

**GREAT EDSTONE PARISH AROUND 1850 & THE KIPLING
FAMILY**

Postgraduate Certificate in Genealogical Studies

Centre for Lifelong Learning

University of Strathclyde

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2010-11

TITLE

GREAT EDSTONE PARISH AROUND 1850 & THE KIPLING FAMILY

ABSTRACT

This project outlines the history and examines the social structure at the time of the 1851 census of the village of Great Edstone in North Yorkshire. It then considers the demographic changes over the subsequent decade, in the main by examining the census records and the parish registers and records. It concludes that Edstone has a stable core of smaller farming and labouring families but a significant turnover in larger tenant farmers and casual workers.

A prominent family in Edstone in 1851 was that headed by John KIPLING, a great-uncle of the author Rudyard Kipling. The project identifies the arrival and departure dates of the Kipling family (c1831 and c1860 respectively) and follows the subsequent lives of all the family members, mainly remaining in Yorkshire apart from two emigrants to Australia.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Michael Hansell, whose family tree of the Kiplings I was able to use as a framework to guide my search for confirmatory evidence (and whose scholarly transcriptions of the Lythe parish registers have also been of great help), Brian Kipling of Morpeth, who has provided me with much information about past researches into various Kipling families (and much personal encouragement), Jeremy Middleton, my third cousin, who allowed me access to his late father and mother's extensive Kipling research and John Walker, honorary librarian of the Kipling Society, who personally introduced me to their collection at City University.

NOMENCLATURE

NYRO – North Yorkshire Records Office, Northallerton.

GRO – General Register Office for England and Wales.

KJ – The Kipling Journal. Published by the Kipling Society, London.

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION, METHODOLOGY & REVIEW

2. GREAT EDSTONE'S STORY

3. GREAT EDSTONE IN 1851

4. DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

5. RATES & DOLE

6. CONCLUSIONS ON EDSTONE

7. THE KIPLING FAMILY

8. THE FATE OF THE KIPLINGS

REFERENCES

APPENDICES

1. Land Tax Returns for Edstone (extract) 1832
2. Edstone families 1851
3. Edstone Glebe Lands
4. Descendents of John Kipling senior

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Fig 1. *Map of Great Edstone Parish (c1855)*
- Fig 2. *Doomsday Book entry for Micheledestun*
- Fig 3. *St Michael's church, Edstone, 2010*
- Fig 4. *Population growth, N Yorkshire 1801-1851*
- Fig 5. *Former Methodist chapel, Edstone (2010)*
- Fig 6. *Farmhouse occupied by the Kipling family at Edstone*
- Fig 7. *Main Street, Edstone (early 20th Century)*
- Fig 8. *Map of Great Edstone village (1856)*
- Fig 9. *Map of Great Edstone village (1895)*
- Fig 10. *Cutting from York Herald, July 1859*
- Fig 11. *Cutting from York Herald, July 1855*
- Fig 12. *Edstone population movements 1851-1861*
- Fig13. *Extract from Skelton Parish register, 1836*
- Fig14. *Memorial to John Kipling senior, Edstone*
- Fig15. *Memorial to Mary Kipling and John Kipling, Edstone*
- Fig 16. *Mary Kipling*

1. INTRODUCTION, METHODOLOGY & REVIEW

Great Edstone is a small village in North Yorkshire, on the northern edge of the vale of York and about 2 miles south-east of Kirkby Moorside. The river Dove forms part of the boundary of the parish. The National Gazetteer of 1868¹ described the land as being chiefly arable. Bulmer's Directory of 1890² tells that Edstone is "*seated on a conical shaped hill, commanding extensive views of the beautiful vale of Ryedale*".

