

Chapter 14

Plant's Yard Plants

SOME PLANTS ASSOCIATED WITH PLANT'S YARD NEAR SHEFFIELD¹

May 1997. One of a series of Chapters by Dr. John S. Plant, Keele University, England, ST5 5BG.

The story of the origins of Plant's Yard near Sheffield (Chapter 10) includes the histories of two Plants, namely a bricklayer John and a bellows maker Benjamin. Together, they appear to have been active in the development of Sheffield's iron and steel making 'plant' at a formative time of the Industrial Revolution and to have become eponymous with the Little Sheffield site of Plant's Yard (Chapter 13).

There is evidence to suggest that the forefathers of the Sheffield area Plants came, by around 1700, from near Bakewell's chapelry of Buxton to Chesterfield, travelling some 20 miles to the east. By the 1760s, the bellows maker Benjamin (1742-1806) had travelled the 10 miles north from Duckmanton near Chesterfield to Sheffield whilst his apparent brother, the bricklayer John (1733-1816), went first to Rotherham before arriving in Little Sheffield by the late 1780s. This Chapter also describes the demise in the early 19th century of the Sheffield properties of these *Plant's Yard Plants* to their nephews and their nephews' sons. By the mid 19th century, some of the Plant offspring had moved to near London whilst others helped to populate the developing areas towards Sheffield's growing industrial north east.

14.1 The origins of the early Sheffield Plants

It was suggested, as a general notion in Chapter 11, that the arrival of Plants in Sheffield *may have* followed a Gell and Eyre family connection, around 1700, between the Bakewell area and Broom Hall near Sheffield. So far, this has been *no more than* a general notion, however, because the supporting evidence has (as yet) lacked an elusive link between two Plant families, at Chesterfield and nearby at Duckmanton.

Certainly it is known that there were Plants around Bakewell in the late 17th century. Moreover, around 1700, one particular Plant from the large parish of Bakewell appears to have moved around 10 or 20 miles to the east, to near Chesterfield (Figure 14.1). This clearly connects a Bakewell area Plant with Chesterfield. No clear connection has yet been established, however, between these Chesterfield Plants and the nearby Duckmanton Plants just 3 miles to the east of Chesterfield. It seems certain that it was the Duckmanton Plants who were the ancestors of the *Plant's Yard Plants* of Sheffield, 10 miles to the north, who included Benjamin Plant (1742-1806) (*i.e. Ben(bellows)*) of Figure 14.2(a)) who held various property in the vicinity of Broom Hall near Sheffield.

14.1.1 Plants near Chesterfield

Thus, it already seems clear that the *Plant's Yard Plants* of Sheffield came from the parish Sutton-cum-Duckmanton near Chesterfield and there were, nearby in the early 18th century, some Chesterfield Plants who were apparently from Bakewell.

¹Including information supplied by Rotherham and Sheffield Libraries.

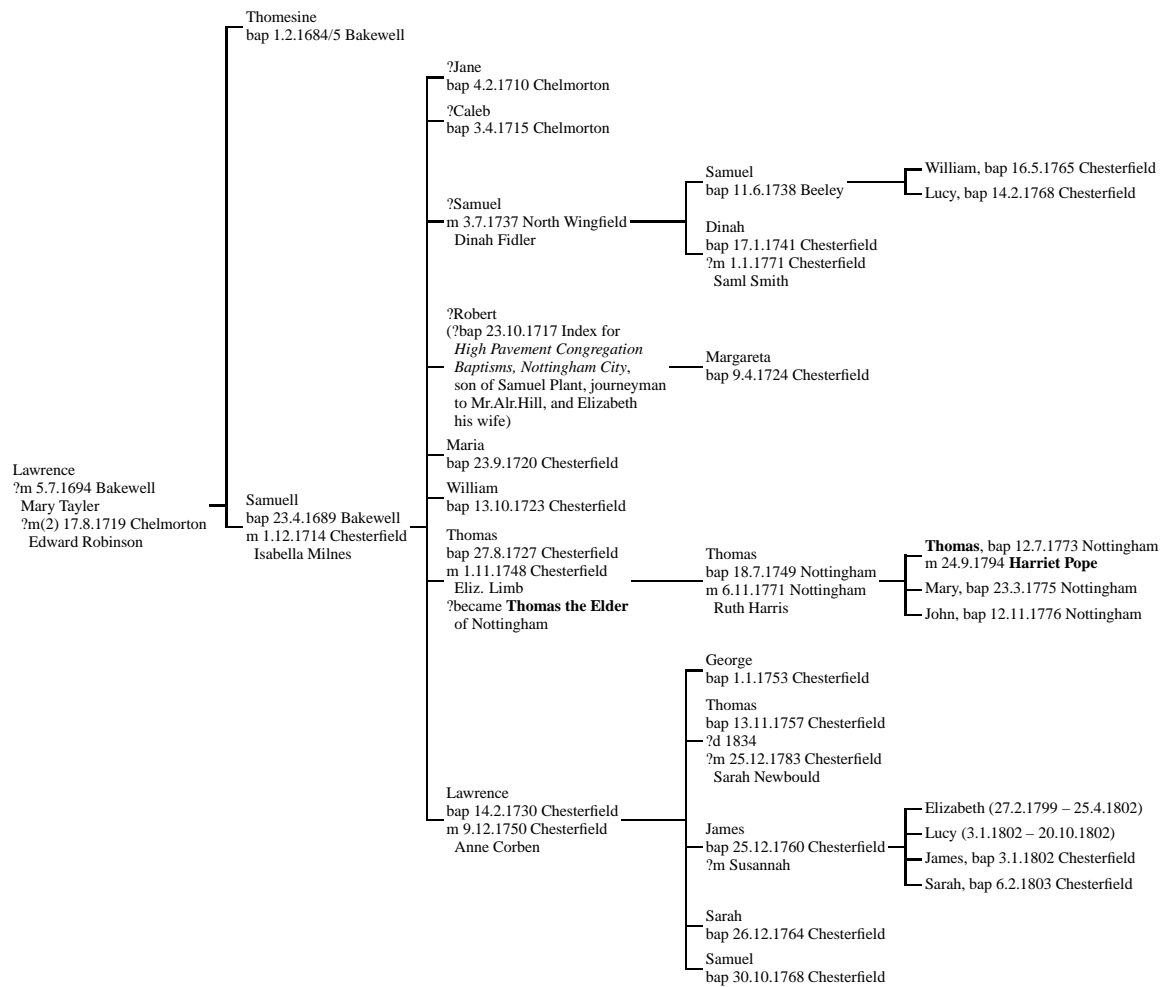


Figure 14.1: A scheme of Bakewell – Chesterfield – Nottingham Plants

It can be added that these Chesterfield Plants from Bakewell can be associated, by the mid 18th century, with the following Cutlers' apprenticeship records for the *general area* of Sheffield²:-

- Samuel Plant, son of Samuel of Cuthorpe, miller; to cutler Thomas Hunt, 1751; and
- William Plant, son of Samuel of Brampton, husbandman; to filesmith John Jackson, 1752.

Cuthorpe in the parish of Brampton is 3 miles NW of Chesterfield and these records seem quite clearly to refer to descendants of the Samuel (1689-?) of Figure 14.1 who came from the large parish of Bakewell, around 10 to 20 miles to the west of Chesterfield, to marry Isabella and settle near Chesterfield³. As has been described by W. Keith Plant⁴, two Nottingham descendants of these Chesterfield Plants played a prominent role in the late 19th century Goldfields of Queensland, Australia. There is however (as yet) no known evidence that Plants from this particular Chesterfield family were amongst those (Figures 14.2(a) and (b)) who appear in the early parish records of Sheffield, which is just 10 miles to the north of Chesterfield.

14.1.2 Some early connections between the Duckmanton Plants and Sheffield

Unlike the aforementioned Chesterfield Plants from Bakewell (Figure 14.1), it is clear that some of the nearby *Duckmanton* Plants settled in Sheffield and there is for example a Cutlers' apprenticeship record:-

- Robert Plant, son of William of Duckmanton, brickmaker; to sicklesmith William Staniforth of Hackenthorpe, 1741.

This 1741 record refers unambiguously to '*William of Duckmanton*' (i.e. $W^m(0)$ of Figure 14.2(a)). It informs us that $W^m(0)$'s son Robert was apprenticed (aged 14) at Hackenthorpe, which is just 5 miles SE of central Sheffield. It also tells us that Robert's father $W^m(0)$ was a brickmaker.

Another apprenticeship record refers to Coalpit Lane, which was at the southern edge of the then small town of Sheffield itself:-

- James Plant, son of William of Branside, Prestbury, carpenter; to (I) scissorsmith John Hollingworth of Coalpit Lane, 1768; to (II) scissorsmith Benjamin Oaks, 1772.

This reference to a Plant in Coalpit Lane can feasibly be connected with *Ben(bellows)*'s presence there. $W^m(0)$'s son *Ben(bellows)* is known to have been in Sheffield by 1766 (Chapter 12) and to have been at Coalpit Lane, at the southern edge of Sheffield town, at least by 1774 (Chapter 13). This *possible* connection at Coalpit Lane between the Duckmanton Plant family and a William Plant of '*Branside, Prestbury*', as implied by the above 1768 apprenticeship record, will be considered further later.

