

The Kiplings of Bowes – Part 1

Bowes parish suffers from not having surviving registers back beyond 1701 for births and marriages and 1670 for deaths. Some bishop's transcripts cover 1615, occasional years between 1660 and 1675 and from 1676 to 1700, but for a large part of the 17th century we must rely on other records to find out about the Kiplings who lived there.

The first reference to the family is actually from the previous century when a William Kipling of Bowes is mentioned in the 1588 will of Robert Kipling of Fryerhouse in Baldersdale.



Next, the survey of the Lordship of Richmond of 1605 reports Charles and William Kipling as tenants in Bowes township and John or Jenkin Kipling at Stonikeld or Spittle.

The first mention in the bishop's transcripts is of the death of James Kipling in 1615 and of the baptism of James, son of Anthony Kipling, a few months later (possibly a second son named after a recently deceased brother?)

Charles Kipling

Charles, along with wife Grace, acquired a number of pasture gates in the Cow Close and Ox Close at Bowes in 1618 ('gates' in this sense meaning rights to graze a certain number of cattle).

Charles was also party to a dispute in 1619 in the Exchequer Court over the enclosure of part of Bowes Common. Having contributed £5 to the cost of fencing, Charles's cattle, and those of the others who had carried out the enclosure, were driven off by "*a mob of people armed with Pitchforks, staves and daggers*", presumably those not excluded from access to the land.

In 1657 Charles purchased "a house and land called Mirekelds" of which he had been tenant. Myre Keld farm may still be found today just outside Bowes on the road to Barnard Castle. The following year, Charles passed the property to another Charles Kipling, described as "second son of Charles Kipling of Newhouses in Baldersdale". Charles of Bowes was probably the great uncle of Charles of Newhouses.

The same property formed part of the marriage settlement of the younger Charles, by then a hosier in London, to Elizabeth Stevenson in 1681. The property later passed to Charles' children Hannah and John, who sold it in 1711 to Charles' brother, John ("of St James, Westminster, gentleman"). John was also involved in other Bowes property transactions between 1703 and 1708 together with barber surgeon Leonard Laidman, originally from Bowes.

The elder Charles was a churchwarden in 1671 and paid the Hearth Tax in 1673.

Anthony Kipling

Anthony Kipling's son William was baptised at Bowes in 1664. However, his subsequent children, all daughters, seem only to be recorded in Quaker records; Jane in 1665, followed by Ann (1667), Alice (1669) and Mary (1671). Anthony's wife was Ann (nee Peacock).

Bowes 123		Burials 36
Marriages	Births	Burials
	Ann Peacock born 12 th mo: 1620	Mary Kipling was buried the 11 th day of 9 th mo: 1690
	Ann Dond 1620	
	Mary Kipling Daughter of Anthony Kipling at y ^e 6 th mo: 1664	Roginald Hendall was buried the 16 th of the 7 th mo: 1777
	Ann born 2 nd mo: 1665	
	Ann Kipling born 10 th 13 th of 4 th mo: 67	Mary Lumbley Wife of William Lumbley died the second day of the third Month 1795 and was
	Alice born 4 th mo: 1669	
	Mary born 11 th day of 4 th mo: 1671	
Reginald Hendall son of George Hendall & Mary		

