

## Chapter 3

# Plants at Clowne (circa 1780)

SOME NOTES ON PARISH RECORDS ETC.<sup>1</sup>

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

Some of the descendants of Charles Plant (*cf* Chapter 6) have spent many years trying to ascertain his ancestry, largely from the clue of his being born, according to Census data, in the parish of the village of Clowne in Derbyshire. Although they have not yet traced the parental origins of this Charles Plant, they have done much to piece together the family trees of Plant families living at and around Clowne, such as at nearby Sutton-Cum-Duckmanton, from about 1730 to 1830.

### 3.1 Plants near Sutton and Clowne

Records have been found (incomplete) for various Plants in parishes around Clowne. For example, Sutton-Cum-Duckmanton is immediately to the south of the parish of Staveley, which in turn is immediately to the west of the parish of Clowne.

The ancestor William, in Figure 3.1, was of Duckmanton when he married Ann Webster in 1725 in the parish of Ault Hucknall<sup>2</sup>. It appears that their first child, Robert, was born to the north of this parish. It should be added, however, that the 1988 version of the IGI also records at Sutton-Cum-Duckmanton, in 1729, a marriage between a William Plant and Anne Green.

#### 3.1.1 Robert(s) of Bolsover and Beighton

A Robert Plant married Rachel Spaner at Beighton in 1751 (Figure 3.3); the parish of Beighton is about 8 miles to the north of Sutton-Cum-Duckmanton.

As the name appears to be rare, it seems reasonable to consider that this may be the same Robert Plant as the one baptised to William and Ann (included in Figure 3.1) in the parish of Bolsover<sup>3</sup>. However, there is also a Robert (bap 6.3.1727) for the parish of Edensor (Figure 2.2) which is twice as far as Bolsover from Beighton.

#### 3.1.2 James and Ellen of Sutton

It would seem that William's son James (Figure 3.1) and perhaps subsequently this James's son James (Figure 3.2) were the 'occupiers' of a substantial amount of land (with a house) at Sutton-Cum-Duckmanton; the tithe payment in 1801 was 118s 3d and the proprietors were Clarke and

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<sup>1</sup>Based on information supplied by Betty Jones (Newcastle upon Tyne) and Gwyneth and Gordon Vick (Carlisle) of the Plant Family History Society. A version of this Chapter has appeared as J.S.Plant (June 1991) *Roots and Branches* 2, 29-37.

<sup>2</sup>Ault Hucknall (not to be confused with Hucknall near Nottingham) is two parishes south of Sutton-Cum-Duckmanton, near Hardwick Hall near Mansfield, and about 7 miles south of Clowne.

<sup>3</sup>The parish of Bolsover lies between those of Sutton-Cum-Duckmanton and Clowne; there is also a region of Ault Hucknall called Glapwell which is a chapelry of the parish of Bolsover.

