

Messages From Family Historians



MARSLAND Marsland families farmed After Lee Farm, Chipping, from the 18th century to the mid 19th century. (After Lee is now part of Fish House Farm: the farmhouse is demolished). On the 1851 census at the nearby Outlane Head Cottage, my grandfather Thomas Marsland was a 3 year old boy, son of (farm labourer) William and Ann Marsland.

Thomas inherited three fortunes in his lifetime and had become very wealthy by the age of 21. On the 1871 census he was at Town End and described as a landowner. At that time, only 23 years old, he owned Kirk Mill and was responsible for converting Grove Square into houses. He also built "Marsland Terrace" at Longridge, (4 stone cottages opposite the police station).

Locally he was well known for being a crack shot with a 12 bore gun. Also he was known by his family to have cloth-covered buttons, made from gold sovereigns and half sovereigns, stitched on his clothing. When travelling away from home, it was a way of avoiding being penniless in the event of him being robbed!

As yet, the source(s) of his wealth have not been discovered.

(Mr T.Marsland. Anglesey)

HANSON Richard Hanson, Chipping village blacksmith, named on the censuses 1841-61, made the first iron props supporting the yew tree in St Bartholomew's churchyard.

(Mr C.Smith. Farrington)

PARKINSON & SMITH Try sorting this out!
(From the Lancaster Gazette, Aug 18th, 1832.)

On Monday week at Goosnargh, Mr Thomas Smith of Inglewhite married Mrs Parkinson of the Fieldfoot in Goosnargh. The bride is aged 64, and has given birth to 27 children. The bridegroom is the same age and is the father of 23 children. This is the seventh marriage, ----- four times in church and three times in an RC Chapel.

TULLY A Tale of Two Cities.

On 12th August 1850, James Tully wrote from New York to his parents, brothers and sisters at Stanley Court, Chipping,

"I hope and trust that you will write as soon as you can and give me all particulars --- Address your letters James Tully, Stone Cutter, New York".

"A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME"

Family historians come across many unusual names in the course of their research. The most unusual ones I have found myself are my great grandmother's middle names:- Majuba Hill. Members of the family told me that it was a battle! Some said the Crimean War, others didn't know which war. As an avid reader of mystery stories, this intrigued me. I began to look around and ask questions. At the library, I eventually discovered that "The Battle of Majuba Hill" was fought on Feb 27th 1881 during the 1st Boer War at Majuba Hill in the Transvaal. Furthermore, it was a disaster with 280 out of the 365 men who fought being killed, injured or captured. Why, why, why did my great great grandmother name her daughter, born nearly 2 years later, after such a devastating defeat? Surely not patriotism -- my guess is in memory of someone who either died there or returned safely. I am still digging!

(G.M.C.)



THOMAS MARSLAND c.1847 -- 1908
Buried St Mary's, Chipping