

## THE KIPLING FAMILY HISTORY NEWSLETTER #24

APRIL 2021

A Durham family firm, more Candian research, ex-service history, Kiplings of Holderness, two RAF deaths eighty year on, and more.

### Watson, Kipling & Co

In 1865, Frances Lawrence Kipling of the **Barningham** Kiplings set up a chemical-manufacturing business at Seaham Harbour in County Durham with John Watson.

**NEW CHEMICAL WORKS AT SEAHAM HARBOUR.**—On Thursday afternoon, the ceremony of cutting the first sod of the new chemical works at Seaham Harbour took place, in the presence of a considerable number of spectators. Amongst the gentlemen present were Mr. Watson and Mr. Kipling (two of the partners in the new firm), the Messrs. Mann, Mr. R. Candlish, Mr. Wight, Mr. Stewart, Mr. James, &c. The site of the new works lies between the bottle works of Ald. Candlish, and Earl Vane's blast furnaces, and contiguous to the railway and harbour. Mr. Kipling cut the first sod, after which Mr. Watson invited the company to join with them in drinking success to the new undertaking. Mr. Watson afterwards gave the requisite instructions to a number of workmen, who forthwith commenced their operations, and the visitors gradually dispersed.

*Newcastle Chronicle - Saturday 11 March 1865*

They later ventured into iron-founding, but that venture had its ups and downs.

### THE BLAST FURNACES AT NOSE'S POINT.

These furnaces have turned out most successful since they were blown in by Messrs Watson, Kipling, and Co. The iron manufactured is of excellent quality, and some capital runs have been obtained since the opening. A large additional sum per week is now being paid as wages at Seaham Harbour.

*Shields Daily Gazette - Monday 15 April 1872*

### A NEW LINE OF STEAMERS.

A new line of steamers is being started by Messrs Watson, Kipling, and Co., to run from Sunderland South Dock with goods for London and the Continent, bringing back iron ores, chalk, &c., for use at their large chemical and iron works at Seaham.

*Shields Daily Gazette - Wednesday 29 January 1873*

### EXPLOSION IN A BLAST FURNACE AT SEAHAM HARBOUR.

The blast furnace at Seaham Harbour has been considerably damaged by an explosion. Erected in the time of the late Marchioness of Londonderry, it has been out of blast for a long period, but was at length taken in hand by Messrs Watson, Kipling, and Co., of the adjoining Chemical Works. These gentlemen had got it filled ready for a start yesterday, but on the blast being applied an explosion ensued, blowing the top off, considerably damaging the furnace. Fortunately no one was injured. The accident, it is expected, will delay the blowing in of the furnace for a few weeks. The cause of the accident is ascribed to some defect in the ventilating apparatus.

*Shields Daily Gazette - Friday 02 February 1872*

**CHEMICAL WORKS ANNUAL PIC-NIC AND SPORTS.**—The workmen employed at Messrs Watson, Kipling, & Co's. Chemical Works, with their wives and friends, held their annual pic-nic and sports in Dawdon Dene on Saturday last. There was a large gathering, and, as the day was fine, though sometimes rather threatening, all seemed to enjoy themselves. On the same day, and in the same place, was a large gathering of Sunday scholars, teachers, and friends from Usworth Colliery. This party, who had come in open waggons, were rather unfortunate in their journey home at night. Just as they were preparing to leave Seaham, about eight o'clock in the evening, a heavy rain commenced, accompanied by vivid lightning and thunder, the rain continuing for two or three hours. Many and various were the contrivances and covering resorted to for the protection of summer bonnets, &c. It is to be hoped that a wet skin would be the worst effects produced.

*Durham County Advertiser - Friday 18 July 1873*

Yesterday 500 men employed at Watson, Kipling, and Co's Blast Furnace Works, Seaham, came out on strike against a reduction of ten per cent.

*Freeman's Journal - Friday 22 May 1874*

Francis Kipling died in 1875, although the business continued to operate under the same name until it eventually closed due to poor trading conditions in 1881. The full story can be read at [Watson Kipling & Co.](#)



*Watson, Kipling & Co. chemical works before demolition (photo [Archive 1858 - \(seahamfamilyhistorygroup.org.uk\)](#))*

## 1941 WW2 Deaths

Two Kiplings were killed 80 years ago during the second world war.

### Sgt Bernard Kipling RAFVR

On the night of 9/10 May 1941, Sgt Bernard Kipling was an observer (navigator) on Whitley bomber P5106 MH-O of 51 Squadron when it was shot down by a night fighter (Lt. Reinhold Knacke, 1.NJG1) and crashed at 03:05 over Boshoven (2 km West of Weert, in Belgium). Their target that night was Ludwigshaven. The crew of P/o P.Myers (pilot), Sgt H.G.Browne, Sgt B.Kipling, Sgt G.A.Selby and F/Sgt A.Jackson had taken off from Dishford at 21.59, so were presumably on their way home when intercepted. They are buried in Eindhoven (Woensel) General Cemetery.



This is the log entry for that last flight.

