leek           |       |           |
| 355  | Ruth       |        |            |           | Compson, James        |        |            |           | 7 Aug 1749  | Kingswinford   |       |           |
| 356  | Ruth       |        |            |           | Shaw, Edward          |        |            |           | 25 Dec 1787 | Kingswinford   |       |           |

## SNIPPETS

### Boxing Plants

Source – [www.boxrec.com/](http://www.boxrec.com/)

| Name          | Division         | Nationality | Home Town     | Career Docet | W L D   |
|---------------|------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|---------|
| Alf Plant     | Featherweight    | British     | Bath          | 1950         | 0 1 0   |
| Benny Plant   |                  |             |               | 1932         | 0 3 0   |
| Bobby Plant   | Welterweight     | American    | Brocklyn      | 1944-50      | 12 3 2  |
| Eddie Plant   |                  |             |               | 1934         | 0 1 0   |
| Ernie Plant   |                  |             |               | 1952         | 0 1 0   |
| Frankie Plant |                  |             |               | 1910         | 1 0 0   |
| Joe Plant     | Ligh Heavyweight | British     | Hackney       | 1950-54      | 7 5 1   |
| John Plant    |                  |             |               | 1967-73      | 1 2 0   |
| Kevin Plant   | Welterweight     | British     | Denaby        | 1986-91      | 15 27 9 |
| Miles Plant   | Middleweight     |             |               | 1991-94      | 3 5 1   |
| Nipper Plant  | Lightwieght      | British     | Hanley        | 1928-32      | 2 2 0   |
| Ray Plant     | Featherweight    | British     | South Shields | 1980-83      | 11 9 2  |
| T Plant       |                  |             |               | 1946         | 1 0 0   |
| Tom Plant     |                  |             |               | 1922-23      | - 4 -   |
| Arby Plant    |                  |             |               | 1935         | 1 0 0   |
| George Plant  | Lightweight`     | American    | Pittsburgh    | 1899         | 0 1 0   |
| James Plant   |                  |             | “             | 1897         | 1 0 0   |

WKP note        Nipper’s name was Joseph, brother of Ernie who was known as Young Nipper.

Journal No. 1 included a short piece by GR Tweedie relative to Plant’s Boxing Booth – as follows:

*“Shortly after the Second World War on my demob from the Royal Navy I became a licensed boxer and soon after became familiar with the Plants Boxing Booth.*

*The Plant family were Joe (Nipper) Plant, Ernie Plant and young Joe Plant, now all deceased.*

*I travelled with them on the booth and most of the boxers were Ex-Service. Apart from other towns we visited with the booth, Macclesfield was about the best for boxers, taking on all comers and making a few bob on a Friday and Saturday.*

*I am in my late sixties now but well remember the Plants who I think originated from Chesterton, Stoke-on-Trent, so perhaps some of your members may have some record of their Boxing Booth and of course the family”.*

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**St Lawrence Biddulph, Staffs – Monumental Inscriptions**

- THOMAS who departed this life 20<sup>th</sup> May 1811 aged 4 years. Also BENJAMIN PLANT his father late of Biddulph Mill who departed this life 16<sup>th</sup> July 1811 aged 38 years. Likewise here lieth the body of JOHN son of the above BENJAMIN PLANT who died 27<sup>th</sup> July 1817 aged 12 years. Alex BENJAMIN his son who died 11<sup>th</sup> September 1817 aged 13 years. Likewise WILLIAM his son died 20<sup>th</sup> September 1817 aged 15 years.

~~~~~

In loving memory of JAMES PLANT, late of Gillow Heath who died 19<sup>th</sup> April 1890 aged 56 years. Also DINAH beloved wife of the above who departed this life 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1908 aged 75 years. Also WILLIAM their son who died 6 June 1915 age 57 years.

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**Elsie Plant**

Whilst recently reading ‘One Hand Tied Behind Us’ by Jill Liddington and Jill Norris (an excellent book dealing with the history and influence of the radical suffragist movement at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century) I came across references to a Elsie Plant who was very active in the Independent Labour Party and a regular speaker at their rallies.

The piece that took my eyes was her recollection of her debut as a speaker:

*“The corner of Tib Street, Manchester was our favourite spot and every week there, every Sunday night there were outdoor meetings there, and being young and a woman, you know, in the heat of youth, I volunteered for outdoor speaking .... A man called Sam Robingson used to be in charge of them and of course he was always anxious to get hold of a woman speaker because you always got a crowd pretty quick....*

*.....I always thought, ‘Well, I can’t speak’, but if you were called upon outdoor, you’d find out you could. You’d carry on, and as soon as you got a bit tongue-tied, somebody’d throw something at you and you’d be off again.”*

For any member who is interested in women’s suffrage this book is well worth reading. It was first published in 1978 by VIRAGO a feminist publishing company based in London.

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From Nicky Lankester (Member No. 241)

*Dear Keith*

*Thank you for all the information, as far as additional stuff is concerned I only know what I got off Hugh Casement. When I originally contacted him through Genes Reunited it was my grandmother Minerva Buckley Greenhalgh I was researching and he was kind enough to give me information on my own grandfather. I have enclosed a kind of family tree with large chunks missing, most of it got from the census. My problem is I only have my mother’s sister still living and her knowledge is very sparse plus I don’t like to badger her. Thanks once again.*

*Yours Sincerely  
Nicky Lankester*

## PLANTS SOLICITORS – LANCASHIRE

By Nicky Lankester (Member No. 241)

William James born: 1824 Preston Lancashire Solicitor married at St John Church, Preston Sept 12<sup>th</sup> 1850 Elizabeth Gent born 1828 Preston, Lancashire.

Children

1. Elizabeth Plant born 1852 Ashton Upon Ribble, Lancashire
2. Charles Harvey Plant born 1852 Ashton Upon Ribble
3. Rosetta Plant born 1857 Ashton Upon Ribble
4. William James Plant born 1858 Ashton Upon Ribble
5. Henry Albert Edward Plant born 1863 Ashton Upon Ribble

William James had a sister called Mary who was born in 1818 Preston Lancashire unmarried dressmaker. In the 1861 census a mention of another Plant perhaps another dressmaker sister but born in Berry Head, Devonshire. They all lived at Cotton Mill, Walerton Road, Ashton Upon Ribble in 1861.

- 5) Henry Albert Edward Plant, Solicitor in his Father's firm of Plant Abbot and Plant in Preston, married at All Souls, Harlesden, Midx on Dec 5<sup>th</sup> 1885 Emily Marion Shuttleworth who was born 1865 Leyland Lancashire.

Children

- 5.1 Albert Edmund Plant born 1887 Poulton Le Fylde, he became an engineer and died of cancer.
- 5.2 William James Plant born 1886 P.L.F.
- 5.3 Arthur Starkie Plant born 1890 P.L.F., he became a Doctor and died in a road accident.
- 5.4 Charles Alick Plant born 1893 P.L.F., he was a solicitor with my grandfather in his Fathers/Grandfathers law firm of Plant Abbot and Plant, Preston.
- 5.5 Marion Plant born 1895 in Poulton Le Fylde Lancashire and she became Mrs Redgrave.

In the 1901 census they all lived at Lockwood Avenue, Poulton Le Fylde, Lancs, but they were known to have lived at Myers Cough Hall at some point also in P.L.F.

My Mother's Grandmother was a Shuttleworth reported to be one of the oldest families in Lancashire. She was the daughter of Thomas Moss, Shuttleworth, solicitor in Preston and (Ellen) Harriet Brown. They lived at Stanley Terrace, Preston in 1862 and later at Howick House, Preston and then 8 Winckley Square, Preston, which must have been her Mother's Father's house Dr Robert Brown, Surgeon and sometimes Alderman, (his wife Agnes Guy).

William James Plant (Grandfather), educated at Warwick School, became a solicitor in 1912, married Minerva Buckley Greenhalgh 1915, served in the First World War with the Loyal North Lancashire's was in France and Belgium with the 4<sup>th</sup> Territorial Battalion, Battalion Colonel 1921. District Registrar of the High Court and Lancashire county court 1932 and DL of Lancashire in 1935. Served in the Second World War as Major and Local Colonel 7<sup>th</sup> battalion Loyal North Lancashires Regiment. JP for Lancashire 1949. Minerva died in 1955 aged 72, and William in 1972, which would make him 86 yrs.

Minerva Buckley Greenhalgh born Stockport 1883 and Christened at St Michael's Church, Ashton Under Lyne, Lancashire. Parents Joseph Greenhalgh born around 1846 married Sarah Ann, born around 1850 in 1872.

