

## Chapter 8

# Sheffield Plants from Duckmanton

SOME PLANTS ARRIVING IN SHEFFIELD AROUND 1840<sup>1</sup>

May 1994. One of a series of Chapters by Dr. John S. Plant, Keele University, England, ST5 5BG.

Various descendants of William Plant (?-1769) of Sutton-Cum-Duckmanton arrived in the 19th century in the rapidly expanding townships which formed, from around 1835, the two Unions of townships called Sheffield and Ecclesall Bierlow. As described earlier (Chapter 3) William Plant (?-1769) had several children baptised in the parish of Sutton-Cum-Duckmanton and the youngest, Thomas (1745-1827), took up a farm in nearby Clowne where he had 18 children by 2 wives. Some who were descended from the eldest son of Thomas of Clowne from Sutton-Cum-Duckmanton will be discussed later whilst this chapter describes others who arrived in Sheffield from Duckmanton and Clowne. Charles Plant for example (Chapter 6) is known to have moved from Clowne (*c* 1833) to his farms in the adjoining parish of Staveley and then on to retirement (*c* 1870) in Sheffield, which is about 10 miles to the north-west. The varying fortunes of such Plants, who arrived in Sheffield mostly in the early part of the 19th century, can be traced in some detail, in particular after 1840 through the available Sheffield Censuses, for which Sheffield City Libraries currently hold indexes for 1841, 1851 and 1871.

### 8.1 Joseph from Sutton-Cum-Duckmanton

Sheffield Census data for a household of Plants, all of whom are shown in 1841 to have been born outside Yorkshire, shows that they had travelled from Duckmanton in Derbyshire (12 miles SSE of Sheffield) and that the head of the household was a Joseph; this Joseph (b ?1787) appears in Figure 8.1 as a son of James (1740-1825) of the parish of Sutton-Cum-Duckmanton. Joseph was described in more detail in Chapter 3 where he was indicated to have owned land in Sutton-Cum-Duckmanton, according to the Electoral Roll for 1832.

The 1841 Census shows that this Joseph (stated rounded age 50) had by then become a **labourer** near central Sheffield; he is listed in a household in Eyre Lane (near the street called The Moor) with Ann (45), Hannah (10), Frances (8) and Thomas (20). Thomas is here recorded as a **filecutter**, and nearby in Eyre Lane is Mary (45); all, including Mary, are stated to have been born outside Yorkshire. This Thomas is stated later, in the 1851 Census, to be a nephew from Dore of Joseph and it seems likely that he was a son of Joseph's younger brother Benjamin and wife Mary, as indicated in Figures 8.1 and 8.2.

It seems that the above mentioned Mary (stated age 45), in Eyre Lane in 1841, may *not necessarily* have been Thomas's mother however. Burial records for Ecclesall Bierlow show that a joiner Benjamin's wife, Mary, died in 1826 followed by **carpenter** Benjamin (aged 36) and his daughter Jane (*cf.* Figure 8.2). This accords with a notion that these *could have been* Thomas's parents and sister, as the age of this Benjamin corresponds closely with that of the one who was baptised on 1.1.1790 as a brother of Joseph at Sutton-Cum-Duckmanton.

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<sup>1</sup>Including genealogical data supplied by Gordon and Gwyneth Vick (Carlisle), formerly of the Plant Family History Society, and by Mrs José King of Sheffield Archives, Sheffield City Libraries.

