

The sad tale of Isabella and Joseph Kipling

Joseph was the son of Lionel Kipling, porter at Raby Castle in Durham. For a while, he was a barman at his brother's pub in London.

New Raby	Margaret Kipling	Head	Man	28	Wife of Porter at Raby Castle	D ^o Standard
	Margaret D ^o	Daughter	W	14		D ^o D ^o
	Joseph D ^o	Son	W	4	Scholar	D ^o Raby

Raby, 1851

Golden Lane	William J. Kipling	Head	Man	37	Licensed Victualler	Durham Standard
Wife of Barrow	Mary Ann D ^o	Wife	W	37		Middy Standard
	Isabella, illeg. D ^o	Daughter	W	1		D ^o Fenny Hand
	Joseph D ^o	Brother	W	22	Barman	Durham Standard

Golden Lane, Finsbury, London, 1861

Isabella was the daughter of Richard Wadson, originally a shoemaker and later a railway stationmaster.

18	Isabella D ^o of Richard & Sarah Wadson	Lancaster	Shoemaker
February 3	born 28 Dec. 1838		
No. 478			

Lancaster

Bay Horse Station	Richard Wadson	30	Shoemaker
	Sarah D ^o	25	
	Isabella D ^o	2	
	Thomas D ^o	70	Market Maker

1841 Cockerham, Lancs

Isabella Wadson	b ^o	b ^o	22	Housemaid	Lancaster
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1861 Garston, Liverpool

Joseph and Isabella married in 1865, when he was a shipping office clerk in West Hartlepool and she had been a housemaid in Liverpool. Perhaps Joseph had spent time working in Liverpool too.

1865. Marriage solemnized at Bolton in the Parish of Bolton in the County of Lancaster								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
215	October 3	Joseph Kipling	26	Bachelor	Shipping office Clerk	West Hartlepool	Lionel Kipling	Scoutman
		Isabella Wadson	26	Spinster		Hart Bank Station	Richard Wadson	Station Master
Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church by Licence by me,								Rev. J. Gibson
This Marriage was solemnized between us,		Joseph Kipling		Isabella Wadson		Joseph Kipling		Am. Signatures

Joseph Kipling	Head	man	31	Engineers Hall	Sturham Staindulp
Isabella K.	Wife	man	32		Lancashire Lancaster

Mill Street, Stockton 1871

By 1875, the marriage was clearly not working.

CHARGE OF AGGRAVATED ASSAULT.—Isabella Kipling charged Joseph Kipling, her husband, with committing an aggravated assault upon her on the 26th September. Complainant said: My husband behaved very badly to me on Saturday night, and ill used me. I want a separation from him. He kicked me under my chin, and knocked me about in the passage, making the marks I have upon me. He is so violent, else he is not a bad man. I left him once before. He had a policeman sitting in the house waiting for me, and I was dragged to the lock-up, without shoes, and part of my clothing off, giving me a very bad cold, and I am very ill now.—P.C. Roddy said: About a quarter to one o'clock on Sunday morning, I was standing upon Nelson-terrace, when I saw the complainant laid on the roadway. She said that her husband had ill-used her. I helped her up, and the husband came and kicked her on the side, I took him into custody. By the Bench: I was sitting in the house of defendant about eleven o'clock. He asked me to go in and have a glass of gin. I was going by the house, when he spoke to me, and said he was watching for his wife. The assault took place about one o'clock.—P.C. Roddy further charged

Isabella Kipling with being drunk and incapable on the 26th Sept. P.C. Roddy said: After I had locked the husband up I went back to Sydney-street about half-past one o'clock. I found Mrs Kipling lying upon the ground in the same place that her husband had knocked her down. I got her on her feet, and she fell down again, and as I could not get her to go home, I took her into custody. Both defendants alleged that the other was the cause of their trouble, and Mrs Kipling said she only wished to be relieved from the ill-usage of her husband. The Mayor said Joseph Kipling was fined 40s and 6s 10d costs for common assault, or two months' hard labour in default; and Isabella Kipling was fined 5s and costs or 14 days.