14.1.3 Early owners of Ben(bellows)'s Coal-pit Lane site

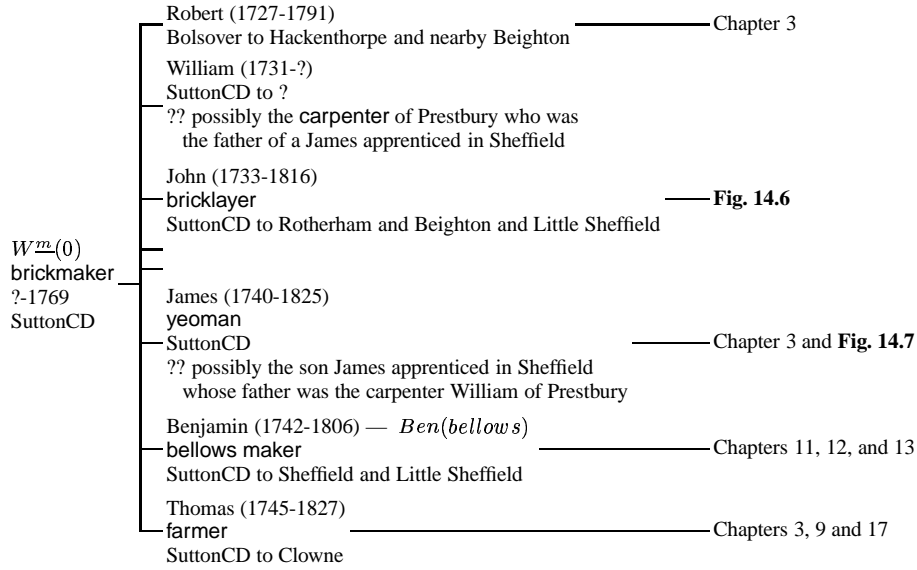
It seems that Coalpit Lane can be associated with the arrival in Sheffield of the *Plant's Yard* Plants from Duckmanton, by the 1760s. It accordingly seems relevant to consider some of the *early* history of this apparent site of '*Late Plant yard*'.

²*History of the Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire*, Vol II, *ibid*.

³I am grateful to Mrs Judy Watson of the Plant Family History Society, a descendant of Thomas Plant and Harriet Pope of Nottingham, for helping in proposing much of this scheme. The scheme relates in part to data in Chapter 5 (which appeared as J.S.Plant, Jan.1993, *Roots and Branches*, 5, 23-8) and it is reinforced by data from a more recent (1992) version of the IGI as well as by some additional information supplied by Judy. In particular, the will (1789) of Thomas Plant the Elder of Nottingham mentions a brother Robert who is included in Figure 14.1. There is also a Nottingham baptism for a Robert (Figure 14.1) and it seems possible that this was an adult baptism, with the mention of his father Samuel's wife as *Elizabeth* in this record being explicable as a variant of the name *Isabella*.

⁴W. Keith Plant, July 1992, *Roots and Branches*, 4, 13-30.

(a) The probable scheme for the immediate Agnate Ancestry of the *Plant's Yard* Plants



(b) Some other early Sheffield parish Plant records

John — Ruth, bap 15.3.1737

Joseph
m(1) ?
m(2) Mary Paramore, spinster, 4.6.1772

Aaron
m Hannah Clay, spinster, 10.9.1775

Henry — John, bap 27.8.1797
m Ann

Figure 14.2: Some early records for Plants in Sheffield

As will be described in further detail below, it seems probable that a Kent association with this Coalpit Lane property arose around 1700 with intermarriage between the Downes and the Kent families. A Kent family association with this property then remained throughout the 18th century. The first *known* association of the Plants with this property arises in the 1760s. It seems that, around the times of James Plant's 1768 apprenticeship to a scissormith in Coalpit Lane, the property passed to *Ben(bellows)* and it can be added, for example, that by 1787 a George Kent's scissormith business adjoined Coalpit Lane. The description '*Late Plant yard*' appears in 1780s rate books and it seems likely to have referred to (part of) *Ben(bellows)*'s Coalpit Lane property (Chapter 13). This site was subsequently rebuilt around 1870 and renamed *Leah's Yard* whose buildings currently survive as *listed buildings* amidst the modern Department stores of a busy central Sheffield.

A 1784 deed (Chapter 11) indicates that *Ben(bellows)*'s Coalpit Lane property had belonged to Joseph Downes in 1695 as well as to Benjamin Downes for whom there is a 1707 will. These are, no doubt, the Joseph (bap 13.10.1637) and Benjamin (bap 13.8.1668) Downes who appear in Figure 14.3 and, along with this Benjamin Downes's brothers John and Richard, they no doubt comprise the family of Master Cutlers Joseph Downes (MC 1690), Richard Downes (MC 1697) and John Downes (MC 1708). Around this time, this Coalpit Lane property was occupied by, amongst others, Elkanah Roberts the Elder who is mentioned along with James Hool in the first known patent record (1704-5) of the Company of Cutlers. It can be added that this patent record connection between Elkana Roberts of Coalpit Lane and a 'James Hool' can be related back to the Downes family of Coalpit Lane, in as much as a 'James Hoole' was John Downes's successor as the 1709 Master Cutler.

Figure 14.3 indicates that two cousins of these Coalpit Lane Downes, Martha and Sarah Down(e)s, married into the Kent family. Joseph Hunter⁵ indicates that this Sarah's father and a brother were both called William Downes in agreement with Figure 14.3. Hunter also indicates that Martha was a sister of this Sarah, though Figure 14.3 suggests that this Sarah and Martha Downes may instead have been cousins.

There is various evidence to associate the name Kent with the Downes's Coalpit Lane property, which later in the 18th century belonged to Benjamin Plant. It may be noted, for example, that the name Kent was apparently quite rare in Sheffield though the 1741 Master Cutler, Richard Kent, is known to have been 'of Coalpit Lane'. It can be added that *Rich Kent* and *Late Kents* entries appear in available *Ecclesall* property records, throughout 1729-74, and *Ecclesall* included very little of Sheffield town at that time, apart from Coalpit Lane. By 1779 the '*Late Kents*' entry had disappeared from *Ecclesall* rate books though there is instead an entry '*Late Plant yard*'. The 1774 and 1787 Sheffield Directories include such entries as:-

Kent Richard & Son, table knife cutlers, Hollis-croft (1774)

Kent Richard & Sons, cutlers, Norfolk Street (1787)

Kent George, scissormith, Barker-Pool (1787)

Rose William, cutler, Coal-pit Lane (1787)

The above 1787 entry for George Kent is for Barkers Pool, which adjoins Coalpit Lane, and the William Rose entry is for Coalpit Lane itself. Subsequently, a 1824 deed for the Plants' Coalpit Lane property (Table 14.5) mentions the names William Kent and William Rose as former and current occupants.

Such evidence leads on to the question of whether the Plant association with this property arose from a relationship between the '*Kent*' and the '*Plant*' names. It was mentioned in Chapter 11 that handwriting styles, around 1700, could lead to a confusion of the names '*Plant*' and '*Kent*'⁶.

⁵Joseph Hunter, *Familiae Minorum Gentium*, *ibid*, pages 1216-20.

⁶In particular an open P could look almost like a V to which the downstroke of an l could be added to form the semblance of a K. Furthermore, the vowels e, o and a were often written almost identically, making a handwritten '*Kent*' quite likely indecipherable from '*Plant*'.

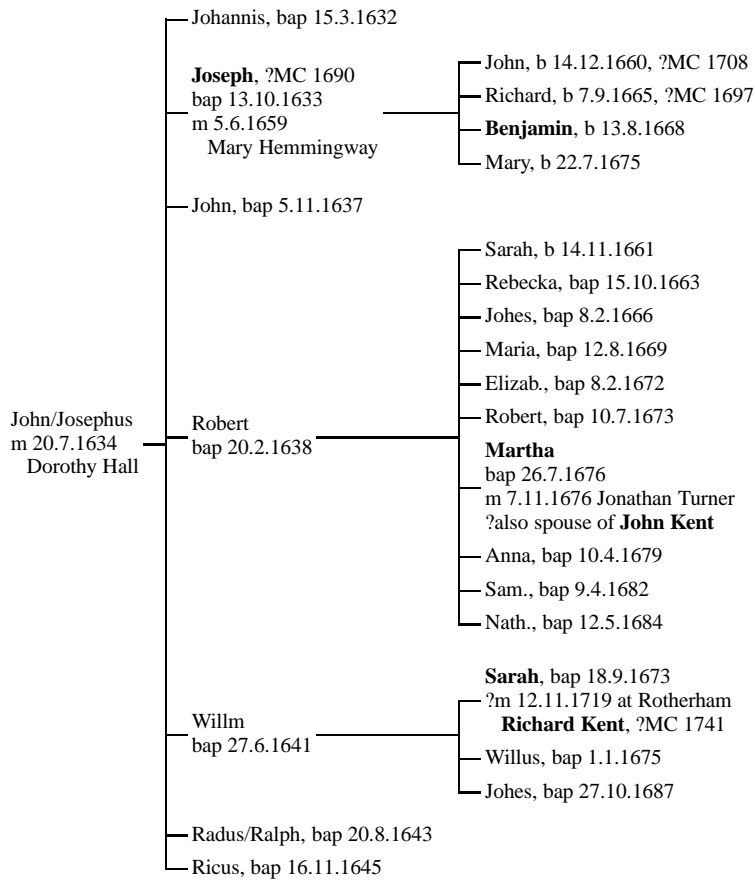


Figure 14.3: A scheme of Downes parish records for Sheffield (around 1650-1700)

