

A bricked-up entrance-archway building at KIRTON in Holland, Lincolnshire, England, which was torn down in 1925-6, which had stood just off the Willington Road as the entrance to the drive up to what had once been the early, moated, stone manor-house of the 'de Kirketon' family, and later of the 'de Littlebury' family, until it eventually came into the possession of members of the 'de Meres / Meeres' family, and still later came into the hands of the Orme family, so that it came to be known as "Orme Hall", until it was finally fully dismantled in the year 1818.

by Jonathan G. Kirton (copyright)

As most of the individuals who read this account will already know, the writer has spent many years studying the history of the family surnamed Kirton, whose name most probably originated in this village. This has lead the writer to have an interest not only in those individuals who were the earliest members of that family, but also in the history of the local area where the story began.

What follows, provides, I believe, the physical, on-site background to the stories of the individuals already provided in my Study, and Chart of the first ten generations of the 'de Kirketon' family, who appear to have been the earliest to have adopted the locator as their own surname, starting in about 1165, or considerably earlier than Colonel Moore had anticipated.

When I first came across Colonel Moore's first article, below, it did not at first seem as if it was going to provide any answers, because the clues left on the ground up until 1893 seemed to only raise more questions. However, one thing leads to another, and as more and more sources were examined, more and more answers fell into place. If anybody who reads this has not yet seen my Study or Chart, they can contact me fairly easily through the Rootswest 'Kirton' website, or I can be reached at <jonathankirton@sympatico.ca>.

[In the following text, all square brackets, thus [-----] denote a comment by this writer regarding comments in the original "Notes and Queries" entries, either to make a suggestion, or to denote that he has proof that a statement made is wrong.]

In 1893 a certain **Colonel C. T. J. Moore, C.B., F.S.A. of Frampton Hall, Frampton**, a village very close by to Kirton, sent in an account of this ruin which was then published in the "Lincolnshire Notes and Queries", Vol. III, (1893), in Item 140, on pages 243 and 244., as follows:

Page 243, Item 140: KIRTON-IN-HOLLAND, RUIN, -- A potatoe merchant has purchased to plough up and level within the next few months, a large field of pasture which shows traces of extensive buildings, once surrounded by a moat, and on which stands the ruined entrance, now devoted to pigstys and baser uses. No tradition exists as to its former owners, nor is it mentioned by Marrat or any local historian. Before this very interesting ruin is swept away, photographs will be taken of it, and if any of your readers can throw light upon its history, the same will be published for posterity. Evidently it was the entrance to an important stronghold, and was the Porter's Lodge. It is built of brick, with stone dressings, windows, archway, door-ways, and copings, and is surmounted by highly pitched step gables.

There are still visible 15 shields, one on either side of the external stone arch, and 13 in the stone groining of the entrance, over which is a chamber now used as a dove-cote. Most of the Coats of Arms have been ruthlessly obliterated by some ignorant rustic drawing a rake or other sharp implement across the soft stone, but 7 remain unhurt save by time, and of them I make out the Arms of Roos, Cleymond and Littlebury. The tinctures of the others cannot be seen, nor have I been able to identify them and shall be thankful for help thereon. From the fact of the two lions of Littlebury facing sinister and the absence of tincture marks, I am inclined to imagine the sculptor had small knowledge of heraldry, and may have perpetrated similar blunders in other coats, and thereby rendered their identification the more difficult. Externally, as Corbels to the stone archway, are 2 shields, viz: on the dexter side the 3 Water bougets of Roos, and on the sinister a shield Quarterly, 1 and 4 a chief and bend (no sign of tinctures), 2 and 3 checky (?) a fesse ermine. These probably are the two most important arms from their position, and if the arms on the latter can be identified, the date and ownership of the building will be determined; the internal coats probably being those of families with whom the owner was allied or descended from. On a Corbel from which springs one of the ribs of the groined roof, is "4 pallets, a canton charged with 5 leaves (?) 3 and 2," on another (apparently) 2 pallets, on another 3 roses (which I take to be Cleymond "gu 3 roses arg."), on another Littlebury, but with the 2 lions facing sinister, another "3 billet-in-chief between 2 bars," (these billets may possibly be intended for a label). I regret I cannot describe these arms more heraldically owing to their defacement and difficulty of access, but possibly they may be traced by searching an extinct peerage for the barony of Roos, which I unfortunately cannot refer to; of these, Col. Holles only gives the Cleymond arms in his notes on Kirton. If the building did not belong to the Roos family, (of whose residence in Kirton I am ignorant) it is just possible it may have been the entrance to the seat of the great family of Meeres, who certainly did reside close to the place, and who were allied with the Cleymonds, Littleburys, and many ancient families, and their arms are sufficiently like those on the gateway for an ignorant sculptor to mistake, viz: "gu a fesse between 3 water bougets, erm."

Will some reader who knows the history of the Roos family, help us to name and date this interesting ruin?

Frampton Hall, near Boston.

C. T. J. MOORE.

Subsequently, some four years later, Col. Moore wrote a second letter to the journal, "Notes and Queries", which was published in the 8th. Series, Volume XII, July to December 1897, on page 47, on the 17 July, 1897, as follows:-

ROOS, MEERES, AND OTHER FAMILIES. - In the parish of Kirton, near Boston, there exists a ruin, at present fairly preserved, which has never been remarked by any county or local historian, probably because, its situation being some distance from the village or main road, attention was not called thereto. It was evidently the entrance to a large walled and moated enclosure, wherein dwelt some powerful family. It has a porter's lodge, guard room, and chambers over it, and the stone

groined roof of the entrance is adorned by many coats of arms. On either side of the external arch are two shields, which doubtless bore the chief coats of the owners - that on the dexter side being the bearings of his race, and on the sinister, either his wife's or some other important alliance or quartering. The latter I think are the quartered coats of Cromwell and Tattershall, but as to the first shield there is some doubt, for although the bearings are distinctly those of Roos, three water-bougets (no tincture being shown on any shield), yet I can find no record of that family having at any period either resided or held property in Kirton, while the Meereses were a knightly family there for several centuries, and they bore Gu., a fesse between three water-bougets erm., and no other site in the parish is stated to have been their seat. Heraldically, of course, the difference of the fesse is all important; but presuming the sculptor to have had no knowledge of heraldry, it is just possible he may have accidentally omitted the fesse. I should not venture to suggest this, only from the fact of finding on some of the internal shields arms well known to have been connected with those of Meeres, such as Littlebury, Claymond, &c. Against this theory there is the fact of the Meeres arms, correctly drawn with the fesse, appearing on one of the internal shields, and the pedigree of that family not showing any alliance with Cromwell and Tattershall. In the old church the arms of Meeres occurred several times anterior to 1642, as well as those of numerous others, but not those of Roos. Can anyone learned in the history of the Roos family inform me of their connexion (sic) with Kirton, circa 1450 (the date I venture to assign to this building), or of their connexion (sic) with the Cromwell, Littlebury, Claymond and Meeres families, or throw any light upon the original owners of this interesting ruin?

Frampton Hall, near Boston.

C. T. J. MOORE.

(The following is added as part of Revision "L":-

Lieutenant Colonel Charles Thomas John Moore of Frampton Hall, who was High Sheriff of Lincolnshire in the year 1856, was Lt. Col. Commandant and Hon. Colonel of the 4th. Battalion, the Lincolnshire Regiment. He was made a Companion of the Bath (CB) in the 1887 Golden Jubilee Honours List.)

The detailed map below, made in circa 1889, explains the locations of the entrance-archway, identified as the "Orme Hall (Remains of)", which were NOT in fact the remains of the Hall itself, but was instead the location of the "entrance-archway / cum guard house / cum porter's lodge" as described by Colonel Moore. The Willington Road, {Item 507 .367} below, lies about one mile west of the modern village of Kirton, and runs north-westwards towards the village of Kirton End. The entrance-archway was set well back from the Willington Road, and was undoubtedly positioned at the head of a drive which originally ran south-westerly towards the original moat, which was still in existence when this map was drawn in about 1889, and was evidently then surrounded by a protective fence, probably to prevent people and grazing animals from falling into the moat, {506 .189}.



[Reproduced with permission from old-maps.co.uk]

Sometime after Colonel Moore wrote his letters the moat was completely filled in. It would appear from the slightly irregular shape of the moat that it was roughly rectangular with the main stone-built Hall running roughly east and west, with the north east corner "cut-off" to form an entrance arch normal to the incoming drive, probably with some sort of draw-bridge to allow passage across the moat. Two moulded stone window tops and medieval pottery shards have been found in this area {506 .189}(ref. "Lincolnshire History and Archaeology", Number 9 (1974)).

