

Joseph Kipp (1849-1913)

Joseph “Kipah” or “Raven Quiver” was the son of James J. Kipp and Earth Woman, Martha Garneaux, the daughter of Pierre “Four Bears” Garneaux and Eagle Tail Woman. Joseph married Martha Double Strike Heavy Runner, daughter of Chief Heavy Runner and Charging at Night. Kipp lived near Cow Creek, the site of the final defeat of the Nez Perce in 1877. Upstream from the mouth of Cow Creek, the Kipp homestead lies in Cow Creek bottom. The homestead was claimed by Jim Kipp in 1913. Jim was the son of Joseph Kipp (1849–1913) who was the son of the historic figure James Kipp (1778–1880) and his wife Earth Woman. James Kipp helped establish Fort Union at the mouth of the Yellowstone in 1828 and founded Fort Piegan at the mouth of the Marias River in 1831.

This gentleman was born where now stands the city of Bismarck, N. D., on November 29, 1849, His father, James Kipp, born in Montreal, Canada, was for six years employed by the Hudson Bay Company. On leaving this service he went to St. Louis, where he formed the acquaintance of the Choteau family, and became associated with the American Fur Company, with which he remained nearly forty years, transacting their Montana business until his death, which occurred at Platte, Mo., in 1880. His wife, Mary (Garneau) Kipp, was born at Berthol, on the Missouri river, and is now living with her son Joseph at Blackfoot. The liberal education received by Mr. Joseph Kipp came from his own industry and application. The elementary portion of it was acquired at the public school kept near the site of Choteau, and he later attended St. Ignatius Mission School for one year. He then attended a boarding school at St. Joseph, Mo., concluding with thorough courses at the Bryant & Stratton's Commercial College, Peoria, Ill. and at a commercial college at Chicago. The entire expense of his education was paid for from his individual earnings. In 1866 he came to Fort Benton, Mont., and for two years was a clerk at Carroll & Steele's Indian trading post, and the next season he was thus engaged in the Northwest Territory, it was during an exploring and prospecting tour in the Peace river country, that accompanied by a few companions, Mr. Kipp suffered the greatest hardships of his career. The cold and hunger endured by them can scarcely be appreciated by those who have never gone through a similar experience, extreme hunger driving them to eat material which, under happier circumstances, would be absolutely disgusting. In 1870 Mr. Kipp returned to Fort Benton, and for a while was connected in business on a percentage basis with I. G. Baker & Co. In 1881 he located on the Blackfoot reservation, at Blackfoot on the Great Northern Railway, Teton county. Here he has 1,000 acres of land, completely fenced and otherwise improved, and here he is extensively engaged in stockraising and surrounded by an atmosphere of general prosperity. The political influence of Mr. Kipp is widely felt in Democratic circles, and he manifests a lively interest in all the issues of successive campaigns. By his marriage, solemnized on May 14, 1898, he has three children, James, Mary and George Grinnell, aged ten, twelve and four years. (From *Progressive Men of Montana* p. 1701)



Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell
Coordinator of Metis Heritage and History Research
Louis Riel Institute