surname	county	No. of 1984 IGI records	Possible William baptisms 1680-1710	Possible William baptisms 1690-1705	Nearest 5 (1690-1705) baptisms	Distance from Duckmanton
KENT	Derbyshire	512	0	0	Rotherham (1694,1700) Harewood (1692) Laxton (1704)	15 miles N
	Yorkshire	845	7	3		45 miles N
	Nottinghamshire	195	1	1		20 miles E
BLAND	Derbyshire	425	0	0	Calverley (1690), Leeds (1696,1700) Whitkirk (1691), Garforth (1694)	40 miles N
	Yorkshire	3855	22	14		40 miles N
PLANT	Nottinghamshire	310	0	0	Sherburn-in-Elmet (1695) Medbourne (1700) Thornton (1704) Gawsworth (1696) Leek (1698, 1702)	40 miles N
	Derbyshire	525	0	0		50 miles SSE
	Yorkshire	305	2	1		40 miles S
	Lincolnshire	60	0	0		30 miles W
	Leicestershire	535	2	0		30 miles WSW
		475	2	2		
	Lancashire	760	0	0		
	Cheshire	590	1	1		
	Staffordshire	4280	6	2		
	Shropshire	590	1	0		
	Worcestershire	620	0	0		
	Warwickshire	495	0	0		
	Gloucestershire	27	0	0		

Table 14.1: Some possible baptisms for Wm(0) of Duckmanton

Alternatively, it may be considered to be just a coincidence that these calligraphically confusable names both appear in connection with the same Coalpit Lane property.

14.1.4 Some possible schemes for the Origins of the Duckmanton Plants

Though the father of *Ben(bellows)* of this Coalpit Lane property was quite clearly $W^m(0)$ of Duckmanton (Figure 14.2(a)), it is (as yet) less certain whence $W^m(0)$ originated.

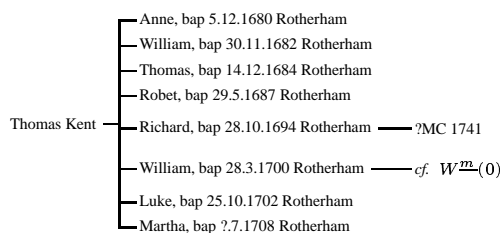
A possibility does arise for the calligraphically confusable name Kent (Figure 14.4(a)), at Rotherham which is just 6 miles NE of Sheffield and 15 miles north of Duckmanton and which is where the *Plant's Yard* bricklayer John Plant is known to have been by around 1759 before his arrival in Little Sheffield. It accordingly seems that *one possibility* for the ancestry of the *Plant's Yard* Plants is that a William Kent (bap 28.3.1700) from Rotherham acquired property at Duckmanton near Chesterfield. In the early eighteenth century there were already Plants at Chesterfield (Figure 14.1) and this could have led to a misreading of William Kent's surname as '*Plant*'. In this scheme it *has then to be supposed* that the Plant name was perpetuated, for this branch of the Kent family, when $W^m(0)$'s son Benjamin Plant came to Coalpit Lane in Sheffield to join his uncle Richard Kent (MC 1741) whereas the Kent name survived unaltered, apparently for this Richard Kent's own descendants.

In the absence of any firm evidence for the above scheme however, alternative schemes have been sought. For example, it has been noted (Chapter 13) the the name *Plant* was sometimes corrupted in Ecclesall Land Tax records to the phonetically 'similar' name *Bland*. Table 14.1 indicates that the name Bland is particular common in Yorkshire, with about 3855 entries in the 1984 version of the IGI⁷. These Yorkshire IGI entries include 14 baptisms for a William Bland between 1690 and 1705 and this might correspond with the age of $W^m(0)$. The nearest of these baptisms are, however, some 50 miles north of Duckmanton and Table 14.1 also lists at least 6 suitable baptisms for the name William *Plant* (1690-1705) within a distance of *this* magnitude of Duckmanton.

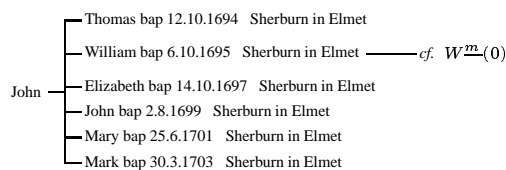
Thus we may note, for example, that 4 such possibilities for $W^m(0)$'s being baptised as William *Plant* (Figure 14.4(d) and 14.4(e)) are for a region around 30 miles to the west of Duckmanton. This is near the border point joining the counties of Cheshire, Staffordshire and Derbyshire.

⁷International Genealogical Index, *ibid*.

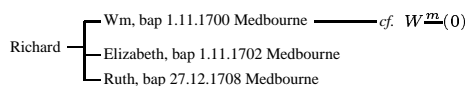
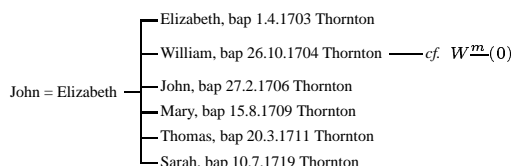
(a) Yorkshire Kents



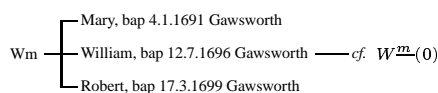
(b) Yorkshire Plants



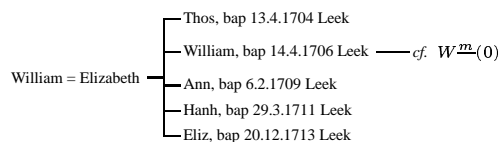
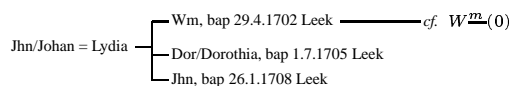
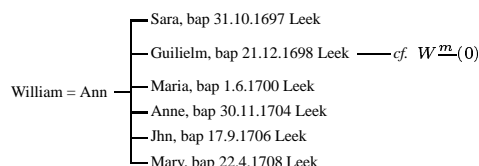
(c) Leicestershire Plants



(d) Cheshire Plants



(e) Staffordshire Plants

Figure 14.4: Some possible schemes for the baptism of $Wm(0)$ of Duckmanton

14.1.5 Plants from near Buxton

Bakewell's Chapelry of Buxton (1718) lies about 25 miles to the WSW of Sheffield, at the western edge of Bakewell parish (1614) which is in North Derbyshire. This is not far from the county boundary with East Cheshire and North Staffordshire.

Four different Cutlers' apprenticeship records for Plants around Sheffield were listed earlier in this Chapter. Two were related to a Chesterfield Plant family from Bakewell and two others to the nearby Duckmanton Plant ancestor $W^m(0)$ of the *Plant's Yard* Plants. There are just two more such Cutlers' apprenticeship records and these are dated slightly later:-

- John Plant, son of Francis of Buxton; to filesmith Valentine Johnson of Sheffield Park, 1776; and
- John Plant, son of John of Hollins End, collier; to knifemaker George Wilkinson, 1810.

We may accordingly summarise the available evidence, for late 18th century Plants near Sheffield, as follows. The two apprenticeship records listed above apparently relate to a Plant family which came from Buxton⁸. Two more of the records relate to a Samuel Plant near Chesterfield who apparently had an earlier connection with Chelmorton near Buxton (Figure 14.1)⁹. The remaining two apprenticeship records *apparently* relate the *Plant's Yard* Plants to 'Branside, Prestbury' as has been indicated earlier.

⁸Both of these records appear to relate to a Plant family of coalminers who, for many subsequent generations, remained at Handsworth which is just 3 miles east of central Sheffield. This Sheffield Plant family will be described later in Chapter 28.

⁹Bakewell's chapelry of Chelmorton (1580) lies immediately to the SE of Buxton chapelry. Records from the IGI, which have been incorporated into Figure 14.1, indicate that a Samuel Plant moved from Bakewell parish to Chesterfield parish and that he may have had an earlier connection with Bakewell's chapelry of Chelmorton.

The Prestbury mentioned in the 1768 apprenticeship record for Coalpit Lane, Sheffield seems likely to be the one in Cheshire near Buxton¹⁰. There is a 'Brand Side' (Derbyshire) just 3 miles south of Buxton and the large parish of 'Prestbury' (Cheshire) lies just 2 miles to its west¹¹.

14.1.6 William of Branside, Prestbury

In particular, the aforementioned 1768 Sheffield apprenticeship record mentions a son James of a carpenter William Plant of *Branside, Prestbury*. As indicated earlier, it seems *likely* that this carpenter William Plant was connected with the Duckmanton Plant family. For example, he could be $W^m(0)$ of Duckmanton himself or this $W^m(0)$'s son William. The apprenticed son James of William of 'Branside' might accordingly be either $W^m(0)$'s son James Plant of Sutton-cum-Duckmanton or a hitherto *unknown* close relative¹².

