

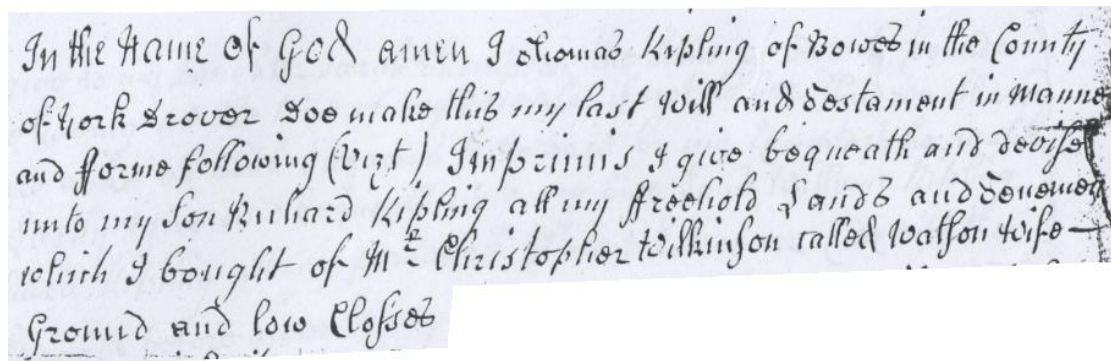
## The Drover Kiplings of Bowes

The main Kipling family in Bowes for much of the 18<sup>th</sup> century was that founded by Thomas Kipling, son of William Kipling and Margaret Laydman, baptised at Bowes in 1682. Thomas married Hannah Wharton at Bowes in 1703 and they had at least eleven children, from Ann in 1704 to Elizabeth in 1727.

Thomas was a prosperous cattle drover and was one of the prominent Bowes citizens who in 1744 paid for a gallery and staircase to be built in Bowes church to provide additional pews for themselves.

Bowes was at that time on two important cattle droving routes from Scotland; one following the Roman road over Stainmore and the other traversing from north to south across God's Bridge.

Thomas had acquired various properties in Bowes, including the Low Closes as early as 1704. In his will of 1753, he left these properties to his sons Richard and William. He also left his unmarried daughter Elizabeth £140 (a large sum in those days) and gave £20 to each of his married daughters Margaret Thompson, Mary Thompson, Hannah Richardson and Sarah Thompson.



In the Name of God amen I Thomas Kipling of Bowes in the County of York Drover Doe make this my last will and testament in manner and forme following (Vizt) In presence & give bequeath and devise unto my son Richard Kipling all my freehold lands and tenements which I bought of M<sup>r</sup> Christopher Wilkinson called Watson wife ground and low Closes

A chest tomb in Bowes churchyard records not only the death of Thomas and Hannah but also those of four sons:

*“Here lies the body of Thomas KIPLING who died 9 July 1753 aged 73. Charles son of Thomas Kipling died 6 July 1735 aged 19. John son of Thomas KIPLING died 19 March 1747 aged 20. Hannah wife of Thomas KIPLING died 20 July 1754 aged 72. Richard KIPLING died ye 28 April 1773 aged 62. William KIPLING died ye 26 Sep 1777 aged 69. Margaret wife of William KIPLING died ye 13 May 1779 aged 75”*

Son William was also a drover and was described as a gentleman at the time of his marriage to Margaret Carter of Brompton at Easby in 1743. Son Richard appears never to have wed.

At the North Riding quarter session at Guisborough in 1750, William and two other jointly placed £100 surety, to be forfeit if they did not "in all things observe and obey the several Acts of Parliament relating to the distemper amongst the horned cattle".

Richard was a churchwarden at Bowes in 1754-55. In 1757, William was one of the trustees in bankruptcy of John Raylton, innkeeper of the George Inn at Bowes. In 1768, he was the victim of horse theft.

**S T O L E N,**  
*From Bowes, near Barnardcastle,*  
**A** Scotch, grey MARE, about 14  
Hands high, full Aged, a Silver Mane and Tail,  
a cloudy Face, rather long in the Waist, dappled on  
her Shoulders and Buttocks, goes wide before, and  
throws out her Feet, her Tail nick'd, and when she  
moves carries it to the far Side. She was taken out of  
the Stable on Wednesday Night, the 30th ult. Who-  
ever can give an Account of her, so as she may be had  
again, to Mr William Kipling of Bowes, shall receive  
a Guinea Reward.