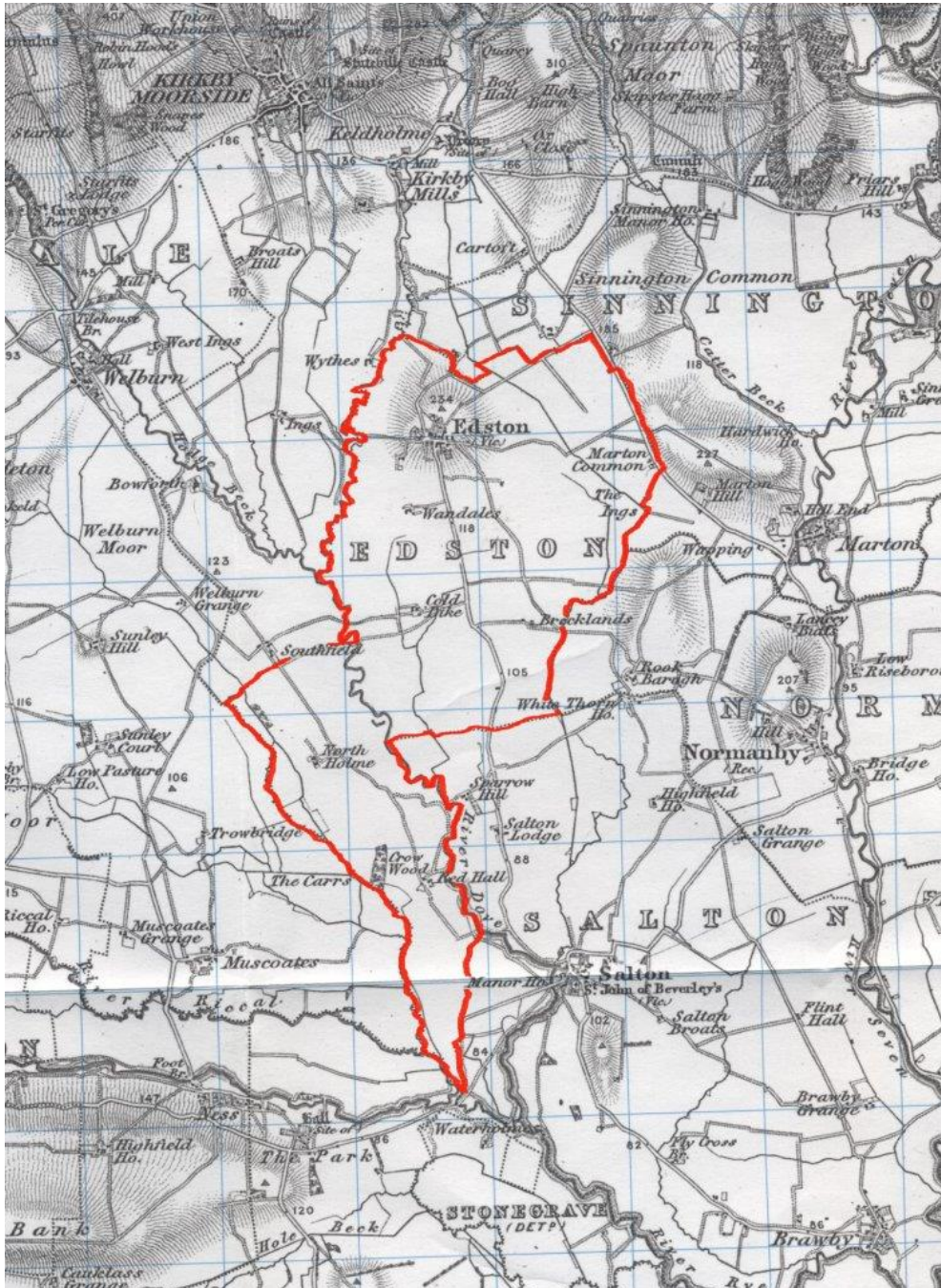


Fig 1. Map of Great Edstone Parish (c 1855)³

This project will document the social structure of the village in 1851 and the demographic changes over the subsequent decade, using primarily census data, parish registers, other parish records, secondary sources and site visits.

A prominent family in 1851 is the Kipling family, the head of which, John Kipling, is a great-uncle of the author Rudyard Kipling. The project also aims to identify the fate of the Kipling family after 1851 for one generation, one object of which is to provide a base from which future work can determine if a male line has persisted to the present and would be potentially available for DNA testing. Use is made of census data, parish records, monumental inscriptions, GRO records and Australian immigration records.