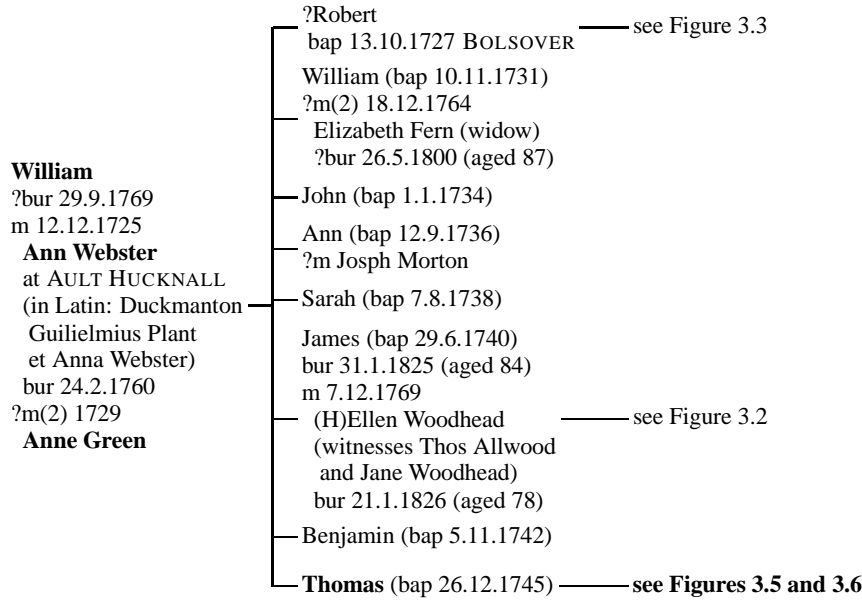


Figure 3.1: A scheme for Sutton-Cum-Duckmanton

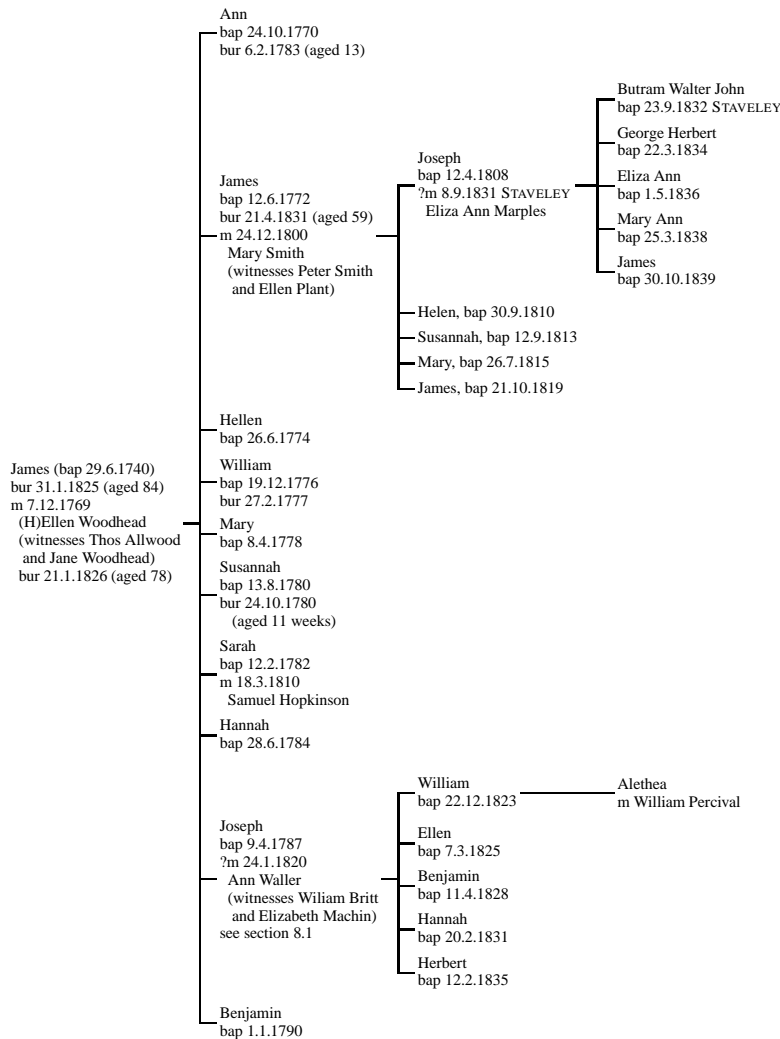


Figure 3.2: A scheme for Sutton-Cum-Duckmanton, continued

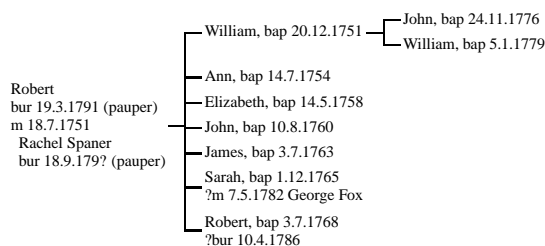


Figure 3.3: A scheme for Beighton

J H Price Esq; in 1829/32 the tithe was 157s 3d and the proprietor was Rich Arkwright<sup>4</sup>. In the will of (William's grandson) James in 1831, less than \$600 is left to widow Mary with letters of administration applied for by Mary and her son Joseph (Figure 3.2). In the 1832 Electoral Roll for Sutton-Cum-Duckmanton, (this) Joseph Plant *jnr* is listed as a 'tenant of land over \$50pa' as so also is (his uncle) Joseph Plant.