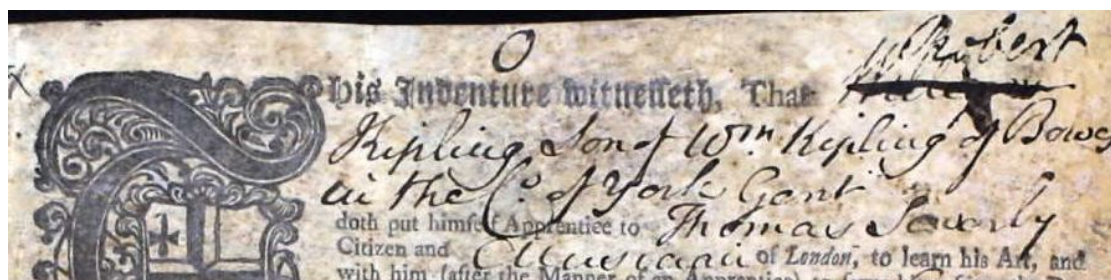
Newcastle Chronicle - Saturday 16 January 1768

In 1774, William lost a long-running legal case against the Corporation of Carlisle who had imposed a toll on cattle bought in Cumberland and transported outside the county.

In 1775, William, along with 22 others, placed a bond with Henry Bourne and Thomas Kay Jackson of Lartington, gentleman, to pay their share of costs in a suit concerning Bowes tithes against Cornelius Harrison and others.

Richard, of Under Kilmond farm, died in 1773. In his will he left the property called Watson's Ground, which he had inherited from his father, to his nephew William as well as small legacies to his female relatives.

William had four sons: William (date and place of birth unknown), Thomas (1745), Robert (1748) and Richard (1756). William and Richard were cattle drovers like their father and grandfather, Thomas went to Sedburgh School and then to St John's College, Cambridge and Robert was apprenticed in London.



**O** His Indenture witnesseth, That ~~William Kipling~~  
Kipling, son of W<sup>m</sup> Kipling of Bowes  
in the Co of York Gent  
doth put himself Apprentice to Thomas Sawley  
Citizen and Merchant of London, to learn his Art, and  
with him (after the Manner of an Apprentice) to serve him, from the D

In 1774, William and his sons William and Thomas bought property in Lartington from Thomas Kay Jackson, master and mariner, whom William's daughter Margaret had married in 1771.

In 1776, son William married Mary Brunskell, the second daughter of Philip Brunskell Esq. of Bowes Hall.

William died in 1777 and widow Margaret in 1779. Both were recorded as 'Mr' or 'Mrs' indicating their high standing in the parish. In his will, William bequeathed land and property in Bowes to his four sons and to unmarried daughter Hannah.

Following widow Margaret's death, the family house was rapidly put up for sale.

To be SOLD,  
**T**HE following Freehold Tenements or Farms,  
situate at Bowes, in the county of York, either to-  
gether or in separate parcels.

Also a convenient Messuage or Dwelling-House, situate in  
Bowes, with a good Brew-house and Stables belonging  
thereto, and a Garden behind the same, lately occupied  
by Mr William Kipling, deceased.— For further particulars,  
enquire of Mr James Pickersgill, at Laybourn, Yorkshire,  
or Mr John Ferrand, at his Office, in Barnardcastle, in the  
county of Durham, who will appoint a person to shew the  
premises.

Newcastle Courant - Saturday 29 May 1779

This appears to have been because sons William and Richard had been declared bankrupt earlier that year. They were at the time living at Brompton-upon-Swale. Other property William and Richard had inherited was also put up for sale around the same time. The properties did not sell immediately and were still being advertised for sale in 1784.

To be SOLD together or separately,  
**S**EVERAL Messuages and Farms of Land,  
 situate at Bowes, in the county of York, late the  
 Estate of William and Richard Kipling, Bankrupts, and  
 now let as under, (viz.)  
 A Messuage and Farm called Under Killmonds, let to  
 William Bailey, at the yearly rent of 28l.  
 A Messuage and Farm called Low Field Farm, let to  
 William Bailey, at the yearly rent of 40l.  
 A Messuage and Farm called Hutchinson and Wilkin-  
 son's Pastures, and a Field, called East Low Field, let to  
 Thomas Close, at the yearly rent of 52l. 7s. 6d.  
 Two Fields, called West Low Field and High Field, let  
 to John Whitfield, at the yearly rent of 22l.  
 Also to be LET, A Farm of 150 acres or thereabouts, of  
 good Land, in the parish of Bowes, allotted to the said W.  
 and R. Kipling, on the division of Bowes West Pasture,  
 and now subdivided and inclosed with stone walls; it is  
 well calculated for a Stock Farm, being watered by the  
 river Greata, and a part of it lying contiguous to an exten-  
 sive Common, on which it has an unlimited right, and a  
 House is now building on a convenient part, which will  
 give this Farm the full advantage of the Common.

