The Kiplings of Barningham

The earliest reference to the Kipling family in Barningham is a record of the baptism of Ellin Kiplin on 4 September 1585.

However, as the parish registers themselves only go back to April 1581, the Kiplings may have been present in the parish before that date (although no Kiplings appear in the 1539 muster roll).

The next entry is the burial of Leonard Kiplin on 20 July 1587. The first wedding is not until 1604 when William Kiplin married Jean Dent of Barningham on 3 February.

There is a further Kiplin baptism in 1590 where no name is given in the transcription and the next is not until 1 September 1605 when Christopher, the son of William Kiplin “of Barningham” (township or village as opposed to Scargill, Hope, etc), appears eight months after his wedding.

The final 16th century entry is that of the burial of Izabell Kiplin, widow, of Scargill on 17 November 1599. Was she the widow of Leonard? Was Ellin their daughter? Whose was the child baptised in 1590, as Leonard had been dead over two years by then?

From the Barningham registers, it seems clear that in the early 17th century there were four Kipling families in Barningham:

1. William and Jean, who in addition to Christopher had children Ann (1606) and Henry (1610). The burial of a son William is also recorded in November 1605 although no baptism. There is no subsequent mention of Christopher.

2. Peter and Catherine (nee Coots, m1607), who had children George (1607), Elinor (1609), Mary (1611, d1620) and Charles (1616, d1617).

3. Leonard and Mabel (nee Bussell, m1616), who had children James (1617), Elizabeth (1619), Christopher (1621), Francis (1624), Margaret (1626), Isabelle (1630) and Ellen (1634). Leonard is recorded as being ‘of Scargill’ for the first four.
4. Gyles and Elizabeth, whose burials are recorded in 1626 and 1614 respectively. Elizabeth is noted as being ‘of Scargill’.

Who are these families and are they related?

**Peter** was the son of William Kipling of Friarhouse in Baldersdale, in whose will he was mentioned in 1615 (see “17th century Baldersdale Kiplings”). He was also the co-administrator of the estate of his brother Mark Kipling, also in 1615.

“Peter Kiplinge de Barningham”

Peter died in 1617 but his son George is mentioned in the 1655 will of Peter’s brother Charles Kipling of Merebeck, Baldersdale.

George married Ann Rayne in 1638 and they had children Beatrix (b 1640, d1640) and Katheran (b1641, d1642). It is not definitely known what happened to George and Ann nor to Peter’s surviving daughter Elinor, although George was probably the George Kipling of Baldersdale, a Quaker who was imprisoned in 1660, 1666 and 1674 for his beliefs (as no records have been found of this George’s antecedence in Romaldkirk).

**William** may also have hailed from Baldersdale, as the name appears several times in 16th century Kipling wills, as does that of William Kipling of Da[l]ton in the will of Christopher Kipling of East Gayles.

William was a churchwarden in 1613.

William served on a quarter session jury at Richmond in 1624 and was churchwarden again in 1625. He died in 1632, a “yeoman”, and in his will left property (or £10 cash in lieu) to Matthias Johnson, the son of Michael Johnson and his daughter Ann. They had married in 1627, Matthias had been born the following year and Michael had died a month before William. His main heir is son Henry but he leaves his house and garth to his widow Jean for her life. There was an inventory of his estate and his assets, excluding property, totalled £37 19s, although he had net debts of around £25.
The inventory shows William to have been predominantly a sheep farmer, his most valuable possession being 70 sheep valued at £20, although he also left five kyne and four stirk (young cows) worth £14.

I have not been able to trace the subsequent fate of son Henry or widow Jean, although it is possible that Henry was buried at Startforth in 1672.

The Scargill link might suggest that Leonard was the son of Gyles, although both could also be the sons of the elder Leonard. No earlier records which name a Gyles Kipling have been found although a Leonard Kipling was married to a Margaret Revington in Winston in 1587. A Leonard Kipling was also a churchwarden at Barnard Castle around that time.

Leonard Kipling died in 1642 but there is no record of what happened to his wife Mabel. Of their children, Elizabeth Kipling may have married George Foggathwhait at Barningham in 1658 and James and Francis had families at Barningham (see later).

In 1655, the ownership of the pews at Barningham’s St Michael’s church was noted in the parish register. Francis Kiplin had two, one behind the other, and Bryan and John Kiplin had one apiece.

Francis was a son of Leonard Kipling but who Bryan or John Kipling were has not yet been discovered. No pew belonged to James, the other son of Leonard, although from the baptism of six of his children at St Michael’s between 1647 and 1664, he would appear to have been resident. He is recorded as being of Scargill at the time of the baptism of his daughter Syth in 1661.