WKP NOTE: Journal No. 7 included a brief biography of Charles Harvey Plant (see 2 above)

## AUSTRALIAN VITAL RECORDS INDEX 1788-1905 – VICTORIA

|       |                      |   |      |     |                            |
|-------|----------------------|---|------|-----|----------------------------|
| PLANT | Ada Mary             | B | 1872 | VIC | Fa Robert PLANT            |
| PLANT | Adelaide             | B | 1867 | VIC | Fa: James PLANT            |
| PLANT | Adelaide             | M | 1887 | VIC | Sp: Edward Alfred SMITH    |
| PLANT | Agnes Mary           | B | 1869 | VIC | Fa: Richard PLANT          |
| PLANT | Agnes Mary           | D | 1876 | VIC | Fa: Richard PLANT          |
| PLANT | Albert John Percival | B | 1886 | VIC | Fa: James PLANT            |
| PLANT | Albert John Percival | D | 1888 | VIC | Fa: James PLANT            |
| PLANT | Alfred               | B | 1880 | VIC | Fa: Jos PLANT              |
| PLANT | Alfred               | B | 1862 | VIC | Fa: Edward PLANT           |
| PLANT | Alfred               | M | 1880 | VIC | Sp: Anne GIDDINS           |
| PLANT | Alfred Charles       | B | 1878 | VIC | Fa: Richard PLANT          |
| PLANT | Alfred Edwin         | B | 1875 | VIC | Fa: James PLANT            |
| PLANT | Alfred Ernest        | D | 1875 | VIC | Fa: James PLANT            |
| PLANT | Alfred Thomas        | B | 1881 | VIC | Fa: Alfred PLANT           |
| PLANT | Alice Ellen          | D | 1881 | VIC | Fa: Fredk W ill PLANT      |
| PLANT | Alice Ellen          | B | 1881 | VIC | FA: Frederick Will PLANT   |
| PLANT | Ann                  | B | 1855 | VIC | Fa: Nicholas PLANT         |
| PLANT | Ann                  | M | 1868 | VIC | Sp: Stephen MCDONOUGH      |
| PLANT | Anna Elizabeth       | B | 1864 | VIC | Fa: Robert PLANT           |
| PLANT | Anne                 | M | 1872 | VIC | Sp: Alfred DEANE           |
| PLANT | Annie Maud           | B | 1881 | VIC | Fa: James PLANT            |
| PLANT | Bertha Jane Emma     | B | 1883 | VIC | Fa: Alfred PLANT           |
| PLANT | Bertram Maples       | B | 1880 | VIC | Fa: Bertram Walton PLANT   |
| PLANT | Bertram Walter       | D | 1885 | VIC | Fa: Jos. PLANT             |
|       | John                 |   |      |     |                            |
| PLANT | Bertram Walter       | M | 1877 | VIC | Sp: Emma TILLEY            |
|       | John                 |   |      |     |                            |
| PLANT | Bertram William      | B | 1878 | VIC | Fa: George Herbert PLANT   |
| PLANT | Caroline             | B | 1862 | VIC | FA: James PLANT            |
| PLANT | Charles              | M | 1857 | VIC | Sp: Lydia Jane HANNEY      |
| PLANT | Charles              | D | 1863 | VIC | Fa: William PLANT          |
| PLANT | Charles              | D | 1865 | VIC | Fa: Charles PLANT          |
| PLANT | Charles John         | B | 1860 | VIC | Fa: Charles PLANT          |
| PLANT | Charles John         | M | 1883 | VIC | Sp: Jessie CARNEGIE        |
| PLANT | Charles John         | B | 1887 | VIC | Fa: Charles John PLANT     |
| PLANT | Charlotte            | M | 1873 | VIC | Sp: Joseph FAIRCHILD       |
| PLANT | Chas Jno             | D | 1887 | VIC | Fa: Chas Jno PLANT         |
| PLANT | Clara Daisy          | B | 1879 | VIC | Fa: James PLANT            |
| PLANT | David Northcote      | B | 1881 | VIC | Fa: George Herbert PLANT   |
| PLANT | David Walker         | B | 1868 | VIC | Fa: John PLANT             |
| PLANT | Edward               | M | 1860 | VIC | Sp: Emma PEAD              |
| PLANT | Edward               | B | 1860 | VIC | Fa: Edward PLANT           |
| PLANT | Edward               | D | 1864 | VIC | Mo: Ann PLANT              |
| PLANT | Edward               | D | 1875 | VIC | Fa: Edward PLANT           |
| PLANT | Edward Percival      | B | 1872 | VIC | Fa: Thomas PLANT           |
| PLANT | Edwin James          | B | 1874 | VIC | Fa: Richard PLANT          |
| PLANT | Eliz.                | B | 1868 | VIC | Fa: Charles PLANT          |
| PLANT | Eliz.                | B | 1877 | VIC | Fa: Richard PLANT          |
| PLANT | Eliza                | M | 1871 | VIC | Sp: Joseph James GOLDSMITH |
| PLANT | Elizabeth            | D | 1869 | VIC | Fa: Charles PLANT          |
| PLANT | Elizabeth            | M | 1869 | VIC | Sp: William WYATT          |
| PLANT | Elizabeth            | B | 1869 | VIC | Fa: Thomas PLANT           |
| PLANT | Elizabeth            | B | 1870 | VIC | Mo: Mary Ann HIGGINS       |
| PLANT | Elizabeth            | D | 1878 | VIC | Fa: Thomas John PLANT      |
| PLANT | Elizabeth Adeline    | B | 1878 | VIC | Fa: Joseph PLANT           |
| PLANT | Elizabeth Ann        | B | 1861 | VIC | Fa: Joseph PLANT           |
| PLANT | Elizabeth Ann        | D | 1863 | VIC | Fa: Joseph PLANT           |
| PLANT | Ellen                | B | 1869 | VIC | Fa: James PLANT            |

|       |                  |   |      |     |                           |
|-------|------------------|---|------|-----|---------------------------|
| PLANT | Ellen            | D | 1875 | VIC | Fa: Morrisey Robert PLANT |
| PLANT | Ellen            | D | 1878 | VIC | Fa: Farley Thomas PLANT   |
| PLANT | Ellen Lydia      | D | 1857 | VIC | Fa: Charles PLANT         |
| PLANT | Emily            | B | 1866 | VIC | Fa: James PLANT           |
| PLANT | Emily            | B | 1870 | VIC | Fa: John PLANT            |
| PLANT | Emily Grace      | B | 1868 | VIC | Fa: Edward PLANT          |
| PLANT | Emily Grace      | D | 1869 | VIC | Fa: Edward PLANT          |
| PLANT | Emma             | M | 1871 | VIC | Sp: Evelyn REYNOLDS       |
| PLANT | Emma             | B | 1879 | VIC | Fa: James PLANT           |
| PLANT | Emma             | M | 1887 | VIC | Sp: Henry Samuel VAUGHAN  |
| PLANT | Emma Elizabeth   | D | 1881 | VIC | Fa: Edward PLANT          |
| PLANT | Emma Elizabeth   | B | 1866 | VIC | Fa: Edward PLANT          |
| PLANT | Emma Hoyle       | B | 1870 | VIC | Fa: Thomas PLANT          |
| PLANT | Ethel Alice      | B | 1887 | VIC | Fa: George William PLANT  |
| PLANT | Ethel Alice Fran | B | 1885 | VIC | Fa: Alfred PLANT          |
| PLANT | F                | D | 1879 | VIC | Fa: Robert PLANT          |
| PLANT | Florence Lydia   | B | 1888 | VIC | Fa: Charles John PLANT    |
| PLANT | Florence Lydia   | D | 1888 | VIC | Fa: Charles John PLANT    |
| PLANT | Fran Ann         | M | 1887 | VIC | Sp: Thomas BENSON         |
| PLANT | Frances          | D | 1862 | VIC | Fa: Charles PLANT         |
| PLANT | Frances Ann      | B | 1864 | VIC | Fa: Edward PLANT          |
| PLANT | Frances Lydia    | B | 1860 | VIC | Fa: Charles PLANT         |
| PLANT | Frances Rose     | B | 1881 | VIC | Fa: Joseph PLANT          |
| PLANT | Frederick John   | B | 1860 | VIC | Fa: Edward PLANT          |
| PLANT | Frederick Joseph | B | 1862 | VIC | Fa: George Herbert PLANT  |
| PLANT | George           | M | 1859 | VIC | Sp: Mary WOOLLY           |
| PLANT | George           | B | 1867 | VIC | Fa: Joseph PLANT          |
| PLANT | George           | D | 1868 | VIC | Fa: U                     |
| PLANT | George           | M | 1875 | VIC | Sp: Agnes Mc Culloch DOIG |
| PLANT | George Henry     | B | 1864 | VIC | Fa: Richard PLANT         |
| PLANT | George Henry     | B | 1877 | VIC | Fa: James PLANT           |
| PLANT | George Henry Dom | D | 1878 | VIC | Fa: Richard PLANT         |
| PLANT | George Henry Mar | B | 1870 | VIC | Fa: George Herbert PLANT  |
| PLANT | George Henry Mar | D | 1875 | VIC | Fa: George Herbert PLANT  |
| PLANT | George Herbert   | M | 1861 | VIC | Sp: Catherine HAYES       |
| PLANT | George Morgan    | B | 1859 | VIC | Fa: John PLANT            |
| PLANT | George Morgan    | D | 1861 | VIC | Fa: John PLANT            |
| PLANT | George William   | M | 1882 | VIC | Sp: Elizabeth GRIFFITH    |
| PLANT | Georgeina        | M | 1869 | VIC | Sp: George CUSWORTH       |
| PLANT | Georgina         | B | 1875 | VIC | Fa: George Herbert PLANT  |
| PLANT | Gertrude         | B | 1880 | VIC | Fa: Saml PLANT            |
| PLANT | Gertrude Mary    | B | 1882 | VIC | Fa: Frederick Will PLANT  |
| PLANT | Grace            | B | 1871 | VIC | Fa: James PLANT           |
| PLANT | Hannah           | B | 1864 | VIC | Fa: John PLANT            |
| PLANT | Henry Robert     | B | 1865 | VIC | Fa: Robert PLANT          |
| PLANT | Henry Robert     | D | 1866 | VIC | Fa: Robert PLANT          |
| PLANT | Herbert Montgome | B | 1885 | VIC | Fa: Frederick Will PLANT  |
| PLANT | Herbert Morgan   | B | 1882 | VIC | Fa: John William PLANT    |
| PLANT | Herbt Jas        | B | 1868 | VIC | Fa: George Herbert PLANT  |
| PLANT | Hilda Blanche    | B | 1886 | VIC | Fa: John William PLANT    |
| PLANT | Horace Frederick | D | 1882 | VIC | Fa: Frederick Wm PLANT    |
| PLANT | Horace Frederick | B | 1880 | VIC | Fa: Fredk Wm PLANT        |
| PLANT | James            | C | 1853 | VIC | Fa: Charles PLANT         |
| PLANT | James            | M | 1861 | VIC | Sp: Caroline TOLL         |
| PLANT | James            | B | 1874 | VIC | Fa: Joseph PLANT          |
| PLANT | James            | M | 1876 | VIC | Sp: Caroline SAUNDERS     |
| PLANT | James Herbert    | B | 1878 | VIC | Fa: James PLANT           |
| PLANT | James Phineas    | B | 1861 | VIC | Fa: John PLANT            |
| PLANT | James Phineus    | M | 1888 | VIC | Sp: Mary MCLEOD           |
| PLANT | Janet            | M | 1884 | VIC | Sp: David JOHNSTON        |



|       |                   |   |      |     |                                 |
|-------|-------------------|---|------|-----|---------------------------------|
| PLANT | Jemima            | B | 1869 | VIC | Fa: Walter PLANT                |
| PLANT | Jessie            | D | 1888 | VIC | Fa: Carnegie James              |
| PLANT | John              | D | 1859 | VIC | Fa: Unknown                     |
| PLANT | John              | B | 1879 | VIC | Fa: Thomas PLANT                |
| PLANT | John Holloway     | B | 1878 | VIC | Fa: George PLANT                |
| PLANT | John Lachlan      | B | 1887 | VIC | Fa: Albert PLANT                |
| PLANT | John Thomas       | B | 1888 | VIC | Fa: James PLANT                 |
| PLANT | John William      | M | 1879 | VIC | Sp: Martha Calmer WHITE         |
| PLANT | Joseph            | M | 1860 | VIC | Sp: Elizabeth Ann READ          |
| PLANT | Joseph            | B | 1864 | VIC | Fa: Joseph PLANT                |
| PLANT | Joseph Henry      | B | 1870 | VIC | Fa: Richard PLANT               |
| PLANT | Katherine Sarah   | M | 1870 | VIC | Sp: Robert MELHUIISH            |
| PLANT | Lillian Charlott  | B | 1885 | VIC | Fa: George William PLANT        |
| PLANT | Lily May          | B | 1883 | VIC | Fa: James PLANT                 |
| PLANT | Lydia Jane        | D | 1863 | VIC | Fa: Hanney Samuel               |
| PLANT | Lydia Sarah Ann   | B | 1862 | VIC | Fa: Charles PLANT               |
| PLANT | Lydia Sarah Ann   | D | 1884 | VIC | Fa: Charles PLANT               |
| PLANT | Mabel Rankin      | B | 1888 | VIC | Fa: John William PLANT          |
| PLANT | Margaret          | B | 1866 | VIC | Fa: Charles PLANT               |
| PLANT | Margaret          | M | 1869 | VIC | Sp: Thomas DUNGATE              |
| PLANT | Margaret          | M | 1887 | VIC | Sp: John Christian WESTENDORF   |
| PLANT | Margaret Florence | B | 1886 | VIC | Fa: James PLANT                 |