### 3.1.3 Thomas of Sutton and Clowne

The common ancestor in Figures 3.5 and 3.6, Thomas Plant, apparently had 2 wives and 18 children. Thomas was married by Banns, by the Rector of Langwith Michael Hartshorne, to Ann Coldwell on 7.2.1771 at Norton Cuckney (Notts), which is on the edge of Welbeck Park about 2 miles east of Langwith and 6 miles south-east from Clowne<sup>5</sup>.

Thomas and Ann *signed* the marriage papers and the witnesses were called James Plant and Joseph Woodhead. It may be noted that the aforementioned James (section 3.1.2), an older brother of the Thomas in Figure 3.1, married (H)Ellen Woodhead and the coincidence of the names for *both* witnesses at Thomas and Ann's marriage provides substantial evidence of a link between the Clowne and Sutton-Cum-Duckmanton Plants; furthermore, the age of (the same) Thomas Plant at his burial in Clowne confirms that this was the Thomas in Figure 3.1, from the parish of Sutton-Cum-Duckmanton and, also, presumably the same Thomas as the one who married Ann Coldwell at Cuckney and took up land in the parish of Clowne.

The name Joseph Woodhead appears also 30 years later, with Mary Woodhead, as a witness at the marriage of (this) Thomas and Ann's son John to Sarah Taylor at Clowne in 1801 (Figure 3.5) and, some 30 years later still, the names Joseph Woodhead (rent over \$50pa) and William Woodhead (copyhold estate) appear in the 1832 Electoral Roll for Clowne.

## 3.2 Thomas's second marriage

Thomas's first wife Ann Coldwell was buried on 6.3.1800 and it seems quite certain that it was her surviving husband Thomas (apparently then aged about 55) who was the *widower* (recorded in parish records) that married Mary Bennet of the parish of Staveley on 26.1.1802 at Staveley (see Figure 3.6); the witnesses were William Bennet and John Bennet. This seems more likely than an alternative supposition that the bridegroom was, for example, Thomas and Ann's son Thomas (bap 3.10.1777)<sup>6</sup> since there are records of a Joseph (Figure 3.5) who, though baptised (30.3.1793) as the 'son of Thomas and Ann Plant', was buried (12.2.1811) aged 17 as the '*son of* Thomas and Mary Plant'.

<sup>4</sup>The namesake, the famous inventor Sir Richard Arkwright (1732-92) from Preston was, by now, dead but it may be relevant that the 'village' of Arkwright Town is just to the west of Long Duckmanton.

<sup>5</sup>This general area is known as 'The Dukeries' because of the large number of Dukes who owned the great estates in this northern area of Sherwood Forest, such as the eccentric 5th Duke of Portland who added a labyrinth of underground passages to Welbeck Abbey in the 19th century.

<sup>6</sup>If still living, this Thomas would have been about 24 at the time of the marriage.