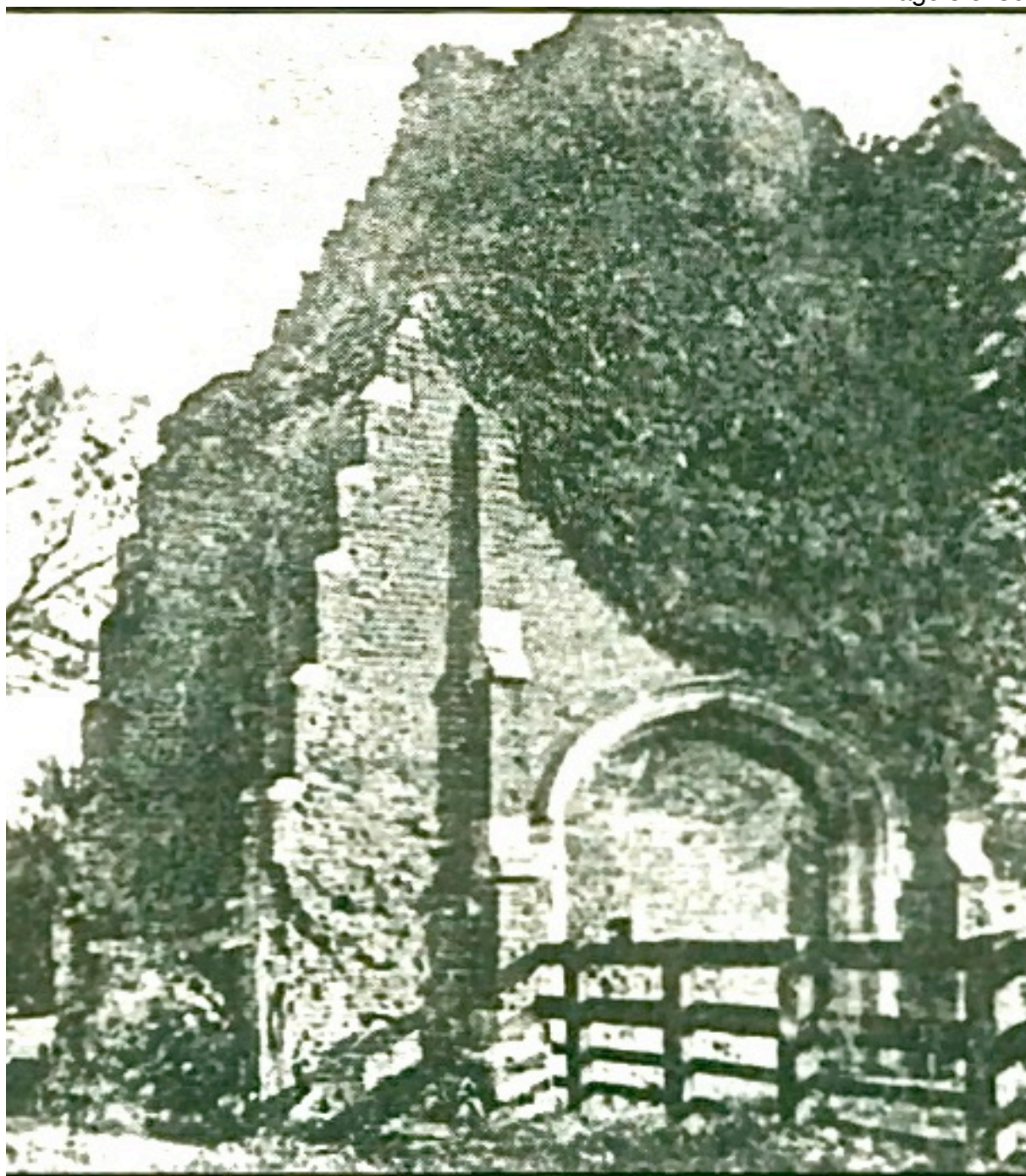


Figure 1 - Undoubtedly another of Col. Moore's photos of the entrance archway to the road leading to Orme Hall in 1893. Reproduced from a postcard courtesy of Lincolnshire Life, as illustrated in the Jan., 1986, Vol. 25, No. 10 issue, p. 37, in Tom Taylor's letter to the editor, which stated that he thought it had been printed and published by the proprietor of the Kirton Post Office around 1903. What is so interesting about this photo is that it shows the building as seen from the Willington Road. The vertical buttresses on either side of the carved stone entrance archway are clearly visible, and show the carved stone corbels on each side of the entrance.

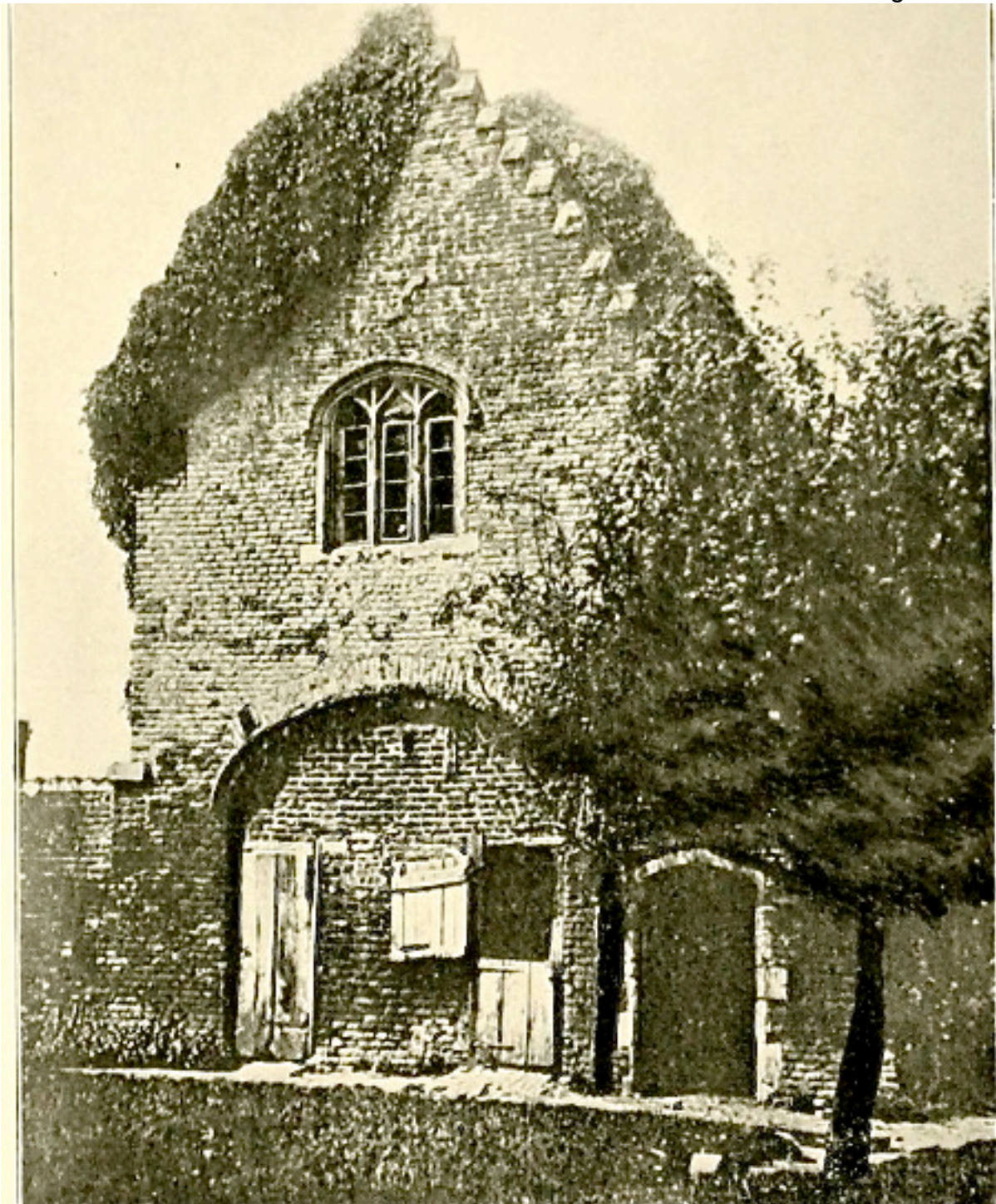


Figure 2 - One of Colonel Moore's collection of photos of the entrance archway to the road or drive leading up to Orme Hall, showing the southern face of the building, away from the Willington Road, Kirton. This structure had likely been added to the moated, fortified manor-house's drive sometime after the de Meres / Meeres family acquired the manor-house from the Littlebury family after 1486.