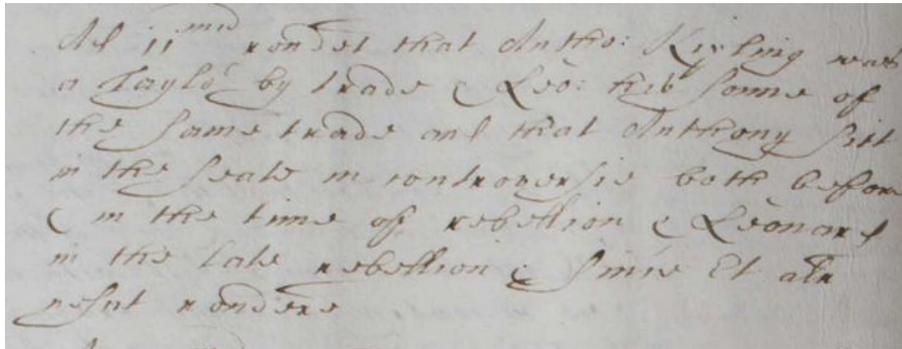
Anthony's son William died in 1676 and was buried in Bowes churchyard. Anthony was a churchwarden in 1689 (presumably his beliefs did not excuse him from this civic duty). He died in 1690 and was also buried in Bowes churchyard. In 1693, the North Riding Quarter Sessions granted permission for "the house of Anne Kipling of Bowes" to be used for Quaker worship. The Quaker records show daughter Mary dying in 1696, although there is no record of her burial at Bowes.

Leonard Kipling

In 1671, a dispute over pew ownership was heard in the Archbishop's Court in York. Several witnesses refer to an Anthony Kipling "a poore taylor" and his son Leonard "a poore distracted taylor" as living in a dilapidated house called Woodcock Hall.

Altogether
 Taylor called Anthony Kipling who married, and the
 1st Anthony Kipling hath a sonne called Leonard Kipling
 a poore distracted Taylor who liveth in Woodcock Hall is
 being not fit for any son of better qualitie to live in
 the same house, being not other house standing upon
 Sathors land whith the said and Antzinson bought
 but the said Woodcock Hall, and that the 1st Woodcock
 Hall hath other pieces belonging to it in Bowes Church w^{ch}
 the 1st Kipling and his wife sits in

It is also said that Anthony sat in the disputed pew “both before and in the time of rebellion” and Leonard “in the late rebellion and since”, implying perhaps that Anthony died around the time of the Restoration (1660).



Leonard and his wife, Ann, had a son Anthony in 1663. Ann died in 1673 and Leonard married Francis Peacock in 1676. A son John was born the same year and a third son William in 1678. Frances died in 1698 and Leonard himself died in 1715.

It is likely that the James born in 1615 was Leonard’s brother. A James Kipling, tailor, was made a freeman of York in 1664 and it is possible that this was the same James. James later prospered as a ‘bricklayer’ (master builder) and leased and rebuild a house in Goodramgate in 1690 which still stands today.

It is also possible that other Kiplings who arrived in York around this time also hailed from Bowes, including an Anthony Kipling who was admitted as a freeman bricklayer in York 1708. However, an Anthony Kipling was also buried at Brignall in 1718.

In 1674, James Kipling of Brough left small legacies to “his cousin” William Kipling of Bowes and also to Leonard and Anthony. It is therefore quite possible that Anthony (the Quaker) was also a brother of Leonard.

Thomas Kipling

In 1673, the Hearth Tax was paid by Anthony, Charles, Leonard, William and two Thomases, each on one hearth only; a “widow Kipling” and a third Thomas were excused payment.

Sorting out the three Thomases is tricky. One, Thomas Kipling of Mellwaters, is covered below. The first reference to another Thomas is to the death of Ailse (wife of Thomas Kiplin of field”) in 1671 (“field” is probably a shortening of Bowfield, a farm close to where the Stang road crosses the Greta).

Sarah, daughter of Thomas Kipling, was baptised in 1674. In 1676, Sarah died on 6 January and another daughter was baptised Sarah just eight days later. In 1676, Thomas the son of “Thomas Kipling junior” had died. ‘Junior’ would have been the above Thomas, to distinguish him from Thomas ‘of feild’ or some other Thomas.

Further children followed including James (1678; d 1682 “a young child”), Charles (1682) and Christian (1688). In 1686, the burial of Henry, young child of Thomas Kipling, was recorded.

In 1697, a Thomas Kipling was indicted at the quarter sessions along with other brewers of Bowes for “*keeping common tipping houses without the approval of two Justices of the Peace*”.