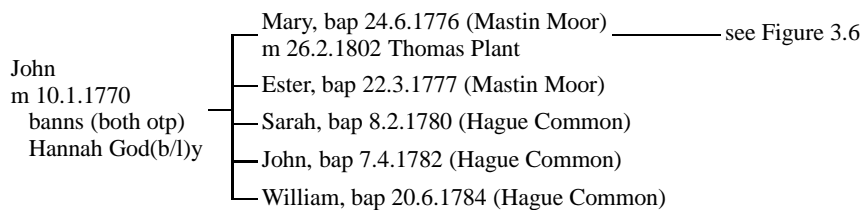


Figure 3.4: A Bennet(t) family at Staveley

A possible indication that Thomas's son Thomas was still in the area can quite easily be discounted, if it is presumed that the tithe records were not fully up to date. Father Thomas was buried at the stated age of 81 on 26.2.1827, at Clowne; *following this burial* the tithe records for 1829/32 for Clowne still refer to a Thos Plant in a manner essentially unchanged from 1801, both as occupier of House and Land owned by Thos Hill or D T Hill (tithe payment 25s 5d) and as the proprietor of House and Land occupied by John Hopkinson (tithe 1s) and John Bingham (tithe 1s).

In the baptism records, for the children of Thomas and Mary, *their* father Thomas is described as a **farmer** in 1814 and 1816 but as a **labourer** in 1819, by when Thomas senior would have been aged about 73.

### 3.2.1 Mary Bennet(t) from Staveley

Thomas's widow Mary was apparently still alive in Sheffield (aged 77) much later in 1851 (section 8.3) and these data indicate that Isaac's mother was a Mary born in Staveley, which is compatible with her being the same Mary Bennett who married Thomas at Staveley. A family of Bennet(t)s in Staveley is represented in Figure 3.4

## 3.3 Offspring of Thomas

All of Thomas's children (Figures 3.5 and 3.6) were baptised at Clowne, some first being baptised privately before being 'received into the Church'.

### 3.3.1 Sons of Thomas and Ann

The children of Thomas and Ann's eldest son William, who is described as a **labourer** in 1813 and 1817, were baptised (from 1799 to 1817) at Clowne as so also were those of Thomas and Ann's third son John (children baptised 1801-11). The fourth son Benjamin apparently had his children baptised (1807-29) at nearby Harthill (see section 4.2), just two parishes to the north.

### 3.3.2 Sons of Thomas and Mary

The witnesses at the marriage of Thomas and Mary's son Aaron (Figure 3.6) to Sarah Billam of Barlborough (one parish to the north of Clowne) in 1833 were called Joseph Scott and Sarah Cox; Aaron is described as a **labourer** when his son Thomas is baptised at Clowne in 1834.

In 1835 the witnesses at the marriage of Aaron's brother Isaac to Jane Candlin of the adjoining parish (to the east) of Whitwell were called George and Ann Candlin; their first son was baptised at Clowne but subsequent children were baptised nearer to Sheffield, initially at Beighton (Figure 3.6) which is about 6 miles to the north-east from Clowne.

*It would seem that* it may have been Isaac's uncle Robert (Figure 3.1) who had moved earlier to Beighton, by 1751, as discussed in section 3.1.1.