| PLANT | Maria             | M | 1857 | VIC | Sp: William FIELD               |
| PLANT | Maria             | B | 1858 | VIC | Fa: Walter PLANT                |
| PLANT | Maria             | B | 1864 | VIC | Fa: Thomas PLANT                |
| PLANT | Maria             | B | 1871 | VIC | Fa: Joseph PLANT                |
| PLANT | Maria             | B | 1873 | VIC | Fa: Walt PLANT                  |
| PLANT | Maria             | D | 1873 | VIC | Fa: Walter PLANT                |
| PLANT | Maria             | D | 1879 | VIC | Fa: Joseph PLANT                |
| PLANT | Maria             | M | 1886 | VIC | Sp: William Moncrieff DUNSCOMBE |
| PLANT | Martha Maria      | B | 1860 | VIC | Sp: Eliphalet John FISH         |
| PLANT | Mary              | D | 1862 | VIC | Fa: ? King                      |
| PLANT | Mary              | B | 1863 | VIC | Fa: Charles PLANT               |
| PLANT | Mary              | M | 1879 | VIC | Sp: William SANDERS             |
| PLANT | Mary              | B | 1886 | VIC | Mo: Maria PLANT                 |
| PLANT | Mary Ann          | B | 1856 | VIC | Fa: Walt PLANT                  |
| PLANT | Mary Ann          | B | 1859 | VIC | Fa: John Brough PLANT           |
| PLANT | Mary Ann          | M | 1871 | VIC | Sp: James Samuel SIMMONS        |
| PLANT | Mary Ann          | B | 1872 | VIC | Fa: Thomas PLANT                |
| PLANT | Mary Ann          | M | 1878 | VIC | Sp: William Henry YOUNG         |
| PLANT | Mary Anne         | B | 1856 | VIC | Fa: Walt PLANT                  |
| PLANT | Mary Anne         | M | 1878 | VIC | Sp: Henry TOPPING               |
| PLANT | Mary Charlotte    | D | 1864 | VIC | Fa: William                     |
| PLANT | Mary Elizabeth    | B | 1877 | VIC | Fa: Walter PLANT                |
| PLANT | Mary Elizabeth    | B | 1881 | VIC | Fa: James PLANT                 |
| PLANT | Mary Ella Theresa | M | 1880 | VIC | Sp: Frederick Samuel DOWN       |
| PLANT | Mary Ellen        | B | 1857 | VIC | Fa: John PLANT                  |
| PLANT | Mary Ellen        | B | 1870 | VIC | Mo: Sarah PLANT                 |
| PLANT | Mary Fraser       | B | 1853 | VIC | Fa: John PLANT                  |
| PLANT | Mary Frazer       | D | 1854 | VIC | Fa: John PLANT                  |
| PLANT | Mary Louisa       | B | 1863 | VIC | Fa: James PLANT                 |
| PLANT | Mary Louisa       | D | 1864 | VIC | Fa: James PLANT                 |
| PLANT | Matilda           | M | 1866 | VIC | Sp: John WEATHERSTON            |
| PLANT | Maude Catherine   | B | 1866 | VIC | Fa: George Herbert PLANT        |
| PLANT | Mildred           | D | 1875 | VIC | Fa: Robert PLANT                |
| PLANT | Mildred           | B | 1862 | VIC | Fa: Robert PLANT                |
| PLANT | Minnie            | B | 1886 | VIC | Mo: Emily PLANT                 |
| PLANT | Minnie            | D | 1887 | VIC | Fa: U                           |
| PLANT | Miriam Amelia     | B | 1870 | VIC | Fa: Robert PLANT                |
| PLANT | Olive Jane        | B | 1872 | VIC | Fa: Richards PLANT              |

|       |                   |   |      |     |                                |
|-------|-------------------|---|------|-----|--------------------------------|
| PLANT | Olive             | M | 1866 | VIC | Sp: Lauanders John CHALLIS     |
| PLANT | Oliver            | B | 1877 | VIC | Fa: Joseph PLANT               |
| PLANT | Richard           | D | 1858 | VIC | Fa: U                          |
| PLANT | Richard           | M | 1863 | VIC | Sp: Salome Elizabeth WILTSHIRE |
| PLANT | Richard           | D | 1869 | VIC | Fa: Richard PLANT              |
| PLANT | Richard           | B | 1876 | VIC | Fa: Joseph PLANT               |
| PLANT | Richard           | B | 1877 | VIC | Fa: Thomas PLANT               |
| PLANT | Richard           | D | 1878 | VIC | Fa: James PLANT                |
| PLANT | Richard George    | B | 1867 | VIC | Fa: Richard PLANT              |
| PLANT | Richard Hales     | D | 1869 | VIC | Fa: Richard PLANT              |
| PLANT | Richd Hales       | B | 1868 | VIC | Fa: Richard PLANT              |
| PLANT | Robert            | M | 1860 | VIC | Sp: Mildred SPICE              |
| PLANT | Robert            | D | 1861 | VIC | Fa: Robert PLANT               |
| PLANT | Robert            | B | 1861 | VIC | Fa: Robert PLANT               |
| PLANT | Robert            | B | 1861 | VIC | Fa: Robert PLANT               |
| PLANT | Robert            | B | 1865 | VIC | Fa: Joseph PLANT               |
| PLANT | Rolar Thomas      | B | 1877 | VIC | Fa: Robert PLANT               |
| PLANT | Salome Ann        | M | 1887 | VIC | Sp: Henry TRIGG                |
| PLANT | Salome Anne       | B | 1865 | VIC | Fa: Richard PLANT              |
| PLANT | Saml Robt         | B | 1868 | VIC | Fa: Robert PLANT               |
| PLANT | Samuel John       | M | 1874 | VIC | Sp: Emily DOWN                 |
| PLANT | Samuel John       | B | 1875 | VIC | Fa: Samuel PLANT               |
| PLANT | Samuel Robert     | B | 1867 | VIC | Fa: Robert PLANT               |
| PLANT | Samuel Robert     | D | 1868 | VIC | Fa: Robert PLANT               |
| PLANT | Sarah             | M | 1856 | VIC | Sp: Charles CHRISTIAN          |
| PLANT | Sarah             | B | 1867 | VIC | Fa: Thomas PLANT               |
| PLANT | Sarah             | M | 1869 | VIC | Sp: Frederick Abraham CLARK    |
| PLANT | Sarah Ann         | B | 1887 | VIC | Fa: William Wiltsh PLANT       |
| PLANT | Sarah Elizabeth   | B | 1864 | VIC | Fa: George Herbert PLANT       |
| PLANT | Sidney John       | B | 1884 | VIC | Fa: John William PLANT         |
| PLANT | Sophia            | M | 1855 | VIC | Sp: Henry WICKER               |
| PLANT | Theodocio         | B | 1865 | VIC | Fa: William PLANT              |
| PLANT | Theodosia         | M | 1886 | VIC | Sp: William Henry STONES       |
| PLANT | Thomas            | M | 1869 | VIC | Sp: Ellen MORRISSY             |
| PLANT | Thomas            | B | 1872 | VIC | Fa: Joseph PLANT               |
| PLANT | Thomas            | B | 1875 | VIC | Fa: Thomas PLANT               |
| PLANT | Thomas            | D | 1878 | VIC | Fa: John PLANT                 |
| PLANT | Thomas Heardly    | B | 1872 | VIC | Fa: George Herbert PLANT       |
| PLANT | Thos              | D | 1883 | VIC | Fa: Unknown                    |
| PLANT | Thos              | D | 1883 | VIC | Fa: Wm PLANT                   |
| PLANT | Timothy George    | B | 1866 | VIC | Fa: John PLANT                 |
| PLANT | Unnamed F         | B | 1864 | VIC | Fa: William PLANT              |
| PLANT | Unnamed F         | B | 1879 | VIC | Fa: John William PLANT         |
| PLANT | Unnamed F         | B | 1879 | VIC | Fa: Robert PLANT               |
| PLANT | Walt Earnest      | B | 1873 | VIC | Fa: James PLANT                |
| PLANT | William           | D | 1860 | VIC | Fa: Charles PLANT              |
| PLANT | William           | B | 1863 | VIC | Fa: Thomas PLANT               |
| PLANT | William           | D | 1867 | VIC | Fa: William PLANT              |
| PLANT | William           | B | 1879 | VIC | Fa: Samuel PLANT               |
| PLANT | William           | M | 1885 | VIC | Sp: Letecia WICKHAM            |
| PLANT | William Henry     | B | 1862 | VIC | Fa: Joseph PLANT               |
| PLANT | William Henry     | B | 1884 | VIC | Fa: James PLANT                |
| PLANT | William James     | B | 1864 | VIC | Fa: James PLANT                |
| PLANT | William James     | B | 1883 | VIC | Fa: George William PLANT       |
| PLANT | William Thomas    | B | 1870 | VIC | Fa: Thomas PLANT               |
| PLANT | William Thomas    | D | 1871 | VIC | Fa: Thomas PLANT               |
| PLANT | William Wiltshir  | B | 1864 | VIC | Fa: Richard PLANT              |
| PLANT | William Wiltshire | M | 1886 | VIC | Sp: Sarah Ann TRIGG            |
| PLANT | Wm Jas            | D | 1884 | VIC | Fa: Wm PLANT                   |

## PALMERS INDEX TO THE TIMES

The following information has been provided by ex-member Brad Scott, No. 171.

Palmers Index to the Times was compiled in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and constitutes 450 volumes including many items of interest to Family Historians.

The extract below covers the period 5 February 1856 to 16 February 1860.

### **Civil Actions: Plant v. Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton Railway**

*The Times 5 Feb 1856, 9c*

#### **Court of Queen's Bench, Westminster, 4 February**

*(Sittings at Nisi Prius, before Lord Campbell and a Special Jury)*

Plant v. The Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton Railway Company.

Mr Edwin James, Q.C., and Mr Phipson appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr M Chambers, Q.C., and Mr Holloway for the defendants.

The plaintiff in this action, Reuben Plant, was a coal-master residing at Brierly-hill, in Staffordshire, and he sued the Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton Railway Company to recover damages for an injury sustained by the plaintiff by reason of the negligence of the Company, which led to a collision on their line on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October last. The defendants pleaded the general issue, but the only question now made was as to the amount of compensation to which the plaintiff was entitled. It appeared that on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October the plaintiff was a first-class passenger by the company's line from Brierly-hill to Birmingham. When the train arrived at Dudley, the carriage in which the plaintiff was, was shunted on to a siding, for the purpose of being attached to the Birmingham train. This was done too rapidly and, in consequence, the carriage came in collision with a coal truck on the siding. The plaintiff was thrown violently forward against another passenger. He was, for a time, stunned by the blow, his left eye being struck with great violence against the head of his neighbour. The consequence was a chronic inflammation of the left eye, impaired sight, and inability to attend to business as he formerly had done with a probability that he might feel the consequence of the blow on his eye to the end of his life. No offer of compensation had been made by the company.

Lord Campbell, in summing up the evidence, said he regretted the company had not made the plaintiff any offer of compensation for the injury he had received. Had they done so this action might not have been necessary. In some cases, his Lordship observed, he thought he had seen a desire manifested to make a profit of an accident of this kind, but that was not the case in this instance. The plaintiff, however, appeared to have suffered serious injury, and the jury must say what was the fair amount of damages he was entitled to recover.

The jury retired, and ultimately found their verdict for the plaintiff, with 500/. Damages.

### **Civil Actions: Stern v. Plant & another**

*The Times 21 Apr 1857, 11c*

#### **[Court of Queen's Bench]**

*(Sittings at Nisi Prius, at Westminster, before Mr Justice Williams and Common Juries)*

This was the first day of the first sittings in Easter Term, and was almost entirely taken up with the trial of:

Stern v. Plant and Another

Mr Edward James, Q.C., and Mr Hawkins were counsel for the plaintiff, and Mr Malcolm appeared for the defendant Plant.