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1 On August 8th, so not the Leonard of Barningham who was buried the previous month.
2 A Leonard Kipling was a witness to a Commonwealth marriage at Richmond in 1656 between Christopher Wingeint and Jane Mackeris both of Barningham. He may have been Leonard Kipling, tailor of Bowes, son of Anthony Kipling, who is reported to have occupied a particular pew at Bowes during the Commonwealth. If so, what connection he had with Barningham is unknown.
John Kipling of Greengill

John Kipling is first recorded in the parish registers in 1658 as having a son Bryan (when he was “of Swinstye”, which presumably is today’s Swinston) who died the same year. Subsequently, he probably is the father of John (1662), Elizabeth (1664), Alice (1667, when John was of Greengill), Marye (1669) and Phyllis (1672).

In 1674, he paid tax on one hearth. In 1678, within nine days in September, John first lost daughter Mary, then wife Elizabeth and finally unbaptised son Miles, the latter two quite possibly consequential on a difficult labour.

He probably remarried in 1679 to Ann Hird and had further children Robert (1680) and Brian (1682), both Greengill. Second wife Ann possibly died in 1690 (transcript states “widow of John Krylin”, which could be a transcription error) although there is no record of John’s death, before or after. It is possible that Bryan the pew-owner was John’s father or brother, given that John named two sons Bryan or Brian.

In 1702 Alice Kipling “of Scargill” married William Collin. Phyllis Kipling had “a bastard child”, Ann, in 1709 and in 1716 was the tenant of “a small cottage, gratis” owned by Marmaduke Tunstall.

It is not known what happened to any of the other children, although it is likely that John later moved to Hutton. Certainly, in 1716, a John Kipling was renting a farm in Hutton manor (but in Gilling parish) for £5 15s p.a. from Marmaduke Tunstall and, like him, was convicted of being a papist that year. He had even named his eldest son Marmaduke in 1703, a name which persisted in that branch of the family until the death of farmer Marmaduke Kipling in Hutton in 1825 (see The Kiplings of Hutton Magna). As Merryn Watson tells, the Tunstalls had moved from Scargill Castle to Wycliffe in the mid 17th century – maybe John Kipling followed both geographically and spiritually.

Francis Kipling of Scargill

Francis’s children included Francis (1651), William (1654; d1683), Marye (1656, d1656), Margaret (1658), Anthony (1660), Elyoner (1664), Jane (1666) and John (1669; d1670). It is probable that John (1672) and Mary (1676) were also his children, although as eldest son Francis also started a family around this time the records are ambiguous.

Francis was churchwarden in 1664 and paid tax in 1674 on 3 hearths at Scargill, indicating a reasonably substantial property. He died in 1693.

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3 It is possible that Bryan and Robert moved to Barford, in Forcett parish, dying in 1699 and 1702 respectively. See ‘Shotton 1911’. However, a Brian Kipling married an Ann Parkin at Brignall in 1706.
James Kipling

A “widow Kipling” paid the 1674 tax on one hearth at Scargill. James Kipling had died in 1671, so it was probably his widow.

James’s children were Margaret (1648), Henry (1649), John (1651), Ann (1654), Elinor (1658), Syth (1661; d1696) and Thomas (1664).

James’s son John had daughters Elizabeth (1677; d 1680) and Elizabeth (1681), followed by sons Francis (1681) and William (1684; d 1684). He then moved to Caldwell in the parish of Stanwick St John, where he died in 1707, his wife Elizabeth having died in 1702. Son Francis married in 1712 at Caldwell and his descendants became weavers and carpet manufacturers in Darlington and Leeds (see The Kiplings of Darlington).

I have not yet been able to trace James’s other sons.

Francis Kipling junior

A Francis Kipling married Mary Swindale at St Michael’s in 1670, although it is unclear whether this is father or son, and had children Ann (1676), Margaret (1678; daughter of Francis “the younger”; d 1682), Jenat (1683), John (1687) and Mary (1690) by which time Francis was of Hope. A daughter, Thosina, was buried in 1683. It is unclear whether Ann was the daughter of father or son, although as she and Mary (attributed above to Francis senior) were baptised less than six months apart, it would appear that both were procreating simultaneously.

Francis died in 1731 but may first have married Ann Herd at St Michael’s in 1729, although there is no evidence either of the death of his first wife or of the fate of Ann Kipling’s after 1731.

Illegitimacies, etc

Around the turn of the 17th century, there appear to have been a small spate of Kipling illegitimacies. First William, the “bastard child of” Jennet Kipling was born in 1689, then Mary Kipling of Scargill had an illegitimate child, also William, in 1700. The mothers could possibly be the daughters Jane and Mary of Francis Kipling the elder (a Jennet Kipling died in 1699). Then, as seen above, Phyllis Kipling had an illegitimate daughter in 1709. What became of any of the children is unknown.

In 1696, Mary Kipling, the daughter of John Kipling of Scargill and his wife Margaret was born. Could this John be the son of Francis the elder? John Kiplings also died in 1695 and 1696 and could be unbaptised infants of this couple.