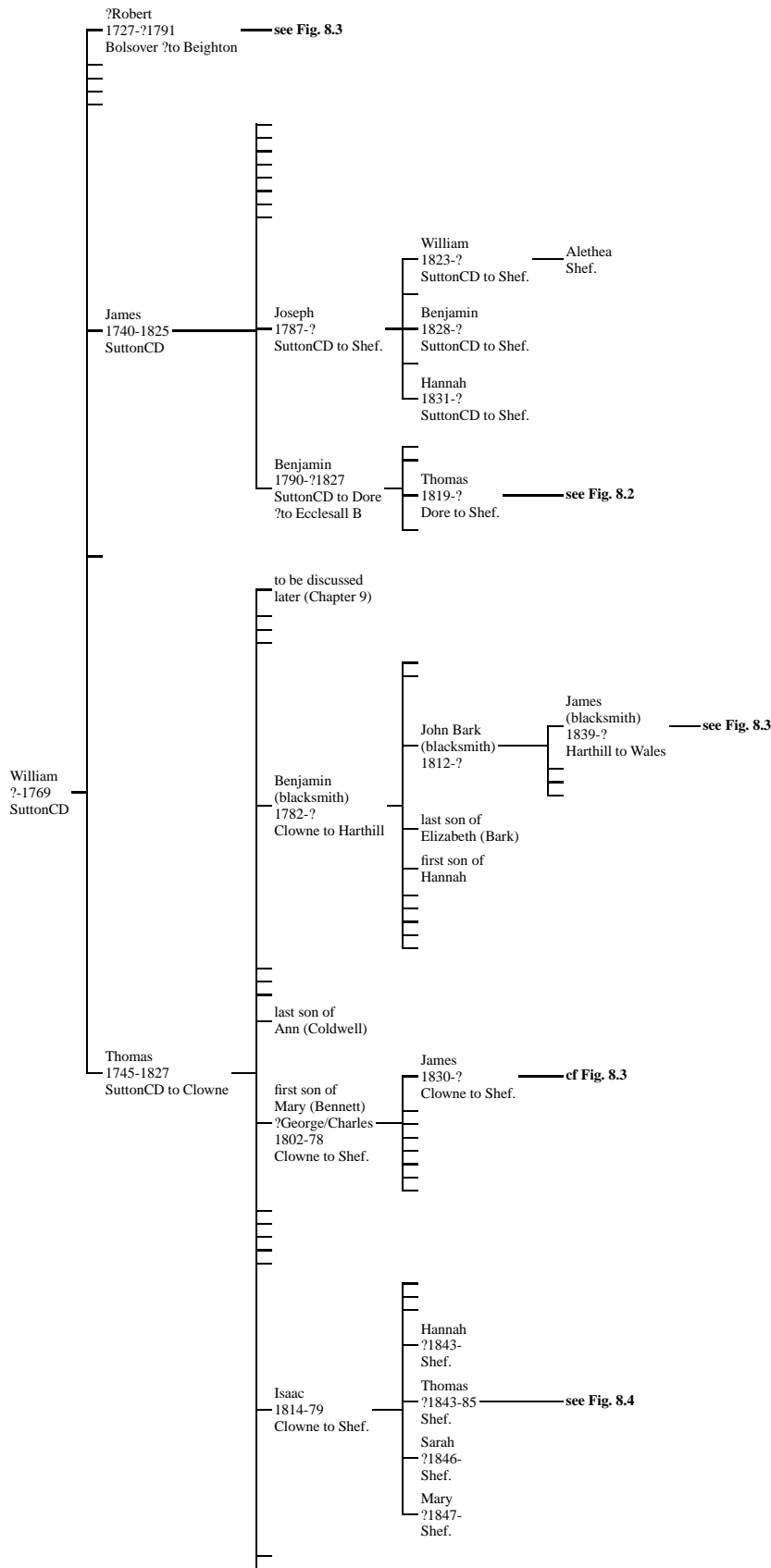


Figure 8.1: Outline Summary of some Sheffield Plant ancestry, from Sutton-Cum-Duckmanton and Clowne

