

Chapter 6

Charles Plant from Clowne

SOME RESULTS OF GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

May 1993. One of a series of Chapters by Dr. John S. Plant, Keele University, England, ST5 5BG.

Though the precise ancestry of Charles Plant is uncertain, the possibilities are discussed of his descent (around 1800) from the large Plant family at Clowne that was described in Chapter 3. In common with other Plants from Clowne (to be discussed later), he ended his days drawn to the rapidly-growing nearby town (now a city) of Sheffield. The family trees of his descendants (in particular, through his children Aaron, Ann, and Charles jnr) are known with more certainty, even though they spread to various parts of the country — three of his descendants, namely Gwyneth Vick (née Plant), Ellen Jackson (née Knowles), and Audrey ('Betty') Jones (née Plant) are currently in contact with a view to uncovering further information.

6.1 Charles Plant (circa 1803-78)

Charles (snr) was born at Clowne (c 1802/4) and he married Ellen (H)E(a)rnsshaw on 30.4.1829 (see Figure 6.1); a record of the Banns were in the Parish Chest at Chesterfield. One of the witnesses at Charles's wedding was called John Bennet *suggesting a possibility of some connection* with the second wife, Mary Bennet, of Thomas Plant (1745-1827) of Clowne from Sutton-cum-Duckmanton (who was described in Chapter 3); from the late 1820's (at least) until 1835, the known locations of John Bennet coincide with those of Charles.

By 1834 Charles (snr) was living at Staveley. By 1840, he is recorded to be a farmer at Haigh Lane, Mastin Moor, Staveley (1840-61) and then (1862-9) at Pond House Farm, Staveley.

The 1841 Tithe Records ascribe 6 lots of arable land to him including items called Mastin Moor, Sound Croft, Kay Croft, and Bennetts¹ House and Croft, yielding a total tithe due to the Rector and to the Duke of Devonshire of 22 shillings each. The 1851 Census for 68 Hague Lane records Charles as a 'farmer of 22 acres employing 1 labourer' and the 1861 Census for 1 Hague Lane records him as a 'farmer of 41 acres'.

Charles's wife Ellen died at Pond House on 2.1.1869 at a stated age of 64. Charles died about 10 years later (10.11.1878) aged 76, at Joiner Lane, Sheffield and was buried (Nov.1878) in nearby Burngreave Cemetery. The final address of Charles is close to Lady's Bridge in The Wicker (central Sheffield) and about half a mile from his eldest son's address (see section 6.4.1) near the top of Spittal Hill and similarly close to the premises of other Plants (as will be described more fully later, in Chapter 9).

6.2 Census Enumerator

Charles Plant was an enumerator for the 1841 and 1851 Censuses for part of Staveley in Derbyshire. In the book 'Making Sense of the Census' (HMSO PRO publication), Dr Edward Higgs writes:

¹A Bennett family at Mastin Moor is recorded earlier (circa 1780) in section 3.2.1.

Once this basic ground work had been laid, the local registrars selected an enumerator for each enumeration district. They could appoint whoever they liked as long as they met the basic requirements:

He must be a person of intelligence and activity; he must read and write well, and have some knowledge of arithmetic; he must not be infirm or of such weak health as may render him unable to undergo the requisite exertion; he should not be younger than 18 years nor older than 65; he must be temperate, orderley and respectable, and be such a person as is likely to conduct himself with strict propriety, and to deserve the good will of the inhabitants of his district.

Generally it was agreed that the rates would not attract high quality staff in themselves — GR Office hoped men would do the work as a social duty. In towns registrars appear to have depended on local government officers but in the countryside they must have fallen back on the help of farmers and schoolteachers.

6.3 Some possibilities for Charles's ancestry

One possibility is that, for example, relatives from elsewhere of the Plants living in Clowne (perhaps from nearby Sutton-cum-Duckmanton) were visiting Clowne when Charles was born and he was baptised elsewhere (though no baptism record has yet been found). Another possibility is that he was an *unrecorded* child of one of the Plant families of Clowne.

The precise date of birth of Charles can be variously estimated from his death certificate and the 1851 and 1861 Censuses, leading to a range from January 1802 to March 1804 (perhaps more likely from April 1802 to December 1803). At these times the sons William and John, of Thomas (1745-1827) and his first wife Ann (née Coldwell), were both having children at Clowne but barely with a sufficient gap to allow for Charles. Also children called George (bap 12.12.1802) and Aaron (bap 2.12.1804) were baptised to Thomas (1745-1827) himself and his second wife Mary (née Bennett) at Clowne at this time and, whereas subsequent information has been found for Aaron and his younger brothers, none has (yet) been found for George. Thus, the following possibilities hold the added attraction of explaining Charles's connection with the Bennett family (a) Charles was a brother born between George and Aaron, (b) Charles was recorded incorrectly as George at his baptism, or (c) George changed his name to Charles (perhaps partly because of the growing unpopularity of King George IV around 1820).