The 18th Century

During most of the 18th century, there was just one main Kipling family in the parish. This was initially headed by Francis Kipling, who in 1716 was renting a farm in Scargill from recusant Marmaduke Tunstall for £9 10s p.a. His brother Anthony was
renting a “farm containing a cottage and a piece of ground” from Tunstall for £2 10s p.a.

Francis died in 1731 and Anthony died, childless as far as is known, in 1739.

Francis’s son John Kipling, who had been born in 1687, lived at Hope and was married to Jane. They had children Robert (1714), Francis (1716), John (1718) and Sarah (1720).

John was a churchwarden in 1747, and was paid 1/- for killing a fox.
Robert married Eleanor Dent in 1736.

Francis was granted a licence to marry Jane Fletcher of Scargill in 1756. There is no record of the marriage happening at Barningham, however. Francis seems to have married again, to Elizabeth Robinson in Brough in 1764. They initially lived in Barningham, at West Hope, having sons Francis (1765) and John (1767).

John was also married, according to his father’s will and it may be he who married Anne Walker in 1749 and had children John (1749), Marmaduke (1753), Mary (1757) and Anne (1763).
John, or possibly his son, was a churchwarden again in 1762.

In 1763, there were indentures naming John Kipling of Scargill in reference to property at Westhouses or Arkengarthdale Head. They appear to be an acquisition by John and, four days later, a sale (or possibly a mortgage).
Memorial

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In 1765, John Kipling was renting a messuage for £45. 10s. from a later Marmaduke Tunstall, possibly the same or an enlarged farm as that of his father in 1716.

Jane died in 1764 and John in 1766. In his will, John (of Garmathwaite in Hope) leaves £3 to Robert and £16 6s 6d ("being the full value of my wool sold this present year") to the children of Francis and John (whom he appoints executors). The residue of his estate he gives to Francis and John, other than his household furniture which he gives to his daughter Sarah.

An interesting document associated with the will is a receipt from Francis and John for the proceeds of the sale of the wool from a wool stapler (dealer) from Milsbridge near Halifax.
Jane and John’s gravestone in St Michael’s churchyard is the only memorial to the Kiplings in the parish. It is inscribed “Momento mori: Here lies the Body of John Kipling who departed this life April 25th 1766 Aged 80 years Also Jane his Wife departed this life March 31st 1764 aged 70 years”. 

When John’s will was proved in 1768, Francis and John were stated to be yeoman, of Barningham and Arkengarthdale respectively.

John may later have moved to Timton Hill farm, as the Bowes parish register records the burial in 1772 of both “Ann, w of John Kipling of Timton Hill from Brignall p” and “Marmaduke Kipling from Brignall p”. John’s own fate is not known nor is that of his son John.

In 1772, there was a lease between Sarah Kipling, spinster, and John White of Startforth for “a house called Peake Hole and 2a of land called Corn Hill” and several other concerning West Hope. These are the last known mentions of the Kipling name in connection with the parish until more recent times. For at least one of these Sarah was described as being “of Arkengarthdale”.

*Farm buildings at Peak Hole and West Hope 2013*
Francis and his family later moved to Brough (see Brough 1911). One of his son John’s descendants in the male line has submitted to a DNA test, as has a descendant of the Darlington Kiplings (see above). The match is very close, confirming the common origin of the Brough and Barningham Kiplings. Francis’s other son, Francis, moved to Manchester, first being recorded as a ratepayer there in 1797 and dying there in 1810 “aged 47”.

Other 18th Century Kiplings

The parish records contain a number of other 18th century Kipling entries. For example, Sarah Kipling of Startforth married William Shaw of Kirkby Ravensworth in 1707 by licence. Who was she and why did she marry at Barningham?

More intriguingly, Georg Cipling (sic) of Barningham and his wife Ann had son Georg baptised in 1721 and John, the son of George Kipling, was baptised in 1724. This is likely to have been the George Kipling who married Ann Sigsworth at Kirkby Ravensworth in 1715 and, when “of Gilmondbie Field”, had son Francis baptised at Bowes in 1719.

Francis married Mary Cowper at Wycliffe in 1749 and later moved to Gilling. George may have married Margaret Shaw of Layton at Stanwyck in 1747 and had a daughter Ann baptised at Barningham in 1750, although at the time of his marriage he was reportedly living at Scotton near Catterick. He and Margaret also had a daughter, Jane, at Gilling in 1760.

I have not been able to identify George’s lineage, but a descendent of the Gilling Kiplings (see The Kiplings of Gilling) has also taken a DNA test and is again a very close match to the Darlington Kiplings, implying that George was of Barningham origins.

For similar DNA matching reasons, son John is a strong candidate to have been the great-great-grandfather of Rudyard Kipling.