(Reproduced from Edward Deacon, page 284)

At this point, in about 1897, Col. Moore was in touch with Edmund Deacon in the U.S.A. who was in the process of writing a history of the Meres / Meeres family of Kirketon, and evidently assisted Deacon, but did not learn much that was new. Some six years after his initial letter of 1893, it is apparent that Col. Moore was still hoping to find answers to the puzzle, so in the summer of 1899 he wrote to the periodical "Oxford Journals", "Notes and Queries", 9th. Series, Volume IV, for the period July to December, 1899, his Query appearing on Page 229 (dated Sept. 16, 1899):-

"ROOS AND CROMWELL FAMILIES. - I shall be obliged if any reader of 'N. & Q.' can show me the alliance of these families, and the connexion of that of Roos with Kirton in Holland; for on a most interesting ruin, the entrance of a considerable castle (if we may judge by the moat which surrounded it), are, on the corbels of the external arch, two coats, the baron's [sic] apparently Roos [sic], and the femme's Cromwell quartering Tattershall [sic], representing, probably, the owner and his wife. In the groining within the building are several shields, and their identification may help to prove the alliance required. Unfortunately, all traces of metals or tinctures have disappeared, so I can only give the bearings as I find them. [In the following list he has evidently somewhat revised his thinking, so the order & details of the coats are not as he had first listed them.]

1. Paly of six, a canton (ermine?).
2. Paly of six, three roses.
3. Three water-bougets (Roos ?)
4. Two lions pass. guard. facing sinister" (Littlebury ?). (de Littlebury?)
5. A fesse on a label of five points.
6. A fesse ermine between three water-bougets (Meeres). (de Meeres)

If the colour were visible in the first five as it is in No. 6, I should attribute them thus:-

1. Basset
2. ?
3. Roos
4. Littlebury
5. ?
6. Meeres

Tradition gives this ruin to Meeres, and the adjacent part of the parish is still called "Kirton Meeres"; and there has been found no record of a Roos ever living in, or possessing an estate in the parish, whilst they had two large seats within a few miles of it, and would hardly require a third so near them. Had not the arms of Meeres been so palpably clear on No. 6 shield, I could have imagined the baron's [sic] external arms to have been Meeres, and might have thought that the sculptor, by accident or ignorance, omitted the fesse between the three water-bougets, which alone marks the difference, in the absence of metals or tinctures, between Roos and Meeres.

Any information as to the original owner of the ruin or to the arms thereon I shall be thankful for.

COL. MOORE, C.B., F.S.A. Frampton Hall, near Boston.

Col. Moore's first response came from an Arthur Mayall on page 293, dated Oct. 7, 1899 [which I will omit detailing, since I believe it to be irrelevant to this discussion.]

Col. Moore then decided to elaborate on his initial Queries, and on Pages 346 and 347, dated Oct. 28, 1899, wrote the following:-

"ROOS and CROMWELL Families. (See ante, pp. 229, 293.) - Since my query appeared, much investigation of pedigrees and records has taken place, and although subsequent connexion between these families occurred, yet there was found none at a date prior to the building in Kirton upon which their arms were in juxtaposition. I am therefore inclined to think that the three water-bougets do not represent Roos, but Kirton or Kirkton (sic), as Papworth and Morant and other heraldic works give the same arms to the latter family, although they are supposed to have borne "Barry of six, gules and argent ". Unfortunately, all trace of tincture has disappeared, or that would have settled the matter, as the Kirkton [sic] arms were Az. three water-bougets, arg., and those of Roos, Gu, three water-bougets, arg. (or erm. or Or). I venture a suggestion that the building was erected by Sir John Kirkton[sic] (who died 1367-8), as he is described as lord of Kirkton and also lord of Tateshale, and he being the last male of that ancient race, at his death the Tateshale property devolved upon one of the Cromwell descendants. However, there is the fact that inquis. p. m. [sic Inquisition Post Mortem] make him to have been lord of both Kirton and Tateshale, so it may account for the entrance arch to the old building springing from the coats of his two lordships, Kirkton on the dexter and Cromwell quartering Tateshale on the sinister side. [Here he become repeats what the writer suspects is a misidentification of the quartered coat of arms.]

Can any reader of 'N. & Q.' inform me how Sir John Kirkton (sic) or his ancestors became possessed of Tateshale, or what right he had to use the quartered arms of Cromwell and Tateshale; or give the alliances of these families?

C. T. J. MOORE, C.B., F.S.A.

Frampton Hall, near Boston.

Col. Moore's next response came on Pages 440 and 441, dated Nov. 25, 1899 from an ALF. T. EVERITT, of High Street, Portsmouth:-

"ROOS AND CROMWELL FAMILIES (9th. Series, iv, 229, 293, 346). - On the appearance of the first query under the above heading (ante, p. 229), I had the pleasure of sending direct to COL. MOORE - in addition to information embodied in his second query (ante, p.346), and a pedigree showing the connexion between the Tateshale, Kirkton or Kirton, and Cromwell families - some notes taken from the Record Office 'Calendar of Inquis. p.m.'

By an Inquisition taken in 1329-30, it would appear that Joanna de Driby, one of the three sisters and coheirs of Robert de Tateshale, died about that date possessed of the manors of Tateshale and Tumby in co. Lincoln; another Inquisition taken five years later, shows these two manors to be then in the possession of Sir John Kirkton [sic] . COL. MOORE appears to have overlooked these Inquisitions; abstracts of them could be obtained from any professional

copyist in London for a small fee, and doubtless they would furnish the information he desires, as to how Sir John Kirkton became possessed of Tateshale. It is possible that Sir John Kirkton held this property in right of his wife Isabel [NOT SO], of whom little is known, except that her first husband, George de Meriet, of Castlecarlton, co. Lincoln, died about 1228-9, and that she survived her second husband, Sir John Kirkton [sic] some two years. It may be she was a granddaughter of Joanna de Driby. [NOT SO]

COL. MOORE suggests that the interesting building at Kirton was erected by Sir John Kirkton [sic] (who died 1367-8), and the shield on the entrance arch, bearing the Kirkton arms, would appear to support his suggestion. On the opposite side of the entrance arch, however, he finds another shield, bearing the quartered arms of Cromwell and Tateshale, which would indicate a later date for the erection of the building. The lordship of Tateshale was brought into the Cromwell family by the marriage of Maud Bernake (great-granddaughter of the before-mentioned Joanna de Driby) with Ralph, Lord Cromwell, and the issue of this marriage were the earliest members of the Cromwell family entitled to quarter the Tateshale arms. Maud Cromwell died in 1418-9, and it seems impossible that the arms of her descendants should appear on a building erected before 1368.

Another shield, found by COL. MOORE inside the building, bears two lions passant gardant; these arms he, no doubt rightly, attributes to Littlebury. In the Visitation of Lincolnshire taken in 1592 a pedigree of this family is given, and therein it is recorded that Elizabeth, sister (or daughter) and heir of Sir John Kirkton, Knt., married Sir Humphrey Littlebury [NOT QUITE ACCURATE]. From this marriage descended one Humphrey Littlebury, who died in 1486 possessed of the "manor of Kyrketon in Holand, held of the Lady Margaret, the King's mother, as of the honor of Richmond [North Riding of Yorks. (NOT co. Surrey)], in co. Lincoln, in socage" ('Calendar of Inquisitions, Henry VII.,' vol. i. No. 324). It seems probable, therefore, that this manor was in the Littlebury family for more than a century.

Other shields are mentioned by COL. MOORE, respecting which he says, "Unfortunately all traces of metals or tinctures have disappeared." If by this he refers to the dots and lines now used to denote the heraldic tinctures, it may interest him to know that these symbols were first introduced in the early part of the seventeenth century.