Review

Although Edstone features in a number of historical and geographical books about North Yorkshire, the only specific work identified is *A History of Edstone and its People*⁴. A number of period directories also include it.

A number of family trees of Rudyard Kipling's family exist in books and on genealogical web sites. The most complete is that of Michael Hansell on Ancestry.co.uk⁵. References to Kipling's ancestry appear in a number of publications, including KJ and *The Pater*⁶. Unpublished research has also been examined (see Acknowledgements).

2. GREAT EDSTONE'S STORY

Under its then name of Micheledestun, Great Edstone appears in Domesday Book⁷ (Fig 2).

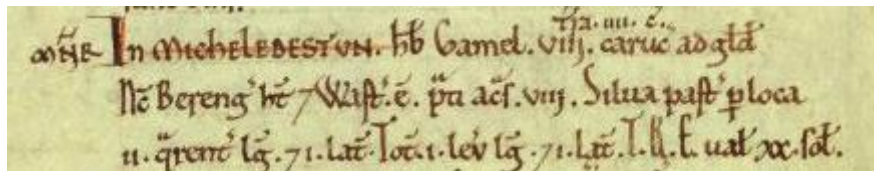


Fig 2. Domesday Book entry for Micheledestun

Berengar de Tosny is noted as having 8 caruscates previously the property of Gamel. It is described as waste (no doubt the consequence of the ‘harrying of the north’ 1069-1070), consisting of woodland and pasture, the manor being one league long by one broad.

Berengar died without issue and the land passed by marriage to the Bigod family, before passing to the Crown in 1306 following the death of Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk without heirs. The land then passed through many hands, including those of James, Marquess of Salisbury, and a number of emigrants to the Americas⁸, resulting in multiple ownership by the middle of the 19th century⁹.

Appendix 1 shows the land tax returns for 1832, which shows ownership and occupancy¹⁰. The parish church of St Michael’s is described in the 1868 Gazetteer as being of ancient origin but with all traces of its ancient architecture having been removed in modern repairs (fig 3¹¹).



Fig 3 . St Michael's church, Edstone, 2010

Morris¹² describes the Vale of York as a whole as “highly farmed; there is little wood”. He describes the area as ‘intensely rural’ and adds that “the sleepy villages can hardly have changed since George the Fourth was king”. Edstone is noted as growing wheat, oats and barley¹³.

Population growth by registration district in N. Yorkshire 1801-1851 shows that there was relatively little growth in this part of the North Riding over the period¹⁴. This is confirmed by examination of census returns, which show Edstone with a population of 160 in 1801 and 152 in 1851.

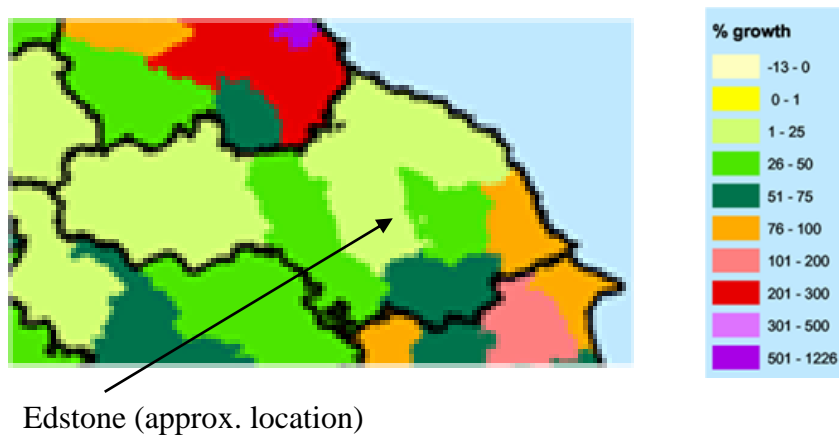


Fig 4. Population growth, N Yorkshire 1801-1851

3. GREAT EDSTONE IN 1851

The 1851 census¹⁵ reveals that there are 29 inhabited buildings in or around the village, including the outlying farmsteads of Breckland, Cowldyke and Wandels shown fig 1.