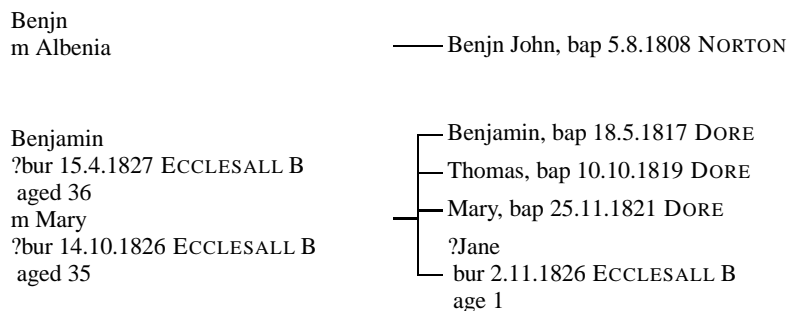


Figure 8.2: Some Plant parish records for Dore, Norton and Ecclesall Bierlow

Joseph is recorded as a labourer (aged 64) from Duckmanton in the 1851 Census for (Dyers Hill) 59 Duke Lane, Sheffield. Also recorded here are his wife Ann (53) from Beighton with children Benjamin (22) labourer and ?Hannah (29 or ?perhaps 20) from Duckmanton. Thus, those from Sutton-Cum-Duckmanton that are listed in the 1851 Census Index *could be* this Joseph's daughter ?Hannah (*i.e.* perhaps not ?Henry, aged 20, as stated in the Sheffield Name Index) and sons Benjamin (unmarried, aged 22, in the Sheffield Index) and William (married, aged 26, in the Ecclesfield/Bradfield Index) which then accords with the baptism data for Duckmanton. Also in this Sheffield household are Joseph's nephew Thomas (29) unmarried labourer from Dore, grandson Herbert (9) from Sheffield, as well as others from Duckmanton and Whitwell.

It seems possible that some of the family of the brothers Joseph and Benjamin were not wholly involved in typical rural pursuits before Benjamin apparently travelled, as early as 1808, from Duckmanton to Norton (then known mostly as a centre for agricultural scythes) near Sheffield (famous for its cutlery and other tools). The possibility of some tradition of metal-related pursuits seems feasible because history records that a branch of the Chesterfield Canal, called the Adelphi Canal, was built in 1799 to carry goods from Duckmanton's ironworks to Staveley and it is accordingly possible that the family may have already had some familiarity with iron, for example, before leaving Duckmanton for Sheffield.

Later, the Sheffield Census data indicates that Joseph's and Benjamin's sons were metal workers, involved in the forging and cutting of files. For example, it is presumably this Joseph's son William who is described, in the 1851 Census for Wadsley Bridge, as a fileforger from Duckmanton (aged 26) with his wife Harriet (22) from Ecclesfield, Yorkshire. Later, he appears in the 1871 Census as a fileforger from Duckmanton (aged 46) living with his daughter and son-in-law Alethea and William Percival at 6 Ropery Row — Ropery Row was demolished when the Park Hill Flats were built around 1960 but it was near Talbot Street, immediately above the Midland Railway Station which was opened in 1870 in the Ponds near central Sheffield.

## 8.2 Charles and his son James from Clowne

Charles Plant from Clowne has been included in Figure 8.1 by means of adopting, for this purpose, a *theory* (discussed earlier, in Chapter 6) that he was the eldest son of Thomas of Clowne from Sutton-Cum-Duckmanton and his second wife Mary (née Bennett), even though the baptism data records this child as George. 'Private baptism' was sometimes arranged for children who were not considered certain at birth to live long enough for a normal baptism, though it had assumed a certain 'social cachet' by 1800 amongst those wealthy farmers and gentry who could manage to arrange it anyway. Unlike some of his younger siblings, Thomas and Mary's first child 'George' had *not* been 'baptised privately' before being 'received into the church'. Thus, as there is only a single formal record for the baptism of ?George/Charles, there would be no opportunity for a possible mistake in the parish baptism record to be corrected at a second event, which could have arisen if he had been subsequently 'received into the church'. It seems plausible, for example, that there could have been