One of the shields [Not mentioned by Moore ?] inside the building bears the arms of the "Meeres" family - a fesse ermine between three water-bougets. The Visitation of Lincolnshire before mentioned also contains a pedigree of this family. Therein Richard Meers is stated to have married a daughter of Sir John Kenton (sic). No issue is given of this marriage, but a nephew appears in the pedigree as "Sir Roger Meers, Lord of Kirton." This Roger was perhaps identical with Roger de Meres, Justice of the Common Pleas, who died about 1385-6. Foss, in his 'Judges of England' says:- "Roger de Meres was of a Lincolnshire family, established at Kirketon in the district of Holland. There are circumstances which raise a suspicion that this Roger de Meres was the same with Roger de Kirketon, and that he used both names indifferently. We know he had property at Kirketon, and it was quite a common practice for a man to call himself after his estate."

In conjunction with these remarks it is interesting to note the slight difference between the arms of Kirkton and Meeres.

The following wills at Somerset house may help COL. MOORE:-

1444, William Kirketon - (St. Peter's), Lincoln (P.C.C. 29 Luffenham)[not applicable]

1495, Thomas Meres, Esquire - Kirkton in Holand, Lincoln (P.C.C. 20 Vox)." [have]

ALF. T. EVERETT.

High Street, Portsmouth.

Subsequently, many years later, two articles appeared in the magazine "Lincolnshire Life", the first of which was in the issue of January, 1986, Vol. 26, No. 10. p. 37, in the Letters to the Editor from a Tom Taylor of Boston carried the photo shown in Figure 1, with the explanation shown in the caption for that photo.

The second, also a Letter to the Editor, from a Ron Drury of Lincoln, published in Vol. 26, No. 1, of April, 1986, p. 60, carried several pieces of new information with regard to "Orme Hall", arranged chronologically as follows:-

i.) That it had stood on the south side of the Willington Road, between Kirton and Kirton End, and that it was generally supposed to have been the home of the de Meres family. The only record that he had found between the Meres and the Ormes was a 16th. century marriage, and the coats of arms of both families were certainly displayed (and evidently still are) in the Kirton parish church.

ii.) He found the earliest mention of "Orme Hall" in Marrat's "History of Lincolnshire", (1814), that sometime after the Dissolution the Hall had been held by a Sir John Locton until about 1615, after which it had been sold to a series of owners until eventually, by 1986 it had become the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Experimental Farm.

iii.) He mentioned Colonel Moore's photographs, and mentioned another surviving photo which had been illustrated in the "Boston Society", which showed that the entrance gateway lodge was still in existence in 1902, and with human inhabitants.

From the foregoing this writer believes that we can draw the following conclusions:-
As Colonel Moore had identified, probably the 2 most important coats of arms were those on either side of the arch, externally, on the corbels, i.e. on the projections of stone jutting out from the wall on either side of the archway.

That on the sinister (on the left hand side of the entrance archway when facing it) which Moore assumed was that of the male inhabitant of the building, being:- "Three water-bougets". [Which he had initially assumed belonged to a "Ros"].

And that on the dexter (i.e. on the on the right hand side of the entrance, when one was facing it), which consisted of:-

A quartered shield displaying in the 1st. & 4th. quarters:- "A bend over a chief ",

and in the 2nd. & 3rd. quarters:- "checky, a fesse ermine",

which Moore identified as likely being the quartered coat of arms of the wife of the above male inhabitant, who he had identified as being a member of the Cromwell cum Tateshale / Tattershall family [which this writer believes is incorrect]. [Although later a wife's arms would normally come to be displayed on a vertical lozenge, rather than on a shield, however here we are talking circa 1275, which is very early, so that this may not yet at that time have become usual heraldic practice (?).]

On the groining, i.e. within the archway, as mentioned above, the remaining legible shields were as follows, in the order in which he listed them:-

1. "Four pallets [vertical bars] with a canton charged with 5 leaves, 3 & 2" [?]
2. "Two pallets" [?]
3. "Three Roses" ("Gules three roses, argent")---[which he identified as "Cleymont"]
4. "Two lions in pale, facing sinister" ---[which he identified, correctly, as "Littlebury"]
5. "Three billets in chief, between two bars" (possibly representing a fesse, with above it a label of three points?) But which he later described as likely a shield with a fess, with above it a label of FIVE [sic: 'THREE', see Figure 6] points.

Unfortunately he did not describe where each of these were positioned, nor how they were arranged within the archway. For example, were all the coats of arms on one side of the archway, or were they distributed down both sides of the archway? And in which actual positions were the ones located which were still decipherable?

He mentioned that he had had photographs taken to record all these details, and, as luck would have it, this writer has been able to find two of these photographs, [Figures 1 & 2]. Figure 2 being one which Col. Moore had sent to a correspondent in the U.S.A. in about 1897. The writer is very much hoping that more of these may still be extant, and may be found, which may help answer the questions posed in the previous paragraph.

We now need to take a close look at the surviving records of who held the land around Kirketon-in-Hoylaund, as the area was known in the 11th. & 12th centuries. This is fully elaborated in the writer's Study and Chart of the 'de Kirketon' family's probable descent, but we will here do a quick review.

(The following sections, a.), b.), c.) & d.) revised at Revision "L", 11 Nov., 2013:-)

a.) Soon after the Conquest in 1086 the de Craon / Creun / Croen / Croun family of Freiston, near Boston, were tenants in chief in Hoylaund, in the Wapentake of Kirketon, and a certain Sir Conan de Kirketon, Kt., in the year 1212 held part of a knight's service at Kirketon from the Barony of Craon (ref.: "Liber feodorum. The book of fees commonly called Testa de Nevill", Part 1 (1920), p. 194). "L"

b.) Also from the same source we see that in 1212 a certain Sir Robert de Kirketon, Knight, also held lands in Kirketon and Frampton by part of a knight's service from the Honour of Richmond, based at Richmond, in the North Riding of Yorkshire, which was the capital of the Duke of Brittany's "Honour of Richmond". It was one of the largest lordships created by William the Conqueror, who granted it to his cousin, Alan the Red, brother of the Duke of Brittany. It comprised some 440 manors throughout England (ref.: "Richmondshire" Wikipedia, pgs. 1 & 2). "L"

c.) This writer has demonstrated in his "de Kirketon / Kirton Study" at Revision "P", dated 19 Oct., 2013 (available from this writer) that Sir Conan de Kirketon had three sons, the eldest of whom was Sir Robert(2) de Kirketon, Knight. Sir Robert(2) married Margeria Bozon of a Norman family in circa 1204, and their eldest son was

Sir Alexander (Bozon) de Kirketon, knight.

"L"

d.) So it was that Sir Alexander (Bozon) de Kirketon, Kt., inherited his holdings at Kirketon-in-Hoyland. By then Sir Alexander had long held the manor of Sibthorpe, co. Notts., acquired by his first marriage, but he must have been born and grew up at Kirketon, and soon after 1255 he must have inherited his father's and grandfather's holdings there. We know that his first wife, Dionisia, had died prior to 1277, and by 1255 he had likely remarried, and moved back to Kirketon, as is shown by his deed (ref.: *ibid*, sheet 15) written in about 1275 by which he granted to the Prior of the Knights of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem 3/4 of the advowson of the church at Kirketon-in-Holland, in exchange for being granted his chapel, "situated at my court of Kyrketon" (*ibid*, sheet 16). "L"

As early as 1240-1 the King had sued Lambert de Muleton, grandson of Sir Thomas, for the advowson of the churches of Skirbeck & Kirketon, claimed as an escheat of the Honour of Richmond. Lambert produced a grant of the manors in fee by Conan, Duke of Brittany & Earl of Richmond, so that the King withdrew his suit (ref.: "Pedigrees from the Plea Rolls", P.R.O., p. 489). Later, on 12 Nov., 1274 there was a "Writ to Richard, Bishop of Lincoln, in the matter of the prior of St. John of Jerusalem against Thomas, son of Lambert de Moltone (sic Muleton) for 3/4 of the presentation to the church of Kirketon in Holland." (ref.: "Red Book of the Exchequer", Part I, p. cxxi, #203). Which had subsequently evidently been passed on to Sir Alexander de Kirketon by 1275. "L"

e.) My Study (*ibid*, pages 1 through 61) proves, I believe, that Sir Alexander (Bozon) de Kirketon, Knight, (eldest son of Sir Robert(2) de Kirketon), who had began his life bearing the coat of arms of his father, Sir Robert(2) de Kirketon, namely "Argent, a fess, Gules", differenced as the first born son by a label of three points, likely Sable. However, such a simple coat had soon been replicated in other parts of the country, and he was no doubt asked by the heralds to find an alternate blazon, so that he adopted, circa 1256, with the likely agreement of Robert de Ros:-



Figure 3 - Sir Alexander (Bozon) de Kirketon:- "Azure, three water-bougets, Argent".