Daily Gazette for Middlesbrough 27 September 1875

Four years later Joseph lost a court case about an alleged bet.

A STOCKTON HOTEL KEEPER AND HIS BETTING TRANSACTIONS.

Yesterday, James H. M'Cann, of the Station Hotel, Stockton, sued Joseph Kipling, clerk at the Stockton County Court, for the sum of £2, which the defendant had obtained under peculiar circumstances. The plaintiff stated that on the 15th of January last, the defendant came into his bar and began to "chaff" him about electioneering, horseracing, and other matters. They argued about the last Derby, and he offered to bet the defendant 40 to 1 that he was the first in Stockton to receive "the tip" that Sefton was "a good thing." He thereupon placed £2 on the counter, which the defendant picked up, pocketed, and took away. No bet had been made. Some days afterwards defendant wrote to the effect that if he (plaintiff) acknowledged that he was wrong, as he had lost the bet according to a Mr Whitworth's decision, the stake would be returned. He would not, however, acknowledge that he was wrong, and the defendant refused to return the money. The bet was never concluded, as the defendant

did not put any money down. The defence was that it was a real bet, and, that being so, the plaintiff could not recover. John Alderson was called to prove that when the alleged bet was made Mr Whitworth was appointed referee, and the latter stated that he waited on M'Cann and told him that he had lost the bet. Witness implied that he had got "the tip" before M'Cann. Defendant denied that Whitworth was appointed referee. His Honour (Mr E.R. Turner) found for the plaintiff for the amount claimed, but without costs.

Hartlepool Mail 12 March 1879

Joseph Kipling	Resider	Mar	42	Clerk	Curham New Baby
Inkerman Street, Stockton 1881					
Isabella Kipling	Widow	Mar	36	Dressmaker	As Lancashire
1881 West Derby, Liverpool					

It seems that the marriage had broken up by 1881 and Isabella had returned to Lancashire.

Ten year later Joseph was still in Stockton but I cannot find Isabella. Joseph died in 1893.

George Stantoni	Resider	Mar	58	Clerk at Ironworks	X	Durham
Joseph Kipling	do	Mar	58	Clerk at Ironworks	X	Durham
Alma Street, Stockton 1891						

KIPLING.—On the 23rd inst., at 16, Hume-street, Stockton, Joseph Kipling.
York Herald 27 December 1893

Isabella was convicted of prostitution in Liverpool at the age of 58 and spent 2 months in Wakefield prison.

Register Number.	NAME		Summary Convictions, Debtors, Court Martials, &c.	Re-examination and Trial	Assizes and Sessions	OFFENCE
	Surname	Christian Name	Date and Place of Committal 1897	Date and Place of Committal 18	Date and Place of Conviction 18	
2197	Kipling	Isabella	11 May Liverpool city			50

SENTENCE	Education	Age, Height, and Colour of Hair	TRADE	Religion and Birth Place	Number of Previous Convictions, and Reference to last Entry	DATE OF DISCHARGE
			on OCCUPATION			AND REMARKS
2 mos + 6	well	50 5/3 74 grey	prostitute	Church Lancaster	none 44 743 98	10 July

Records of HMP Wakefield

Isabella was convicted again in 1898.

Kipling Isabella	6 June	4 June Liverpool city	prostitution after pre con.	3 mos 11/6	mpo	50 5/3 74 grey	✓	Church Lancaster	2197 97	15 April
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Records of HMP Wakefield

She died in the Liverpool Workhouse in 1900.

Seventeenth April 1900 Liverpool Workhouse U.D.	Isabella Kipling	Female	61 years	Widow of James Kipling Commercial Clerk Previous address unknown	Bronchitis cardiac failure certified by P. C. Millard M.D.	H. Bray Master Liverpool Workhouse	Seventeenth April 1900
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APPENDIX

In 1870, an Isabella Kipling was involved in a dispute with a neighbour involving an assault with a sweeping brush. The report opens by saying that Isabella was the one assaulted but the report reads as if it was the other way around. In particular, Sarah Oliver was the mother of Mary Nicholson, and Mary Nicholson was the one with a young child whose paternity was being questioned.