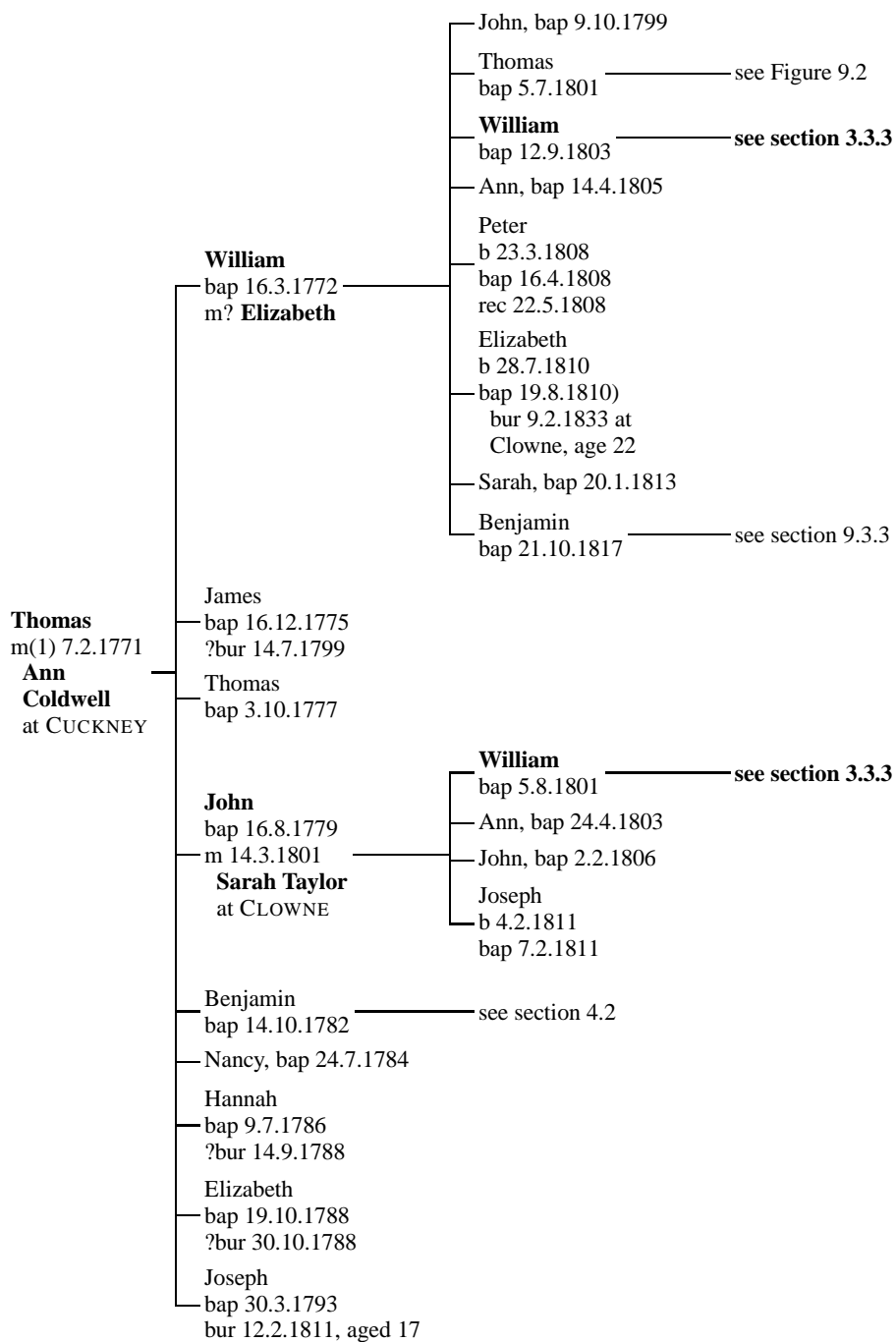


Figure 3.5: First marriage of Thomas.

