

Descendants of only two of William's children can be traced to the present day. His daughter, Elizabeth, married Thomas Singleton in October, 1778, at St John's, Preston, and their descendants have been traced by one of them, Mr Gordon Parker, of Penketh, near Warrington.

The other child was Edward, who farmed at Whittingham and at Chipping. He married Jane Eccles in about 1792 and by her had eleven children.

The most important, from my point of view, was the third child, James, who was born on 5th May, 1797, and baptized the following day at Fernyhalgh by Fr Anthony Lund. James grew up in Whittingham and eventually married Elizabeth Sumner, a Leagram girl, three or four years older than himself. They farmed for nearly thirty years at Birchen Lee but then moved to Throstle Nest on Thurnham Moss, newly drained by the Daltons of Thurnham Hall, near Lancaster. However, they eventually left Throstle Nest in the hands of their brother-in-law, James Chew, who had married James' sister, Jane, and returned nearer home to Longridge. There James died on 8th May, 1874, followed only five months later by Elizabeth. Both were buried at St Mary's, Chipping.



*A painting of the old Birchen Lee Farm, c.1840, by John Weld of Leagram Hall. James Bamber farmed Birchen Lee, from the 1830s to the 1850s, before moving to Throstle Nest, Thurnham.*

The Thurnham connection did not end with James and Elizabeth, however, for several of their family remained in that district for many years. In particular, their eldest son, Thomas, farmed and raised a family at Bamber's Farm, Moss Lane; their daughter, Jane, born in 1826, was in service at Thurnham Hall before marrying John Birchall, of Queen Street, Lancaster; and their son, William, died and was buried at Thurnham on 23rd February, 1864.

Three other children of James Bamber and Elizabeth Sumner are worthy of note: Edward, James and John.

The eldest son, Edward, became a publican, keeping hotels in Goosnargh and Inglewhite before eventually keeping the Bull and Royal in Longridge, where he died on 15th March, 1886. He was one of the few who saw four Preston Guilds, being enrolled as a burgess in 1822, 1842, 1862, and 1882. His son, Richard, following in his father's footsteps, kept the Wheatsheaf Hotel at Woodplumpton, and from him are descended families now living in Walton-le-Dale. Richard had, among others, brothers William and Joseph. William married Helen Almond and worked in a cotton mill in Preston; he has descendants living now in Walmer Bridge and Penwortham. Joseph married Mary Coupe and for many years had a painting, decorating and plumbing business in Longridge, where some of his descendants still live.

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