Newcastle Courant - Saturday 14 September 1784

Richard Kipling then married Mary Barnett at Kirby Stephen in 1784 and they had a son Thomas there in 1787. They then moved to Hartlepool where further children were born. In a trade directory of 1791, Richard is shown as a Custom-house Officer.

### *Kipling Richard, Custom-house Officer*

*The Universal British Directory 1791. Hartlepool*

All four of Richard's sons became London haberdashers, one becoming master of the Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers in 1856.

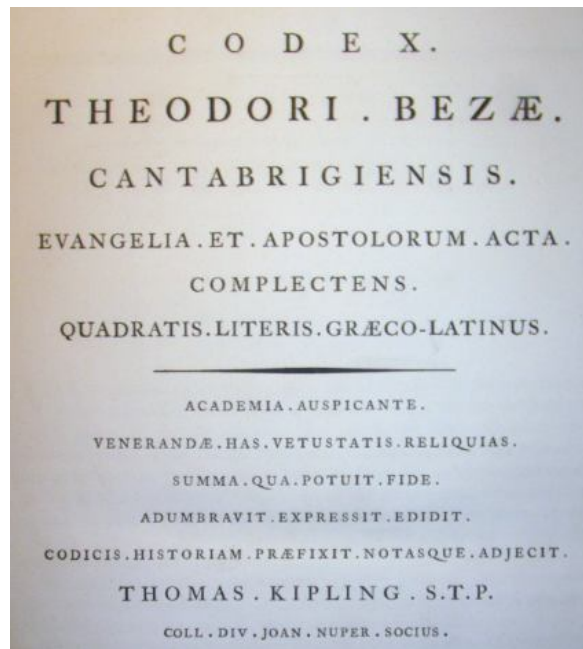
William's fate is unknown. His wife Mary's sister, Anne Brunskell, had married Cornelius Harrison Esq of Stub House, Winston, Co Durham in 1766. According to great-nephew Plantagenet Harrison, the author of *The History of Richmondshire*, Mary Kipling became the mistress of Cornelius after her sister's death in 1784 and was one of the main benefactors in Cornelius' will when he died in 1806, having largely disinherited Plantagenet Harrison's father. The author may of course not be unbiased in his comments! Mary Kipling, widow, died in 1809 and was buried at Bowes, dividing her estate between her nephews and nieces on the Harrison side.

Third brother Thomas was First Wrangler in the mathematical tripos (i.e. the top mathematics student of his year) at Cambridge in 1768



and was elected as a fellow of St John's College in 1769. He was awarded the degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1784. In 1784 he became vicar of Holme-on-Spalding-Moor. He additionally became Dean of Peterborough in 1798, allegedly as a reward for support for the Tories, having earlier failed to be elected to the Lady Margaret professorship at Cambridge due to his orthodox religious and political views.

His main publication was the *Codex Theodori Bezae Cantabrigiensis* (1793), a facsimile version of a 5th century Greek and Latin text of the new testament. The book was unfortunately marred by some basic linguistic errors in the Latin preface which led to his enemies calling it a "disgrace to a literary society" and coining the term "a Kiplingism" to mean a grammatical error.



*Silhouette of Dr Thomas Kipling and part of the frontispiece of his main academic publication*

Richard Porson of Trinity College wrote "To Dr Kipling" about him:

*Orthodoxy's staunch adherent,  
Bishop Watson's great vice-gerent,  
Sub-Professor Dr Kipling  
Leave off your Yorkshire trick of tipping:  
For whilst thy Beza is in hand  
Man's salvation's at a stand*

I have only found one record of his returning to Bowes, and that was in 1776, when banns were read at Bowes by the "Rev Mr Kipling (pro tem)". He may have returned home on hearing that his

father was ill (William died the following year). However, he lent £600 to Dr George Edwards of Barnard Castle in 1782 on the security of property in Bowes and Startforth, receiving repayment in 1792. He and brother Robert also sold the property they had inherited in Bowes in 1798. He died childless in 1822, leaving legacies to various relatives including the sons of his brother Richard.

Fourth brother Robert married Mary Wyrill of Ferrybridge at St Dunstons in the East in London in 1777. They later moved to Ferrybridge, where Robert established a business, being amongst other things insurance agents.

Robert died in 1827 and Mary in 1833, also childless and leaving legacies to a various relatives, none of whom were by then living in Bowes.

A descendant of one of Richard Kipling's sons has had a y-chromosome DNA test and it is a match to those of the Kiplings of Baldersdale (not Barningham) although suggesting a separation from others of that clan at a relatively early date (e.g. 500 - 600 years ago). The name William for the eldest son of each generation is another feature shared with the main Baldersdale line, that of the Kiplings of Newhouses.

In the next instalment, I will look at some other Kipling families of 18th and 19th century Bowes.