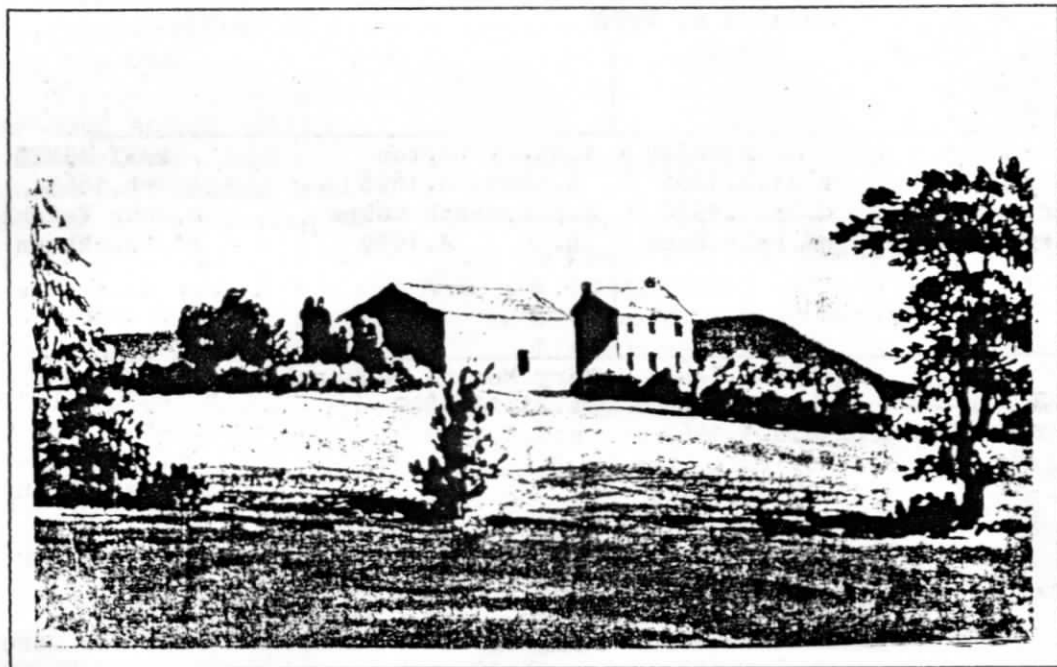


## THE BAMBER FAMILY IN CHIPPING

My family's connection with Chipping stretches back over two hundred years. Other Bammers were there before us. Richard Bamber, who was born about 1593, married Elizabeth Dobson on 14th February, 1613/14, at St Bartholomew's, Chipping, and they had two sons, Richard and John, though nothing is heard of them after 1673.

But the first of my family to live in Chipping was William, who arrived in 1783. Before that he had been living since 1780 at Brockholes, near Preston, where he paid a rental of £224 a year for part of the estate of the Winckley family, after whom Preston's Winckley Square is named. William was at this time already married, to Alice, and had nine children. Evidently he was comparatively prosperous for he did something in 1782 which has repercussions down to the present day. That year saw the celebration of Preston's Guild Merchant. William was admitted, free of charge, to the roll of Guild Burgesses, thereby gaining advantages in market tolls over non-Burgesses. Moreover, he considered it worth while also to enroll his five sons and paid £4 4s 0d for each of them for this privilege. Some of their descendants were still registered as hereditary Guild Burgesses in the most recent Guild of 1992.

William settled in Chipping in 1783, by this time a mature man of 48, having been born in 1735. He farmed at the Laund, where he paid rent to Thomas Weld of Stonyhurst and Leagram. Alice, his wife, died in 1811, aged 80, and William survived her until 1819, when he died aged 84 on 30th March. Both were buried at St Bartholomew's, since, though they were devout Catholics, there was at that time no Catholic burial ground in the vicinity. The place of their birth and the place and date of their marriage have not so far been traced.



*A painting of the Laund, c.1840, by John Weld of Leagram Hall.  
William Bamber farmed the Laund from 1783.*

When William died in 1819 two of his sons were already dead. John died in May, 1788; Thomas in 1819, the same year as his father. Thomas had married and left a son, Robert, who in turn left several children. One of them, Thomas, farmed in Whittingham and Claughton and was for some years in the 1860s secretary of Claughton Agricultural Society; he died in 1873. Another son, Richard, who died in 1860 and who is buried at Hill Chapel, farmed at Gotfield Gate, Whittingham, before this farm was taken over as part of the Whittingham Hospital estate.