A prominent family is the Kipling family, who occupy the largest village farm. John Kipling is the head of this family and he is reported as farming 220 acres and employing four. John Kipling is actually the census enumerator for the village (Fig. 4).

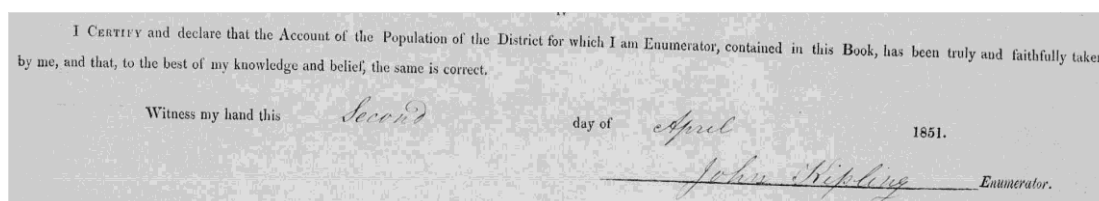


Fig4. Cover page for 1851 census of Great Edstone

Perusal of the census returns (summarised in Appendix 2) shows that of the 29 inhabited properties, 13 were occupied by farmers (one also a cattle dealer and one also a blacksmith), nine by agricultural labourers, three by widows or retired persons and one each by the Vicar of Edstone (Robert PEARSON), the keeper of the White Horse Inn (also a shoemaker), a joiner, and Thomas CLARK, a tailor, draper and grocer. A schoolmaster lodged with the blacksmith.

The farms varied in size, the Kiplings' being the largest; down to John GARNETT, who proudly notes that his six acres are freehold!

The 1868 Gazetteer tells of a Wesleyan chapel (Fig 5, overleaf¹¹). This still stands today, although serves as a holiday cottage. It bears the inscription "*Methodist Chapel 1823*" above its door. The chapel was built at the expense of Robert CAMPION, near the house then tenanted by John SMITH¹⁶.



Fig 5. Former Methodist chapel, Edstone (2010)

The Kipling farm is to the immediate right of the picture. That the Kiplings should be found in a farm immediately adjoining a chapel is not surprising, as Methodism had run strongly in the family for a generation already⁶.

Fig.6 shows the farmhouse occupied by the Kipling family⁶ (the statement in brackets in the photograph caption is incorrect, as Joseph Kipling actually grew up in Lythe, see later). The chapel roofline can be seen to the left.



2. Great Edstone Farm (where the Revd Joseph Kipling grew up and from where he entered the Wesleyan Ministry)

Fig 6. Farmhouse occupied by the Kipling family at Edstone

The village was thus relatively self-contained in 1851, with two places of worship, an inn, and a good range of tradesmen. There may also have been school (there was a schoolmaster

resident in 1851, although not in 1861) and a Victorian schoolhouse was shown on the 1890 map (and is the 'village room' today).



Fig 7¹⁷ shows a view looking east down the main street to the church from a position close to the Kipling farm. The horse and cart are in front of what is shown on the 1893 map (fig 9) as the smithy, with the White Horse Inn to its right. The road to the left leads to the outlying farms to Salton.

Fig 7. Main Street, Edstone (early 20th Century)

The 1856 map¹⁸ (fig 8) shows the village itself, with the church at the west end and the Wesleyan chapel at the east. The Vicarage and the White Horse Inn are also marked.



Fig 8. Map of Great Edstone village (1856)

A clearer map exists from 1893 (fig 9)¹⁹, by when we can see that relatively little has actually changed.

