

## Chapter 2

# Plants near Baslow (from 1640)

SOME EARLY PARISH RECORDS ETC.<sup>1</sup>

*October 1991. One of a series of Chapters by Dr. John S. Plant, Keele University, England, ST5 5BG.*

### 2.1 Parishes around Baslow

Plants are recorded in the parish of Great Longstone from the commencement (1639) of its Register; this parish is about 17 miles due east from the village of Rainow in Cheshire that is described (circa 1400) in section 1.2 and, as such, is half way to the Plant families described later (circa 1770) at Clowne, which is in north-east Derbyshire near the Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire boundaries. Behind the parish church of the Holy Trinity, at Ashford-in-the-Water (which is near the village of Great Longstone), are the traces of a moat; this is all that remains of a fortifield house which was the home of Edmund Plantagenet, brother of Edward II (circa 1300).

Five miles east of Ashford-in-the-Water is the village of Edensor, in Chatsworth Park which has been the family seat of all the Earls and Dukes of Devonshire. The first house at Chatsworth, of which any record has survived, was begun in 1552 by the parents of the first Earl, three years after they had bought the estate; these instigators were Sir William Cavendish and Elizabeth Hardwick. Hardwick Hall, which is some 15 miles to the east (section 3.1), was planned in 1595.

The original Register for the parish of Edensor was started in 1539 and the Register for a chapelry immediately to the north, the Bakewell chapelry of Baslow, was started in 1569. Other parishes that adjoin Baslow with their dates of first Registers are, in down-view clockwise order from Edensor; Bakewell (1614), Great Longstone (1639) to the west of Baslow, Stoney Middleton (1715), Eyam (1630), Hathersage (1627) to the north, Holmesfield (1730), Barlow (1573), Old Brampton (1658) to the east, and Beeley (1538).

The trend in the general UK population is the basis for estimating the drop, shown in table 1.2, in the number of Plants and this gives rise to the contention that, following the Black Death of 1348, the *estimated* number of one thousand in 1345 may not have been reattained until some 200 years later; and, by 1640, there may have been about 1500 Plants in Britain as a whole. At this time the village of Eyam (5 miles NW of Baslow), which is famous for a later plague, stood remote and isolated, 800 ft up among the Derbyshire peaks, yet it could not escape the plague that was then raging in London; in 1665 a box of clothing, infected with plague germs, was sent to Eyam's tailor, George Vicars, who became infected and died. The village rector, William Mompesson, persuaded the villagers to stay, and so stopped the plague spreading; but out of an estimated population of 350 some 250 died, including Mompesson's wife.

### 2.2 Some Plant Records

The 1988 version of the International Genealogical Index (IGI) for Derbyshire contains some early entries taken from the parish registers, for Plant families specifically in the parishes of Great Long-

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<sup>1</sup>A version of this Chapter has appeared as J.S.Plant (Jan.1992) *Roots and Branches* 3, 12-15.

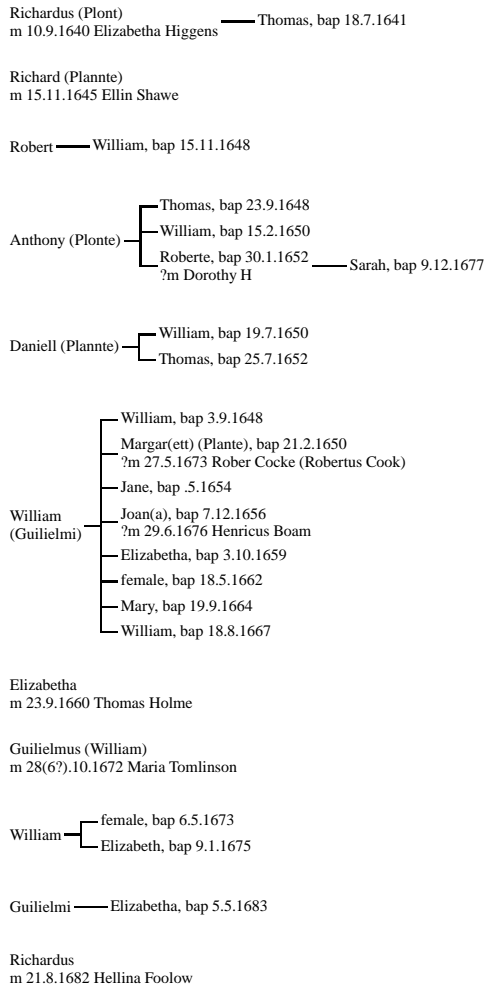


Figure 2.1: A scheme of Plant Records at Great Longstone

stone and Edensor; these are summarised in Figures 2.1 and 2.2.

Most of the names are written in a Latin form with William appearing usually as Guilielmus, Richard as Richardus, and Robert sometimes in an abbreviated form such as Robtus. For baptisms, only the father's name is often given making it more difficult to piece the records together into families, especially as many of the individual forenames that recur clearly must refer to more than one person.

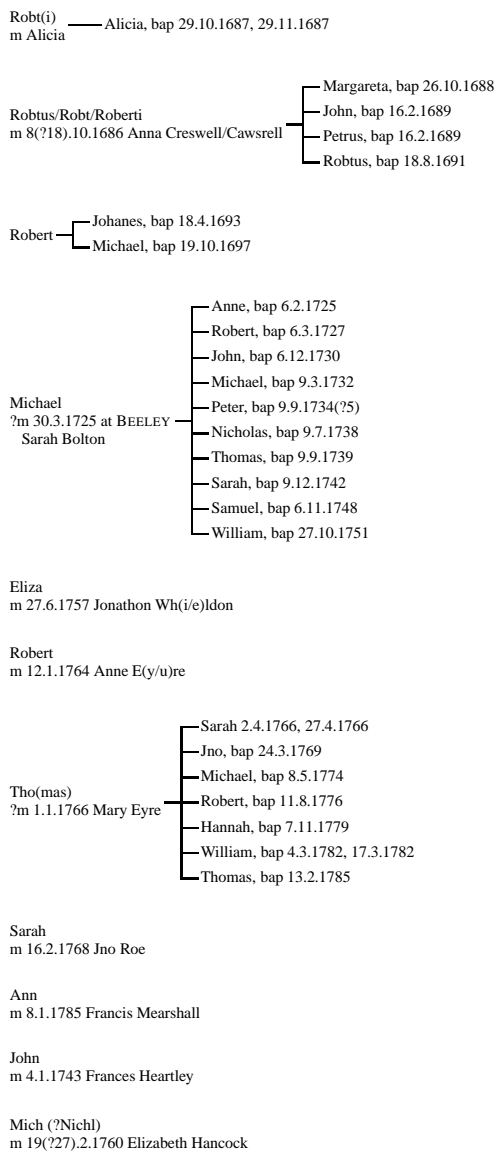


Figure 2.2: A scheme of Plants at Edensor