There is known data for only one suitable James¹³. The *known* data supports a *contention* that the carpenter William Plant of *Branside, Prestbury* was the same William Plant as the brickmaker $W^m(0)$ of Duckmanton. It can be added that it is possible to augment this interpretation of the data with possibilities for the baptism of $W^m(0)$ which are near both *Brand Side* (NW Derbyshire) and the parish of *Prestbury* (E Cheshire). This interpretation would then mean that the 1768 apprenticeship record referred to $W^m(0)$ near the time of his death. The 1768 description of William of Branside as a carpenter might hence refer back to $W^m(0)$'s earlier activities, perhaps to his youth, before he moved some 20 miles to the east and became a brickmaker at Duckmanton.

14.1.7 The various possibilities for $W^m(0)$'s origins

Some of the schemes of Table 14.1 and Figure 14.4 for $W^m(0)$'s baptism will be considered further later. In particular, Chapter 17 will consider some possibilities for the origins of the forefather $W^m(0)$ of the *Plant's Yard* Plants in conjunction with ancestral schemes for the other known forefathers of the Sheffield area Plants. The Sheffield area apprenticeship records can be traced back to $W^m(0)$ and to a Lawrence and a Francis Plant, who can be associated with the geographical area of Buxton. There are known possibilities near Buxton (NW Derbyshire) for the baptisms of the Sheffield area Plant forefathers, Lawrence Plant and Francis Plant, even though these names are largely unknown elsewhere. Even by 1700, there was a high concentration of Plants in this area, in particular around the general area of North Staffordshire and East Cheshire, and there are also a limited number of possibilities *in this same area* for the baptism of $W^m(0)$ of Duckmanton.

¹⁰The 1984 version of the IGI contains no evidence for a link to Plants around *Prestbury* in Gloucestershire, whilst the Plant name is far more common (Table 14.1) around *Prestbury* in Cheshire.

¹¹There are a few houses marked *Brand* on an 1842 Ordnance Survey map (Sheet 27, reprint of the first edition of the one-inch Ordnance Survey of England and Wales, Buxton & Stockport, Published by David and Charles, Brunel House, Newton Abbot, Devon). These are about 1 mile to the east of the village of Flash, on high ground at the northern tip of the county of Staffordshire, near the road from Leek to Buxton. The 1842 map also shows *Brand End* lying 1.5 miles to the NE, over the county border into Derbyshire, and *Brand Head* lying about 0.5 miles to the SW of *Brand*. On some modern maps, the whole area is labelled *Brand Side* though on some less-detailed 18th century maps *Brand Side* is marked as a village in this part of Derbyshire. About a mile to the west of Brand End, the detailed 1842 map shows *Brand Side School* just over the border from Staffordshire, near Cheshire, in Derbyshire.

¹² $W^m(0)$'s son William would have been aged 37 in 1768 and, *if* he had a hitherto *unknown* son James of apprenticeship age (normally about 14), then it could have been $W^m(0)$'s son William who was the carpenter William Plant of *Branside, Prestbury*.

¹³It might be considered that, at 28, $W^m(0)$'s son James would have been rather old to be serving an apprenticeship in 1768, and then again later 1772. On the other hand we know that, by the time of *Ben(bellows)*'s 1805 will, $W^m(0)$'s son James was a *yeoman* at Calow, which is just about a mile from Duckmanton, and it may have been this James from Duckmanton who was apprenticed in Coalpit Lane. This would fit with the information, outlined later in this Chapter, that it was this James's son Benjamin who inherited *Ben(bellows)*'s Coalpit Lane property.

14.2 Bricklayer John

It seems clear that the bricklayer John Plant, who was to be found in late 18th century Sheffield, was a son of the brickmaker $W^m(0)$ of Duckmanton. The descendants of $W^m(0)$ have been considered in some detail already (Figure 14.2(a)). In particular, it seems almost certain that the bricklayer John, who appears in Ecclesall property records at the site of *Plant's Yard* in Little Sheffield by the 1780s, was a brother of the owner of the adjoining *Plant's Yard* property, who was the bellows maker Benjamin Plant (*i.e.* $W^m(0)$'s son *Ben(bellows)*).

14.2.1 Some contemporary brickwork and industrial developments

The fact that the bricklayer John's apparent father $W^m(0)$ (circa 1700-1769) was a brickmaker near Sheffield is of some historical interest, since it is recorded that the 'first' brick building in Sheffield (perhaps since Roman times) was built in Pepper Alley around 1696. This building was being used in the late 18th century as a 'warehouse' by the prosperous Fargate merchant Benjamin Broomhead (MC 1784) who was an uncle of *Ben(bellows)*'s wife Hannah¹⁴. Furthermore, the newer of two 18th century conical cementation furnaces near Sheffield, which are shown towards the left of Figure 14.5, was built entirely of brick — Figure 14.5 is dated around 1787 and it shows Huntsman and Asline's mid 18th century Attercliffe works (Figure 14.5) which were between Sheffield and Rotherham. These historic works were those of the famous inventor of crucible steel, Benjamin Huntsman (1704-1776), and his partner Robert Asline who was an uncle of *Ben(bellows)*'s sister-in-law Sarah Asline (Chapter 13). Crude blister steel was produced here in the two cementation furnaces and this imperfect steel was then completely melted at very high temperatures to form cast steel in a crucible shop. The older of the two cementation furnaces was constructed of stone near its base, as had been the custom for earlier cementation furnaces in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, though its upper part, like the whole of later furnaces in Sheffield, was built of brick¹⁵. Brick was also used for crucible shops. Three characteristic crucible-shop chimney stacks can be seen towards the right of Figure 14.5. Such rectangular stacks were constructed in a distinctive fashion. Several courses of red 'stretcher' bricks were laid, with a course of white 'headers' included at regular intervals as a strengthening bond. At the top of such chimney stacks there is sometimes an elaborate capping course of brick, incorporating escape vents for the smoke¹⁶.

Even by 1779 the problems of smoke in Sheffield were apparent¹⁷:-

'The town is about a mile in length and half a mile in breadth; but the streets are narrow, and most of the houses appear black from the great clouds of smook constantly issuing from the forges.'

This 'smook' may have been partly the by-product of the forge conversions of the 18th century *Plant's Yard* bellows maker Benjamin Plant and his bricklayer brother John. These brothers appear to have been involved, in particular, with the conversion of water-powered Sheffield grinding wheels to mechanised forges. The evidence suggests that they were, for example, associated with the introduction of steam-power to the Pond Forge by 1805 (Chapter 13). This was around the times of the development (circa 1800) of high pressure, non-condensing steam engines. It was not very many decades after those times that England's industrial north began to become characterised by tall, tapering, red-brick chimney stacks. These were the visible manifestations of the introduction of the more effective steam-power that had been developed and such stacks began to grow both in height and in number until they dominated the industrial northern landscape, just as the products of steam-power came to dominate the British economy. It has been remarked¹⁸ that, by the late 19th century, 'never were two classes more divided by smoke' than the workers, who lived near the

¹⁴ *Peeps into the Past*, *ibid.*

¹⁵ Keneth C Barraclough, *Benjamin Huntsman 1704-1776*, Sheffield City Libraries Local Studies Leaflet.

¹⁶ Sheffield City Museums, Information Sheet 1.

¹⁷ *The Modern Universal British Traveller*, 1779.

¹⁸ David Fine (1992), *Sheffield: History and Guide*.



Figure 14.5: Stone and Brickwork buildings at Huntsman's Attercliffe Works, circa 1787

plant of Sheffield's industrial NE, and the plant owners who lived upwind in their mansions towards Sheffield's west. There still remained however a bond of economic inter-dependence between these two classes.

There had been less social separation between the early plant owners and the 'workers' in the times of *Ben(bellows)* and the bricklayer John Plant (1733-1816). For example, Benjamin Huntsman's son and successor William Huntsman (1733-1809) lived, like his father, near his Attercliffe works (Figure 14.5) which were just 2 miles to the NE of central Sheffield.

14.2.2 Rotherham records

The bricklayer John Plant appears to have settled first in Rotherham, which is some 6 miles NE of central Sheffield. Some corresponding parish record information is shown in Figure 14.6. It seems that this *Plant's Yard* bricklayer John may have travelled from his 1733 baptism at Duckmanton, near Chesterfield, to Rotherham before or around the time when the road from Chesterfield to Sheffield was first turnpiked (1756).

At the first Rotherham marriage (banns) of 'batchellor' John Plant (otp¹⁹) to spinster (otp) Elizabeth Birdwistle (signature Burtwistle) in 1759, the witnesses were John Scholey and Elizabeth Oxley. At the second marriage (banns) of *widower* John (otp) to spinster Dorothy Needham (otp) in 1763, the witnesses were Joseph Needham and Thos. Bradley. In particular, John is described as a bricklayer at the baptism of John and Dorothy's child Sophy in 1779 indicating that this no doubt is the same John as the bricklayer who is to be found later in Little Sheffield. His appearance in Little Sheffield is shown in a 1787 Sheffield Directory (Chapter 10). Further confirmation that this bricklayer John Plant is the one from Rotherham appears in an 1804 deed (Chapter 13) for an allotment near Little Sheffield — this deed names John Plant's wife as Dorothy Needham in agreement with the Rotherham parish records.

At a third Rotherham marriage of a John in 1785, the signature of the John Plant is different; this John is described as a **mason** at the baptisms of his and Mary's children in 1790 and 1792. Thus the marriage (banns) of 'batchellor' John (otp) to spinster Mary Mellor (otp) was no doubt that of the bricklayer John's son John. The witnesses at this 1785 marriage were I. Ramsbottom and Thos. Bradley though the latter was a witness at most marriages around that time and he may have been a hired official.