No doubt with the acquiescence and encouragement of his very old friend Robert de Ros of Belvoir, who bore the same device, but on a field of Gules.

It is thus very likely indeed that Sir Alexander de Kirketon had inherited the building, his moated and walled "Court at Kirketon" stone manor house following his father's death, where he probably lived out his days, leaving his eldest son, Sir Ralph, and his descendants, to retain the Sibthorpe, co. Notts. property. "L"

f.) (Section deleted by Revision "L" of 11 Nov., 2013)

"L"

g.) (Section revised by Revision "L") Probably following Sir Alexander de Kirketon's death in about 1285, it would seem that he passed on his "Court" and its property, just to the west of the modern village of Kirton, into the possession his cousin, Sir Robert(5) de Kirketon, Knight. I believe this is likely the case, because I have been able to find no trace of any I.P.M. of Sir Alexander, and yet we have the positive proof of the deed which is illustrated in my Study, which confirms that by late 1303 this manor was positively then in the possession of Sir Robert(5) de Kirketon, and was subsequently returned to the possession of his only surviving son Sir John(3) de Kirketon, Knight, between the years 1342-1346.

"L"



Fig.4 - Sir John de Littlebury:- "Argent, two lions in pale, passant, guardant, Gules"

h.) Prior to the death of Sir / Baron John de Kirketon in 1367, it had been established in 1365 that the heir to the Manor of Kirketon was going to be Sir John de Littlebury (see Lincolnshire Feet of Fines CP 25/1/141/128 No. 17), who was Baron John de Kirketon's nephew, being the son of Baron John's deceased sister, Florence de Littlebury (nee de Kirketon), and thus Baron John's closest blood relative. After Baron John's wife, Dame Isabel, died two years later, the Manor passed to the Littlebury family, with whom it remained until the death of Humphrey Littlebury in 1486, "who died possessed of the Manor of Kyrketon in Holand, held of the Lady Margaret, the King's mother, as of the honor of Richmond, in co. Lincoln, in socage" (ref.: "Calendar of Inquisitions, Henry VII", Vol. I, No. 324).

The "King's mother" being Lady Margaret Beaufort (b. 1443 - d. 1509), Duchess of Richmond, whose husband, Edmund Tudor, became Earl of Richmond in 1452, so that the Lordship and Honour of Richmond now passed to Edmund. Edmund died in 1456 of the plague, and in the following year the future King Henry VII was born. By 1486 Lady Margaret, Countess of Richmond, who had remarried, still controlled the Honour (ref.: "The Honour of Richmond" by David Morris, pages. 86 - 96).

"L"



Figure 5

de Meres / Meeres :- "Gules, a fess Ermine, between three water bougets, Argent"

i.) The Manor now passed into the possession of members of the de Meres / Meeres family.

There had been two Littlebury = Meres marriages prior to 1486, one between Humphrey Littlebury's son, Sir Robert Littlebury, Knight, of Moulton and Anne Meres, daughter of a Thomas Meres, who was likely the Thomas Meres who died in 1484-5, and was the father of Sir John Meres, Knight, of Kirton, who seems to have been the first of his family to actually possess the old Manor of Kirketon / Kirton, which he likely obtained by purchase from his brother-in-law. His third son and eventual heir, Anthony Meres, Esquire, of Lincoln, obtained the "Manor of Kirton" from his father, Sir John, by purchase in 1562. Anthony's will, written: 4 Sept., 1615, proved: 1616-17, being specific that he had purchased the "old Littlebury properties" from his father (ref.: "Lincolnshire Wills" Maddison (1891), pages 148 - 150). He left all his lands and tenements at Kirton to his son Robert, and the family evidently continued in possession of the Manor of Kirton until sometime during the period of the Commonwealth. However, as Maddison states, they had disappeared from the Visitation of Lincolnshire, 1562-64; re-appeared again in 1634, but had vanished again by the Visitation of 1666.

j.) The Claymond / Cleymond Family. "Lincolnshire Wills" Maddison (1891) p. xv, records a marriage between a member of the Claymond family with a member of the Meres family, who was evidently an heiress in her own right, because the Claymond / Cleymond arms, "Gules, three roses, Argent" were displayed impaled with those of Meres / Meeres in Kirton Church when Gervase Holles (whose first wife was a Kirkton of Grimsby) made his "tour" between 1634 and 1642. However Maddison in "Lincolnshire Pedigrees", Vol. I, shows that the Claymond line had evidently failed by c. 1537, so the above mentioned marriage most likely had taken place prior to that date.

k.) The Orme Family. Here I would mention that at this time the earliest record of the Orme family which I have been able to find at Kirton is on 24 Sept., 1461, when a William Orme, Esquire, is recorded as one of a group of partners who had sold their shares of the Manor of Bosomhalle (Bozon Hall) in Wash Road, Kirton (ref.: British Library Manuscript #C13348-49). Subsequently a Sir Humphrey Orme appears in 1618, as a member of a commission on the Spalding Sewer /449 /1 in

co. Lincs., so probably it is at some point circa 1660 that members of the Orme family came into possession of the old manor-house of the Manor of Kirton, and as its new owners, gave it a new name, "Orme Hall".

Conclusions

From all the foregoing this writer is convinced that Col. Moore's "ruin" on the Willington Road was indeed the entranceway / guard house to the drive up to Orme Hall, which was indeed that same manor-house, the ownership of which had been inherited by Sir Alexander (Bozon) de Kirketon, Knight, named as his "Court at Kirketon", by circa 1255, displaying as it does both of Sir Alexander de Kirketon's coats of arms from the time both before, and immediately after his father's death. "L" He further believes that this brick building, the entranceway arch, as reported by Col. Moore, was built sometime between the years 1486 and 1616, while the property was in the possession of members of the Meres / Meeres family, and was indeed the entrance / archway through which all traffic to the old stone manor-house had to pass in order to gain access to the bridge over its surrounding moat.

It would appear that whichever individual of the de Meres family had this built, and it was quite likely to have been Anthony Meres himself, who had been largely responsible for restoring his family's fortunes, evidently retained a full awareness of the manor-house's original builder / owner, as well as of all its subsequent owners, and of their respective coats of arms, and so chose to commemorate all their respective coats of arms in the new entranceway building by carefully reproducing on to the new entrance archway all the various coats of arms which had survived, and were then still intact and visible on or within the original main stone manor-house.

This writer believes that the external coats of arms, as described by Col. Moore, do all pertain to Sir Alexander (Bozon) de Kirketon and probably to his 2nd. wife, as the owner of the manor-house, which he referred to as his "Court at Kirketon", and that it is indeed his coat of arms on the left side of the entrance, as viewed when facing the entrance, i.e.:- "Azure, three water-bougets, Argent". "L"

It would seem that following Sir Alexander's death in 1285, and the fact that his eldest son and later his likely youngest son, Hugo(1) de Kirketon had evidently decided to base themselves solely at Sibthorpe, in co. Nottinghamshire, it seems to have come about that Sir Alexander's holdings at Kirketon, including his "Court at Kirketon" passed to his cousin, Sir William(1) de Kirketon's son, Sir Robert(5) de Kirketon, who was already in possession of the neighbouring "Manor of Kirketon". Unfortunately so far no Inquest Post Mortem for Sir Alexander has been located, which would confirm this likelihood, but the fact that the Orme Hall property is known to have descended through the Littlebury family, makes it very likely. "L"

As to the quartered coat of arms on the right side of the entrance, when facing it, these were clearly NOT those of any Cromwell / Tateshale relationship, which had

nothing at all to do with the Manor of Kirketon, but only with Sir John(3) de Kirketon. While Col. Moore was perfectly correct that Sir Ralph de Cromwell, Knight, bore the coat of arms: "Or, a chief Gules, over all a bend, Azure" (ref.: Burke's "The General Armory", (1884), p. 246 & "The Dictionary of British Arms Medieval Ordinary"), evidently the first Cromwell to use this device was in fact Sir John de Cromwell, Kt., who was only summoned to Parliament in 1308.

In an earlier time a geometrically identical coat of arms: "Argent, a chief Gules, a bend, Azure" (ibid p. 459) had been in the possession of Sir John de Harrington, Knight, of co. Nottinghamshire in the time of King Edward I (1272 - 1307); and this is supported by "A Roll of Arms of the Reign of Edward II" by N. H. Nicolas (1829), page 158, but with the difference: "Or, a chief gules, a bend Azure" [a change of the metal of the field], which is also supported by "Dictionary of British Arms Medieval Ordinary", Vol. 3, page 26).