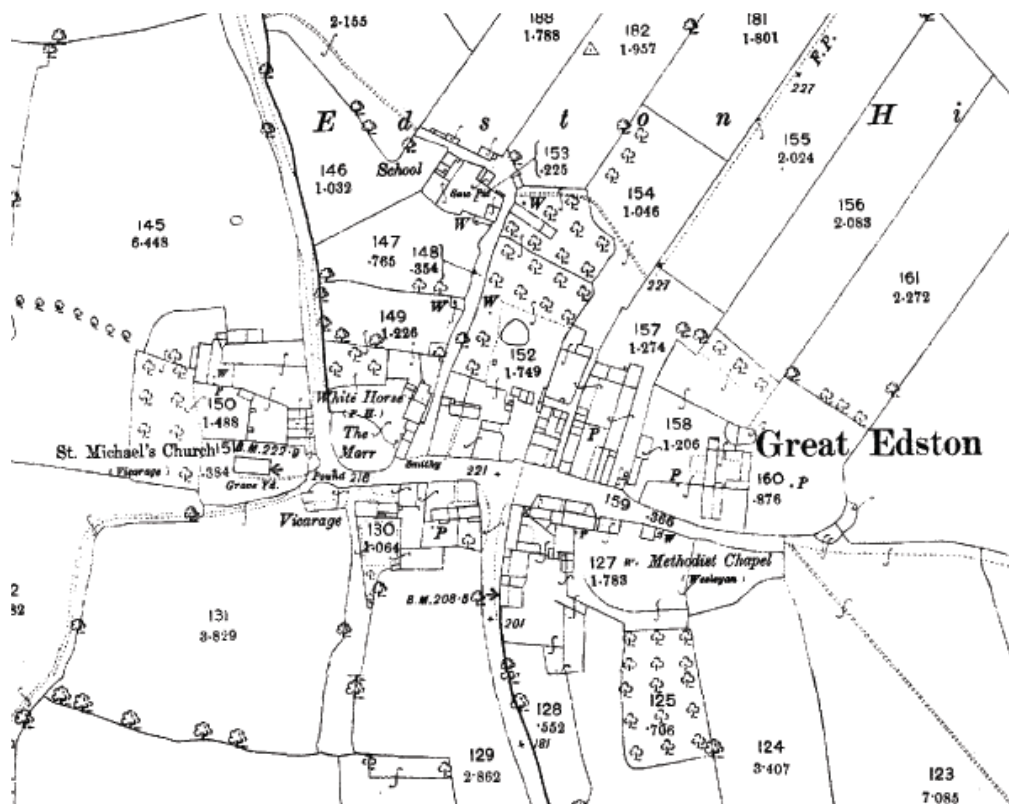


Fig 9 : Map of Great Edstone village (1893)

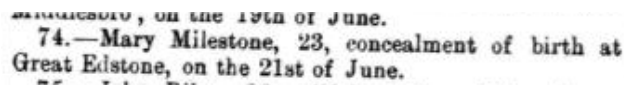
A terrier of 1849¹⁰ sets out the property of Vicarage, the occasion being a primary visitation of the Archbishop of York. This tells us that the vicarage house was rebuilt in 1847 of stone and slate and describes its rooms and outbuildings in detail.

There are 96 acres of glebe land in three parcels, some of which is bounded by John Kipling's farmland. There is also around £30 of payment in lieu of tithes from the freeholders (of which Mrs CAMPION pays £2 10s 3d, presumably largely in respect of John Kipling's farmland).

Early in the 20th century, seven parcels of glebe land (partly arable, partly to grass) were sold by the then vicar¹⁰. Maps accompanied the sale. From this and from the terrier, it is possible to identify most of the glebe land on the 1856 map (Appendix 3).

Finally, the terrier lists the books and religious items, which are relatively simple as might be expected for a small parish.

Edstone appears to be a very law-abiding place, the only reference found on the Gales database was of a trial at Yorkshire Summer Assizes 1859 (fig 10)²⁰; the accused seems not to be local but was from Pickering.



74.—Mary Milestone, 23, concealment of birth at Great Edstone, on the 21st of June.

Fig 10. Cutting from York Herald, July 1859

At least one of its inhabitants was inventive; blacksmith George RUSSELL winning a prize in the local agricultural show for a corn drill in 1855 (fig 11)²¹. The Russell family later went on to run an agricultural machinery business in the village.

