The CROWE Family

1722 – 1818

Acquired during his time in Livorno as British Consul, Christopher Crowe amassed a superb collection of paintings and art objects.

Highlights of this collection include some charming examples of pietra dura inset in an ornate mahogany cabinet. This beautiful set of coloured-stone panels feature scenes of the Italian countryside.

These pieces made their way to Kiplin Hall, where much of Crowe's collection can still be seen. Works by prominent European artists such as Carlevarijs, Carpinoni, and Beuckelaer still line the walls of the hall.

A sweeping grand staircase, an extensive service wing and dazzling art to line the walls.

Christopher Crowe the Elder transformed Kiplin into a fashionable and practical home.

Sections of walls and floors were removed to install a dominating staircase in the centre of the hall. Rooms were embellished with ornate decorative features such as ceiling cornices, dado rails and fine fireplaces. Further changes were made to the internal layout, with a new service wing branching from the north side of the hall.

Character close-up: Sarah Crowe

Sarah Crowe lived at Kiplin her entire life.

Born in 1799, she grew up at Kiplin with her parents and sister. She married John Delaval Carpenter, 4th Earl of Tyrconnel in 1817. After her father Robert died, she lived here with her husband.

Over her 70 years at Kiplin, Sarah saw much change. A gothic-style drawing room wing was added, and the gardens developed to the latest fashions. Change was happening outside of Kiplin too, with the Victorian era bringing the Industrial Revolution and a fast-changing society.

Lord and Lady Tyrconnel only had one child who sadly died on the day of her birth. Kiplin passed to a cousin of the Earl, Walter Talbot, upon Sarah's death in 1868.

1722 – 1818

The CROWE *Family*

Christopher Crowe bought Kiplin Hall in 1722 from his stepson, Charles Calvert. Crowe transformed Kiplin into a fashionable Georgian house. The Hall was filled with objects and paintings from his time in Italy as a young man.

For the next 100 years, four generations of Crowes called Kiplin home. They were passionate about the local area. Several family members served in the local militia and the growth of Kiplin contributed to the local economy. Surrounding land was bought to increase the size of Kiplin's estate to 4500 acres. The central staircase was added, a service wing built, and extensive gardens developed.

In 1818, the Crowes' time at Kiplin came to an end. Robert Crowe died, passing the Hall to his daughter, Sarah. She married the 4th Earl of Tyrconnel, John Delaval Carpenter and became Sarah Carpenter.

This stained glass panel features the Crowe family symbol, a crowing cockerel.

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 panels representing the other families of Kiplin.

Christopher Crowe the Elder collected paintings while he was working in Italy. This scene of St Mark's Square in Venice is by Luca Carlevarijs, a predecessor of Canaletto.

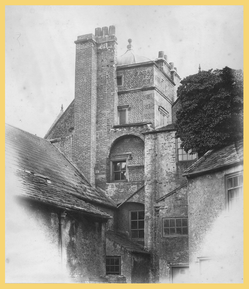
Character close-up: Christopher Crowe the Elder

Christopher Crowe bought Kiplin Hall from his stepson in 1722. But where did his story begin?

Crowe was born in Northumberland in 1682. At the age of 23 he was appointed British Consul in Livorno, Italy. Here he traded in expensive wines and art, amassing his own fine collection.

In 1715, Crowe married Charlotte Calvert in Geneva. She had lived a scandalous life across England and Europe before she met Crowe. The newly-wed couple returned to England and had four children together. But their happiness was short-lived. Charotte died in 1721, aged only 42.

Following Charlotte's death, Crowe bought Kiplin Hall from her son for £7000. He set about turning Kiplin into a comfortable and fashionable home. Crowe died in 1749, leaving Kiplin to his eldest son, Christopher Crowe the Younger.



The Service Wing was built by the Crowes in the 1700s. This photograph from 1867 shows how the Service Wing was attached to the north tower of the Hall.

One of the treasures collected by Christopher Crowe was a set of pietra dura scenes. These are made of small, coloured stones. A cabinet was built to display them at Kiplin.

Audio listening area

- Robert Crowe talking about diverting the road, 1 minute.
- Christopher Crowe the Younger boasts about his cabbages, 2 minutes.
- Christopher Crowe the Elder's valet, Girolamo Francesconi, is looking for love, 1 minute.