Furthermore, Col. Moore was mistaken in identifying "Checky, a fesse ermine" as being the arms of Tatershale / Tattershall, which are in fact: "Chequy, Or and Gules, a chief ermine" (ref.: ibid p. 908; & ibid, Vol. 3, pages 11 & 12), while "Chequy, Or and Gules, a FESSE ermine" in fact belonged to a member of the Thorpe family (ibid p. 1012; and ibid, Vol. 3, page 309) of Lincolnshire.

We know that Sir Alexander de Kirketon's first wife, Dionisia (nee St. Paul) had died and that he had remarried his second wife, Hugline / Hueline, before 1277. However there seems to be no surviving record of the second wife's surname, but perhaps it may have been "Harrington", and that, as indicated by the quartered arms, she must also have been an heiress, whose mother most likely was a Thorpe? The quartered arms thus consisting of:-

"Quarterly, 1st. & 4th. Either: "Or or "Argent, a chief Gules, a bend over all, Azure", (Harrington); 2nd. & 3rd. "Chequy, Or and Gules, a FESSE Ermine" (Thorpe).

As to the internal coats of arms on the inner archway (not in Col. Moore's order, but in a likely chronological order), it has come to this writer's attention through the courtesy of Alan Marshall, and Tom Grimes, Curator of The Spalding Gentlemens' Society Collection, that five of the carved or sculpted coats of arms from the entrance archway have been preserved after being presented to The Spalding Gentlemens' Society by G.L. Nussey in 1925, as Illustrated on the following pages:-



Figure 6

This coat of arms is mentioned in Col. Moore's first letter, which he described as:-
"Three billets-in-chief between 2 bars (these billets may be intended for a label)",
and which he later recognized as:- "A fess on a label of five (sic: three) points".
This writer is quite confident in identifying it as:-

"Argent, a fess Gules, with a label of three points, Sable".

The first coat of arms of Sir Alexander de Kirketon, Knight, while his father, Sir Robert(2) de Kirketon, who had been for some time, until about 1220, a knight in the service of William de Huntingfield, and was still alive, circa 1255; after whose death Sir Alexander inherited his father's coat-of-arms & his "Court at Kirketon". "L" Note that Sir Alexander was one of the Wardens of the Boston Fair, appointed on 11 June, 1264 (Cal. of Patent Rolls, Henry III, Volume V, p. 322), so he must have then been resident at his Court at Kirketon / Kirton, so close to Boston, at that time.



Figure 7

As already shown above, and as illustrated on its label, this shows the coat of arms "Argent, two lions passant guardant, Gules" of the members of the Littlebury family, evidently reversed in error, representing the inheritance of the Manor of Kirketon / Kirton by Sir John de Littlebury following the death of his maternal uncle, Sir / Baron by writ John de Kirketon, Knight Banneret, in 1367, followed by the death of his wife, Dame Isabel de Kirketon in 1369. What appears to be a lion's mask above the shield probably represents Sir John's crest.



Figure 8

Identified by Col. Moore (incorrectly) as:- " .. on another (apparently) 2 pallets", he later correctly identified it as:- "Paly of six". The writer suspects this is a Basset coat-of-arms, see Gervase Holles (ibid, p. 202) "Or, three piles, Gules" (as a wife's impaled arms, possibly from co. Staffs.).

Here we need to consider that Bassets came early to Lincolnshire relationships, so that we see that Richard Basset, 1st. Lord Basset, born abt. 1274, of Great Weldon, Northants., about 1293 married Joan de Huntingfield, daughter of Sir Roger de Huntingfield and his wife, Joyce (nee d' Engaine)

(ref.: <<http://www.geneajourney.com/basset.html>>, p. 2 of 4).

Both d' Engaine and de Huntingfield being very significant names in the history of Kirketon in Hoylaund, as already mentioned previously, in what has gone before.



Figure 9

Col. Moore initially wrote: "4 pallets, a canton charged with 5 leaves(?) 3 and 2", & then: "Paly of six, a canton (ermine ?)", beside which he wrote the name "Basset ?". See G. Holles "Lincolnshire Church Notes", 1634 - 42, Linc. Rec. Soc., Vol. I, 1910, p. 11, from Grimsby Magna:- "Or, 3 piles Sable, a canton, Ermine....[Basset]" (Note the early form of "Ermine", from the monument of King Edward III (Charles Boutell "English Heraldry" (1899) p. 42, Fig. No. 57A). Note that the wife of Roger Meres of Kirton (the Judge who died in 1381) was Elizabeth Bassett (sic), the daughter of Sir Thomas Bassett, Knight (ref.: "The Visitation of Lincoln in 1562-64", p. 910). The face above was once again evidently intended to represent a lion's mask.



Figure 10

As Col. Moore identified in his first letter:-

"... on another 3 roses (which I take to be Cleymond, "Gules, 3 roses, Argent)".

As already mentioned, Maddison, "Lincolnshire Wills", Vol. I (1902), p. 250, mentions Gervase Holles' "Lincolnshire Church Notes" (ibid, p. 166) which shows that before 1634, a Kirketon in Holland church window showed the arms of Meres impaling those of Cleymond, however this is not in the Visitation, so may have been from an earlier Meres / Cleymond marriage. As Maddison shows in both "Lincolnshire Wills" & in "Lincolnshire Pedigrees" the "Claymonds (sic) of Frampton had failed by circa 1537, so the Meres marriage above, must have been earlier.

**Sir Roger de Meres / Meeres of Kirketon, co. Lincolnshire.
Justice of the Common Pleas.**

"Gules, a fesse Ermine, between three water-bougets, Argent". The arms shown as being those of members of the de Meres / Meeres family of Holland, co. Lincolnshire (ref.: Burke's "General Armory" (1884), page 676), as shown above. In what follows is more discussion about the 'de Meres / Meeres' family of Kirketon / Kirton, and the history of the founder of the family's activities there.

He was most likely born at Aldborow / Aldborough, co. Norfolk, one of at least three sons of Sir Roger Meeres, Knight, Lord of Aldborow, in about 1315 (Ref.: "Visitation of the County of Lincoln in 1562-4", page 91, however, note that his father is also shown as "Lord of Kirton", which is almost undoubtedly in error).

Col. Moore in a letter to Edward Deacon in circa 1897 identified that the Meres / Meeres family first arrived in Kirketon in Hoyland / Kirton in 1350, and this is supported in "Lincolnshire Pedigrees", Maddison, Vol. III, p. 663, which begins his Meres pedigree with this man. It is also important to note that it is widely recognized that Roger de Meres frequently called himself "Roger de Kirketon", and the instances of this will be plotted in what follows. There is not the slightest doubt that they were one and the same man. Like his father, he was an armiger, bearing: "Gules, a fesse between three water-bougets ermine".

He first appears in the surviving literature in 1343, already an adult, thus:-

Calender of Patent Rolls / CPR

CPR, Edw. III, Vol. 6, p. 71, 27 Jan. 1343 Roger de Meres, Sergeant, "to arrest"

Vol. 9, p. 201, 2 Dec. 1351 Roger de Meres, Justice Commission
p. 449, 12 Feb. 1353 Roger de Kirketon, Commissioner

Vol. 10, p. 60, 2 Jul. 1354 Roger de Meers of Kirketon, -----
p. 122, Dec. 1354 Roger de Meers of Kirketon, -----

Cal. Misc. Inq. Vol. 3, #246 1357 Roger de Meres, Inquiry Commission
#128 1359 Roger de Meres, Inquiry Commission

Lincs. Feet of Fines CP 25/1/140/125, #3:- (This appears to be his first acquisition of any land holding at Kirton) 6 Oct. 1361 Roger de Meres of Kirketon and two

others, arrange to rent 3 messuages & 120 acres in Kirton & other nearby locations.
F of F, CP 25/1/140/125, # 6 6 Oct. 1361 Roger de Mers (sic) with 2 others holds
the Manor of Gosberkirk at Kirton in Holland & Gosberton for 200 marks of silver.

F of F, CP 25/1/140/125, # 26 6 Oct. 1361 Roger de Meres with 2 others hold 1
messuage & 4 acres of land in Kirton in Holland.

F of F, CP 25/1/140/125, # 27 6 Oct. 1361 Roger de Meres & ALICE, his wife, &
his brother, Thomas de Meres, hold 3 messuages, 1 mill & 30 acres of land in
Algerkirke, Kirton & Donyngton, all in Holland. [N.B. That the Visitation of Lincs.
states that the wife of Roger de Meres was Elizabeth Bassett ? Maybe a 2nd. wife?]