A Thomas Kipling died in 1699, possibly the elder, as a Thomas Kipling was allocated a church pew in 1703 (see below).

William Kipling

1662 saw the death of “old” William Kipling (possibly of the 1605 survey and maybe even the 1588 will). ‘Old’ implied that a second adult William was alive at the time, most probably a son.

Little appears to be recorded about this second William, although he is probably the William who paid the Hearth tax and was churchwarden in 1673. In 1677 Elizabeth the wife of William Kipling senior died. “*Old William Kipling of Bows*” died in 1698

It was therefore probably a third generation William who married Margaret Laidman in 1676. They had children William (1679) and Thomas (1680).

There was probably also another William Kipling around at the time, as a William Kipling “of Tuthil” had a son John in 1681 (who most probably died in 1683). He was most probably also the father of Thomas (1682), there being no record of the death of the Thomas born in 1680. In 1691, William Kipling of Tuthill’s wife had a son still-born and she is probably the Mary, wife of William Kipling, who died two months later.

A Barbary Kipling, widow, of Tuthill, died in 1684.

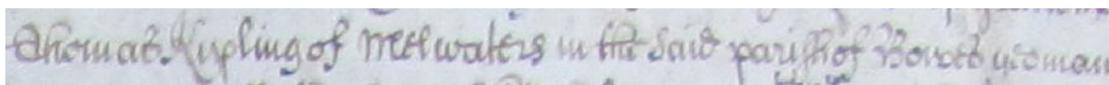
It is not clear which William was churchwarden in 1679 and 1681, which received the legacy from James Kipling of Brough and who was the William Kipling of Stoney Keld who has a daughter Elizabeth in 1678.

In 1682, widow Mary Copeland of Hunday gave her daughter Mary £10 “in the hands of William Kipling of Bowes”. In 1686, a William Kipling acted as executor of a will together with Maria and Christopher Copeland and in 1692 as an administrator of another estate together with Thomas Laidman and John Hullock.

Thomas Kipling of Mellwaters

Thomas Kipling of Mellwaters served on a North Riding quarter session jury sometime between 1657 and 1677. A daughter Alice was baptised in 1676 and a second daughter, Ann, in 1681.

In 1684, he was involved in a legal dispute over cattle.



In 1697, at Newcastle, the death of quaker Elizabeth Kipling, daughter of Thomas and Grace Kipling of Bowes is noted. She was “buried in our burying yard”.

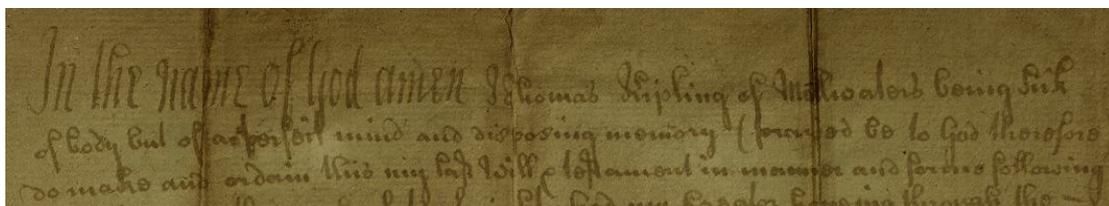
Grace died in 1704 and a few months later daughter Alice married a John Wilson.

Also in 1705, Thomas was mentioned in the will of Henry Wrightson of Bowes

“... Item, I discharge and remit to Tho. Kipling of Mell Waters, of and from all such sum and sums of money, debt and debts, which he is now owing me, and hereby fully and freely give the same to him ... This seventh day of September in the fourth year of the reign of our sovereign lady Queen Anne of England &c. Anno Domini one thousand seven hundred and five.”

In 1709, he was executor of the will of Thomas Ladyman. The next year, daughter Ann had an illegitimate child (“Elizabeth, supposed daughter of Ambrose Denham and Anne Kipling”). However Ann and Ambrose made things right by marrying in 1711.