This was an action brought by the plaintiff, a water-proofer, carrying on business at 21, Little Alie-street, Goodman's fields, to recover damages from Mr Plant, his landlord, and Mr Hanson, a broker, under the following circumstances:

The plaintiff was the tenant to the defendant Plant of the house above-mentioned at a rent of 35/. A-year, such rent being payable quarterly in advance. In April last a fire took place there, and while the repairs rendered necessary by such an event were going on Mr Stern removed his furniture and stock in trade, but in July replaced a great portion of them. In the early part of the latter month, he went over o Hamburg to dispose of some coats, having previously promised Mr Plant that he would pay the rent then due in advance (8/. 15s) on his return. When, however, he came back to England he found that everything he had left in the house had been cleared off by the defendant Hanson, acting upon a distress warrant from the defendant Plant. None of the property had been returned to the plaintiff, and a Mr Goldberg, who had been left in charge of the house, said that he had seen one of the defendants wearing Mr Stern's slippers. In the course of the speech of the learned counsel for the defence, Mr Justice Williams said that there could be no valid answer to the plaintiff's case if his witnesses were to be believed, and that it was a mere question of damages.

A long conference then ensued between counsel on each side and their clients, at the termination of which, Mr Malcolm said that Mr Plant insisted upon the cause going on.

He was therefore sworn, and, after hearing his evidence and the summing up of the learned judge, the jury found a verdict for the plaintiff, -- damages, 100/.; and, in answer to a question put by Mr Justice Williams, said that they were of opinion that Plant authorised Hanson's proceedings.

#### **Civil Actions: Plant & others v. Cotterill & others**

*The Times* 16 Feb 1860, 11d

#### **Court of Exchequer, Feb 15.**

*(Sittings in Banco, at Westmister, after Term, before the Lord Chief Baron, Mar. Baron Bramwell and Mr Baron Channell)*

Plant and others v. Cotterill and others.

This case was commenced yesterday, but the arguments not being concluded when the Court rose, we reserved our report of it. The question involved in one of very considerable public importance. It was an action of *detenue* to recover the title deeds of an estate, tried before Mr Baron Bramwell in London when a verdict was found for the plaintiffs.

Mr Lush, Q.C., moved for and obtained a rule to set aside the verdict and enter a nonsuit, or verdict for the defendants, on the ground-first, that the title of the plaintiffs had no relation back so as to vest the property in the deeds in them, secondly, that the action was barred by a Statute of Limitations.

In the year 1823 a person named Brown became bankrupt, making an assignment of his personal estate and effects to John Brown, who died in 1840. In 1844 the bankrupt inherited an estate, in 1845 he conveyed it to trustees by way of settlement for his family, and in 1853 he died, never having obtained his certificate. In 1848 (there being no assignees since the death of John Brown) the plaintiffs were appointed assignees under the bankruptcy.

Mr Montague Smith, Q.C., and Mr Gray now showed cause against the rule, Mr Collier, Q.C., Mr Kingdon, and Mr Cole severally appeared for the defendants.

Against the rule it was contended that the estate vested in the plaintiff's under the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Victoria, cap. 106, sec. 142. The old law required a conveyance, and a subsequent statute introduced the vesting order; but the statute relied upon repealed the former Acts, and vested the property in the assignees without any deed of conveyance, fiat, or vesting order. The appointment of a new assignee

under the clause above cited operated in the same way as a conveyance would have done under the old law. The statute relied upon took effect retrospectively, because, although the appointment of the plaintiffs had been made after the death of a former assignee, still all the writings and papers concerning the property inherited by the bankrupt vested in them as such assignees. The title became absolutely vested in them when their appointment took place. There was no necessity for the original assignee to have been living when the present Act came into operation. Bankruptcies originating by commission were clearly brought within the scope of the present statute. There could no longer be the bargain and sale that there could once have been. The detention being from day to day, the Statute of Limitations did not apply. It was not like trover in which a particular conversion was complained of more than six years previously.

Mr Kingdon, for the defendant Cotterill, contended that the estate vested in the heir-at-law. The bankrupt conveyed the estate away in 1845, and if that conveyance was void the heir-at-law was entitled to the estate. At the time of the bankruptcy, the 5<sup>th</sup> George II, cap. 30, was the Act in force appointing assignees; there was no provision in that or the subsequent statute, 7<sup>th</sup> George IV, cap. 16, for the death of a bankrupt or an assignee, but only for the removal of the latter. By the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>d</sup> William IV., cap. 56, sec. 25 and 26, the assignee would take all such personal estate as was vested in the previous assignee. The cases in 8 Ad. and E., 470, and 2 Cr. and M., apply only to personal estate.

Mr Cole, for the defendant Styche, urged that the bargain and sale of 1823 passed only what the bankrupt was then entitled to, and there never had been any subsequent bargain and sale. The 6<sup>th</sup> George IV., cap. 16, sec. 1, repealed all previous Acts, but sec. 135 of that Act preserved previous commissions, adjudications, &c. The provisions of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>d</sup> William IV., cap. 56, did not apply to appointment of assignees made previous to 6<sup>th</sup> George IV., cap. 16. The 5<sup>th</sup> George II., cap. 30, passed no property whatever. The present appointment was under that statute, and there was a bargain and sale of the bankrupt's then property and not any future estate. There never had been any subsequent bargain and sale. The assignees would take under the bargain and sale, and not under the appointment, which passed nothing. Statutes are not generally retrospective, except where the language is very express.

Mr Collier, Q.C., who had been detailed at the sittings in London, now followed Mr Cole. Before the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>d</sup> William, cap. 56, what had not been assigned to the assignees became the bankrupt's both in law and equity. The words of sections 25 and 26 are materially different. "Hath been" and "shall have been" are the words employed. Section 26, "shall have been," is not retrospective. Grammatically these words apply only to the future. The learned counsel continued a long argument upon the sections, citing a great many cases. There was no assignee when the bankrupt acquired the property, nor when he parted with it. The bankrupt acted rightfully. There was nothing to prevent him conveying. The title of assignees did not relate back, and a serious inconvenience might arise if it were otherwise.

The Lord Chief Baron, in the course of giving judgment, said, if the plea of the Statute of Limitations could prevail in the present case, a man returning from abroad who was supposed to be dead might recover his estate within 20 years afterwards, but not his title deeds after six years had expired. The case in 3 Adol. and Ellis proves that, with respect to an ordinary chattel, mere possessions for six years is not sufficient; it must have been an adverse possession for more than six years. A title deed is a very different thing. It belongs to the estate, and should go with it. As long as a person is in possession of the estate he holds it for the owner, and not adverse to him. The defendants held the deeds as supposed owners, but really taking care of them for the real owner until they refused to deliver them up on demand. It resolves itself into the question of whether the assignees were the owners of the estate. After going carefully through the old Bankruptcy Acts, his Lordship went on to say if any commissions are now in existence the machinery of the present Act is to be used for the purpose of doing anything which may remain unfinished under any former Act. The assignees are entitled to the real property, and consequently to the deeds, then the rule would be discharged.

Baron Chennell said he was also of the opinion that the rule should be discharged. There was nothing in the objection founded on the Statute of Limitations. It was clear the bankrupt had no beneficial estate. The section relied upon had a retrospective operation, and must be read in conjunction with the 267<sup>th</sup> section—the interpretation clause. His Lordship went through all the Acts and authorities that were cited in the course of the arguments, making comments upon them.

Baron Bramwell said that, although he was prevented from hearing the whole of the arguments, he had tried the cause, and concurred in the judgment already give. As to the Statute of Limitations, that point would not have been reserved if it had stood alone. All proceedings in bankruptcy under old commissions, fiats, &c., were continued under the present Act. The rights of creditors were not to be affected by the Act, and yet, if the defendant's arguments were correct, they would be seriously affected. Section 4 of the Act could not be carried into effect without construing the 146<sup>th</sup> section retrospectively. The Act provided that in future, when any person shal have been adjudged a bankrupt, whether before or after this Act, all his property, present and future, shall go to his assignees; therefore, the plaintiffs were entitled to the land, and, consequently, to the deeds.—Rule discharged.

## The coming of age of DNA testing, and the Plant project

- by Dr John S Plant (member no. 52) November 2005

DNA testing has been progressing in academic Departments since the 1980s, and significant advances have been made in the understanding of the early origins of the human species some hundreds of thousands of years ago (Table 1). Similar techniques have since been applied to genealogical DNA testing, involving human descent over just a few hundreds of years, but it is only since 2000 that the first genealogical testing companies have begun to operate. The first testing companies for genealogy were Oxford Ancestors and then Family Tree DNA (FT-DNA). However, Oxford Ancestors has not progressed from low-resolution Y-DNA testing despite the fact that it has emerged that higher resolution testing is often desirable. Of those that are now providing services that are of serious interest to genealogists, FT-DNA is the market leader, in competition with Relative Genetics (since August 2001) and DNA Heritage (since October 2003).

We began our Plant surname project in late 2001 with Oxford Ancestors. However, it emerged that higher-resolution testing was often appropriate for the Plants, as the most common (modal) DNA signature for the Plants at low resolution is shared by many others. We hence changed to using FT-DNA in 2002. Though the leading competitors of FT-DNA sometimes offer slightly cheaper prices, there seems little reason, on balance, why we should not remain with FT-DNA for the moment.

To begin with, much effort was required to justify Y-DNA testing in the face of the detractors of this science. The detractors have nowhere been more persistent than on Plantagenet genealogy lists on the internet. These lists are typically peopled by those dedicated to the sanctity of traditional genealogical methods for “proving” aristocratic lines of descent: that tradition can not be dismissed lightly since it has long been relevant to the composition of the House of Lords – that is, to the upper governing chamber of Britain. Many, claiming lesser lines of descent from the early nobility, have not always been progressive in the ways they defend their preferred ways of thinking. Most of those on Plantagenet lists have been mainly interested in mixed male-and-female lines of descent from the nobility rather than the purely-male lines that can be Y-DNA tested.

Even on the Plantagenet genealogy lists however, it is now being accepted that Y-DNA testing is an increasingly established technique for one-name surname studies. The task of answering detractors, without blinding them with science, is now being made easier, since they can be referred to an introductory outline of Y-DNA testing by the non-scientist Chris Pomery (2004) in his book called *DNA and Family History: how genetic testing can advance your genealogical research*. This book is easy to read, leaving less excuse for those who might choose to misunderstand that DNA testing has the power to change genealogical beliefs; it relies on “rules of thumb” rather than explaining the full details of the associated science and statistics. Another book is co-authored by Ann Turner, who is the administrator of the Rootsweb Genealogy-DNA discussion list<sup>1</sup> on the internet; her book<sup>2</sup> gives some more detail of other types of DNA testing, such as mt-DNA testing of female lines, as well as giving an account of Y-DNA testing which is the main area of interest for Family Historians.

### Plant as a single-family name

It has long been supposed that some surnames descend from a single ancestor who adopted that name. Other surnames, however, descend from several different men who separately decided to adopt the same surname, such as Smith, in this case to reflect their occupation. These two possible types of surname origin are generally called: (a) single-ancestor or modal; and, (b) multiple-ancestor or multi-origin.

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<sup>1</sup><http://lists.rootsweb.com/index/other/DNA/GENEALOGY-DNA.html>

<sup>2</sup>Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak and Ann Turner (2004) *Trace your roots with DNA: using genetic tests to explore your Family Tree*.