6.4 Descendants of Charles and Ellen

Charles and Ellen's eldest two sons James and Thomas were baptised at Clowne, whereas their siblings Charles (died aged 1 month), Aaron, Ann, Mary, William, and Charles (jnr) were baptised at nearby Staveley.

Charles and Ellen's younger daughter, Mary, was still at Mastin Moor (aged 11) in 1851. The *supposition* that she married John Appleyard relates to the finding that the Leeds address of her brother Charles (jnr) (section 6.4.5), when he married in 1871, is the same as that (in the 1871 Census) of a Staveley born Mary, with her husband John Appleyard and 2 children.

6.4.1 James and Sheffield

The eldest son of Charles and Ellen, James, is quite certainly one of those mentioned in a will, dated 20.12.1835, of a John Bennett bachelor of Staveley Woodthorpe in the Hundred of Scarsdale, who died the next day. In particular this bequeaths \$10 to each of 'five' God-children including a James Plant; this James could well be the one baptised (10.6.1827) to blacksmith Benjamin and his wife Hannah as described in Chapter 4 (this James still appears with father Benjamin at Harthill

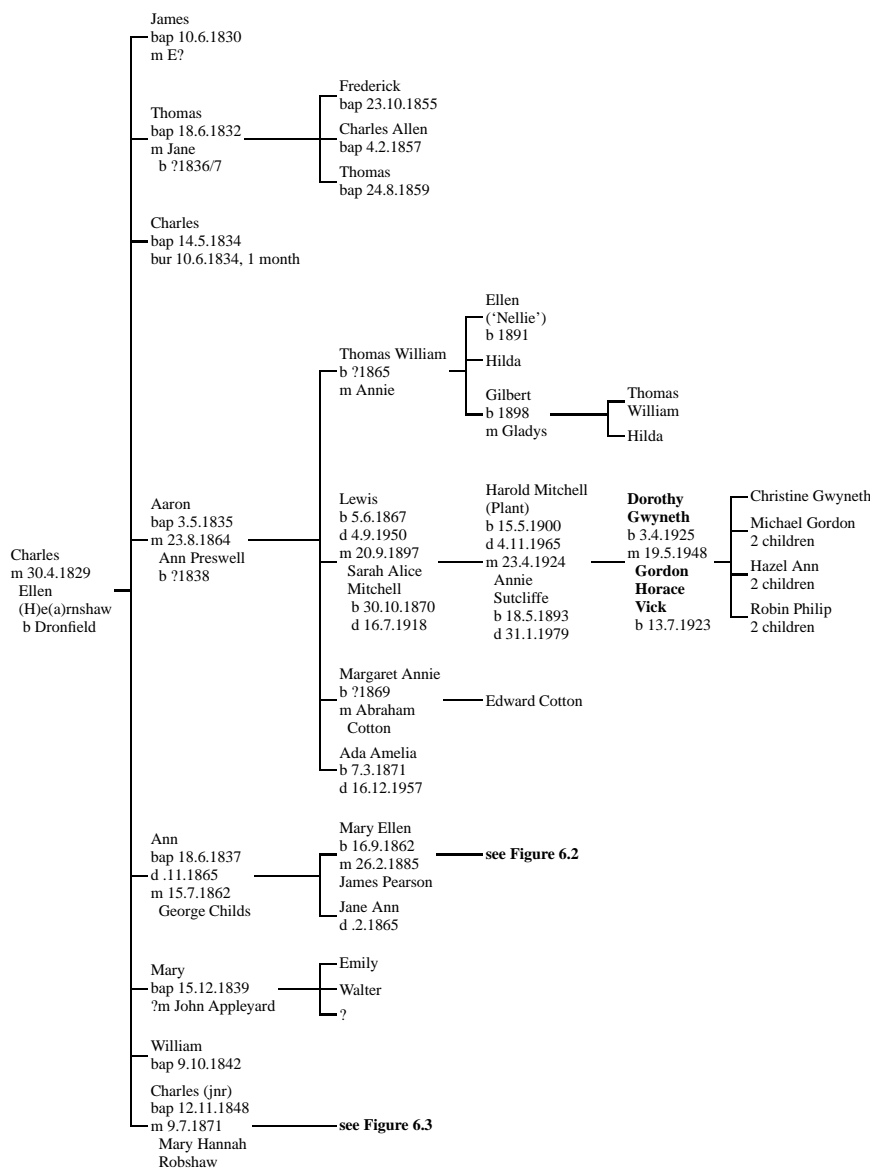


Figure 6.1: Descendants of Charles Plant (snr) and Ellen

in the 1841 Census but with step-brother Thomas at Staveley in the 1851 Census). However, as an extra name has been inserted into second place in the list of ‘five’ God-children, there is also a sixth-named and this is ‘James, son of Charles Plant’ (there seems no doubt as to the identity of this James as the name Charles Plant is rare in this area). The will did ‘strongly recommend’ that the ‘said sums . . . shall be expended on their education’.

Charles’s son James had become a **farm labourer** nearer to Sheffield, living in the household of William Whitehead at Rose Cottage, Eckington by 1851. He had become a **gardener** at Buckenham Road, Sheffield in 1878 and his wife registered the death of her father-in-law Charles (snr) that year.

6.4.2 Thomas

In the 1851 Census, the second eldest son of Charles and Ellen, Thomas (aged 18) from Staveley was a **Joiner Apprce** in the household of Thomas Hearnshaw (**Joiner**, aged 42) at 109 Back Lane, Brimington (2 miles from Chesterfield). It seems possible that this Thomas Hearnshaw was a relative of Charles’s wife, Ellen (H)e(a)rnrshaw, though he is shown as having been born at Brimington; he is with his wife Sarah (39) and daughter Ann (18) **dressmaker**. Later, in the 1861 Census, Charles’s and Ellen’s second son, Thomas Plant, is stated to be from Clowne and he had become a **Carpenter Master** at 19 South Street, New Whittington (near Chesterfield) where his three sons Frederick (5), Charles Allen (4) and Thomas (2) are shown to have been born; his wife Jane was from ?Accmb in Yorkshire. The baptisms of the three children are in the parish records for Brimington at the dates indicated in Figure 6.1.

6.4.3 Aaron’s line

The above mentioned second eldest son, Thomas, was presumably the same person as the Thomas Plant that was a witness at the wedding of Charles and Ellen’s fourth eldest son, Aaron, to Ann Preswell in Halifax in 1864.

Aaron was at Mastin Moor in 1841 but had become a **coachman** in Halifax by 1861. In the 1861 Census, Aaron (aged 25) from Staveley is recorded as an unmarried servant to gentlewoman *Mar^t* Milne (widow aged 62) at 20 Cliffhill, Warley, Halifax. Aaron (36) is still recorded as a **coachman** in the 1871 Census for Lane Ends Green, Hipperholme, Halifax, but he is now listed with his wife Ann (34) from St Pancras, London and children Thomas W (5), Lewis (3), Margaret Ann (2) and Ada Amelia (1 month); the children are recorded to have been born at Warley, except for the youngest who was born at Hipperholme, indicating that the family moved to Hipperholme around 1870. In the 1881 Census for Moor Royd Lodge, Halifax, Aaron is again recorded as a **coachman** with his wife Ann from London Marylebone and his 4 children born in Halifax; Thomas (aged 15) is now described as a **joiner** and Lewis (aged 13) as a **monitor schoolmaster**, with Margaret and Ada Amelia recorded as **scholars**.

Aaron and Ann’s son Lewis married Sarah Alice Mitchell at St Paul’s Halifax but she was buried exactly 21 years later (20.7.1918) at Kings Cross Wesleyan Cemetery Halifax. Lewis was buried in the same (Methodist) Cemetery after a further 32 years (7.9.1950).

Lewis and Sarah’s son Harold Mitchell Plant was born and married in Halifax but died in Stockport. His Halifax born wife Annie Sutcliffe died at Wetheral, Carlisle.

Harold and Annie’s daughter, Dorothy Gwyneth Plant, was born in Salford and married Sheffield born Gordon Horace Vick at St George’s in Stockport. Their eldest two children were born in Doncaster whereas their two youngest were born in Flint in North Wales.

