



Grove Square, Chipping.  
While my Grandfather owned Kirk Mill some rebuilding took place here in 1871.

On the left, the stables, warehouse etc. of the former cotton spinning factory were converted to cottages.

On the right (partly hidden by ivy) new cottages were built to form the Square. In 1991, during the demolition of these cottages, the letters T.M. about 10 inches high were found in wall renderings. Grandfather's ownership of the premises ended in 1874.



There was some connection with Ireland. In 1871, Ann Marsland, Grandfather's widowed mother, and his sister Jane, are shown in the Census as living at Kirk Mill together with another family, three of whom were born in Ireland. I was often told how Grandfather was 'deported' from Ireland after being in trouble there whilst on a shooting trip. A large sum of money was said to be in his possession.

From records of births to Thomas and Catherine Marsland it appears that the family left Chipping towards the end of the 1870's. The Census of 1881 shows them residing at Plantation Cottage, Dutton, farming 45 acres. An aunt told me many times that she was born at Cross Keys Inn, near Ribchester. My father was born at Happy Alley, near the Old Parish Church, in Longridge. He spent most of his school days at Roadside Farm, Alston, before his parents moved to Dixons Cottages, Alston, where they both died.

Prior to World War 1, three of my father's sisters emigrated, two to America, and one to Canada. The children of one of these took the name Marsland as a forename:- Marsland Halliwell. Similarly since 1800 there have been Marsland Pye, Marsland Green, Marsland Pass. (East Lancs.) It is fairly safe to presume that anyone of these names is descended from After Lee forebears.

Whilst visiting the graves of some of my deceased World War 2 comrades, in Normandy, France, recently, I saw the grave of a soldier. J. Marsland. Someone unknown to me, who had served in The East Lancashire Regiment. Was he also from forebears at After Lee?

Many questions remain to be answered. Notably, did the Marsland children at After Lee in the early 1800's inherit money? If not, how was their wealth obtained?

A definite link with Marsland industrialists in Stockport and South Manchester, is sought, as James (Senior) of Burnley, had some premises in Chorlton Row, near to the present University Buildings. Information is required regarding Marslands before 1800 in Burnley and in South Lancashire, i.e. Bryn, near Wigan, Ashton in Makerfield, and St Helens.

In closing this story I wish to publicly thank, Mr and Mrs. A. Lord, of Chipping Local History Society, and my distant relative, Mr William Marsland, of Pendleton, near Clitheroe, for the work they have done in locating much of the information outlined above.

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