Genetic and other evidence indicates that modern humans have descended, as well as down mixed male and female lines, from a man down purely male lines and from a woman down purely female lines, who were both amongst several thousand living in Africa about 190,000 years ago. It seems that, from Africa, there was a failed migration to the Near East in an interglacial hot and wet period 120,000 years ago. A leading theory is that this was followed by a more successful migration 80,000 years ago, which moved into south east Asia and then reached Europe about 50,000 years ago.

This Out of Africa thesis for the origins of modern humans is based on such findings as there is typically more genetic diversity in an African village than there is across Europe: this indicates that genetic mutations have been progressing in Africa for a much longer time than in Europe. Similar evidence relating to early human migrations indicates that humans first reached Australia 70,000 years ago, the Bering Sea 25,000 years ago, North America around 17,000 years ago, and South America 12,500 years ago. Following the first incursion into Europe, through Iraq and Turkey along the Fertile Crescent about 50,000-40,000 years ago, a second incursion from central Asia appears to have arrived along the Silk Road to the north of the Black Sea around 30,000-20,000 years ago.

Recent genetic findings have clarified many issues. For example, the Out of Africa thesis is now widely accepted. Also, there is no evidence in modern human populations of any genetic mixing with Neanderthals; European Neanderthals and our immediate ancestors, *Homo erectus* in south east Asia, had all died out no later than 30,000 years ago. Some controversy remains, however, such as about exactly how humans colonised Europe: not everyone agrees that it was westwards from Asia around 50,000 years ago. Some claim that the route into Europe could have been up the Nile to Egypt 120,000-90,000 years ago, and then onwards along the Mediterranean coasts about 45,000-20,000 years ago. Also, some people claim that the Americas was only colonised after the last Ice Age and not before, and orthodox theory has been that Australia was colonised much more recently than 70,000 years ago.

The ancestral male line of most Plants was amongst those which repopulated Europe from Spain around 15,000 years ago following the last Ice Age. Most Plants belong to the male-line R clade, which is believed to have recolonised Europe from the Basque country, between France and Spain, and this is now the most common clade worldwide. Its ancestor, the P clade, is confined to Central Asia, India and America as well as being common in the British Isles and Basque regions. The fact that the P clade is found on extreme edges of Europe suggests that it represents an earlier arriving population, before the re-population of Europe by its descendant R clade. In Britain, the R clade (Celtic regions) is found mostly down its western side, with Scandinavian clades (Anglo-Saxon and Viking regions) found more to Britain's east.

Table 1: The Out of Africa thesis for our ancestry

The extents to which different categories of surname have multiple-ancestor origins, or not, can be expected to become clearer as more Y-DNA testing studies progress. Chris Pomery (2004)<sup>3</sup> considers briefly five simple surname categories: topographical, occupational, patronymic [*i.e.* most surnames derived from personal names], locative, and nickname. He comments on the uncertainties that prevail so far:

Topographical, occupational and patronymic surnames generally seem highly likely to have multiple origins while some locative surnames and those derived from nicknames could well have them too. Only rare nicknames and rare patronymic-based surnames look certain to have stemmed from a single ancestor, while some rare locative surnames might also have done so.

A celebrated early Y-DNA study was for the surname Sykes: Sykes was thought to be a topographical name, from Yorkshire dialect for a stream, spring or boundary ditch, but it was found to be essentially a single-ancestor family surname. Many are now reclassifying Sykes as more of a 'locative' name (*i.e.* from a single ancestor at a single place) rather than as a topographical one (from a common landscape feature). Pomery accordingly adds:

However, if half of all surnames have a strong location-specific element it's possible they will turn out to be locative by nature and to have a single-ancestor origin.

<sup>3</sup>Chris Pomery (2004) *DNA and Family History*, p 46.



Like Sykes, Plant has been found to be a single-ancestor surname, despite the fact that it was previously held to be multi-origin. A different reclassification from that for Sykes is needed for Plant, however. The initial Y-DNA results indicate that it is appropriate to recategorise Plant such that, instead of being a multi-origin occupational name (meaning ‘gardener’), it becomes a single-ancestor, implicit patronymic type of surname, with the meaning ‘offspring’. Calling it, like Sykes, a ‘locative’ name (from a single ancestor at a single place) would not seem satisfactory, since its early distribution seems too widespread. Calling it a ‘patronymic’ surname, from a single ancestor with offspring associated with quite widespread lands, looks to be more appropriate.

### **Criteria for deciding whether Plant is a single-ancestor surname**

The initial Y-DNA finding that Plant appears to be essentially a single-ancestor name is rather surprising, and this has revolutionised how best we may categorise the name. Recategorising it, in turn, provides us with a strong basis for narrowing down the name’s likely meaning<sup>4</sup>. In view of the importance of this for the Plant surname, it seems appropriate to discuss our tentative conclusion of single-ancestor origins in a little more detail.

Pomery (2004)<sup>5</sup> states:

One goal of a surname study is to understand, as early in the study as possible, whether the modern bearers of a surname do link back to a single ancestor or whether many men adopted the surname over the years. A strong concentration of results around a single haplotype – a strongly modal pattern – argues for a single ancestor, whereas a diverse set of results where no single haplotype appears to be dominant suggests a multiple-ancestor origin.

While the boundary between these two patterns, modal and multiple, is undefined, in practice most sets of results can be categorized as one or the other. The key to resolving the question is to make sure that you test enough participants, using medium- or high- resolution tests, so that you are able to make a secure judgement, taking into account the frequency of the surname in the general population.

As a personal rule of thumb, in a surname group with, say, 50 men randomly tested, if more than 50% have the same haplotype or a similar one it would be reasonable to believe that the surname stemmed from a single ancestor. Similarly, if the most popular haplotype was found in only 10 men, which is just 20% of the total, one would take up the hypothesis that the surname probably had multiple ancestors, especially so if there were several haplotypes all equally common. Note that this rule of thumb applies only to men randomly selected; biasing the sample by, for example, testing several men from the same family tree or geographical region might produce a different result entirely.

We may compare these remarks with the findings for the Plant project. Our initial findings with low-resolution [10 marker] tests, found that 6 out of 7 matched; these 7 were randomly selected and were thought to belong to 6 different family trees; in other words, 5 out of 6 family trees matched. This is clearly a much higher proportion than Pomery’s criterion that at least 50% should match for a single-ancestor name though far fewer than his suggested 50 had been tested. It should also be added that the Plant modal haplotype is not a rare one and these first tests were carried out at only low resolution.

These first tests were carried out using the Oxford Ancestors testing company, who still offer only low-resolution tests, but we have since transferred our business to FT-DNA who offer medium- [25 marker] and high- [37 marker] resolution tests.

We now have that 11 out of 16 Plant volunteers match, from 14 or 15<sup>6</sup> different family trees. This is well above Pomery’s criterion of 50%. However, 16 is still not a very large number of participants;

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<sup>4</sup>John S. Plant (2005) *Nomina*, 28, pp. 115-33.

<sup>5</sup>loc. cit., pps 80-81.

<sup>6</sup>There is some uncertainty whether the volunteers P1a and P1b really do belong to the same family tree.

and, indeed, only 4 of the 11 that match have been tested at medium- or high- resolution.

We may still adhere to the hypothesis that Plant is a modal, or single ancestor, name. Those Plants that do not match the Plant Modal Haplotype (PMH) have not, as yet, been found to descend from any other particular ancestor, and they can be fully explained by an expectation that about 50% of the population will have descended through a false-paternity event (*e.g.* a generation at which the mother's surname was adopted rather than the father's). On the other hand, to try to firm up on our single-ancestor finding, which is important to interpreting the Plant name's origins and meaning, we need more Plant volunteers; and also, ideally, any match that is found to the PMH should be checked out at medium- or high- resolution.

### **Further objectives of the Plant surname project**

As indicated above, an objective for the Plant surname project would be to get up the number of Plants tested to around 50, with ideally many of them tested to the level of at least medium-resolution, so that we can see whether this further testing increases, or decreases, the certainty of our Plant single-ancestor hypothesis: this hypothesis represents a significant finding, fully deserving of further appraisal, not least because of the fact that the Plant name was widely spread from early times despite the single-ancestor finding. The DNA evidence for single-ancestor origins reinforces the theory that the first Plants in England were quite mobile in early times around scattered de Warenne lands. So far, we have tested 16 Plants (not counting 3 French-Canadian Plantés, who belong to a separate family), and we still need about twice as many again to reach Pomery's suggested number of 50.

The importance of the single-ancestor finding for Plant deserves ongoing attention. We may quote David Hey (2000)<sup>7</sup> when he discusses, for example, the early distribution of the Goldthorpes: he notes that this distribution suggests it has a single-ancestor origin in south Yorkshire, but he adds that '*in view of the large number of [telephone] subscribers [664] it is not conclusive*'. In other words, he suggests that around 650 telephone subscribers is a lot for a single-ancestor name, so how remarkable is it that the single-ancestor name Plant has 3,756 telephone subscribers throughout the UK<sup>8</sup>? It may well be that, as more people DNA test further surnames, this single-ancestor finding for a relatively common name, such as Plant, will turn out not to be so unusual. Professor Bryan Sykes, who originated a single-ancestor thesis for the Sykes surname, firmly promotes the modal model of Y-chromosome distribution within English surnames<sup>9</sup>. Writing in 2003, he remarked '*Had I been incredibly lucky with the surname Sykes? I don't think so. Over the past two years I have replicated this study with dozens of names. Not all of them show as tight an association between surnames and Y-Chromosomes as Sykes, but most do...*'. Thus, Bryan Sykes believes that many surnames, even quite common ones, may turn out to have single-ancestor origins. He has found for example that this is the case for Sykes, which is not an uncommon name – there are 19,036 Sykes in the NHS database for England and Wales compared to 12,034 Plants.

It should not be assumed that there is any fixed number for the male-line descendants of a man. Clearly some men may have had no male-line descendants, even after just one or a few generations, whereas the male-line descendants of others may have eventually come to account for a notable fraction of the total male population.

Of the 16 Plants so far tested, 11 are living in England, 4 in the USA, and 1 in Canada. According to Pomery<sup>10</sup>, the stated frequency values in 1990 US Census data tables<sup>11</sup> should be multiplied by 245 million<sup>12</sup> to give the number of those in the US with a given surname. This gives about

<sup>7</sup>David Hey (2000) *Family Names and Family History*, p 21.

<sup>8</sup>W.K.Plant (1990) *Roots and Branches*, Issue No. 1, pps 4-6.

<sup>9</sup>Chris Pomery (2004) *loc. cit.*, p 81.

<sup>10</sup>*loc. cit.*, p 138.

<sup>11</sup><http://www.census.gov/genealogy/names>

<sup>12</sup>In fact, this could be taken to mean that there are over 245 million people called Smith in the USA, since Smith is listed with a frequency of 1.006, but this is in fact a percentage and the value needs dividing by 100.

4,900 Plants in the USA, where Plant is ranked as 5729th most common surname. There are over twice as many Plants still living in England and Wales, where they account for about 0.022% of the population instead of 0.002% in the USA. Of the approximately 17,000 Plants in England, Wales, and the USA, we can estimate that there are about 6,000 adult males, of which we have so far tested about 0.25%.