6.4.4 Ann’s line

The witness at the marriage of Charles and Ellen’s elder daughter, Ann, to George Childs in Chesterfield (15.7.1862) was called William Plant. This could have been Charles and Ellen’s second youngest son William (bap 9.10.1842) who was still living at Mastin Moor in nearby Staveley in 1861 along with Ann. Ann’s daughter, Mary Ellen, was born (16.9.1862) at Pond House Farm,

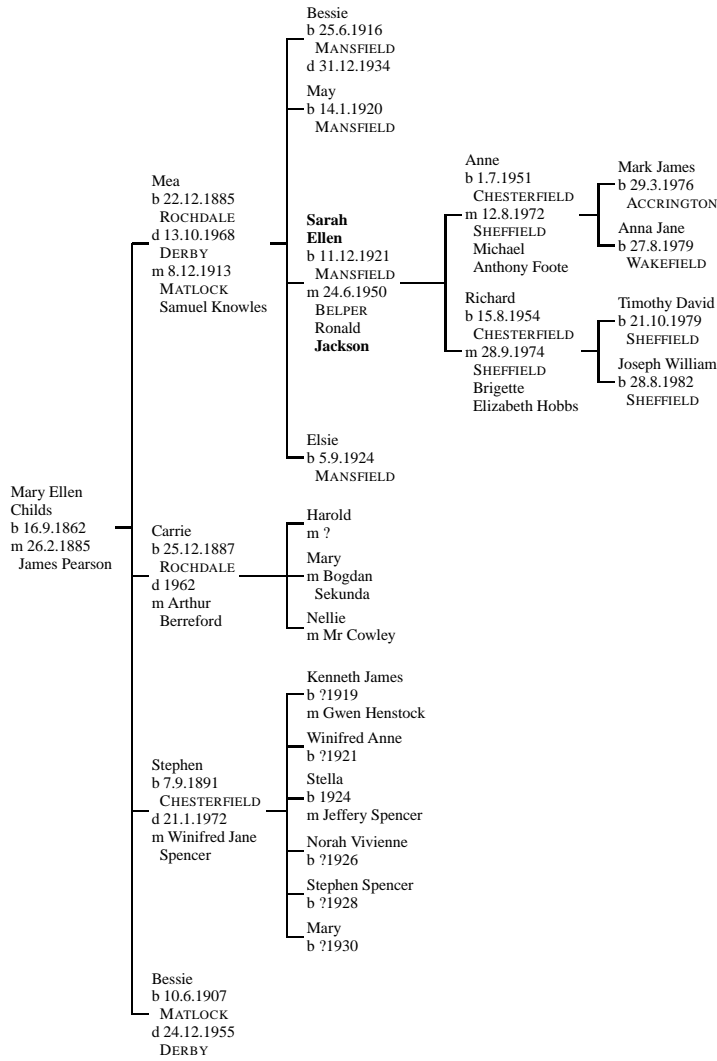


Figure 6.2: Offspring of Mary Ellen Pearson (née Childs)

