

My father's only brother, the eldest of the children, was William. He became a Master Farrier and Blacksmith, and was in business at Thornley smithy until about 1910. When he moved to Preston the Marsland connection with Chipping ended.



My uncle and aunt.
William Marsland and his wife Amelia.
At Thornley Smithy.



My uncle, William Marsland (centre)
My father, Thomas Marsland (standing rear right)
At Glover's Court Smithy, Preston.

In 1989 Chipping Local History Society held an Open Day. The opportunity this afforded was too good to miss. I made the journey from Anglesey, North Wales, to attend. Imagine my delight on meeting there, a William Marsland, of Pendleton, near Clitheroe, a Francis Marsland of Dutton, and Mrs Ellwood of Hyde, who was researching a Marsland Pye family history.

It was soon established that William Marsland and myself had the same Great Great Grandfather. William had a heavy silver pocket watch, his Grandfather's name inscribed inside the back of the case. Stories of inheritances of money, and family forebears becoming landowners, applied also to him. The mystery of the source of the wealth remained.

Discoveries since that day have revealed a great deal. The Marslands became involved with property in Chipping in 1724. At that time they were resident in South Lancashire. A lease was obtained on a farmhouse and land named 'After Lee' to the north west of Chipping village. Generations leased the premises for many years. The result being that in some old documents the place became known as "Marslands".

Conditions set out in the first lease include:- The payment of a yearly rent of eighteen shillings and one penny. The giving of two good and fat capons on the Feast Day of St Thomas the Apostle, to Robert Blundell. (Owner) The planting of two trees, annually, of Oak, Ash, Elm, or other wood, and ensuring their survival. Also, 'Shall find and provide one good, able, and sufficient man to bear armour and weapons,' etc, etc.

Little is known regarding the very early Marslands, at 'After Lee'. The first leaseholder was Thomas. His brother, John Marsland of Ashton in Makerfield, gave financial help to the family at Chipping.



Distant Marsland relatives at the site of the demolished After Lee farmhouse:-

On the right. Thomas Marsland of Anglesey, the author of this account.
On the left. William Marsland of Clitheroe, who has done much of the research