9 May 1941

Aircraft Type and No.	Crew.	Duty.	Time Up.	Time Down.	Details of Sortie or Flight.
P.5106.	P/O. Myers Sgt. Brown Sgt. Kipling Sgt. Jackson Sgt. Selby	Bombing	2159	-	<p>MAS.274. LUDWIGSHAVEN was attacked at 0147 hrs with 4 500lbs and 2 250lbs bombs and 4 cont. of incend. Heard from a/c 1 hour after operations completed message was received, but A/C failed to return.</p> <p>... attacked LUDWIGSHAVEN at 0220 hours from</p>



Essex Newsman - Saturday 24 May 1941

Bernard was of the **Dean** Kipling family group, son of Robert and Rosa Kate Kipling of Midhurst, Sussex. His twin brother Guy was also an RAF sergeant and was killed later in the war, as was a second brother in the army. Bernard's gravestone is inscribed as follows:

754444 Sergeant  
B. Kipling  
Observer  
Royal Air Force  
10th May 1941 Age 23  
(Cross)  
One of three brothers  
Who gave their lives  
For humanity  
"Lest we forget"

## Sgt Matthew George Kipling RAF



Matthew George was also a sergeant (air gunner), this time in 35 Squadron, flying the Halifax. He was killed on 31 December 1941. The account of his death from the squadron record is as follows : "1941/197 35/V9979 T/o 1125 Linton-on-Ouse similarly tasked. From eyewitness statements it is reported that the bomber, with one engine ablaze, passed low over the village of Lanildut [Finistere], NW of Brest, pursued by a fighter which in turn was shot down by Sgt Kipling just moments before the Halifax hit the sea, finishing up on rocks at Porspoder a few kilometres to the north of Lanildut. Soon after the crash the Germans requisitioned some seaweed boats and having searched the area returned to the small harbour at Mazou with a number of badly burned bodies though it is believed some were still alive. All were examined by a German doctor but those who had survived succumbed to their injuries. A few days later a teenage girl found the body of the wireless operator whom she identified from his tag as Sgt Maflin. All rest in Kerfautras Cemetery."

The log entry of the fatal flight is below.

V.9979 (E)	S/Ldr.S.A.Middleton " "	11.25	-	Took off from LINTON for BREST at time stated.
	P/O.R.A.F.Frew.			Aircraft missing, seen to be shot down over
	P/O.L.J.P.Foster.			target area.
	Sgt. Orton.			
	Sgt.Maflin.			
	Sgt.Kipling.			
	Sgt.Greenwood.			

LINTON-ON-OUSE. 31 DEC. (Contd) Roll of Officers and Airman Pilots on strength (contd).

The following are missing while on Operations:-  
 SGT. COLLINS, SGT. GRIGG, P/O. H. D. BUCKLEY, P/S. T. BELL, SGT. CROCKER, SGT. WAKELING, SGT. KENT,  
 SGT. KETTERINGHAM, S/LDR. S. A. MIDDLETON, P/O. R. A. F. FREW, P/O. L. J. P. FOSTER, SGT. ORTON,  
 SGT. MAFLIN, SGT. KIPLING, SGT. GREENWOOD.

Matthew George Kipling was the son of Matthew George and Ethel Kipling of Darlington of the **Melsonby** Kipling family.

More details on the two sergeants and other Kiplings in the WW2 allied air forces can be found at [Air Force Kiplings](#).

### More Canadian Kiplings

Continuing the story of the **Hudson's Bay** Kipling family, I have produced a note about the descendants of George Kipling (1822-65), a grandson of the original John Kipling, and his wife Catherine Spence. The family spread out across Manitoba, with branches in Alberta and Montana,

One of George's sons, also George, was a 'freighter' in the 1880 and 90s.

**ACROSS THE PRAIRIE.**

**How Freight is Carried from Winnipeg to Edmonton.**

**THE FREIGHTERS' VARYING EXPERIENCES.**

**Waggons Turned Into Boats and Floated Down Stream.**

**HARD TRAVELLING ON THE SNOW.**

*From the Edmonton Bulletin, Nov. 25.*

**J. Norris, J. Macdonald, and G. Kipling, arrived from Capelle on Monday evening last, having left their carts, thirty-three in number, at the edge of the woods about 60 miles this side of Battleford. They came in for fresh horses and sleighs to help to bring in their freight.**

**The train consisted of fifteen carts of J. Norris, nine of J. Macdonald, nine of G. Kipling, four of J. Courtepatta, and ten belonging to two half-breeds of Qu'Appelle, who had five oxen besides their horses.**

Toronto Daily Mail - Saturday 30 December 1882

The above George had married Lucy Gladu in 1873. The photograph below is has the catalogue description "*Kipling family, Metis, Calgary, Alberta. [c1911]. L-R back row: Eliza Wood, nee Kipling. L-R front row: Ray Kipling; Mrs. George Kipling, nee Lucy Gladu; Florence Kipling*". I can find no records of a Florence Kipling, and if the boy is Lucy's grandson Raymond, that would date the photograph to around 1925.