Thomas died in 1724 and his will was proved at the Manor Court of Bowes



He left most of his estate to his “onely Daughter Alice”, the wife of John Wilson, and small sums to his three grandchildren by his daughter Ann, late wife of Ambrose Dearham. A bond was provided by John Wilson of Mellwaters and Thomas Kipling of Bowes.

However he also left 10s per quarter to “my Daughter Dorothy Kipling”. Who was Dorothy? Her origins are obscure (possibly she was adopted) but she is reported as having three illegitimate children: 1703, “Hannah the supposed daughter of John Langstaffe and Dorothy Kipling”; 1714, “Mary, supposed daughter of Dorothy Kipling of Mellwaters and Charles Bailey of Bowes”; and 1718, a son Thomas, again with Charles.

Dorothy’s son Thomas married Ann Pinkney in 1743. They had children including John (1744), Joseph (1746; d 1755), Thomas (1749; d 1749), William (1750) and James (1754).

Dorothy later moved to Cragg Farm in Romaldkirk parish, most probably to live with grandson James. She died there in 1772 and was buried at Bowes, as was James's son Ralph in 1781.

James's descendents still live in the local area and a male-line DNA test recently carried out on one of them shows common ancestry with a number of Baileys, supporting the link to the father of Dorothy's two later children, Charles Bailey.

James's brother John left Bowes, most probably in the 1780s, to work as a mason near Ripon. A descendant of his now living in South Africa took the same DNA test and was a close match. This family included 1930s Springbok hooker, Bert Kipling.

Third brother William probably also left Bowes, his descendents possibly settling later in Long Newton.

John Kipling of Drygill

Quaker records show a John Kipling of Drygill, Bowes marrying an Esther Willson in 1685 and the births of Mary (1686), Thomas (1688), George (1691), John (1693) and William (1696).

The Bishop's transcripts for Bowes also record a son Anthony in 1699 ("born") and the registers in 1701 record "James, son of John Kipling, a Quaker, born". The implication of 'born' is most probably that the child was not baptised.

William is reported in the Quaker records as dying in 1719.

In 1723, Thomas Raylton of London, a Quaker formerly of Bowes, left in his will "*To John Kipling of Bowes, formerly living at a place called Drygill Bent, £2*". It is recorded that Raylton visited [Bowes] shortly before his death, so he may well have known John Kipling still to be alive at that time.

I am not sure where in the parish Drygill Bent is, although I have found a further reference to it in document of 1753, "*a messuage and all the lands and tenements called Drygill Bent, forty acres, abutted and bounded round with the common of the manor of Bowes*"

Son Thomas was later a woolcomber in Darlington. He was persecuted for his beliefs, as the Darlington Mercury recorded on his death in May 1773 "*Died, in the Quakers' Almshouses in this town, Thomas Kipling, Wool-comber, aged 84, a sober, industrious, honest man, who left a widow, a few years older than himself. They were married near 59 years and supposed to be the oldest couple here. He lay near two years a prisoner in Durham gaol, at the suit of Mr. Hall, then Curate of this place, for his marriage fees, though they were married at the Quakers' Meeting.*"

Apart from William and Thomas, I have not been able to trace the fate of John and Esther and their other children.

The Commission for the Regulation of Pews

In 1703, a commission which include Jonathan Low, the Rector of Barningham, investigate the rights of occupancy of the pews in Bowes church. Charles Kipling and Thomas Kipling, tailor, each have two seats in different parts of the church, William has two together towards the front and Thomas of Melwaters and a widow Kipling one each towards the back.

Charles cannot be the same Charles who was recorded in the 1605 survey, although might be the son of Thomas born in 1682. Thomas being described as a tailor possibly suggests a link to Anthony and Leonard (another brother?). It is also notable that Leonard no longer has a pew, neither that much disputed in 1671 or another!

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