¹⁹This is an abbreviation of 'of this parish'.

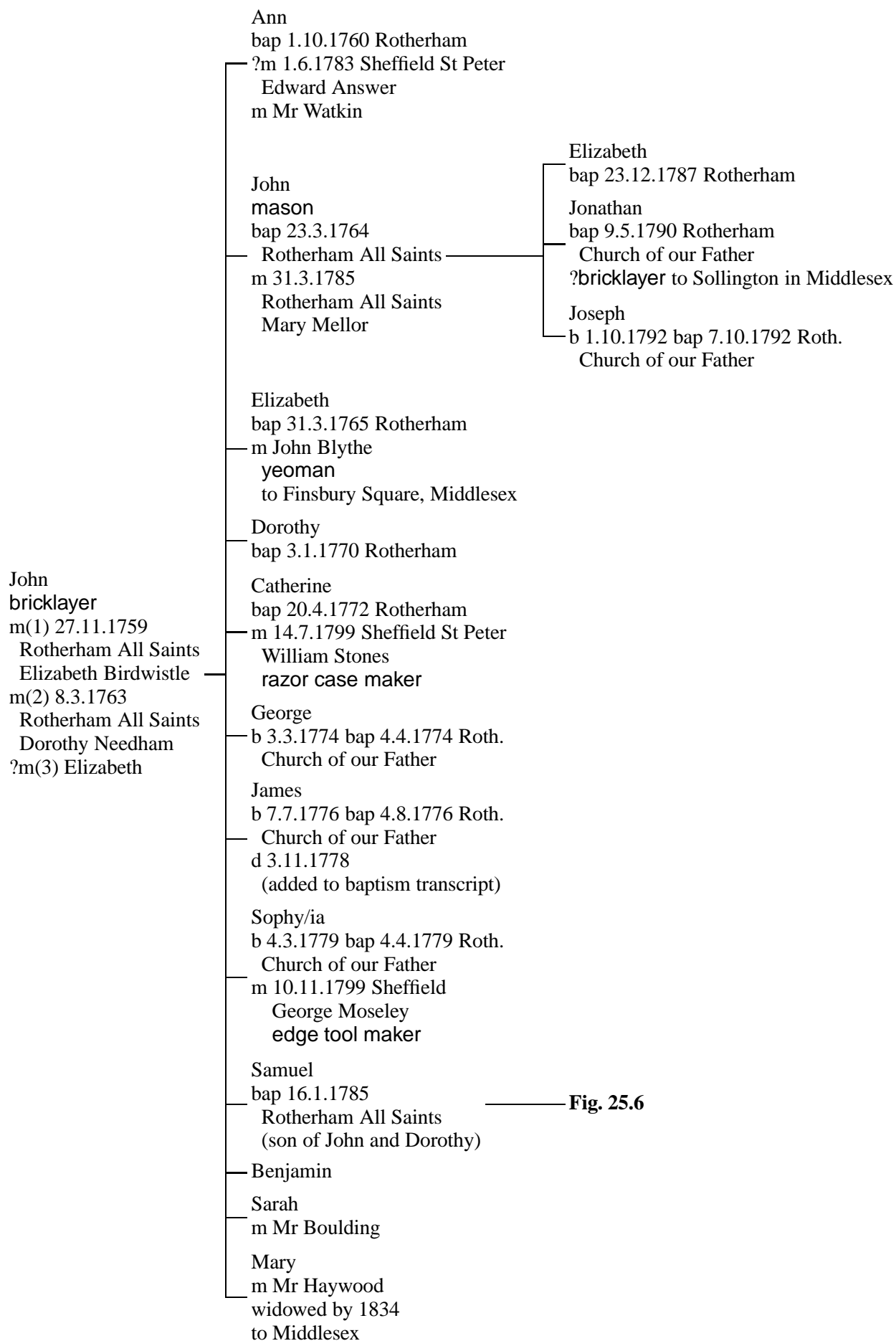


Figure 14.6: Some descendants of the bricklayer John (1733-1816)

14.2.3 Plant Row and Plant's Yard

Thus, before his appearance in Little Sheffield, the bricklayer John had some of his children baptised at Rotherham. It has not yet been established however how this may relate to the origins of *Plant Row* near Rotherham, which existed about a century later.

The site of *Plant Row* was 5 miles north of Rotherham, at the northern end of the parish of Swinton adjoining the parish of Adwick on Dearn. An 1851 map shows the area as almost undeveloped though it was near the Mexborough (railway) Junction and the Dearne and Dove Canal. The 1861 census returns list *Plant Row* as 12 households between Roman Terrace and Whitelee Road though it appears as an address in only the 1861 and 1871 censuses. On an 1890 map, the area is shown to be further built up and it is possible that the houses had been absorbed into one of several new roads.

The development of the site of *Plant's Yard* in Little Sheffield, on the other hand, has been described in some detail already (e.g. Chapters 10 and 13). It can be traced back to Benjamin and John Plant, to the times of the late eighteenth century. It seems possible that an *extended* block of dwellings called *Plant's Yard* may have been built near the bricklayer John Plant's land in Little Sheffield shortly after his death in 1816. This so-named block of buildings seems to have been largely on the adjacent land that had belonged to the bellows maker Benjamin Plant (1742-1806).

14.2.4 The bricklayer John's 1816 will

In a 9 May 1816 will (under \$100, administration 5 Dec 1816, proved 4 Jan 1817), the testator is described as '*John Plant the Older of the Township of Sheffield in the west Riding of the County of York but late of the Township of Beighton in the County of Derby*' and, later in the will, he is described as a '*Bricklayer*'. The will mentions his '*Household property situate in Little Sheffield, which was to be chargeable at \$7 yearly and this was to be paid to his widow 'Elizabeth'*' which suggests that his second wife Dorothy had died by 1816. Five shillings (only) are made payable to each of his '*sons George, Benjamin and Samuel*' with the (apparently more substantial) remainder to be divided between his seven '*children John Plant, Ann Watkin, Elizabeth Blythe, Sarah Boulding, Mary Haywood, Catherine Stones and Sophia Moseley*'.

14.2.5 An 1834 deed

Many of these children reappear in an 1834 property deed (22 and 23 June 1834, LX-193-181) relating to John Plant's part of the site of *Plant's Yard*. This deed mentions, amongst others, the children Elizabeth Blythe, Sarah Boulding, Catherine Stones, Sophia Moseley and possibly a grandchild (cf. Figure 14.6) a bricklayer Jonathan Plant; all of these, except Catherine and Sophia, had moved by the time of this deed to the county of Middlesex which was around London, about 150 miles to the south.

This 1834 deed also mentions *Joseph Plant of Duckmanton ... farmer* and this seems to provide a clear link between the bricklayer John and the Duckmanton Plant family. The ground in the deed is described identically as that in a 1798 deed for John Plant's 0.5 acres of ground at the Broom Close site of *Plant's Yard* (Chapter 13).

The occupants of the '*four several Messuages or Dwellinghouses*' on John Plant's Little Sheffield site had changed between 1798 and 1834, as is indicated in Table 14.2(a). John Senior, who was one of the occupants in the bricklayer John Plant's time, has been associated (Chapter 13) with the conversion of the Slack Wheels to a forge around 1790. John Senior is listed (Table 14.2(b)) by the time of the 1825 Sheffield Directory as a **builder** though, in John Plant's lifetime, he was listed just as a **carpenter and joiner**. It seems likely that John Senior had played a part in his landlord John Plant's activities and then later become a builder in his own right. The *new* occupants of John Plant's part of Broom Close (Table 14.2(b)), by 1834, include the local blacksmith Benjamin Waller, who was also a violin repairer, and John Roberts who was a mattress manufacturer.

(a) Deeds information

1798 deed and stated as former occupants in 1834	Stated as current occupants in 1834
John Plant Sarah South William Beard John Senyor	John Roberts Benjamin Waller Joseph ?Framley vacant

(b) Some apparently associated Directory entries

Name		Directory
John Senior	carpenter and joiner, 11 Cheney-row	Montgomery 1797
John Senior	builder, carpenter and joiner, 1 Castle-hill	Gell's 1825
Benjamin Waller	blacksmith, Little Sheffield	Gell's 1825
Benjamin Waller	jobsmith & violin repr, Little Sheffield	White's 1833
John Roberts	mattress manuf, Broom Close, Little Sheffield	Robson's 1839

Table 14.2: Early 19th century occupants of John's part of Broom Close (Plant's Yard)

14.3 Ben(bellows)'s legacy and Plant posterity

As described earlier, the bellows maker Benjamin Plant (*Ben(bellows)*) appears to have arrived in Sheffield rather earlier than his apparent brother John Plant. The records for *Ben(bellows)'s* property in Sheffield's chapelry of Ecclesall, in particular, have been examined in some detail already (Chapters 11 and 13). He appears to have owned and leased considerably more property around this chapelry than the bricklayer John Plant, who just owned adjacent property to *Ben(bellows)'s* Little Sheffield *Plant's Yard* site.

