Fishing was one of the many country house activities the Carpenters enjoyed at Kiplin. This fishing rod belonged to Walter Carpenter's brother, Reginald Talbot. The Carpenter, Talbot, and de Grey families were very close. Family scrapbooks show they often visited each other's houses to enjoy activities like fishing together.

The CARPENTER Family

1818 — 1957

Rolling fields and grazing animals surround the idyllic Kiplin Hall. In the 1800s, Kiplin's estate reached its peak size of about 5000 acres.

The grounds provided food and income for the Hall. Produce grown in the Walled Garden and surrounding farms supplied the kitchens. Livestock provided meat and dairy products.

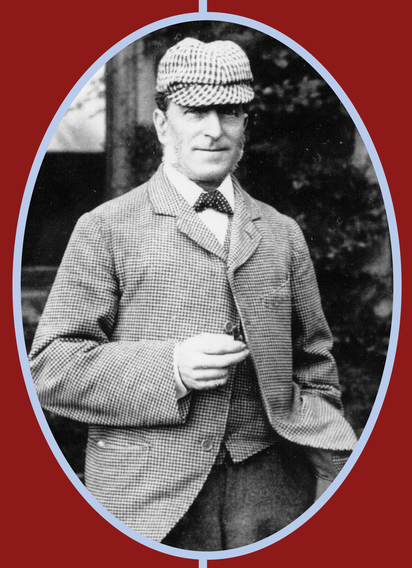
The family used the space to enjoy and entertain too. Woodlands and pleasure gardens were developed. In glasshouses, gardeners grew a wide variety of plants, flowers, and fruits, including pineapples. The Carpenters spent much time outside enjoying walks, and partaking in classic country house activities like shooting, fishing and boating.

In 1868 Walter Talbot became Walter Carpenter. But why?

Walter was set to inherit Kiplin Hall from his distant cousins, Sarah and John Delaval Carpenter. They had no surviving children, so they chose a relative who was not due to inherit any other property. Walter was a second son and John's first cousin twice removed. He was the perfect choice.

However, the Carpenters wanted to ensure that their family name was preserved. In order to inherit, Walter had to change his surname from Talbot to Carpenter. The license to change his name was granted by Queen Victoria in June 1868.

Character close-up: Walter Carpenter



Admiral Carpenter inherited Kiplin Hall in 1868.

Born Walter Talbot, he changed his name as a condition of his inheritance. His first wife, Maria, sadly died shortly after giving birth to their daughter, Sarah, in 1876.

Walter had a successful naval career, serving in the Baltic and Crimean wars. He was a full Admiral by the time he retired in 1896.

In 1887 he married Beatrice de Grey and they brought Sarah to live at Kiplin. The couple were incredibly close with their extended family. They often travelled around the country visiting relatives in their London and country homes. Numerous scrapbooks document many happy days spent putting on plays and parties.

Admiral Carpenter died in 1904, leaving Kiplin to his daughter.

Kiplin is the ideal setting for an exploration into the Arts and Crafts movement of the late 19th century.

Admiral Carpenter's wife, Beatrice, was a talented craftswoman and actively involved in the Home Arts and Industries Association. The Association aimed to teach crafts that were disappearing due to industrialisation. Classes were held in rural areas to try and keep skills like woodcarving and metalwork alive.

Along with her sisters, Beatrice led classes for local men on crafts such as woodcarving and inlay. Examples of her own delicate design work can be seen around Kiplin Hall.

1818 – 1957

The CARPENTER *Family*

This stained glass panel features the Carpenter family icon, a globe.

It is unknown when and why this panel was created. It may have been designed for the library during a renovation in the 1890s. It was found in storage alongside more panels representing the other families of Kiplin.

The Carpenter family enter Kiplin's story in 1817, when Sarah Crowe of Kiplin married John Delaval Carpenter, 4th Earl of Tyrconnel. Sarah inherited Kiplin in 1818 and the couple lived here for the rest of their lives.

Kiplin was passed down to a cousin of the Earl upon Sarah's death in 1868. A successful naval Captain, Walter Talbot changed his name to Carpenter as a condition of his inheritance. The Hall was rented out until he came to live at Kiplin with his wife and daughter from 1887 to 1904.

The Hall as it looks today is mainly the Carpenter's influence. It was during this family's ownership that the gothic drawing room wing was added and later adapted to a library, formal gardens developed, and the Entrance Hall remodelled. This was the heyday of the country house and Kiplin was a hive of activity, hosting many house parties with family and friends.

Character close-up:

John Delaval Carpenter, Earl of Tyrconnel

Lord Tyrconnel lived at Kiplin with his wife, Sarah, from 1818 until his death in 1853.

John Delaval Carpenter unexpectedly became the 4th Earl of Tyrconnel in 1812 after both his uncle and older brother died without heirs. The Earldom came with no property and almost no money. Sarah's impending inheritance of Kiplin may have been a motivation for their marriage in 1817. Lord Tyrconnel took on most of the responsibility for running the estate, with assistance from his land steward.

Lord Tyrconnel kept detailed diaries throughout his life, several of which have survived. These offer a glimpse into what he was doing and thinking about 200 years ago.

Audio listening area

- 16-year-old Sarah Carpenter reads from her diary, 1 minute.
- Beatrice Carpenter teaches you how to create wood inlay, 2 minutes.
- Head gardener, David Davies, talks about Lady Tyrconnel's Garden, 2 minutes.

Walter Carpenter served in the Royal Navy from 1847 to 1896. He can be seen here (centre) with his crew on HMS Fawn in 1865.

This photograph from the 1890s or 1900s shows the Hall from the southwest. The Carpenters added the gothic-style drawing room (later the library) on the right in 1818.