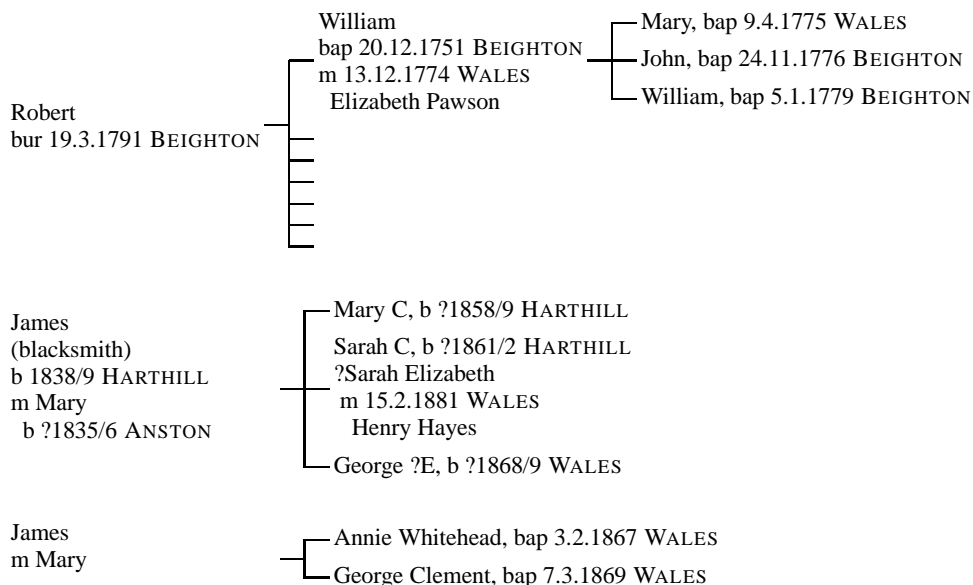


Figure 8.3: Some Plant records for the parish of Wales (S.Yorks)

a misreading of the handwritten representation of ‘Cha.’ as ‘Geo.’ from the parish clerk’s rough Day Book when entering up the record of the baptism (given the nature of handwriting styles at that time which were such that ‘Cha.’ and ‘Geo.’ often looked very similar).

As described earlier (Chapter 6), the path of Charles’s son James from Clowne to nearby Staveley and then on to Sheffield passed through the household (*c* 1851) of a family called Whitehead at Eckington (which is about 6 miles SE of Sheffield). It might hence be contemplated whether this same James moved from Eckington to Wales, which is about 3.5 miles NE of Eckington, as it *could be thought* that he and (perhaps his first wife?) Mary bore the child called Annie Whitehead Plant there around 1867 as indicated in Figure 8.3. However, this child can be more readily ascribed to another James, who is recorded as a **blacksmith** from Harthill (aged 32) in the 1871 Census for ‘70 Wales’ with his wife Mary (25) and children Mary C (12), Sarah C (9) and George ?E (2). Thus, this father James is almost certainly the son of the blacksmith John Bark Plant of Harthill who is included in Figure 8.1 and who was described in more detail in Chapter 4.

Returning to Charles and his son James, it may be recalled that this James subsequently moved to Buckenham Road near Spittal Hill, near central Sheffield, and Charles himself moved from Bennett’s House at Staveley to near the Wicker in Sheffield (before his death in 1878) close to the premises of, for example, the subsequently mentioned **dram flask maker** James (Chapter ??) and even closer to the business premises of Charles’s presumed brother Isaac, who had moved from Clowne and who was apparently joined later in Sheffield by his mother Mary (née Bennett) as is described below.

### 8.3 Isaac from Clowne

The 1841 Census for Broad Lane (near St George’s Church and near the subsequent site of Sheffield University) lists Isaac porter (rounded age 25), Jane (25), Joseph (5) and Mary (1); unlike the 2 children, the adults are indicated to have been born outside Yorkshire. The 1851 Census for High Street, Park, Sheffield (presumably near the High Street Lane that later ran over the subsequently cut Midland Railway) shows that (this) Isaac (aged 36) had been born at Clowne. Living in 1851 with Isaac in Sheffield is his mother Mary (née Bennett) who was the second wife of Thomas of Clowne from Sutton-Cum-Duckmanton. The information for the children of Isaac that is shown in Chapter 3 and Figure 8.1 is based largely on the (dubious) 1851 Census data for the children

— in the 1851 Census, with Isaac, are his mother Mary (77, from Staveley), wife Jane (36, from Worksop) and children Hannah (7), Thomas (6), Sarah (5) and Mary (2). Other data give a slightly different set of ages for the children, as shown with addition details in Figure 8.4. At the associated baptisms for these children at St John's, Sheffield, Isaac is described as a **chandler** between 1841 and 1847 but as a **labourer** in 1849 and a **milkman** in 1851.