The British ONS (Office of National Statistics) database<sup>13</sup> lists surnames in use in England, Wales and the Isle of Man (about 55 million people). It ranks Plant as the 617th most common surname here out of over a million, though only about 270,000 of these surnames are shared by 5 or more people. The corrected estimate for the number of Plants alive in England and Wales in September 2002 is 11,192. This is based on NHS data: a different analysis based on UK telephone directories<sup>14</sup> gives a compatible estimate of 15,211 Plants in the whole of the UK. These two estimates give about 3,917 adult males in England and Wales or 5,324 in the UK.

So far, in the Plant DNA project, we have identified those Plants which do, or do not, match the PMH (Plant Modal Haplotype) of the main English Plant family. As a further objective, we may seek to group together small differences in the signatures of these Plants (who closely, but not exactly, match the PMH): we can aim to use Y-DNA testing to sort them into specific family branches of the main Plant family. Also, we may hope to find some family groupings for the 'non-paternity' Plants (*i.e.* those who do not match with the main Plant family); if their 'non-paternity' event took place many generations ago, there may be several of them who have descended since and these will form a separate little set of matching Plants.

For a fuller surname study, Pomery (2004)<sup>15</sup> makes the comment:

By testing around 5-10% of adult males in Britain with a particular surname, a pattern can be established into which most future participants can be expected to fit.

This requires a still larger number of Plants to be tested at random. Before we meet Pomery's target of 5-10%, for establishing a reasonably full pattern of genetic male-line relationships between most Plants, we need to test around two to five hundred British Plant males.

### **Recruiting more volunteers to meet the objectives**

It is to be hoped that, as more people become familiar with Y-DNA testing, and see that fears about it are groundless, more Plants will come forward for testing. We can set ourselves a first target of getting the number up from 16 to 50, to establish more firmly the Plant single-family hypothesis, and then to 300 to obtain a reasonably full pattern of the relationships between different Plant family branches. Throughout the project, I have tried to make the Plant study known through internet message boards: some surname projects adopt a more proactive approach still, and I should be grateful if any members of the Group could help further with recruiting Plant volunteers.

You may be a female who is interested in a Plant line of descent. If you are familiar with genealogy, you will already be accustomed to the idea that you often need to look for collateral relatives (brothers, cousins, etc.) in order to make progress with tracing back your family lines. The genetically important X-chromosomes of females contain information from an assorted mixture of ancestors, but this offers no help with genealogical studies: only men have a Y-chromosome, which has relatively few genes that simply determine maleness; however, the Y-chromosome also has 'junk' (or 'non-coding') DNA that can be used for Y-DNA testing. You will need to find a Plant man, with the same line of descent as the one in which you are interested, to take the Y-DNA test. The test is on a few bits of the 'non-coding' DNA between the genes on the Y-chromosome, and so he need have no fears that the test will reveal anything about his physiology or maleness.

There is no need for concerns about health insurance premiums being affected, or privacy about racial origins, for example, being breached. Just a few bits of information are tested for some 'junk'

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<sup>13</sup><http://www.taliesin-arlein.net/names/>

<sup>14</sup>W.K.Plant (1990) *ibid.*

<sup>15</sup>*loc. cit.*, p 65.

DNA on the Y-chromosome: this junk is of no interest, except for studying male lines of descent.

We are beginning to approach a 'critical mass' of people who know about what a Y-DNA test can, and can not, do. Very soon, we can expect to see it taken for granted that a Y-DNA test is a standard part of any genealogical investigation. As this happens, we can expect the number of people taking the test to grow. Some people point to the cost of taking the test as an objection, but one can easily run up expenses equally great, if not greater, buying books, buying certificates, buying access to the internet, even if you do not count the cost of time wasted pursuing false lines of enquiry that could perhaps have been avoided if the test had been taken sooner. Once obtained, the test results are with you for ever. Some people claim that we only have a narrow window of opportunity between Y-DNA testing becoming available and the male-line reliability of surnames breaking down: this is happening increasingly in England with the descent of surnames down the male line increasingly breaking down as the decades pass.

Anyone who has access to the internet can fill in an on-line order form for a Y-DNA testing kit. Alternatively, I can fill in an order form for you. The person whose address is entered will then receive a testing kit with very simple instructions (painlessly to take a swab from inside the mouth) along with an invoice for payment.

Chris Pomery believes that the number of markers that can be tested will not increase significantly, as about 40 is as many as will be useful. On the on-line form, you select the number of markers you wish to have tested: the cost is 99 US dollars for a 12 marker Y-DNA test; one can upgrade to a higher resolution test later, if needed, or request from the outset a 25 marker test for \$169 or a 37 marker test for \$229. All payment goes direct to the testing laboratory: I take no payment myself, though I am available to help with interpreting the results.

I should appreciate information about the earliest male-line Plant ancestor of the man being tested. To provide me with that information, you will need to contact me personally. Otherwise, if you wish to register your order with the testing laboratory yourself, you simply need to use the on-line order form at..

[http://www.familytreedna.com/surname\\_join.asp?code=W51509&special=true](http://www.familytreedna.com/surname_join.asp?code=W51509&special=true)

Please feel free to contact me about any further advice for progressing the Plant DNA project.

### **The coming impact of DNA testing on myths about Plant-like names**

Much of the myth surrounding the origins of the Plant surname relates to a possibility that various different Plant-like names may have descended from a single family. There is evidence that a theme of naming did *sometimes* run in families in times well before the formation of modern surnames.

In the Domesday Book (1086) there is clear evidence of the persistence of the ancient system of indicating a family relationship by variation and repetition: *Beorhtwine* was the son of *Beorhtmund* and brother of *Beorhtmod*; *Wulfweard* was succeeded by his son *Eadweard*.

Further Y-DNA testing of Plant-like names may reveal whether others with Plant as a component of their name belonged to the same male-line family as the English Plants. It would be interesting, for example, to compare a Y-DNA signature secured for the Plantagenets with the one that has already been established for the Plants. If they were found to share the same Y-chromosome they could be taken to belong to the same male-line family. One way would be to test old skeletal remains of the Plantagenets; but this has its difficulties. It is easier to test living descendants. The possibility of testing a living 'Plantagenet' is elucidated by the following remarks, which can be found on the web<sup>16</sup>:

If you mean are there any male Plantagenets surviving, the answer is yes; there is certainly one, are very possibly two, and just possibly three lines left, but none of them use the surname Plantagenet and they are all descended from the Plantagenets through illegitimate lines.

(1) - The present dukes of Beaufort, today headed by the 11th duke, descend in the male line from a natural son of the last Beaufort duke of Somerset. The bastard, who used the surname

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<sup>16</sup><http://medievalbritain.cis.to/pipermail/lmb/1999-August/030120.html>

Somerset, was created earl of Worcester; a later descendant became marquess of Worcester (the courtesy title still borne by the sitting duke's eldest son and heir); and a later marquess of Worcester was created first duke of Beaufort.

(2) - Richard, earl of Cornwall and king of the Germans (1209-72), younger son of King John, left a number of illegitimate sons, from one of whom there descended a family using the surname de Cornewalle that flourished into the present century and may still exist. John Cornewalle, lord Fanhope, the second husband of John of Gaunt's daughter Elizabeth, was a member of this line. Sir Antony Wagner's *English Genealogy*, 2nd edn (1972) states that an heir male of this family was born in 1910, and Wagner never found any evidence that the family had become extinct before he published his book (he was, by the way, Garter king at arms at the College of Arms, and a highly respected genealogist).

(3) - The de Warenne lines ... *etc.* ... Wagner's *England Genealogy*, however, suggests that cadet lines may still exist, as several such lines were certainly founded over the centuries, but I don't know if anybody has ever succeeded in following one of them in the male line to the present day.

John Parsons

### **Are the Cornwells Plantagenet descendants?**

We may start by considering the above assertion numbered '(2)' which is for the Cornwall or Cornwell surname. Though the surname Cornwell is said simply to mean 'from Cornwall', it is relevant to consider that name as being possibly descended from the so-called Plantagenets through king John's son Richard, earl of Cornwall.

There are currently 5 people in the Y-search database with the surname Cornwell; and, though it can be expected to have been a multi-origin surname, 3 of those people match one another at the 12-marker level of Y-STR testing resolution. Elsewhere on the web there is a record of 15 Cornwells having been tested of which 6 match one another: this indicates that rather less than half of them share a single Cornwell ancestor. So far, the DNA results indicate that the 6 matching Cornwells have a common ancestor, but their recorded known ancestors do not date back far enough to reveal their common genealogy by documentary evidence. It is not clear that these Cornwells were related to the de Cornwalle family of Plantagenet descent. However, it is relevant to note that the Y-DNA signature of the matching Cornwells does not match with that of the Plant family<sup>17</sup>.

If the Plants had matched with the Cornwells, it would have implied that all of the following statements are true for the male line:

- (a) the Plants were descendants of Geoffrey Plante Genest (probably through his son Hamelin);
- (b) the Cornwells were descendants of king John; and,
- (c) king John was a true male-line grandson of Geoffrey Plante Genest.

Since the Plants do *not* match with the Cornwells and since few people would dispute the truth of statement (c), we are left with the possibilities that one or both of statements (a) and (b) is not true.

Pending further enquiries, we might be best served by adopting a cautious theory: the tradition of an unbroken Plantagenet line of succession, intact in the male line, is not to be overturned easily. Without further evidence, it is most straightforward to adopt the least controversial theory. Proposing that the royal line of statement (c) above is broken may be seen by many as being particularly controversial: the onus of proof lies with the peasant not the king and the royal line is held to be sacrosanct by many. It can be more readily supposed that the statement (b) is not true and that the Cornwells were not Plantagenet descendants when their name formed. I am not aware that the Cornwells themselves are claiming royal descent; and, it is even as yet doubtful that Cornwell is a single-ancestor name. Beyond this, it is only right to question also the truth of statement (a) for the origins of the Plant surname. It can be supposed that a cultural influence of Plante Genest of the

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<sup>17</sup>There is a genetic distance of 7 at the 12 marker level.

Plant name did *not* come through a male line of descent though this influence was evidently from a ‘renewal’ sense to the Plante Genest nickname leading on to the formation of the Plant surname with its shoot, offshoot or offspring sense<sup>18</sup>.

### **Indulging in a possible fiction**

Let us, for the moment however, indulge in a conjecture in the popular trend of modern fiction. As already stated, it seems likely that the Cornwells and/or the Plants were *not* true genetic male-line descendants of the Plantagenets. Let us indulge in a presumption to the contrary, for a moment, however.

*If* the Plants were truly male-line descendants of Plante Genest’s de Warenne descendants; and, *if* the Cornwells were true descendants of king John’s son, Richard of Cornwall; how could the mismatch of their Y-DNA then be explained? Since the Plants share a similar name with Plante Genest, we might adhere to the assertion that Hamelin de Warenne was a true love child of Geoffrey Plante Genest. On the other hand, the fiction writer might conjecture, for example, that Plante Genest’s marriage to Empress Matilda could have been just a sham, arranged just for political convenience.

Indeed, this judicious marriage was arranged by king Henry I and it led on to the Angevin Empire. The Empress Matilda and her child-husband, Plante Genest, disliked one another. Could Matilda’s son, Henry Fitz Empress, who became king Henry II, father of king John, have been fathered by someone other than Plante Genest? Was the young Plante Genest a duped father, or was he compliant in a pretence that he was the true progenitor of subsequent English kings? Whether a pretence or a reality, the joining of the Houses of England and Anjou formed a powerful political alignment.