FIRST ANNUAL SHOW
OF THE
RYEDALE AND PICKERING LYTHE WEST
AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

IMPLEMENTS.

Mr Matthew Smith, Harum, 7s. 6d., for an improved eleven coulter corn drill. Mr Christopher Carter, Kirby-moorside, 5s., for two linseed cake mills. Mr George Russell, Great Edstone, 2s. 6d., for a corn drill. Mr

Fig 11. Cutting from York Herald, October 1855

4. DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

The population change between 1851 and 1861 was quite significant. The tenancy of three of the largest farms changed hands. The 1861 census²² shows two of the three who left, John MARSHALL and Jerome BOYES, as “retired farmers”. The thirds was John Kipling (see below).

The demographic analysis below (fig 12) has been compiled from the parish registers entries for births, deaths and marriages and the censuses for 1851 and 1861:

Recorded in 1851 Census	137
Death	-10
Departed	-78
Birth	15
Arrived	63
Returned	8
Recorded in 1861 Census	135

Fig 12. Edstone population movements 1851-1861

In addition, 5 children were both baptised and buried between census dates, 25 children were baptised and either departed before 1861 or were from outside the village, and there were 12 burials either of arrivals after 1851 or of outsiders.

There were only eight marriages registered in the decade.

Most of the farm servants (indoor and outdoor workers who lived on the farms) were from nearby villages and there was an almost complete turnover of these over the ten years.

There was more stability amongst the freehold farmers, the tradesmen and the permanent labouring families; and the Vicar of Edstone remained in office. However, it can be observed from Appendix 2 that only six of the 29 heads of household in 1852 had been born in Edstone.

5. RATES AND DOLE

Each year, there was a cess bill charged to the parish ratepayers by the overseer of the poor, from which a dole was paid. As can be seen from Appendix 3, the households in Edstone in the period divided mainly into ratepayers and dole recipients. The rates were assessed on the assumed rental value of the land (which was stable over the period) and distributed in similar amounts each year to the resident labouring families. The more itinerant farm servants received nothing.

Over the 11 years 1851 to 1861, only 15 families received the dole, 12 of those receiving it in every single year (there being one departure and two arrivals). The largest amount was paid to Susannah RAWLING, the widow of John Rawling who was parish clerk for 32 years until his death in February 1851²³. The dole seems to have been both a pension for the elderly and a supplemental income for the younger labourers.

As well the Edstone-based landowners, ratepayers in 1851 included farmers from North Holmes and Little Edstone and tenants of abutting farms in neighbouring parishes whose land presumably in part crossed the parish boundary.

Assessments were also made for highways maintenance and, by the churchwardens, for the expenses of the church not due to be met by the incumbent.

6. CONCLUSIONS ON EDSTONE

All-in-all, the parish appears to have been well-run by its mainly tenant farmers, who clearly took their civic responsibilities seriously. There was reasonable stability amongst the smaller agricultural families and village tradesmen but a significant turnover in farm servants and the larger tenant farmers, with retirement being a material factor in the latter.

7. THE KIPLING FAMILY

John Kipling, a farm labourer, was born in Loftus, north-west of Whitby, in 1773. He married Ann HANSELL in nearby Lythe in 1805. His second son, John, was born at Lythe in 1807. By the time of his eldest daughter's birth in 1819, he was described in the parish register as a farmer (of Ugthorpe, west of Lythe village).

Appendix 4 charts (and sources) the descendents of John Kipling (b 1773), showing both the family of John Kipling (b1807) and, in outline, the line to Rudyard Kipling.

In 1831, John Kipling (b 1773) and his (probable) brother George ("mariner") sold, by deed of lease and release, properties in Lythe²⁴.

The name John Kipling first appears in the churchwarden's accounts for Edstone 1830/1, when he was assessed for the largest amount in the parish (£1 1s 3½d, at 3½d in the pound, implying a rental of £155 0d 4d). The previous year, the corresponding assessment was made on John Barry SMITH (q.v. page 9). It is unclear whether the rate was levied on John Kipling the father or John Kipling the son but it is clear the Kiplings moved to Edstone before Lady Day 1831.

