

The Kiplings of Westwick

Westwick is a township of Barnard Castle, immediately to the east of the town. The earliest explicit record of Kiplings there is in 1641/2, when Lionel and Thomas Kipling sign the Protestation returns.¹

Sept. 21. Grace, d. Thomas Kipling, Westwicke.
Register of Whorlton, Durham 1650

Lionel and Thomas are also recorded as paying the 1666 Hearth Tax at “*Gainford, Westwick*”. BC was a chapelry of Gainford at the time (as was Whorlton, Westwick lying between the two of them).

In 1668, Lionel Kipling of Eglesburn left 10/- in his will to “my godson Lionell Kipling of Westwick”.

In 1673, Lionel Kipling, yeoman of Westwick, died leaving a substantial gross estate of £314. Mary his widow was executrix. His inventory included 120 sheep, a number of cows and three horses. There was also 40 stone of wool. He was clearly mainly a sheep farmer, although had £140 in ‘his purse and apparel’ and debts owing to him of £63. He left £150 to his daughter, Anne, and “three score” pounds to his son Arthur (but under the control of Mary, to be “*put forth into such good hands as that my said son Arthur shall not be dampnified thereby*”). Arthur had been born in 1638 and died “a bachelor of Westwick” in 1694. Ann had been born in 1642.

Lionel was the son of Arthur Kipling of Pitcherhouse in Baldersdale and was baptised at Romalldkirk in 1603. Arthur had married a Margaret Kipling in 1594. It is possible that she was a sister of Lionel of Eglesburn (Lionel senior’s mother was Margaret), hence Lionel senior standing as godfather.

Arthur was later involved in a number of land transactions (the last one relates to the fact that his sister Ann married a George Blenkinsop at Gainford in 1674 and had a Frances (BC, 1680) who married William Vint at BC in 1702.

21 April 1682

(1) Joseph Percivall of Exeter, Devon, gentleman
(2) Arthur Kipling of Westwick, yeoman
Feoffment of land in the North Field, Barnard Castle
Consideration: £46
(Parchment, 1 membrane) - [Acc: 2883(D)]

Ref: D/HH 2/2/285

22 - 23 July 1684

(1) John Percivall, gentleman, son and heir of John Percivall of Barnard Castle, tanner, deceased
(2) Arthur Kipling of Westwick, yeoman
Lease and release of land in the North Field, Barnard Castle

¹ I have not seen the BC baptismal records to see if ‘Westwick’ appears explicitly in them for the birth of earlier children. It is possible that the Kiplings may have been at Westwick as far back as the 1620s.

Consideration: £10
(Parchment, 2 membranes) - [Acc: 2883(D)]

Ref: D/HH 2/2/286

4 February 3 James II [1688]
(1) John Hutchinson of Barnard Castle, cordwainer
(2) Arthur Kipling of Westwicke, yeoman
Feoffment of land in the North Field, Barnard Castle
Consideration: £8 10s.
(Parchment, 1 membrane) - [Acc: 2883(D)]

Ref: D/HH 2/2/287

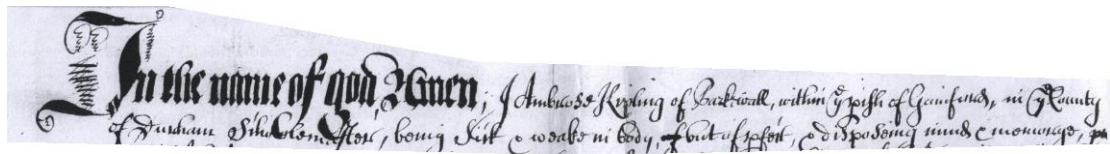
24 June 1728
(1) William Vint of Barnard Castle, weaver and Frances his wife (daughter and heir of George Blenkinsop of Barnard Castle, yeoman, deceased, and niece and sole heir of Arthur Kipling of Westwick, yeoman, deceased); and William Vint the younger of Barnard Castle, weaver (eldest son and heir of William the elder)
(2) Ambrose Edwards of Barnard Castle, esquire
Lease [and release] of land in the North Field, Barnard Castle
(Parchment, 1 membrane) - [Acc: 2883(D)]

The following year (1674), Thomas Kipling died, leaving £114. He requests to be buried in the church at Barnard Castle “*as near John Kipling my son late departed as conveniently may be*” (John had died in 1668 aged 30).

He gives to his son Thomas some land in Boldron to pass to his grandson John (b 1670) or failing him Henry (b1672) when they reach twenty-one. He also leaves property at Boldron, one called Northfields, to each of his sons Richard and William. William was to pay £20 to fifth son Ambrose, whom his wife Ann was to feed and cloth from that sum, He also left £25 to each of his daughters Grace and Phillis and 2/6 to grandchildren George Appleby, Henry Kipling and the children of Lancelot Newby (married to daughter Mary Kipling). He also leaves an interest in his lease at Westwick to eldest (surviving) son Thomas and to Ann. His farming interests see to have been more mixed, having four oxen (as typically used for ploughing) six horses, 15 cows and only 26 sheep).

Thomas had probably married an Ann Robinson at BC in 1632, his first wife Mary having died the previous year.

In 1686, Ambrose died. He was a schoolmaster, of Parkwall (today there are farms Low and High Park Wall north of Barnard Castle). He left small legacies (20/- to his mother, 5/- each to brother Richard and sisters Phillis Smailes, Elizabeth Lyng and Mary Newby (widow), 2/- to each of Mary’s four children, to nephews John and Henry Kipling and John and Thomas Heighley (children of late sister Grace). The balance of his estate is left to his brother William who is his executor. His inventory was £20, the amount owing to him from his father’s will.



William died the same year (1686). He leaves the property at Boldron left to him by his father to his daughter Elizabeth, to be held during her minority by his sister Elizabeth and her husband William Ling (who are to bring up Elizabeth). Should Elizabeth not survive to 21, the property is to pass to Richard. He also left small legacies to his mother, siblings and nieces and nephews. His inventory totalled £46, showing him to have been a small, mixed farmer.

Ann Kipling, Thomas's widow, died in 1694, the executors being Richard, Elizabeth (Ling), Mary (Newby) and Phillis (Smaile) leaving £32. She gives legacies to children and grandchildren, naming also Margaret Kipling (who was the daughter of Richard b1685, the same year Richard had married Jane Lax at BC). The will also mentions that the Westwick farm was held of Lord Belowes.

Richard died in 1719 but not before he was named in a property transaction:

16 April 3 George I [1717]

(1) Margaret Newby the elder of Barnard Castle, widow.

(2) Matthew Hutton of Barnard Castle, merchant.

Release by (1) to (2) of Pinfold Close in Barnard Castle; the said close being part of premises leased by Revd. Thomas Tullie D.D., Guardian of the Hospital of St John Baptist in Barnard Castle, to Richard Kipling of Westwick, yeoman and his wife Jane, (1), Anne Foreman of Escomb, widow and Barbara Lax widow, on 27 February 1717 for a term of 3 lives at a rent of £9. 16s. 8d.

Consideration: £19.

Henry married Isabel Hornsby in 1692 and had son Thomas in 1693. Henry died in 1696. D&VM suggest Thomas may have married Jane Harrison in 1718 and had children Joseph (1781, d 1740), Philip (1722), Thomas (1725, d 1725) and Mary (1727, d 1728), although the names Joseph and Philip are not familial.

John, meanwhile, may have married a Dorothy Mowbray in 1688, leaving possibly a surviving son Christopher (1696) and daughters. Dorothy Kipling, widow, of Raby Park died in 1735.