14.3.1 Wm(1)'s possible inheritance

W^m(1) was the eldest son of *Ben(bellows)'s* brother, Thomas Plant (1745-1827) of Clowne (Figure 14.2(a)), and he is allocated \$10 in *Ben(bellows)'s* 1805 will. It is not clear exactly when *W^m(1)* may have come from Clowne to Ecclesall though it seems probable that he came to work lands near the 'Rustlings' at Greystones, around 2 miles WSW of Sheffield, before the time of *Ben(bellows)'s* 1806 demise (Chapters 10 and 13). It seems that *some* (?informal) connection with this land may have been retained by *W^m(1)* after *Ben(bellows)* had disposed of it shortly before making his 1805 will. This would then help to explain why *W^m(1)'s* widow²⁰ was to be found living in the household of her farmer son-in-law here at the 'Rustlings' in 1851 (Chapter 9)²¹.

W^m(1)'s offspring remained in Sheffield, as has been described in Chapter 9.

14.3.2 The demise of Ben(bellows)'s business

It was suggested in Chapter 13 that *Ben(bellows)* may have been active in the development of better mechanisms for his (?conventional water-powered or steam-powered cylinder) bellows at the Spurr Wheel near Greystones, prior to his *apparent* association with the *first known* introduction of steam-power to a Sheffield forge, the Pond Forge, by 1805.

Ben(bellows)'s apparent association with the Pond Forge by 1805 relates to the fact that he was leasing nearby property in Pond Lane. More particularly, an 1805 deed for his Little Sheffield *Plant's Yard* property lists him as the first party with John Kenyon as the second party and John

²⁰*W^m(1)'s* widow was from Pontefract, which is about 23 miles to the north of Sheffield and not far from Sherburn-in-Elmet (cf. Figure 14.4(b)).

²¹*W^m(1)'s* father was buried at Clowne in 1827, about 7 weeks before the death of *W^m(1)'s* cousin *Ben(carp)* who was the main beneficiary of *Ben(bellows)'s* 1805 will and who was buried (aged 37) in Ecclesall.

Kenyon was the principal partner of the Pond Forge. It can be added that the partners of the Pond Forge were subsequently Kenyon, Frith and Woolhouse and the latter two surnames subsequently appear amongst the listed occupants of *Ben(bellows)'s* properties (Tables 14.3 and 14.5).

The three 18th century Sheffield Directories (1774, 1787, and 1797) provide no *direct* evidence of the type of bellows *Ben(bellows)'s* made. We can hence comment no more than his known business partners make it seem *likely* that he was associated with the introduction of steam-cylinder bellows to the Pond Forge. The 18th century Directories list Benjamin Plant simply as a **bellows maker**. The only others mentioned for this region refer to the Lin(d)ley family simply also as 'bellows maker'. About 20 years after *Ben(bellows)'s* death, the 1825 Directory entry is a little more explicit:-

Thomas Linley, patent treble circular and common bellows maker, 1 Stanley St, Wicker.

It is not clear exactly how the Linleys had by then benefited from *Ben(bellows)'s* demise though it may be relevant that there were other Linleys near the Plants' Coalpit Lane property:

George Linley, 6 Coalpit Lane — manufacturers of weavers shears, nippers loom knives, butcher and cook knives, silk nippers, engine spindles for silk, magnets, sheep shears, horse and woolster's shears, sinder shovels, cut clog nails and bill clogs, shoe clasps, edge tools, drawing knives, &c.

Samuel Linley, 15 Burgess St. — victualler, Oxford Blue; also table knife manufacturers.

Even by 1921, there is in White's Sheffield Directory:-

Thomas Linley & Sons, 34 Stanley Street — inventors and manufacturers of double blast bellows, smiths's hearths, vices etc.

On the other hand, it seems that the Plant family ceased their involvement with bellows making when *Ben(bellows)* died without sons in 1806.

14.3.3 Some offspring of Ben(bellows)'s brother James (1740-1825)

The yeoman James Plant (1740-1825) and most of his children appear to have remained mostly in Duckmanton near Chesterfield (Chapter 3). He may well be the James who was apprenticed in Coalpit Lane in 1768. Certainly, some of his offspring travelled the 10 miles north from Duckmanton to the vicinity of Sheffield. In particular, James's sons Joseph (1787-?) and Benjamin (1790-?1827) are mentioned in the 1805 will (Chapters 10 and 13) of their uncle, *Ben(bellows)* (Figure 14.2) who had no sons of his own. As will be indicated below, there is confirmation in property deeds that James Plant's son, the carpenter Benjamin (1790-?1827) (*i.e.* *Ben(carp)*), was a major beneficiary of *Ben(bellows)'s* will. *Ben(carp)'s* brother Joseph Plant (1787-?) is mentioned occasionally in deeds relating to *Ben(bellows)'s* late property as well as in an 1834 deed (section 14.2.5) that relates to some adjoining property in Little Sheffield that had earlier belonged to the aforementioned bricklayer John Plant (1733-1816).

14.3.4 James's sons Joseph and Ben(carp)

The children Joseph and *Ben(carp)* of the yeoman James Plant (Figure 14.7) were mentioned in Chapter 8. Some Dore and Ecclesall parish records for *Ben(carp)'s* family were described in that Chapter and they can be consistently combined with some Sheffield parish records, as indicated in Figure 14.7. This suggests that the maiden name of *Ben(carp)'s* wife, Mary, was *Hancock* and it may be noted that *Ben(carp)'s* name is associated with the names of John Hancock of Dore (farmer and carpenter) and Thomas Hancock of Dore (Gentleman) in 1824 property deeds (Table 14.4). The name of apparently the same John Hancock appears in later 1839 deeds by when it seems that *Ben(carp)'s* *Plant's Yard* properties had been inherited by his son, whom we will denote *Ben(son.of.Ben)*.

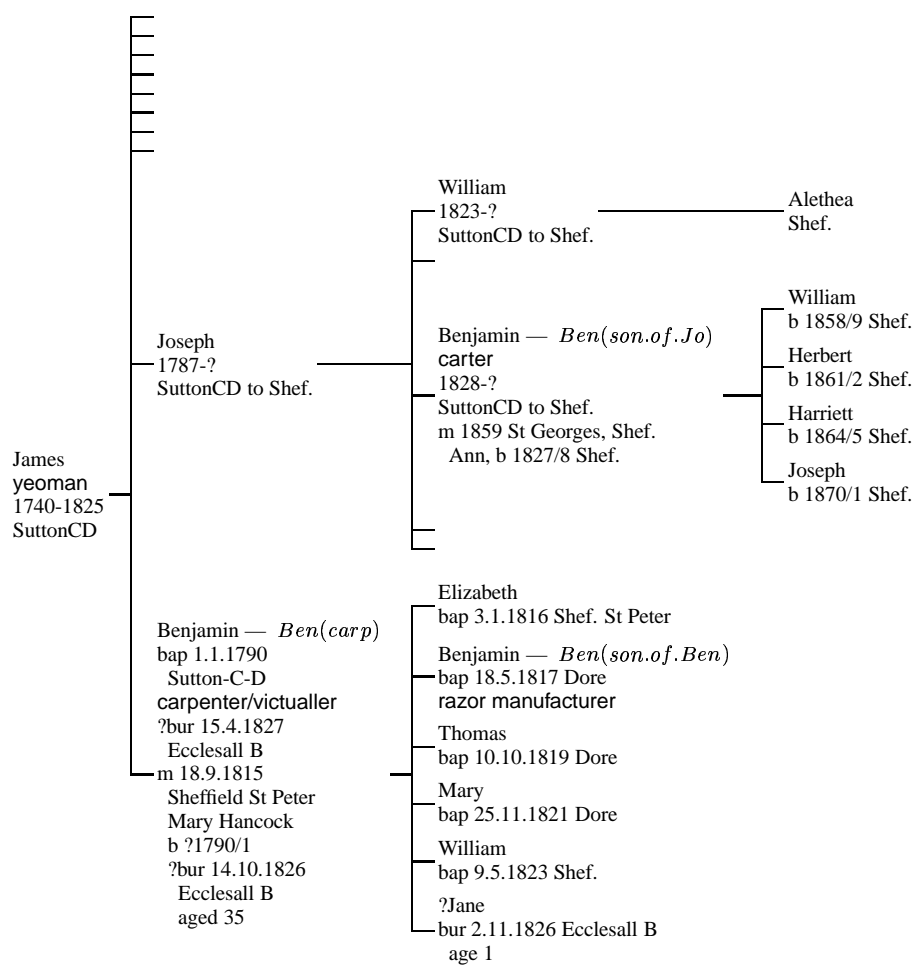


Figure 14.7: Some Sheffield descendants of the yeoman farmer James (1740-1825)

It seems that James Plant's son *Ben(carp)* (1790-?1827) was dead by the time of the 1841 Census and *Ben(carp)*'s son Thomas was in the household of his uncle Joseph Plant (1787-?), near the foot of (Little) Sheffield Moor, just to the south of central Sheffield. In 1841, Joseph's household was in Eyre Lane which was parallel and to the east of South Street, which was the main road down (Little) Sheffield Moor²². This Joseph's household in 1841 was accordingly about 0.5 miles NE from the Little Sheffield site of *Plant's Yard*. It was close to the home of a presumed son, *W^m(shoe)*, of this Joseph's cousin *W^m(1)* who has already been mentioned in connection with *Ben(bellows)*'s will and other early Plant property near Sheffield.

Though Joseph had owned land in Duckmanton in 1832 and though he is described as a farmer in an 1834 deed, he is described simply as a labourer in the 1841 and 1851 Sheffield Census returns.