The questioning of the truth does not stop there. Without DNA evidence, any relationship can be cast into doubt. According to Vicary Gibbs, Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, was the first to adopt Plantagenet as a surname. Did Richard adopt Plantagenet as a surname to reassert (the pretence) that his subsequent royal line descended from Geoffrey Plante Genest who had died three centuries earlier? As already indicated for the Plant name, the descent of a similar surname does not necessarily mean that there is an intact male-line connection. However, there is other evidence to support the standard history that the male line of descent of the so-called royal ‘Plantagenets’ was intact, irrespective of the fact that they had evidently not used the Plantagenet name for some 300 years.

In particular, there is some doubt about the lineage of House of York kings, who are said to be the first to have used Plantagenet as a surname. It is possible that the ‘renewal’ sense to the Plante Genest name served as a signal that Richard of York was intent on a ‘renewal’ of the royal male line, as then occurred with the change of the royal line from the House of Lancaster to that of York. Such ‘renewal’ was fitting to the historical context, since it was claimed that the Lancastrian king was mad. Moreover, it has been claimed by others that Richard of York could not have been the true father of his royal ‘son’ Edward IV<sup>19</sup> even though the Plantagenet surname is associated with that disputed change of succession to supposedly distant cousins of the Lancastrian ‘royal line’.

This raises an example of the possibilities for questioning the truth of the normally supposed genealogies of male-line descent. Will Y-DNA testing eventually help to clarify some answers to such questions? Vicary Gibbs effectively asserted that the Plantagenet surname was used first by Richard of York, d 1551; and this was simply on the basis that there is *no evidence* that the name was used earlier as a hereditary royal surname. This is in the tradition of *argumentum ad ignorantum* which is adopted as sound practice for reconstructing past genealogies. However, confronting Gibbs’ genealogical approach for reconstructing the facts, we might instead adopt a strict scientific approach. We might assert that there is as yet no Y-DNA evidence to prove that the royal male line was unbroken over the three-and-a-half centuries from Plante Genest to the fall of the House of

<sup>18</sup> John S Plant (2005) *Nomina*, 28, pp. 115-133.

<sup>19</sup> Chapter 28.

York. Over such a time period, the Y-DNA evidence is showing that there is, in general, a fair chance of a false paternity event breaking a supposed male line of descent. Could it be that the chances of a concealed break in the male line were even greater than the norm, given the political intrigues that surrounded the marriages of convenience that were practised by the so-called Plantagenets?

The lack of a Y-DNA match between Cornwell and Plant does not *necessarily* mean that they were not both male-line descendants of an assortment of different so-called Plantagenets, though the simplest explanation is that at least one or another of them was not. Beyond this simplest explanation, there is the further possibility that the male line of the Plantagenets themselves was broken by a concealed false-paternity event.

## **Descent of the Duke of Beaufort from the Plantagenets**

Of John Parson's assertions of three possible lines of Plantagenet descent, we have already considered the Cornwell surname in connection with line '(2)'; and the Plant name in connection with line '(3)'. We may also consider the line '(1)' in the person of the Duke of Beaufort.

Though it has to be said that there is about a 50% chance of any single male line being broken by a concealed false-paternity event down the centuries, it is firmly held by many people, in the House of Lords tradition of English law, that the current Duke of Beaufort is a male-line descendant of Geoffrey Plante Genest's great-great-great-great-grandson, Edward III. This descent is through Edward's son John of Gaunt and his mistress Catherine Swynford. Incidentally, the proof of age of another son of Catherine Swynford was attested by a John Plaint.

Many people are interested in trying to establish a Y-DNA signature for the Plantagenets. The following letter<sup>20</sup> has appeared on the Plantagenet Genealogy Forum.

24 October 2005

His Grace The Duke of Beaufort,  
Badminton House Gloucestershire,  
England GL9 1DB

Re: Plantagenet Dynasty

Dear Your Grace:

Many genealogical researchers are interested in DNA questions surrounding the Plantagenet dynasty.

Some general questions posited by genealogical researchers are as follows:

Have you considered the implications of modern Y-DNA testing techniques and do you know if any other male-line living descendants have been tested to show their Plantagenet lineage?

An interesting DNA study and its results have been performed surrounding the Plantagenet dynasty in an academic journal called *Nomina*. A researcher named Dr. John S. Plant has examined a particular DNA study and its results surrounding the Plantagenet dynasty in the 2005 edition of *Nomina*, Volume 28, pages 115-133.

Your thoughts surrounding DNA studies on the Plantagenet dynasty and the likelihood of other Plantagenet male line descendants being DNA tested to show their Plantagenet lineage would be most welcomed and greatly appreciated!

An interesting note, according to tradition, is that your ancestor, His Grace, the 8th Duke of Beaufort was alleged to have proven that Katherine Swynford and John of Gaunt were actually

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<sup>20</sup><http://genforum.genealogy.com/plantagenet/messages/1324.html>

married prior to their having children, which would have deemed the 8th Duke of Beaufort, accession to the throne, but Her Majesty Queen Victoria graciously threw these documents into her fireplace, upon receipt of them from the 8th Duke of Beaufort (source: <http://www.hereditarytitles.com>).

Have you heard of this legend and what are your thoughts, surrounding it?

I personally found the traditional story rather delightful and fascinating!

Thank you very much for your time, Your Grace, in answering my questions as I greatly appreciate your time, knowing that you are extremely busy.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Simmons

So far, no reply has been received. No doubt, enquiries directed towards establishing a Y-DNA signature for the Plantagenets will continue; but, as yet, there is no clear positive result. So far, there are just some limitations from DNA results, such that some of the previously-suspected, possible descendants can not share intact male-line descents from a single 'Plantagenet' family.

### **Are some English Plants really from the Spanish Planta family?**

In a Spanish phonebook, there are the names Planta and Plant; and, more rarely, Plante and Planter. It seems possible that the names Planter and Plant may both be corruptions of Planta or Plante. It may also be relevant that the French name Plante is clustered near the Spanish border.

In particular, it seems clear that Walter Plant (DNA volunteer P9a) does not descend from the English Plant family, since there is a genetic distance of 10 from the modal haplotype of the English Plant family (the PMH) at the 25 marker level of resolution. However, 12 marker results have become available for a Javier Planter in Spain (PR1a) and he is a genetic distance of only 1 from Walter (P9a) for the 12 markers that can be compared: this indicates that there is about a 65% chance that they have a common male-line ancestor in the past 600 years. This finding that they are 'possibly related' would ideally be checked out further by Javier upgrading his results to the 25 marker level.

It is not as yet known whether the Spanish name Planta is involved or whether that name has ancestral connections to the Italian name Planta or indeed to the noble Swiss Planta family. Javier's ancestry (PR1a in Table 2) is from Zaragoza in Spain, not far from the French border where the Plante name is clustered. The ancestry of Walter (P9a) is from the English port of Hull and this is compatible with an arrival by sea of his earlier ancestors from France or Spain.

### **Some other recent DNA results for Plant**

Though no other Plant has yet been tested at high resolution (37 markers), I have upgraded my Y-DNA results to that level. My full results are shown as P1a in Table 2.

Also, a descendant (P14a) of the Mayor of Wolverhampton, Charles Paulton Plant, has been Y-DNA tested to the 12-marker level of resolution. This has shown that he belongs to the main English Plant family, which evidently descended from thirteenth-century Plants who were in proximity to the de Warenne descendants of Geoffrey Plante Genest.

Another name that might perhaps relate to the Plantagenets is Lancaster. There are Y-DNA results for 6 Lancasters in the Y-search database and one of them (THVWG), who is descended from Orville Lancaster in Arkansas (1859-97), is just a genetic distance of 1 from the modal Plant signature (PMH) at the 12 marker level of resolution. This needs checking out at higher resolution and I have tried to contact the relevant Lancaster; but, so far, I have received no reply. When two Plants match at the 12 marker level, it is almost certain that they are related; but, when there is a



| DYS     | PMH | P1a | P14a | P9a | PR1a | Branch                     | Code | Earliest known ancestor of branch                                                                                   |
|---------|-----|-----|------|-----|------|----------------------------|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 19/394  | 14  | 14  | 14   | 14  | 14   |                            |      |                                                                                                                     |
| 388     | 12  | 12  | 12   | 12  | 12   |                            |      |                                                                                                                     |
| 390     | 24  | 24  | 24   | 24  | 24   |                            |      |                                                                                                                     |
| 391     | 11  | 11  | 11   | 11  | 11   |                            |      |                                                                                                                     |
| 392     | 13  | 12  | 13   | 13  | 13   |                            |      |                                                                                                                     |
| 393     | 13  | 13  | 13   | 13  | 13   |                            |      |                                                                                                                     |
| 389-1   | 13  | 13  | 13   | 14  | 14   |                            |      |                                                                                                                     |
| 389-2   | 29  | 29  | 29   | 30  | 30   |                            |      |                                                                                                                     |
| 426     | 12  | 12  | 12   | 12  | 12   |                            |      |                                                                                                                     |
| 425     | 12  | 12  |      |     |      |                            |      |                                                                                                                     |
| 385a    | 11  | 11  | 11   | 12  | 11   |                            |      |                                                                                                                     |
| 385b    | 14  | 14  | 14   | 15  | 15   | Plant, Sheffield, England. | P1a  | Thomas Plant of Clowne, ?b 1745 Sutton-cum-Duckmanton in NE Derbyshire to William Plant of Duckmanton, England.     |
| 439     | 11  | 11  | 11   | 12  | 12   |                            |      |                                                                                                                     |
| 458     | 18  | 18  |      | 17  |      |                            |      |                                                                                                                     |
| 459a    | 9   | 9   |      | 9   |      |                            |      |                                                                                                                     |
| 459b    | 10  | 10  |      | 10  |      |                            |      |                                                                                                                     |
| 455     | 11  | 11  |      | 11  |      |                            |      |                                                                                                                     |
| 454     | 11  | 11  |      | 11  |      | Plant, Vancouver, Canada.  | P14a | Richard Plant, bap 27.4.1740 Brewood, son of Richard Plant of Chillington, England.                                 |
| 447     | 25  | 25  |      | 25  |      |                            |      |                                                                                                                     |
| 437     | 16  | 16  |      | 14  |      |                            |      |                                                                                                                     |
| 448     | 20  | 20  |      | 19  |      |                            |      |                                                                                                                     |
| 449     | 30  | 30  |      | 31  |      |                            |      |                                                                                                                     |
| 464a    | 15  | 15  |      | 15  |      |                            |      |                                                                                                                     |
| 464b    | 15  | 15  |      | 15  |      | Plant, Brough, Yorkshire.  | P9a  | late 19th century Hull, Yorkshire, England.                                                                         |
| 464c    | 16  | 16  |      | 16  |      |                            |      |                                                                                                                     |
| 464d    | 16  | 16  |      | 18  |      |                            |      |                                                                                                                     |
| 460     |     | 11  |      |     |      | Planter, Zaragoza, Spain.  | PR1a | Ramón Planter (Goser) b 17.12.1844 Zaragoza; descent through Antonio Planter (Sangorin) b Jun 1905 Zaragoza, Spain. |
| GATA H4 |     | 11  |      |     |      |                            |      |                                                                                                                     |
| YCA IIa |     | 19  |      |     |      |                            |      |                                                                                                                     |
| YCA IIb |     | 21  |      |     |      |                            |      |                                                                                                                     |
| 456     |     | 18  |      |     |      |                            |      |                                                                                                                     |
| 607     |     | 15  |      |     |      |                            |      |                                                                                                                     |
| 576     |     | 17  |      |     |      |                            |      |                                                                                                                     |
| 570     |     | 20  |      |     |      |                            |      |                                                                                                                     |
| CDYa    |     | 36  |      |     |      |                            |      |                                                                                                                     |
| CDYb    |     | 37  |      |     |      |                            |      |                                                                                                                     |
| 442     |     | 12  |      |     |      |                            |      |                                                                                                                     |
| 438     |     | 12  |      |     |      |                            |      |                                                                                                                     |

Table 2: Latest Y-DNA results for Plant, and for a Spaniard called Planter (PR1a)

difference of surname, as with Lancaster and Plant, the match needs to be checked out at higher resolution.