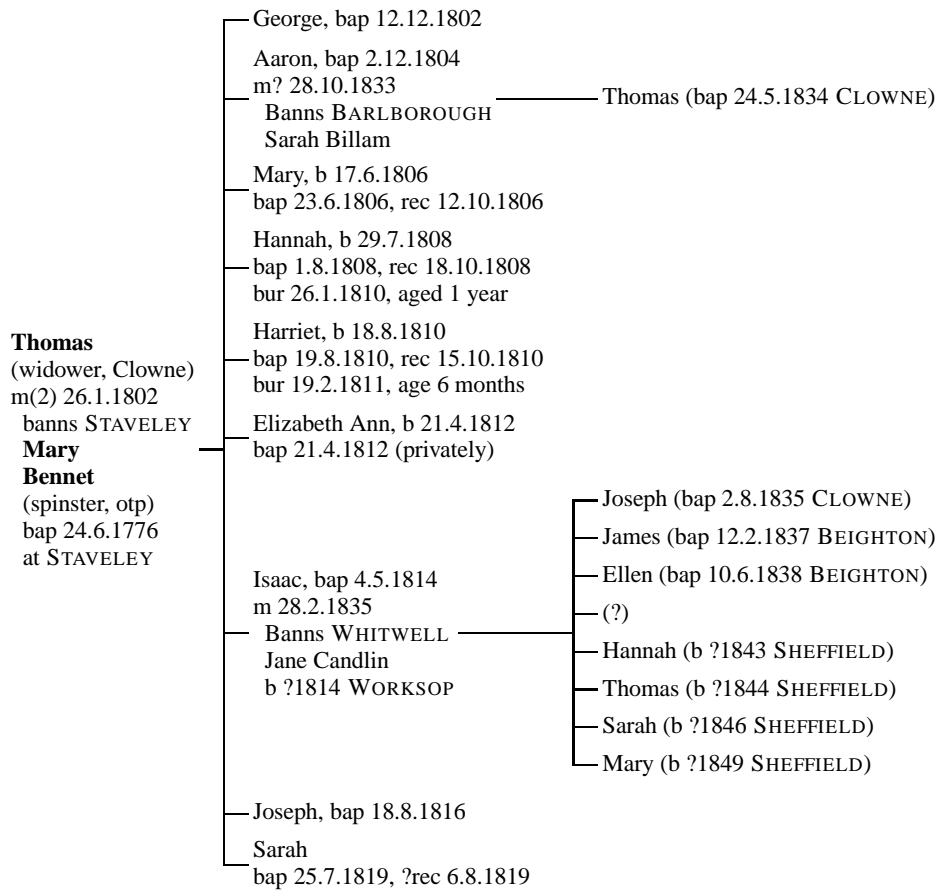


Figure 3.6: Second marriage of Thomas.

### 3.3.3 Grandsons called William

Though subject to further investigation, the current information may be relevant to the ancestry of, for example, the William Plant mentioned later on page ??, of whom it is said “this may be the Plant who traveled from Clowne in Derbyshire, where the family owned land, to Sheffield”. This William of Sheffield, who can be considered to have been both the husband of Elizabeth Hartley (married in Sheffield in 1828) and the father of James Plant (chapter ??) *might* accordingly be the same as the one that appears in the tree of Figure 3.5 as either (i) William (bap 12.9.1803) or (ii) William (bap 5.8.1801), both grandsons of Thomas Plant and Ann Coldwell.

It may be added that a William Plant was buried at Clowne on 2.9.1801 and this *may* have been the William who was baptised on 5.8.1801; alternatively, for example, the recorded burial could conceivably be that of William and Ann’s eldest son William (Figure 3.1) from nearby Sutton-Cum-Duckmanton.

### 3.3.4 These Williams’s sisters Ann

It may be noted (from Figure 3.5) that both grandsons William, of Thomas and Ann, had younger sisters called Ann (baptised 1805 and 1803). It could have been either of these who married (banns at Clowne) Robert Askham of Ryhill (Wrigley?) of the County of York on 27.11.1822 (with witnesses William Drabble(?) and Elizabeth Wilson). Also an Anne Plant is recorded as the mother of John Plant (bap 5.7.1834 at Clowne).

### 3.3.5 Brothers of a William

Two of the brothers of one of these Williams (the one that was baptised in 12.9.1803 at Clowne) are subsequently recorded in Sheffield (section ??); *viz* Thomas (bap 5.7.1801) and Benjamin (bap 21.10.1817).

## 3.4 Departure from Clowne

*Most* of the family appear to have departed the immediate vicinity of Clowne by 1841; the Clowne Census Data mentions (i) ‘Nan Plant’ (stated age 65) a Derbyshire born charwoman who *might perhaps* have been Thomas and Ann’s daughter Nancy (bap 24.7.1784), who would have been about 56, and (ii) Elizabeth Plant (aged 60 *approx*) born outside Derbyshire who *may* have been the (surviving) wife of William, the eldest son of Thomas and Ann (Figure 3.5).