Glenbow Archives NA-2365-82



St. Mary's, Calgary, Calgary, Alberta

One of the above George's sons, James, was pictured as a young man in full cowboy gear with his future brother-in-law (c1910). One of George's grandsons, John Robert Kipling, was a successful jockey and trainer.



James Kipling and James Street  
(Glenbow Archives)



St Mary's cemetery, Calgary

The full story of the family can be read at [Manitoba, Alberta, Montana](#).

## Kiplings in the Bradford British Legion

The Royal British Legion is one hundred years old this year. It has been running a project to gather information about its past activities at a local level.



As I had some records left to me by my father and grandfather about their Legion activities, I put a short note together and sent it in for the Legion's archive. The picture below, from 1939 (note gas mask holder straps on many participants and one in uniform), shows my grandfather (arrowed) in the Remembrance Day parade at Bradford.



In the 1973, a block of Legion flats for the elderly in Bradford was named 'Kipling Court' in his honour.



The full story can be read at [Kiplings in the Bradford Legion](#).

## The Kiplings of Holderness

I have recently come across photographs of four Kipling memorials in the Catholic graveyard at Marton in East Yorkshire, a few miles north-east of Hull. The earliest of these, and the best preserved, would appear to date from 1700 and be that of a William Kipling who died aged 49. To the best of my recollection, this is the oldest surviving Kipling gravestone, predating that of Ann Kipling at Barnard Castle which probably dates from 1722.

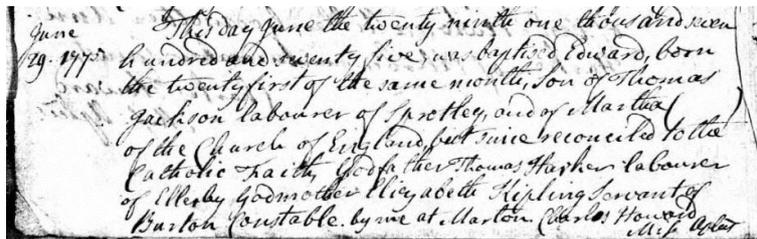


*'Hear lieth the Body of William Kipling who departed this Life April 2? 1700 Aged 40 (or 49) Years'*

[GENUKI: Photograph of Kipling grave/plaque, Marton. \(blunham.com\)](http://blunham.com)

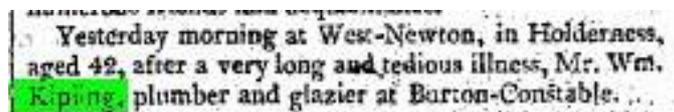
Marton Catholic chapel registers survive from the 1770s onwards. Only one of the four memorials can be matched to a register entry, that of another William who died in 1808. Some of the family worked at nearby Burton Constable Hall, owned by the Catholic Constable family, which had intermarried with the Tunstalls of Thorpe in Wycliffe in North Yorkshire, where Catholic Kiplings also lived in the eighteenth century (see [The Kiplings of Hutton Magna](#)). It is possible that the Kiplings came to Marton from Wycliffe in the service of the Constables as there is no evidence of the name in the Holderness area prior to 1700.

Elizabeth Kipling was a housemaid and cook at the Hall from 1754 to 1778. In 1775 she is recorded as standing as godmother at Marton chapel.



At an inquest delivered at York Lent Assizes taken by Richard Manby Coroner for the East Riding and the Liberty of Holderness, the following verdict was recorded: *Burton Constable in Holderness, 2 Sep 1772, Mary Kipling hanged herself - lunacy*

The William who died in 1808 may well have worked as a craftsman at the Hall as well.



*Hull Packet 1808*

1808 25

May the twenty fourth one thousand eight hundred and eight, was interred the Body of William Kipling of Watlington in the Parish of Aldbrough Hamber and Glazier, in the burying ground of the Roman Catholics at Marton in the Parish of Swine<sup>42</sup> Holderness. By me Charles Howard. A.M.

As he was a widower, his mother was appointed administratrix of his estate and was given responsibility for her three granddaughters (as intestacy records show).

Date and Time sworn.	Name and Description of the Intestate.	Name and Place of Abode and Degree of Kindred of Administrator or Administratrix.
27 August 1808 £450 9. 10 11-	William Kipling of West Newton Parish of Aldborough in the Co. of York	Martha Kipling of West Newton a Widow (the grandmother of Tobias Kipling Esq. Ann Kipling & Clartha Kipling Minors his children.) Administratrix

The last reference to the family in the area is 1836 and it has been impossible to trace them after that. Their full story can be found at [The Kiplings of Holderness](#).

**...and finally**

By 1846, William Kipling, a successful London haberdasher and local politician (see [Stockings](#)), had retired to Streatley, Berkshire. That year he welcomed the Lord Mayor of London on his ceremonial voyage along the Thames from Oxford to Kew.

The river thence glides through some fine country, backed by hills, past the village of Goring, on the left, and that of Streatley on the opposite bank. Here the Civic Party landed at Sanders's Wharf, where Mr. Kipling, formerly a member of the Corporation of London, had made arrangements for the Lord Mayor's reception. On examining the locks and works in this district, they were found to be in very good condition.



Illustrated London News - Saturday 15 August 1846