F of F, CP 25/1/140/125, # 28 6 Oct. 1361 Roger de Mers (sic) and his brothers,
Thomas & William, & 2 others, hold 1 messuage & 17 acres of land in Coningsby &
Tattershall, co. Lincolnshire.

CPR, Edw.III, Vol. 12 p. 212, 5 Jul. 1362 Roger de Kirketon (with Sir William de Huntyngfeld & Sir John de Kirketon,Kts)

p. 272 18 Nov. 1362 "Roger de Meris of Kirketon" enfeoffed by Sir John de Kirketon, Kt., with the Manor of Tumby in Lyndseye - held in chief.

p. 294 8 Dec. 1362 Roger de Kirketon and John de Mers, Commissioners of Justice. (prob. his son)

p. 360 16 Feb. 1363 Roger de Kirketon and John de Mers, Commissioners of Justice. (prob. his son)

p. 357 20 Feb. 1363 Roger de Meres, Commissioner, w&f.

p. 359 22 Feb. 1363 Roger de Kirketon, Commissioner, o&t

p. 544 8 Jun. 1364 Roger de Kirketon, Commission., w&f

Vol. 13 p. 3 1 Jul. 1364 Roger de Meres, + 2, to receive the reversion of the Manor of Tumby & the Castle and manor of Tateshale.

Vol. 12 p. 546 8 Jul. 1364 Roger de Kirketon, Commission., o&t

Vol. 13 p. 70 8 Nov. 1364 Roger de Kirketon, Commission., o&t

"Roger de Meris" appears again in the Lincs. Feet of Fines,

F of F, CP 25/1/141/128, #19 27 Apr. 1365 when with 2 others he acquires 6 acres of land in Swineshead and Kirton in Holland.

Ockerby "Book of Dignitaries" 1366 Roger de Kirketon, Sergeant at Law

-----=----- 1367 Roger de Kirketon, Sergeant at Law

CPR, Edw.III, Vol. 13, p. 440 26 May 1367 Roger de Kirketon, Commission., w&f

p. 447 15 Jul. 1367 Roger de Kirketon, Commission., o&t

Vol. 14, p. 47 15 Jul. 1367 Roger de Kirketon, Commission., o&t

F of F, CP 25/1/141/131, #16 13 Oct. 1367 Robert, son of Roger de Kirketon and one other, holding 1 messuage & 3 acres of land in Kirton in Holland.

Cal. Misc. Inq. Vol. 3 # 263 & 266 1368 Roger de Meres, Justice of Assize

CPR, Edw.III, Vol. 14, p. 67 18 Jan. 1368 Roger de Kirketon, Commission., o&t

p. 138 8 May 1368 Roger de Kirketon, Commission., w&f

p. 141 22 May 1368 Roger de Kirketon, Commission., o&t

Vol. 15, p. 145 5 Nov. 1371 Roger de Meres, to enclose a path at his manse [a house with land enough to support a family] in Kirketon.

p. 159 27 Nov. 1371 Roger de Meres - Appointment during pleasure as one of the Justices of the Common Bench.

Ockerby "Book of Dignitaries" p.378 1372 Roger de Kirketon-

"Puisine Justice of the Common Pleas" (i.e. a junior judge of the Superior Courts of the Common Law)

Cal. Misc. Inq. Vol. 3 # 323 1372 Roger de Kirketon-Inquiry Commiss.

CPR, Edw. III, Vol. 15, p. 234 Jul./Aug. 1372 Roger de Kirketon- Justice of the
Common Bench.

p. 240 14 Sep. 1372 Roger de Kirketon, Inquisition Commi.
p. 242 11 Nov. 1372 Roger de Kirketon, Commission, o & t.
16 Nov. 1372 Roger de Kirketon, -----=-----
p. 305 17 Feb. 1373 Roger de Kirketon,
p. 306 18 Feb. 1373 Roger de Kirketon, Commission, o & t
p. 307 20 Feb. 1373 Roger de Kirketon, Commission, o & t
p. 310 21 Mar. 1373 Roger de Kirketon, -----=-----
p. 311 22 Mar. 1373 -----=-----, -----=-----
CPR, Edw. III, Vol. 15, p. 313 17 May 1373 Roger de Kirketon, Commission, o & t
p. 314 30 May 1373 -----=-----, -----=-----
p. 305 20 Jul. 1373 -----=-----, -----=-----
p. 391 8 Aug. 1373 -----=-----, Inquisition Comm.
p. 394 15 Aug. 1373 -----=-----, Commission, o & t
PRO, NA, Item No. KB 138/120 1373-1374 Roger de Meres / Kirketon, Assize File
CPR, Edw. III, Vol. 15, p. 400 20 Jan. 1374 Roger de Kirketon, Commission
Vol. 16, p. 50 7 Sep. 1374 Roger de Kirketon, 'chivaler' Comm.
[This is the first record of him showing that he had now been knighted.]
Vol. 15, p. 474 20 Oct. 1374 Roger de Kirketon, 'chivaler', Comm.
Vol. 16, p. 59 1 Dec. 1374 Roger de Kirketon, Commission, o & t
PRO, NA, Item No. C 143/381/ 19 1374 Roger de Kirketon, knight, & 2 others,
to grant a messuage & land in Kirton in
Holland, to the church there, retaining
a messuage & land there.
Cal. Misc. Inq., Vol. 3, # 367 1375 Roger de Meres, Justice of the Peace.
CPR, Edw. III, Vol. 16, p. 74 2 Feb. 1375 Roger de Kirketon, a justice: a pardon
p. 135 15 Feb. 1375 Roger de Kirketon, Commiss.; Peace.
p. 79 17 Feb. 1375 Roger de Kirketon, Justice:- Pardon.
p. 109 20 May 1375 Roger de Kirketon, Justice; with other
justices, appointed to deliver prisoners to the gaol of York Castle.
p. 136 20 May 1375 Roger de Kirketon, Commissioner of
the Peace, + 9 others, in the East Riding of co. Yorks..
p. 121 5 Jul. 1375 Roger de Kirketon, Commissioner of
the Peace at York Castle.
p. 137 6 Dec. 1375 Roger de Kirketon, Commissioner of
the Peace for co. Northumberland, & with Roger de Clyfford, for co. Cumberland,
and with 8 others, including Roger de Clyfford, for co. Westmorland.
"The Judges of England" Ed. Foss, p.14, Roger de Kirketon reappointed, Jun. 1377
Cal. Misc Inq., Vol. 5, # 8 1377 Roger de Kirketon, Justice of the Peace

Richard II, Supplement, p. 167 Index:

"Roger de Meres: See Kirketon".

<<http://www.medievalgenealogy.org.uk/sources/loveden/seals.shtml>>

"Kirketon, Roger de, See: Meres, Roger de, of Kirton in Holland".

"Meres, alias Roger de Kirketon, Commissioner of Justice, co. Lincoln,
Justice of Assize, Suffolk,
Justice of the Peace in parts of Holland, co. Lincoln
John de Meres. son of "

In April, 2008 Guy managed to get a really good enlargement of the first seal, which was presumed to be that of Sir Roger de Kirketon, Knight, which he kindly forwarded to me:- (see next page)



Figure 11 - The lettering around the shield reads to be either "Meres" or "Meris", with which both Guy and Chris agree. Of course the size on the original seal is too small to permit full detailing of the "Ermine" detailing on the fess.

This would seem to provide positive proof that:-

Sir Roger de Meres, Knight, of Kirketon in Holland (from the seal),
did indeed sign himself on the charter as:- "Roger de Kirketon, Knight".
Surely confirming that the one gentleman used both names quite indiscriminately.

His last recorded commission appears as follows:

CPR, Richard II, Vol. 1, p. 578, 24 Nov., 1380

"Commission of oyer and termina, to Roger de Kirketon, and four others, pursuant to the ordinance of the late Parliament at Westminster, in information" "

He had evidently died between 30 Nov. 1380 and 28 May, 1381, because the next record of his name appears as follows:-

CPR, Richard II, Vol. 2, p. 22, 28 May, 1381 Commissioner of the Peace in the West Riding of Yorkshire replacing Roger de Kirketon, deceased.

CPR, Richard II, Vol. 2, p. 145, 17 June, 1382 Re.: Commissioner of oyer & termina replacing Roger de Kirketon, deceased.

Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, Vol. 18 (1892) p. 26:-

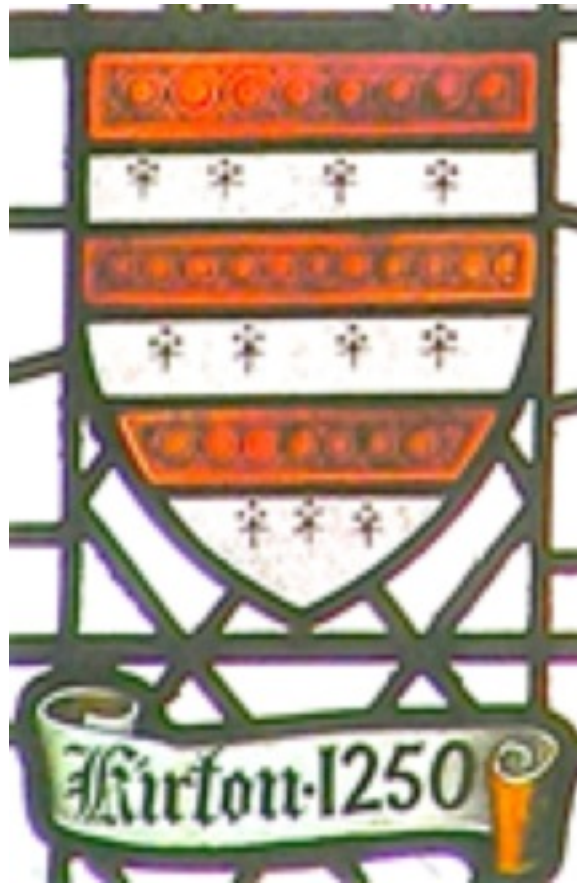
"Sir Roger de Kirketon (de Meres; died. 1381) of Lincolnshire, who was pleading in the upper courts" "

So it would seem that his date of death as given in "Lincolnshire Pedigrees", and in Edmund Deacon's book on the Meres family, and by Foss, are all incorrect. and that the I.P.M. which was conducted 4 years later in 1385, see "Calendar of I.P.M.s", Vol. 16, "C. Ric. II File 39 (16), under the name "Roger de Kirketon" is possibly for a different man altogether.

Going back to the letter in "Oxford Journals", "Notes and Queries", quoted on my Page 7, from Alf. T. Everett, and from reviewing "The Visitation of the county of Lincoln in 1562 - 4", p. 91; this writer is very suspicious of the statement there that a "Richard Meers" [who would have been a great-uncle of the Judge], ever married a daughter of a "Sir John Kenton[sic]", implying that this was a misreading for Kirketon, although I can find no other John Kirketon / Kirton in that generation at all. In the same way, the Judge's father, shown as: "Sir Roger Meeres", may have been "Lord of Aldborow / Aldborough, co. Norfolk", of about the same generation as Sir / Baron John de Kirketon of Kirketon, but there is absolutely no record stating that Sir Roger Meeres also could have been "Lord of Kirketon" at that same time, Col. Moore noting that the Meeres only arrived in Kirketon in circa 1350.

Incidentally, while Maddison's "Lincolnshire Pedigrees" only credits Sir Roger de Meres of Kirton with just one son, John, who was the eldest, he also had at least one other son named Robert.

The "Kirton" [sic: "de Kirketon"] coat-of-arms as is currently displayed in a window in the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul at Kirton in Holland, county Lincolnshire



"Barry of six, Gules and Ermine"

This coat-of-arms is in fact that of an individual (as are all coats of arms) and had originally been assumed by Sir Robert(5) de Kirketon, Knight, following the death of his father, Sir William(1) de Kirketon, Knight, in 1275, whose coat of arms, "Barry of six, Gules and Argent" was then inherited by Sir Robert's elder brother, Thomas(1) de Kirketon, probably then of Sutterton-in-Holland, co. Lincs.. "L"

Sir Robert, as his father's 2nd. son, differenced his father's coat of arms by changing his father's bars of Argent into Ermine, as is shown in the window above.

"L"

Sir William(1) de Kirketon had begun acquiring land holdings around Kirton by the year 1242, and it appears that initially after his death in c. 1255, these holdings passed to his younger son, Sir Robert(5) de Kirketon, Knight. "L"

On Sir Robert's death in 1303 the illustrated coat-of-arms passed to his only surviving son, John de Kirketon, who was then still a child of about 8, but who was knighted by bathing in 1326.

Twenty years later in 1346 the Manor of Kirketon was restored to Sir John, having been in trust to a relative ever since his father's death, and at about the same time, following the death of his uncle, his father's eldest brother, Sir John de Kirketon's coat of arms again reverted to "Barry of six, Gules and Argent", as had been borne by his grandfather.

Between the years 1355 and 1359 Sir John became a "Knight Banneret", an ancient order ranked next after Knights of the Garter, and in 1362 Sir John was summoned to Parliament as Lord John, Baron de Kirketon, and was again re-summoned in 1363.

He died on 20 Feb., 1367, and all the heirs of his body having predeceased him, and following the death of his widow in 1370, the Manor of Kirketon passed to his eldest nephew, Sir John de Littlebury, Knight.

Other source references (some of which contain errors of fact):-

"The Boston Red Book" (Published 1913) pages 296 - 297:-

[Discusses the 'moated castle' located a mile from Kirton off the Willington Road, incorrectly assigns some of the coats of arms to Cromwell & Tattershall families.]

"The Boston Guardian", 26 August, 1922:-

"Kirton: Orme Hall - The Suggested Renovation Scheme" [which was rejected].

"The Manors in Kirton" by Robert Meeds (pub. in the Church Magazine, Jan., 1968) [Contains errors in fact regarding Ralph Cromwell's wife and Tattershall Castle.]

"Lincolnshire Life", Feb., 1969, page 45, "Portrait of a village: Kirton" by Ruby Hunt . [Repeats the erroneous mention of a supposed Cromwell / Tattershall connection.]

"Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology", Publication No. 9 (1974):-

"Archaeological Notes, 1973" "Kirton-in-Holland - Found 2 moulded stone window heads, probably originally from Orme Hall & medieval pottery shards. H. Smith."

"Lincolnshire Life", Jan., 1986 - Vol. 25, No. 10, page 37, letter from Tom Taylor.

Apr., 1986 - Vol. 26, No. 1, page 60, letter from Ron Drury.

"Kirton-in-Holland, Lincolnshire - The Changing Face of a Fenland Village" (1990), Published: "The Kirton Book Group" [Contains errors of fact concerning Orme Hall].

Revisions:-

Revision "K" - 10 Aug., 2012. A new page 4 has been added resulting in all subsequent page numbers being revised. Detail revisions have therefore occurred on all page numbers:- 1 through 26. Title revised 19 June, 2012, Revision unchanged. In addition new pages 27, 28, 29 & 30 have been added.

Revision "L" - 11 Nov., 2013. Title Page 1 of 30 updated.

(Symbol:- "L")

Page 3 Biographical note added.

Page 11 Text revised.

Revision "L" (continued)
(Symbol: "L")

Page 12 Text revised.
Page 13 Text revised.
Page 15 Text revised.
Page 17 Text revised.
Page 28 Text revised.
Page 29 Text revised.
Page 30 Text revised.

These changes became necessary when new records were found concerning the land holdings at Kirketon-in-Holland in the year 1212 by both Sir Conan de Kirketon, and by his son, Sir Robert(2) de Kirketon, respectively the grandfather and father of Sir Alexander de Kirketon, and new evidence which positively proved that Sir William(1) de Kirketon was the father of Thomas (1) de Kirketon and of Sir Robert(5) de Kirketon.

My grateful thanks go to the following, all of whom have greatly assisted me:-

Blair Southerden, UK (my cousin).

Adrian Kerton, UK

Chris Phillips of Medieval Genealogy.org.uk.

Guy Vincent, Australia.

Alan Marshall, Kirton Antiques, Kirton, Lincs., UK.

David Hilton, Kirton, Lincs., UK.

Tom Grimes, The Spalding Gentlemen's Society, Broad St., Spalding, Lincs., UK.

Dr. Mike Rogers, Lincolnshire Archives, Lincolnshire County Council, Lincs., UK.

Rod Callow, Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology, Lincs., UK.

John Watson, UK.

Please comment. I can be reached at:-

<jonathankirton@sympatico.ca>

Sincerely,

Jonathan Grenville Kirton, Canada