With them came Ann Kipling and her other children Anne, Jane, Alice and Bessy.

John's older brother, Joseph (Rudyard Kipling's grandfather) joined the Methodist ministry in 1831, so it is not clear whether he ever lived for any length of time at Edstone or went straight to his first post in Wisbeach²⁵ from Lythe.

However, he married Frances Lockwood at Skelton in 1836, and the parish register (fig 13) lists his place of residence as Edstone. He had presumably been living in lodgings in the early days of his itinerant ministry, the records of which show him in a different location each year between 1831 and 1836.

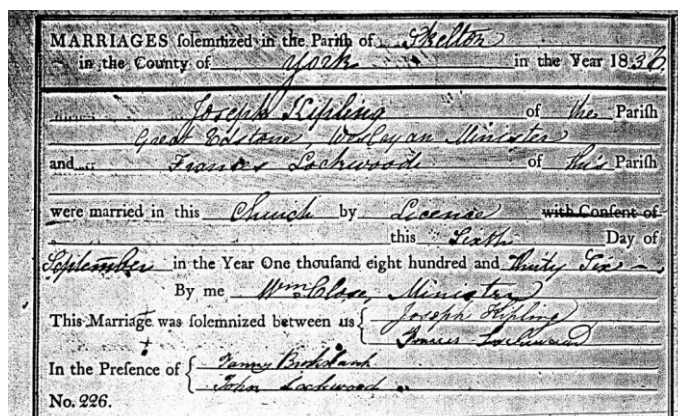


Fig 13. Extract from Skelton Parish register, 1836

Appendix 1 shows that the Kiplings were occupying a farm owned by Robert CAMPION Esq, a merchant and banker of Whitby. In fact, it was Robert Campion's wife Jane who held a life interest in this land and their four surviving children a reversionary interest, under the will of Jane's late father, Robert SWALES of Ruswarp²⁶. It is clear, therefore, that the Kiplings were tenant farmers, not freeholders.

As prominent and educated farmers, the Kiplings soon began to play their part in parish civic life, either father or son being one of the two Overseers of the Poor from 1832 to 1834¹⁰.

John Kipling senior died in 1835 and was the first of the family to be buried in St Michael's churchyard (fig 14¹¹).



Fig.14. Memorial to John Kipling senior, Edstone

John Kipling junior married Mary Wood from nearby Fadmore in 1836 at Kirkby Moorside.

Of John's sisters:

- Anne married farmer William JACKSON in 1836. They subsequently moved to Danby Wiske. Anne died in 1848 of "debility from abortion" and her death is recorded on John Kipling senior's memorial (fig 14) although Ann herself is buried at Danby Wiske.
- Alice married farmer William THOMPSON, remaining in the village until her death in 1884.
- Jane married Leonard RAWLING and moved to Barton-le-Street, dying there in 1891
- Bessie married farmer John JACKSON. They subsequently moved near to Middlesbrough, where Bessie died in 1905 in the County Borough Asylum.

By the time of 1851 census, the Kipling household consisted of :

- John Kipling
- Mary Kipling, wife
- Ann Kipling, mother
- Children Ann (age 13), Joseph (11), Jane (9), Mary (7), John (3) and Margaret (1).

John was Churchwarden from Lady Day 1841 to Lady Day 1842, Overseer in 1852 and held a number of other civic roles¹⁰. He was also an active Methodist lay preacher. For example, he is mentioned in the 1847-8 plan for the Pickering circuit²⁷ as preaching at Edstone and at a number of nearby towns and villages on various Sundays.

8. THE FATE OF THE KIPLINGS

John's wife, **Mary**, died in May 1853, of ovarian dropsy (cyst), and his younger son **John**, aged 6, died later the same year of gastroenteritis (fig 15¹¹). His mother, **Ann**, died in 1855 of heart disease.