### Summary of the results so far

In the first batch of 7 Plants who were tested, 6 matched, which was an exceptionally high fraction. Since then, a further 5 out of 9 have matched, and this is consistently above the 50% guideline for deeming a name to be ‘single-ancestor’.

Statistical fluctuations are not unusual when testing a small number of individuals however and, ideally, still more Plants should be tested to confirm that Plant is truly a ‘single-ancestor’ name. As a statistical rule of thumb, we might say that the ratio could easily become 7 out of 16 for the next 16 tested; and that it *could well* still fall below the 50% mark as more Plants are tested. That is not to say that there is not a *good chance* that the Plant surname in England will remain firmly in the category of a ‘single-ancestor’ name. For other countries, there is the possibility that others with similar names (e.g. some of the French Canadian Plante family) may have changed their name to Plant. Y-DNA testing is beginning to show its potential for uncovering such possibilities and we might expect to see further progress in this connection.

A glimpse of the *possibility* of a further interesting result is suggested by the finding that an English Plant and a Spaniard called Planter *might both be* descendants of the European Planta family, though more results would be needed before we could be sure of that.

The DNA testing of many men with the same surname can sometimes indicate those with un-

broken male lines down the centuries. For the Plant surname, 16 have been tested of which 11 have been found to match indicating that they have unbroken male lines of descent from the original English Plant family. Despite efforts, however, it is as yet far from certain that those with the surname Plant or Cornwell were true Plantagenet descendants at the outset of the formation of their surname. That does not mean that the Y-DNA evidence for Plant has not already served a useful purpose. It has, at least, already been used successfully to clarify that a ‘shoot’ or ‘offspring’ sense is the most-likely meaning of the single-family Plant surname. Furthermore, the Y-DNA evidence suggests that it was a single Plant family that lived in proximity to the de Warenne descendants of Geoffrey Plante Genest.

A connection between the Plant surname in England and royalty was controversially made in the 19th century; it was then debunked in the 20th century; and now it has regained some limited degree of credibility in the 21st century. In his *A Dictionary of the Family Names of the United Kingdom* (Lewes, 1860), p269, Mark Anthony Lower wrote:

A family in humble circumstances at Kettering, bear the ancient royal name of Plantagenet, though now it is commonly corrupted to Plant.

The statement ‘now corrupted’ is misleading, since the documentary evidence in fact indicates that the single-family name Plante or Plonte existed long before Plantagenet is known to have become an hereditary royal surname around 1448. Positing imprecise ideas that connect Plant-like names has held a notable place in the construction of popular fictions; but that should not be allowed to distort an account of what we know of the underlying facts: the first Plants are found in proximity to the de Warenne descendants of Geoffrey Plante Genest and it is likely that there was some influence from the Plante Genest name on the formation of the Plant surname, but that does not prove a Y-line genetic connection between the Plants and Plantagenets. Plante Genest was a metaphor of renewal and the sense of renewed life in a shoot probably gave Plant its ‘offspring’ meaning. As yet, the evidence that the Plant name formed in proximity to known Plante-Genest descendants merely suggests that the ‘renewal’ metaphor was fashionable in the local culture.

## Web Site report - by Dr John S Plant (member no. 52) November 2005

Various problems were experienced with the web site over the summer, as the hosting service changed ownership. A small reduction was obtained on the price of renewing the contract for a further two years from August with the new owners. The hosting service is now based mainly in America instead of at Swindon in England. Problems arising from the changeover included the loss of data from the guestbook and the temporary loss of the Members’ Interests database; moreover, for a while, it was not possible to update the web site. Since the changeover there are recurrent problems of the web site being unavailable at times, though, on a more positive note, I am no longer being hassled by the service providers as though I were responsible for spam emails originating from hacking attacks on the site.

Throughout the year, the web site pages with the largest number of hits were as follows.

|     | Top                | No. 2                | No. 3                | No. 4                  | No. 5                  |
|-----|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Dec | 246 Name origins   | 164 French origins   | 132 Journal contents | 117 Members’ interests | 101 DNA                |
| Jan | 210 Name origins   | 166 DNA              | 151 French origins   | 139 Journal contents   | 119 Members’ interests |
| Feb | 302 Name origins   | 198 French origins   | 172 DNA              | 163 Journal contents   | 121 Members’ interests |
| Mar | 260 Name origins   | 228 DNA              | 165 Journal contents | 147 French origins     | 114 Plant soul         |
| Apr | 231 Name origins   | 188 DNA              | 183 French origins   | 123 Journal contents   | 105 Members’ interests |
| Jun | 225 Reunion slides | 215 Name origins     | 153 Journal contents | 147 French origins     | 142 DNA                |
| Jul | 231 Name origins   | 133 Journal contents | 132 Reunion slides   | 130 Chapter 19         | 129 DNA                |
| Aug | 230 Name origins   | 218 Reunion slides   | 166 Notable Plants   | 151 French origins     | 119 Journal contents   |
| Sep | 303 Guestbook      | 262 French origins   | 232 Name origins     | 142 DNA                | 135 Bloodline myth     |
| Oct | 282 Name origins   | 272 Reunion slides   | 252 French origins   | 180 DNA                | 163 Journal contents   |

## VICTORIAN MARRIAGES AT MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL

During a recent conducted tour of Manchester Cathedral I learnt that, during the mid-Victorian period it was common for residents from outside Manchester, including considerable numbers from Cheshire, to marry in the Cathedral using spurious address for places of residence.

[My GG Grandfather and Grandmother were married there even though they lived some 30 miles distant in Cheshire.]

According to the Cathedral Archivist, the authorities of the Cathedral at that time did not ask too many questions and in fact carried out multiple weddings at a reduced cost. Reduced even further if you married in the week after Easter – an early example of bulk buying.

I was referred to an article published in 1863 by a Mr Hawthorne in the Atlantic Monthly on ‘Outside Glimpses of English Poverty’.

With thanks to Mr Hawthorn (wherever he may be) I have included his article as it contains a graphic picture of the period and will be of interest to those members, including me, with ancestors from Cheshire.

*“I was once present at the wedding of some poor English people, and was deeply impressed by the spectacle, though by no means with such proud and delightful emotions as seem to have affected all England on the recent occasion of the marriage of its Prince. It was in the cathedral at Manchester, a particularly black and grim old structure, into which I had stopped to examine some ancient and curious wood carvings within the choir. The woman in attendance greeted me with a smile (which always glimmers forth on the feminine visage, I know not why, when a wedding is in question), and asked me to take a seat in the nave till some poor parties were married, it being the Easter holidays, and a good time for them to marry, because no fees would be demanded by the clergyman.*

*I sat down, accordingly, and soon the parson and his clerk appeared at the altar, and considerable crowd of people made their entrance at the side door, and ranged themselves in a long huddled line across the chancel. They were my acquaintances of the poor street, or persons in precisely similar conditions of life, and were now come to their marriage ceremony in just such garbs as I had always seen them wear; the men in the loafers’ coats, out at elbows, or their labours’ jackets, defaced with grimy toil: the women drawing their shabby shawls tighter about their shoulders, to hide the raggedness beneath: all of them unbrushed, unshaven, unwashed, uncombed and wrinkled with penury and care: nothing virgin-like in the brides, nor hopeful or energetic in the bridegroom – they were, in short, the mere rags and tatters of the human race, whom some east wind of evil omen, howling along the streets, had chanced to sweep together in an unfragrant heap. Each and all of them conscious of his or her individual misery, had blundered into the strange miscalculation of supposing that they could lessen the sum of it by multiplying it into the misery of another person.*

*All couples (and it was difficult in such a confused crowd to compute exactly their number) stood up at once, and had execution done upon them in the lump, the clergyman addressing only small parts of the service to each individual pair, but so managing the larger portion as to include the whole company without the trouble of repetition. By this compendious contrivance, one would apprehend, he came dangerously near making every man and woman the husband or wife of every other; nor, perhaps, would he have perpetrated much additional mischief by the mistake; but, after receiving a benediction in common, they assorted themselves in their own fashion, as they only know how, and departed to the garrets, or the cellars, or the unsheltered street corners, where their honeymoon and subsequent lives were to be spent.*

*The parson smiled decorously, the clerk and the sexton grinned broadly, the female attendant tittered almost aloud, and even the married parties seemed to see something*

*exceedingly funny in the affair; but for my part, though generally apt enough to be tickled by a joke, I laid it away in my memory as one of the saddest sights I ever looked upon."*

The Atlantic Monthly was an American publication, particularly New England, dealing with literature, arts and politics. It was founded in 1857 and is still being published.

I think that the author of this article in the Atlantic Monthly was exaggerating somewhat. What, however, cannot be disputed was that the living conditions for residents in Manchester in this mid-Victorian period were very poor. Frederick Engels (Karl Marx's mate) on a visit to Manchester at about the same time wrote:

*"One thing is certain – it is a sin and a shame that human beings should be permitted to exist in such misery, to live in such horrible dog-holes as do too many unfortunates within a quarter of an hour's walk of one of the wealthiest exchanges in the world:-*

*Houses rotten and tumbling to pieces, rooms filthy, damp, mildewed, with great holes in the floors, great gaps in the walls where the plaster should have been. 'People half starving and with scarcely a rag to cover their nakedness.'*

And this is only 140 years ago.



**WILTSHIRE DORSET DEVON CORNWALL SOMERSET**  
**GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

Not an area populated by Plants

|                 |   |    |   |    |
|-----------------|---|----|---|----|
| Wiltshire       | = | 11 | } | 45 |
| Dorset          | = | 3  |   |    |
| Devon           | = | 9  |   |    |
| Cornwall        | = | 2  |   |    |
| Somerset        | = | 12 |   |    |
| Gloucestershire | = | 18 |   |    |

Less than 1% of total Plants in England/Scotland/Wales.

Of these 45 only 14 were born in the county of residence in 1881.

Edward and Eliza Plant Clarence St Gloucester were part of the Plant family of Gloucester, Dressmakers and owners of property. An article relating to this family was included in Journal No. 9, p35 to 42.

William Turner of Longhope, Gloucester (retired Brushmaker) born 1814 married Sarah Plant 19 March 1836 at St Michael, Stone, Staffs, adopting Thomas Plant in 1856 and apprenticed to Wm Turner in 1863. The George Plant in the 1881 Census born 1811 must have been Sarah's brother. Descended from this branch of the Plants is Member No. 127 William Turner Plant and further information is contained in Journal No. 10, p32, to 40