In the 1851 Census, Isaac is described as a **cow keeper**. This would probably not have been at one of the nearby markets as it was common practice, even up to as late as 1900, to keep some livestock in the courtyards of the houses in order to obtain cheap food. Pigs and hens were kept in the cellars and there was also a well recorded practice of fetching milk in an open jug from some of the houses. This Isaac is quite certainly the one who is described later, in Trade Directories, as a **butter and egg dealer**:

- Isaac Plant, Butter and Egg Dealer, 16 Meadow Street (*F.White's 1862*)
- Isaac Plant, Butter and Egg Dealer, 22 Meadow Street, 36 Bridghouses (*ie* on Nursery Street) and 28 The Wicker (*Drake's 1863* and *Kelly's 1865*)
- Isaac Plant, Butter and Egg Dealer, 36 Bridgehouse, 79 Division Street, 22 Meadow Street (*W.White's 1871*)

The family appears to have moved to Meadow Street, Sheffield by 1855, as the burial of Mary Plant (Isaac's mother) is recorded (burial register reference PR 70/45) as:

Mary Plant: Entry No 2506; Abode, Meadow St, buried 25 July 1855; Age 81; ceremony performed by J A Henderson.

In the 1861 Census for 16-18 Meadow St there appears **Butter & Egg Dealer** Isaac (46) from Clowne, wife Jane (46) from Worksop and unmarried Sheffield-born children Sarah (19), Thos (17), Hannah (13) and Jane (9). In the 1871 Census for 22 Meadow Street is provision merchant Isaac (55) and wife Jane (55) with unmarried daughters Hannah (22) and Jane (19) and unmarried domestic servant Ann Rotherham (?15).

The will (under \$2000) of Isaac Plant **Provision Dealer** of Meadow Street shows that Isaac died on 22.8.1879 and, in the Civil Registration Index, his age is given as 65 (Sheffield 9c 209) which corresponds to the baptism date of the Isaac that was from Clowne.

### 8.3.1 Isaac's son Thomas

Isaac's will was made on 29.3.1879 and was proved by son Thomas on 9.10.1879, who was left the property in Meadow Street with instructions that the business be continued for the benefit of Isaac's widow whilst she lived, then to be disposed of as Thomas saw fit; the residue of the estate was to be divided amongst Isaac's (unnamed) children.

The data (e.g. Figure 8.4) suggest that Thomas was (by 1851) the sole surviving son of Isaac. There is in Trades Directories:

- Thomas Plant, Butter and Egg Dealer, 28 Wicker and 81 Division Street (*W.White's 1871*)

This suggests that, by 1871 and well before Isaac's death, Thomas had taken over from his father the premises in The Wicker and also had a shop adjacent to his father's in Division Street. In the 1871 Census for 48 Albert Terrace Road (in the district of St Philip's) there appears Thomas (27) 'Butterman (employing 1 boy)', wife Ann (29), daughter Bertha (1m) and domestic servant Mary Webster (18); the St Phillip's baptism register around this time includes Fanny Mary (bap 18.8.1872) child of **butter factor** Thomas and Ann. After his father's death, Thomas had moved by the time of the 1881 Census to 65 Montgomery Terrace Road (which is near Meadow Street) and he is shown there (stated age 38) as a **Provision Dealer** with wife Ann (39) and children Bertha (10), Gertrude (4), Arnold (3) and Mabel (8mo); also in the household is their **general servant**, unmarried Lavinia Wharton also from Sheffield. Around this time, in Trades Directories, there is:

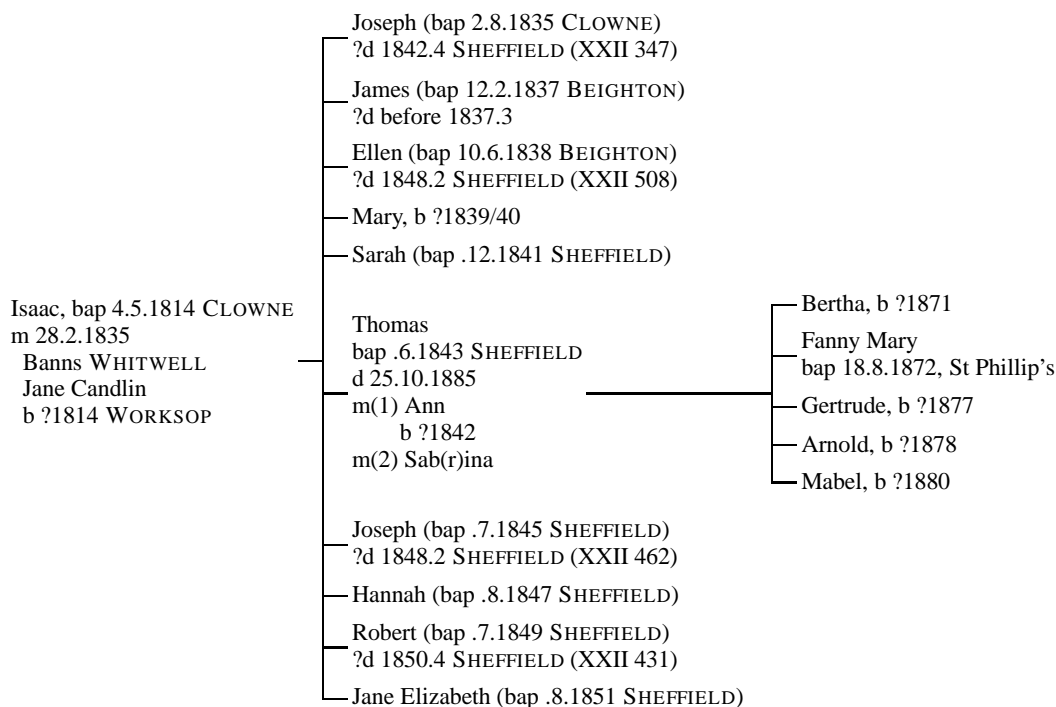


Figure 8.4: Thomas, son of Provision Dealer Isaac from Clowne

- Thomas Plant & Co, Provision Merchant, 67 The Wicker (*White's 1883*)
- Thomas Plant, Provision Merchant, 20 & 22 Meadow Street (residence 65 Montgomery Terrace) (*White's 1883*); later Mrs Sabina Plant (*Kelly's 1890*)

The stated residence of Thomas, in 1881 and 1883, is presumably (near) the present Montgomery Terrace Road which adjoins the Royal Infirmary; this is about 0.7 miles from The Wicker and half way to Harcourt Road where Thomas had moved by 1885. His address of 31 Harcourt Road was close to that (41 Harcourt Road) of a William Plant's son James (the dram flask maker) who appears to have had links with the Clowne Plants and who was almost certainly also descended from them; this James's father William was probably a son of a step-brother of Charles and Isaac and, hence, a step-cousin of the provision dealer Thomas, as will be discussed in some detail later (Chapter 9).

It is this address (31 Harcourt Road) that is given as that of Provision Dealer Thomas when his widow Sabrina Plant proved by oath (24.11.1885) his will and obtained Administration (gross value \$2957.14.10d) as sole executrix following Thomas's death on 25.10.1885. In the Civil Registration Index there is recorded the death of a Thomas (aged 42, Ecclesall B 1885.4qtr 9c 166) whose age accords with that of Isaac's son. In Thomas's will, made just 2 days before his death, he bequeaths leasehold property in Meadow Street and nearby Allen Street to his son Arnold (who would then be aged about 7) upon attaining the age of 21, with the residue 'except the household furniture which belonged to my wife Sabrina before our marriage' to be divided equally between Sabrina and those of his daughters Bertha, Gertrude and Mabel that would reach 21. This reference to Sabrina's furniture seems compatible with the idea that Thomas had only recently married her when he made his 1885 will, which is reinforced by the fact that Thomas's wife is still called 'Ann' in the 1881 Census.