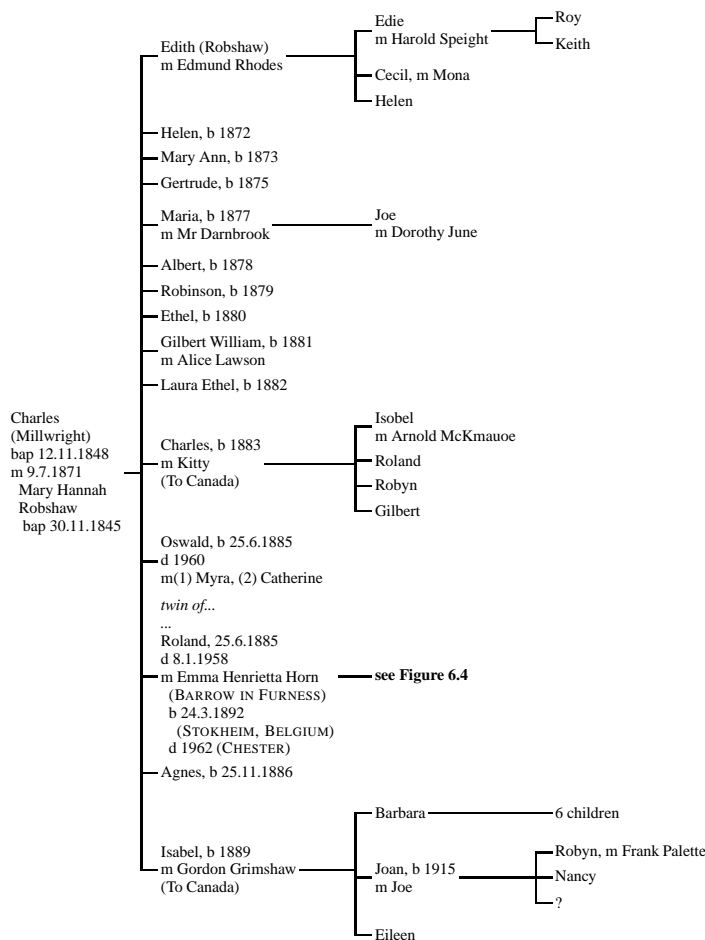


Figure 6.3: Progeny of Charles Plant (jnr) and Mary

Staveley, to where her parents Charles and Ellen must have moved that year. Details of the offspring of Mary Ellen are shown in Figure 6.2.

6.4.5 Charles (jnr)

Charles and Ellen's youngest son, Charles (jnr), married Mary Hannah Robshaw (9.7.1871) at St Peter's Chapel in Leeds where all their 15 children were born (see Figure 6.3). He is recorded as a millwright.

Their son Roland married Emma Henrietta Horn and their three children (Figure 6.4) were born in Barrow in Furness (Charles and Raymond) and Wallasey (Audrey). Roland's first child died as an infant. Roland's second child, Raymond, married twice; the children of Raymond and Grace were born in Liverpool (Anne, Edward Nicholas and Richard) and Chester (Jonathon) whereas the children of Raymond and Cynthia Betty were born in Liverpool (Julian), Chester (William Raymond and Sarah Jane) and Wrexham (Quentin James).

Roland's third child, Audrey (Betty) Plant, married Chester born Brian Jones at Hoole Parish Church in Chester. Their younger two children were born at Ponteland, Newcastle upon Tyne.

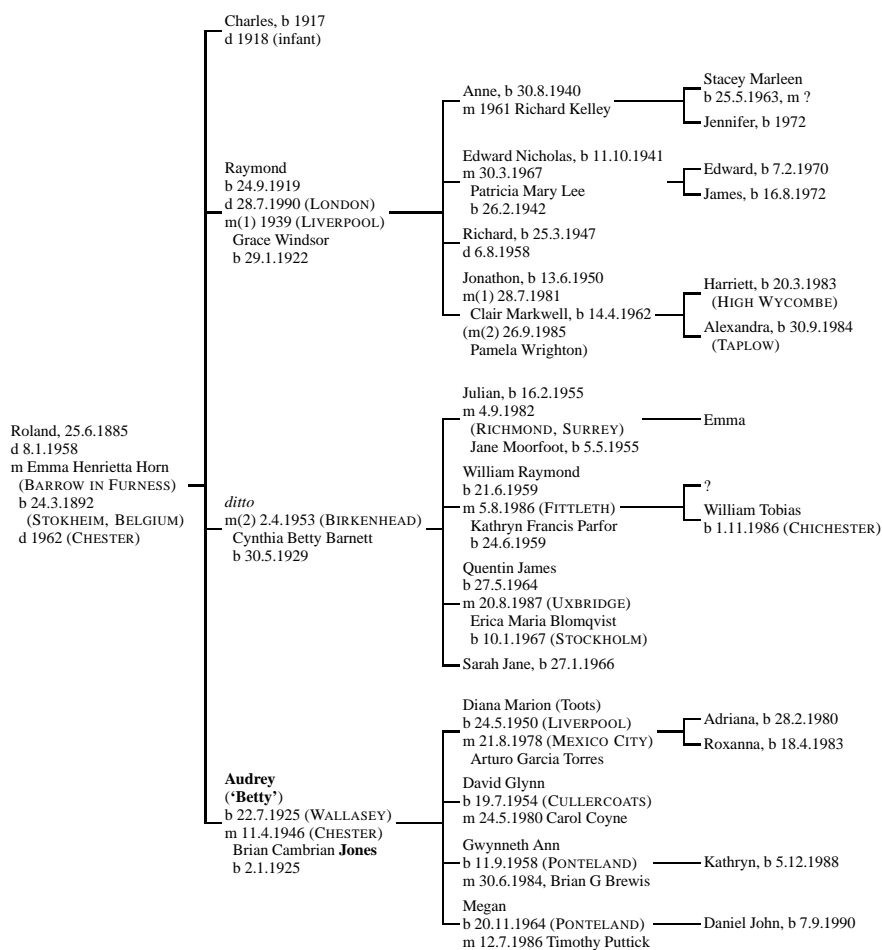


Figure 6.4: Progeny of Charles Plant (jnr) continued