14.3.5 Ben(carp)'s clear inheritance

It seems possible that *W^m(1)* may have received some ongoing benefit from *Ben(bellows)*'s property, as was outlined in section 14.3.1. More certainty, however, can be attached to the fact that it was another of *Ben(bellows)*'s nephews *Ben(carp)* who was a main beneficiary of *Ben(bellows)*'s 1805 will. *Ben(carp)* was younger than *W^m(1)* by 18 years and the property demised to him can be traced through subsequent deeds.

Ben(carp)'s inheritance seems to have been near to central Sheffield, at the Coalpit Lane site that has been supposed to be 'Late Plant yard', as well as at the subsequent Little Sheffield site of *Plant's Yard*. Some confirmation of *Ben(carp)*'s inheritance can be found in two deeds dated 1816, for example, which apply to the Little Sheffield site of *Plant's Yard*. There are also four further deeds dated shortly before *Ben(carp)*'s 1827 death.

Two 1816 deeds

Two deeds were registered at Wakefield on 22 April 1816. The first, dated 16 Jan 1816 (GK-123-131²³), was in the names of 'Benjamin Plant of Dore ... carpenter ... Joseph Plant of Duckmanton ... farmer ... and Thomas Pierson of Sheffield ... stationer' whilst the second, dated 23 Jan 1816 (GK-124-132), is an indenture of appointment and mortgage in the names of the same Benjamin Plant and Thomas Pierson as well as 'Ann Wilson of Sheffield aforesaid widow'.

These two deeds clearly involve Plants of the Duckmanton Plant family. The deeds name those two of James's sons, *Ben(carp)* and Joseph, who are named in *Ben(bellows)*'s 1805 will and they provide confirmation that the property described in them had passed with *Ben(bellows)*'s demise to his nephew *Ben(carp)* in particular. Both of the deeds apply to 'those several messuages or dwellinghouses with the Yard vacant land ...' as listed in Table 14.3(a). The description of the area of the land is identical to that given in Chapter 13 for *Ben(bellows)*'s part of the Little Sheffield site of *Plant's Yard*.

Four deeds of 1823 and 1824

Some further indications of *Ben(carp)*'s inheritances are contained in four deeds (Table 14.4) registered on '21st July 1823 at Two in the Afternoon' (HX-9-9 and HX-13-14) and '14th Oct 1824 near Seven in the Evening' (IC-201-208 and IC-204-211).

The first deed (HX-9-9) lists the properties on Benjamin's part of *Plant's Yard* as unchanged from those listed for 1816 (Table 14.3(a)) except that the names of the occupiers Thomas Whitehead and William Mycock are changed respectively to Jasper Ryalls and Samuel Dronfield.

The listed occupants of this Little Sheffield site of *Plant's Yard* by around 1820 (Table 14.3) indicate that a workshop there was being used by a penknife and pocketknife maker, Jasper Ryalls, who was also a flour dealer — no doubt his trades related to the water-powered grinding wheels and

²²The site of (Little) Sheffield Moor is still called 'The Moor' some two centuries after being built up.

²³These reference numbers for deeds apply to the referencing scheme of the West Yorkshire Archive Service, Wakefield Headquarters, Registry of Deeds, Newstead Road, Wakefield WF1 2DE.

(a) Deeds information

1816 deed		1823 deed
Thomas Whitehead	messuage and workshops	Jasper Ryalls
William Swift	dwelling house	William Swift
William Mycock	dwelling house	Samuel Dronfield
Robert Frith	workshop	Robert Frith
Joseph Benson	garden	Joseph Benson
John Senior	garden	John Senior

(b) Some apparently associated Directory entries

Name		Directory
Jasper Ryalls	pen and pocketknife manufacturer, Little Sheffield	Brownell 1817
Jasper Ryalls	grocer and flour dealer, Little Sheffield	Gell's 1825
Jasper Ryalls	pen, pocket and tableknife mfr and grocer, Little Sheffield	White's 1833
William Swift	hosier and glover, 17 Angel Street	White's 1833
Wm Swift	tableknife mfr, 3 Tudor Street	White's 1833
Wm Swift	pen knife maker, Steel Bank	White's 1833
Samuel Dronfield	gardener, Sharrow Lane	White's 1833
Robert Frith	wheelwright, Little Sheffield	Piggot's 1834
Joseph Benson	victualler, tavern keeper and penknife mfr, Old Crown, Little Sheffield	1825, 1833, 1834

Table 14.3: Occupants of Benjamin's part of the Little Sheffield site of Plant's Yard

Corn Mill nearby on the Porter Brook. The stated occupants also include the victualler of the Old Crown, which was on the opposite side of London Road from *Plant's Yard*. The participants of the 1823 and 1824 deeds (Table 14.4) include the common brewer John Woodward and the victualler James Wilson who is listed in the 1825 Sheffield Directory at the Black Bull, 40 Hollis Croft.

The second 1823/4 deed (HX-13-14), which also applies to the Little Sheffield site of *Plant's Yard*, makes it clear that the carpenter *Ben(carp)* had become a victualler between 1822 and 1823. This Little Sheffield victualler, who is mentioned in the 1823 deed, is stated to be the same Benjamin Plant as he who appears in an earlier '*Indenture of Lease and release bearing date respectively*' the 11 and 12 of June 1822 '*therin described as being then late of Dore but then of Sheffield Carpenter*'.

The property in the third deed (IC-204-211) is identified as ground in Coalpit Lane containing '*Leasehold Messuages Tenements or Dwellinghouses Workshops Warehouses erections and Buildings of him the said Benjamin Plant*' occupied as indicated in Table 14.5. The fourth deed (IC-204-211) clarifies that this ground is the '*eleven yards and half*' part of Balm Croft in Coalpit Lane, as opposed to another '*thirteen yards*' part — both parts were described in *Ben(bellows)'s* 1805 deeds for Coalpit Lane (section 13.2.2 of Chapter 13).

It hence seems clear that by 1824 *Ben(carp)* was still retaining some of the Coalpit Lane and Little Sheffield properties that had belonged to the bellows maker Benjamin Plant until 1806 when this *Ben(bellows)'s* 1805 will demised the remaining estate to *Ben(carp)* following certain other specified bequeathals.

Some offspring of *Ben(bellows)'s* nephew *Ben(carp)* are described below, as well as some offspring of *Ben(carp)'s* brother Joseph.

14.3.6 *Ben(carp)*'s son *Ben(son.of.Ben)*

There is also an 1839 deed for a part of Balm(e) Croft (Coalpit Lane) as well as some 1839 deeds for the Little Sheffield site of *Plant's Yard*. Both of these sites of a (*Late*) *Plant('s) (Y/y)ard* had earlier belonged to *Ben(bellows)* and then to *Ben(bellows)'s* nephew *Ben(carp)* (Table 14.4). The 1839 deeds suggest that *Ben(carps)'s* property had passed, by then, to a razor manufacturer Benjamin Plant. The property description in part of one of the 1839 deeds mentions that its previous occupants were those who are listed as occupiers of the 11.5 yards part of Balme Croft in 1824

Year	Deed No	Property	Participants
1823	HX-9-9	Plant's Yard	Benjamin Plant of Sheffield, Victualler James Wilson of Sheffield, Victualler William Keeton of Sheffield, Gentleman Anthony Rotherham of Sheffield, Cordwainer John Hoole of Crookes, Sheffield, Tanner
1823	HX-13-14	Plant's Yard	James Wilson of Sheffield, Victualler Benjamin Plant of Sheffield, Victualler John Hoole of Crookes, Sheffield, Tanner
1824	IC-201-208	Coalpit Lane	Benjamin Plant of Little Sheffield, Victualler John Hancock of Dore, Farmer John Woodward of Sheffield, Common Brewer Creditors of the said Benjamin Plant
1824	IC-204-211	Coalpit Lane	William Keeton of Sheffield, Gentleman John Hancock of Dore, Carpenter John Woodward of Sheffield, Common Brewer Benjamin Plant of Little Sheffield, Victualler Thomas Shirley of Sheffield, Grocer Thomas Hancock of Dore, Gentleman
1839	NE-534-466	Plant's Yard	Benjamin Plant of Sheffield, Razor manufacturer John Hancock of Dore, Farmer George Saville of Sheffield, Pump Maker George Saville the younger of Sheffield, Pump Maker
1839	NE-536-467	Plant's Yard and Coalpit Lane	Benjamin Plant of Sheffield, Razor manufacturer George Saville the younger of Sheffield, Pump Maker Robert Plum of Bristol, hardwareman

Table 14.4: Participants in some 1823, 1824 and 1839 deeds

(a) 1824 Deed information

late in the possessions of	and now
Mary Birley	Mary Birley
John Carr	John Carr
Joseph Woolhouse	Joseph Woolhouse
John Barber	William Cooper
John Lomas	John Schofield
Jonathan Thompson	John Thompson
Hugh Wiseman	Hugh Wiseman
Jermiah Yates	Christopher Green
William Kent	William Kent
William Rose	William Rose

(b) Some apparently associated Directory entries

Name(s)		Directory
John Carr	surgeon, 8 Pinstone Street	Gell's 1825
John Carr	penknife manufacturer, 10 Duke St, Park	Gell's 1825
Joseph Woolhouse	victualler, Wicker	Brownell 1817
Kenyon, Frith, and Woolhouse	Pond Iron Works	Brownell 1817
Woolhouse, Joseph & John	carpenters and builders, 9 Broad Street, Park	Gell's 1825
John Barber	pen & pocket knife manufacturer, Radford St	Brownell 1817
John Barber	razor manufacturer, South St	Brownell 1817
John Barber	victualler, Pea Croft	Brownell 1817
William Cooper	scissor manufacturer, Hollis Croft	Brownell 1817
William Cooper	victualler, Sir John Falstaff, 66 Wicker	Gell's 1825
John Lomas	flour dealer, Broad Lane	Brownell 1817
John Schofield	grocer and tea dealer, 13 Angel St	Gell's 1825
William Kent	scissor and silversmith shear manufacturer, 16 Calver St	Gell's 1825
William Rose	pen and pocket knife cutler, Wadsley	Brownell 1817

Table 14.5: Occupants of Benjamin's 11.5 yard part of Balme Croft (Cowpit Lane)

(Table 14.5) though the current occupants for 1839 are left blank. It may be noted (Tables 14.5(a) and (b)) that one of the early *occupants* of this property was a razor manufacturer which might *perhaps* have some connection with *Ben(son.of.Ben)'s* subsequent adoption of this trade.