STOCKTON BOROUGH POLICE COURT.
MONDAY.—Before the Mayor, R. Ord, W. B. Brayshay, W. Richardson, and A. C. Knowles.
NEIGHBOURS' QUARRELS.—Mary Nicholson was charged with assaulting Isabella Kipling, on the 11th August. Mr Draper appeared with the complainant, and Mr Clemmett for the defence. Mr Draper briefly stated the facts of the case, and called Mrs Nicholson, who said that her husband, Frederick, worked at the Railway Company's shops. Three weeks ago, defendant accused her of being at Hartburn with a married man. Afterwards she attributed the paternity of her child to a lodger, and the affairs between them culminated in an assault on the 11th August, when the defendant came across the Tilery-road to her, and called her a "stinking bitch." The man at Hartburn was mentioned, and then the defendant struck a blow with the bristles of the hand-brush. This was done without provocation. By Mr Clemmett: I was first struck with the brush. I went to Mr Benington in the afternoon, and also to Mr Faber's office. I there mentioned the bristles, and asked for a summons for the assault, and my husband did as well. This occurred about eleven o'clock. I afterwards went to Mrs Kipling and said, "Do you persist in saying that I went with this married man." She said "You stinking b—h, go

away."—Sarah Oliver, mother of complainant, deposed that she saw defendant strike her daughter with a long brush; defendant was on her knees sweeping with it; she got up and put it in the complainant's face. She afterwards went across with her daughter, who said "Here is my mother; what have you got to say about me?" The door was slapped in their face, with an offensive expression.—For the defence, Mr Clemmett said that the complainant and the witnesses are all friends together, and bore animosity towards her, because she had anticipated a friend of theirs in the tenancy. He described the evidence of the two witnesses as deliberate untruths, and commented upon their discrepancy with respect to the brush.—The bench imposed a fine of 2s 6d, and 8s 6d costs, and cautioned defendant as to her future behaviour.

Daily Gazette for Middlesbrough 15 August 1870

However, it is not clear which Isabella Kipling was involved, as there was another Isabella Kipling in Stockton at the time, the wife of William Kipling, born in Cotherstone. They lived very close to Joseph and Isabella in 1871 but are not related.

Name	1	William Kipling	Head	Man	46	Wharfedale Street	Yorkshire - Barnard Castle
		Isabella Do	Wife	Mar	44		Barnard Castle
		Margaret Do	Daughter	Unm	17	Stationer's Shopwoman	Do Do
		Richard Do	Son	Unm	14	Printer (Apprentice)	Do Do
		Isabella Do	Daughter	Unm	1		Durham Stockton

1871 Vane Street, Stockton.

Mary Nicholson and Sarah Oliver can both be found in the 1871 census as near neighbours.

Frederick Nicholson	Head	Man	27	Langens Terrace	York Yorks
Mary Nicholson	Wife	Mar	23		York Yorks
Elizabeth Nicholson	Daughter	Unm	2 1/2		York Yorks
Charles Gilbank	Partner	Unm	22	Langens Terrace	York Yorks
John Lewis	"	"	21	Langens Terrace	York Yorks

1871 Tilery Terrace, Stockton

James Oliver	Head	Man	58	Postman	" Oaktree
Sarah "	Wife	Man	57	Dressmaker	" Hurworth
Elizabeth "	Serv	Wm	55	Milliner	Hales Hornby
John Carter	Stephen	Wm	17	Blacksmith	Wadsworth, Condon
Coates Shuttleworth	Hodges	Wm	34	Turner	Hales, Keighley
George Walker	"	Wm	25	Welder	Dunk, West Hartlepool
Andrew Hays	"	"	26	W. Rivetter	" Hartlepool
John Benson	"	"	25	Fitter	" West "
Robert Williamson	"	"	22	W. Rivetter	" Seaton Carew

1871 Norton Road, Stockton.

Given the future course of events, it seems to me more likely that it was Joseph's wife who was involved. William and Isabella lived together in Stockton for at least another twenty years.