Fig 15. Memorial to Mary Kipling and John Kipling, Edstone

John remarried in 1857, to Mary Garnett, the daughter of small freehold farmer John Garnett. They had a son, William, in Edstone in later the same year.

John's eldest daughter, **Ann**, who had married John HODGSON, a journeyman blacksmith, in 1858, died the following year of phthisis (tuberculosis).

John himself appears in parish rate assessments up to and including 1858/9 (18s 6d at 1½d in the pound on £148 rental). The following year, the corresponding assessment was made on a Francis WEETMAN. The family therefore left Edstone in 1859 or early 1860.

In the 1861 census, the Kipling family are to be found at Staxton, about 20 miles east of Edstone, not far from Scarborough. John is farming 205 acres, and employing 2 men and two boys. With John at Staxton are daughters Jane, Mary and Margaret.

The motive for the Kiplings' move is unclear, although following Jane Campion's death in 1859²⁸, the farm and land was sold to a Mrs SHEPHERD around 1860²⁹ (the property is still today known as 'Shepherds Farm'⁴) and it is conceivable that the new owner might have sought to impose changes to the terms of John Kipling's tenancy.

Joseph Kipling is not with the family at Staxton in 1861, nor does he appear to be elsewhere in the UK. He is next definitely recorded arriving in Brisbane in Jan 1864 on the "*Light of the World*", a ship of the Black Line carrying emigrants from the UK to Australia³⁰. His death is recorded in Cairns, Australia in 1918, where the names of his parents identify him, as does the age of 78 on an inscription in Martyn Street cemetery, Cairns³¹. There is no evidence of a marriage.



With him went his sister **Mary** (Fig 16, in old age³²), who married a George WILKINSON in Queensland in March 1864, just six weeks after arriving, and died just 3 months after her brother in 1918.

Fig 16. Mary Kipling

Of John Kipling's other children, **Jane** married Watson GLAVES, of Staxton, back in Edstone in 1864. She died in Staxton in 1881. **Margaret** married David MCLAREN in Scarborough in 1878 and died in 1922 in Staxton.

Eldest son by his second wife, **William**, married a Jane WOOD in 1881 at Ugglebarnby near Sleights and died in Danby, still in North Yorkshire, in 1932. Jane died in 1896 and he married Elizabeth GREY in 1902. He had one son with each of his wives³³.

John and Mary had a further son, Edwin, whilst living at Staxton, but by the time of the birth of his youngest child, Elizabeth, John had moved back to Ugthorpe, to the 85 acre Traveller's Rest Farm on the moor above the village, close to where the A171 runs today.

He later retired to Sleights, where *The Pater*⁸ states that Rudyard Kipling's sister, Alice, visited him, although no date is given.

John died in 1898 (aged 90) and **Mary** in 1904.

Edwin died at the early age of 28, leaving only a daughter⁵. William's two boys therefore represent the only prospect for further investigation for Y-chromosome DNA testing from this particular branch of the family.

REFERENCES

Note : All sources to births, marriages and deaths of the Kipling family appear in Appendix 4

-
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¹⁹ Ordnance Survey (1893) Yorkshire 1:2,500. Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Limited 2010

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²¹ *The York Herald* , Saturday, October 06, 1855. 19th Century British Library Newspaper Library(Galegroup.com accessed 2011/07/10)

²² 1861 Census of England & Wales. Original images viewed on findmypast.co.uk 2021/07/10 RG 9 Piece 3639 Folios 30-36

²³ Memorial inscription in Edstone Churchyard

²⁴ NYRO Deeds registry FS 336 299 Microfilm

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²⁷ “Wesleyan Methodist Preachers in the Pickering Circuit 1847-8” in *Memoirs of Joseph Smith* Rydale Family History Group (2006 CD)

²⁸ GRO Deaths RD Whitby 1859 Jul-Sep 1859 Vol 9d Pg 313

²⁹ Great Edstone Parish Records. Microfilm. Rate assessment 1860. NYRO Collection ref. PR/ED

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³² Family collection of Michael Hansell

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