The razor manufacturer Benjamin Plant of these 1839 deeds can be presumed to be *Ben(carp)'s* son *Ben(son.of.Ben)* as indicated in Figure 14.7. This razor manufacturer is listed (aged 20) in the 1841 Census as living in the Wicker with 'Pump Manufacturer' George Saville (25) and his wife Martha. This is no doubt the George Saville whose name appears in the 1839 deeds (Table 14.4). By 1851, unmarried razor smith Benjamin Plant (32) from Dronfield in Derbyshire is a lodger at 67 Spring Street with an assortment of 9 others, including 2 shoemakers, another razor smith, a laundress, and a cabinet maker.

It may be noted that the recorded witnesses on the marriage certificate of *Ben(carp)* are George and Frances Saville. The former is no doubt the pump-maker George Saville who was the father of the pump-maker 'George Saville the younger' mentioned above. Both George Savilles are named in the 1839 deeds, along with *Ben(carp)'s* son Benjamin Plant (Table 14.4).

14.3.7 Joseph's son Ben(son.of.Jo)

Joseph Plant's son Benjamin (*i.e.* ' *Ben(son.of.Jo)* ' of Figure 14.7) is missing from his father Joseph's Eyre Street household, in the 1841 Census return, but there is a 12 year old Benjamin Plant in the household of carter John Hickson on Warf Street. Warf Street was at the NE edge of Sheffield town and it was only about 0.6 miles NE from Joseph's (1841) Eyre Street home on (Little) Sheffield Moor towards Sheffield's south. Ten years later in 1851, a 22 year old labourer Benjamin Plant from Duckmanton is to be found in his father Joseph's household in Duke Lane, near

to Warf Street²⁴. Both of these census entries (1841 and 1851) no doubt refer to *Ben(son.of.Jo)* (Figure 14.7).

It seems that *Ben(son.of.Jo)* was learning his subsequent trade of **carter** by the age of 12 in 1841 on Warf Street, near the terminus of the canal link to the more developed transport systems of Rotherham²⁵. Warf Street was also near where the freight railway line from Rotherham terminated after its opening in 1838. This is also near the Wicker where *Ben(son.of.Jo)*'s cousin *Ben(son.of.Ben)* was living in 1841. A far reaching passenger service started from Rotherham in 1840 though it was 1851 before such a service reached Sheffield itself with the opening of the Victoria Station not far from the Wicker and Wharf Street, at Sheffield's NE edge.

It was largely along these canal and railway routes NE out of Sheffield that major industry, based largely on steel, began to develop on a large scale. This followed on from Huntsman and Asline's first crucible steel plant, in the mid 18th century, at Attercliffe (Figure 14.5) which was just 2 miles NE from central Sheffield.

Living near to Sheffield's NE edge by 1851 was *Ben(son.of.Jo)*'s father Joseph and his family. Near here also, in 1851, lived Joseph's cousin Isaac Plant from Clowne (Chapter 8) whose household was in High Street which ran parallel and immediately to the east of Duke Street Lane and Duke Street²⁶. Moreover also nearby at this time was the family of a son, *Ben(shoe)*, of this Isaac's half-brother *W^m(1)*. The shoemaker Benjamin Plant (*i.e. Ben(shoe)*) was living in 1851 at Victoria Square near the Wicker and near the developing railway systems to Manchester, Rotherham and Lincolnshire.

Ben(shoe)'s brother, the steel refiner Thomas Plant from Clowne (Chapter 9), was living around 1841-71 about 0.7 miles to the west, around Hoyle Street near the Doncaster Street site of Sheffield's only surviving Cementation Furnace (*cf* Figure 14.5). This surviving furnace was one of five that were begun by Daniel Doncaster on his father's orchard here in 1833. Until recent decades there was also a crucible steel refining shop here at Hoyle Street.

Later in the 19th century, a 42 year old carter Benjamin from Duckmanton (who no doubt is *Ben(son.of.Jo)*), is shown in the 1871 Census returns with his family at 18 Ropery Row. This address was just up the hillside from *Ben(son.of.Jo)*'s parents' earlier Duke Lane home and just to the east of central Sheffield. The family at Ropery Row of *Ben(son.of.Jo)* is listed in the 1871 Census returns and this information is included in Figure 14.7. Nearby at 6 Ropery Row was the household of his brother, the fileforger William Plant from Duckmanton, as was described in Chapter 8.

By 1881 *Ben(son.of.Jo)*'s family had moved only as far as the South Street that ran parallel and to the west of Duke Street Lane at Park²⁷. In the 1881 Census return for 163 South Street at Park, this Benjamin (55) and his sons William (22) and Herbert (19) are all listed as **carters**. Also in this household are this Benjamin's wife Sarah A (55), daughters Harriet (16) and scholar Lilly (14), as well as '*Gra^dson*' scholar Isaac Plant (8) who appears a little odd to be a son of *Ben(son.of.Jo)*'s only known married son William (22).

14.4 Synopsis

It may be commented that the property information for the Plants around the two apparent sites of (*Late*) *Plant('s)* (*Y/y*)*ard*, between 1790 and 1860, helps to provide a link that leads on from the documentation relating to '*Benjamin Plant of Sheffield Moor*', as he is known in the book '*Peeps into*

²⁴This Duke Lane was apparently the lane that was also called Duke Street Lane, immediately to the west of Duke Street at Park.

²⁵The original River Dun Navigation system from Rotherham ended halfway to Sheffield, 3 miles away, at the Tinsley Locks but the Sheffield Canal, which was opened in 1819, extended this a further 3 miles to near Warf Street on the NE edge of Sheffield town.

²⁶This High Street at Park was subsequently renamed Bard Street to remove confusion with High Street in central Sheffield.

²⁷There was also a different South Street and Duke Street near the head of (Little) Sheffield Moor about 0.6 miles to the SW.

the Past' for example (*i.e.* the bellows maker *Ben(bellows)* 1742-1806 of Chapters 12 and 13). This link leads into the mid 19th century by when more general data becomes available, from Census returns *etc.*, for the name Plant around Sheffield (*e.g.* Chapter 7). The property evidence helps to account for the inheritances of *Ben(bellows)*'s properties near Sheffield by his nephew *W^m(1)* and by some descendants of *Ben(bellows)*'s brother, the yeoman James Plant (1740-1825) of Duckmanton. This helps to sort out, in particular, various Benjamins who were living in Sheffield by the mid 19th century. A discussion of various William Plants in Sheffield by the mid 19th century was given in Chapter 9 and, when taken together with the current discussions of various Benjamins, it leads to *most* of the Sheffield area Plants falling into place.

It accordingly seems clear that the main beneficiary of *Ben(bellows)*'s 1805 will was his nephew *Ben(carp)* who turned from carpentry to being a victualler before he died young (aged 37 in 1827). *Ben(carp)*'s son, a razor smith Benjamin Plant, then inherited the *Plant's Yard* properties and this so-called *Ben(son.of.Ben)* (*i.e.* the razor smith) was still unmarried (aged 32) by 1851. The family of *Ben(son.of.Ben)*'s cousin, the carter *Ben(son.of.Jo)*, was still living to the east of central Sheffield by 1881 whilst the family of their second cousin *Ben(shoe)* (*i.e.* a shoemaker) was living just to Sheffield's south. This was near a dram flask maker James Plant (1829-1904), who was a son of an apparent brother *W^m(shoe)* of *Ben(shoe)*. It seems for example that a line of Plants through *W^m(shoe)* and his son James Plant remained near Sheffield from Georgian to modern times, as will be described further in the next two chapters.

Chapter 17 will give further consideration to the likely origins of the Plant ancestors of these and other Sheffield area Plants. It seems likely that their origins were around the general area of 17th century North Staffordshire and Chapter 17 will also examine the possible role of late 17th century Plants at the intermediate location of Great Longstone in North Derbyshire. Chapter 17 will also describe, in particular, one of the early 19th century William Plants in Sheffield (*W^m(shoe)*) who is believed to have been a son of *W^m(1)* who has been mentioned in this and earlier Chapters as one of the beneficiaries of *Ben(bellows)*'s 1805 will.