

**New Conclusions and Source Records for the Studies of the  
Kirketon / Kyrketon / Kirton / Kerton / Kyrton / Keyrton & Kearton, etc. name,  
especially in Grinton Parish, in Swaledale & throughout Richmondshire.  
in the old North Riding of Yorkshire, between circa 1250 and 1800**

by

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**16 November, 2016**

**Revised to 'Revision K', 1 August, 2018 (please destroy all earlier revisions).**

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Before beginning to provide details of my conclusions about the history of the members of this family in Swaledale and Richmondshire I would like to make some comments about what I have been able to establish from the earliest records which have survived about the origins of this family in Lincolnshire with the adoption of the locator surname by a man named Sir Conan, son of Robert, a knight of the Grand Assize of Lincolnshire, who in about the year 1160 began calling himself "Conan de Kirketon or Kyrketon" from the village of Kirketon in Holland, near Boston, who thus becomes the occupant of "GENERATION 1", which is the basis in all of the following.

From my Study it is apparent that he had at least three sons, and that two of them were able to assume very early examples of English coats-of-arms, each suitably differenced from the other brother - it has been partly by following the records of these coats-of-arms, in conjunction with each brother's land holdings, several of which were from the Honour of Richmond, based at Richmond in Yorkshire, that it has been possible to trace the descent from each of the brothers to their conclusion.

It was the second brother, Gilbert(1) de Kirketon who was sent north by the king in Feb., 1228 to help take over the estates of the late Robert de Veteri-Ponte, who had been made Hereditary High Sheriff of co. Westmorland by King John. Sir Gilbert(1), as he soon became, was almost immediately named as interim High Sheriff pending the coming of age of John de Veteri-Ponte, and established himself at Appleby with his third and youngest son, John(1) de Kirketon as his undersheriff. John de Veteri-Ponte became High Sheriff when he came of age, however he soon died and Sir Gilbert(1) de Kirketon once again became interim High Sheriff.

After Sir Gilbert(1) died or retired it is evident that his 3rd son, John(1) de Kirketon stayed on at Appleby, continuing to hold the post of undersheriff to the next two subsequent High Sheriffs until 1270, when his two elder brothers having evidently died without issue of their bodies, John(1) finally inherited his father's holding of the Manor of Kirketon Hall at Screveton, co. Notts. and returned there, at which time he swore a new oblation there.

It is apparent that John(1) had raised a family of at least three sons whilst he was living at Appleby, and it is the youngest of these, Geoffrey / Galfrido / Jeffery(2) de Kirketon (born circa 1250) who almost certainly came down from Appleby and settled near Reeth in Swaledale, probably in about 1270, or up until about the year 1276.

Two years earlier in 1274 his father's first cousin, Sir Alexander (Bozon) de Kirketon had become High Sheriff of Yorkshire and Constable of York Castle, and in 1276 had also been made Custos of Rievaulx Abbey, with special reference to resolving the problems of the Abbey's then insolvency.

(Text continued on Page 14)

An alphabetical Given Name Index, with each given name numbered, begins on Page 2.

**Alphabetical Given Name Index of male descendants (Y-DNA Chromosome) of the  
de Kirketon / de Kyrketon / Kirton / Kearton family which settled in Swaledale,  
in the North Riding of Yorkshire, from about the year 1275.**

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**A**

Alexander, Sir Knight, (Bozon) de Kirketon / Kyrketon, of Kirketon, co Lincs. & of Sibthorpe & of Kirketona / Kirton, co. Notts.. High Sheriff of Yorkshire Custos of Rievaulx Abbey.	Generation 3-01-01 [Study Pages 49-58] Pages 1, 14.
Anthony(2) Kearton, Yeoman & Householder of Gunnarside, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 14-01-01 Pages 20, 22-4, 30, 32
Anthony(3) Kearton, Yeoman of Gunnarside, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 16-33-01 Pages 30, 31, 34
Anthony(3A) Kearton / Kyrton / Kirton, Captain of Sir Richard Byron's Regiment of Horse. At Marston Moor with Prince Rupert's own 'Regiment of Horse', June 1644.	Generation 17-07;01 Pages 31, 34 - 39, 44
Anthony(4) Kearton / Kirton, of Gunnarside, Satron & Oxnop Hall, Low Oxnop, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 18-02;04 Pages 40-2, 47-51, 53, 68-9, 75.
Anthony(6) Kearton, Yeoman, of Oxnop Hall, and later of Kirkby Stephen, co. Westmorland. Later prob. returned to Oxnop, where he died & bur. at Muker.	Generation 20-02;01 Pages 55-61, 63-4, 69, 74.
Anthony(7) Kearton, of Whitaside, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 20-xx-xx
Anthony(8) Kearton, of co. Westmorland, England, & then to the USA & the Island of St. Vincent, where he died.	Generation 22-03;01 ["Study" Pg. 333]

**B**

Brian / Bryan / Bryon(1) Kerton / Kearton, of Gunnarside & Lodge Green, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 16-xx-xx Pages 31 & 33
Bryan(2) Kearton, of Gunnarside, Muker Parish, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 17-xx-xx Page 33, 43
Bryan(3) Kearton, of Gunnarside, Muker Parish, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 17-xx-xx Page 33, 43
Bryan(4) Kearton, of Gunnarside, Muker Parish, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 17-xx-xx Page 33, 43

**C**

Charles(2) Kirton, of Yarm, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 22-05;03 ["Study" Page 338]
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Charles(3) Stuart Kirton, Master Mariner & Ship owner, of Brighton and Hove, co. Sussex.	(Revised at Revision K) Generation 22-05; 05 [Study, Page 338]
Christopher(1) Kereton, of Satron, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 12-05;01 Pages 17-8, 21, 23, 30.
Christopher(2) Kearton, of Welbury, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 12-xx-xx Page 20
Christopher(3) Kereton, of Satron, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 13-16;05 Pages 23, 24, 25
Christopher(4) Kearton, of Richmond, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 13-17;03
Christopher(5) Keirton / Kearton, Yeoman of Welbury, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation
Christopher(7) Kereton, of Satron, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 14-49; 01 Pages 23, 24 & 25.
Christopher(8) Kearton, Gentleman, of Pickhill & Roxby, & Hipswell & Richmond, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 14-11; 05 [“Study” Pg. 243]
Christopher(9) Kirton, Yeoman, of Welbury, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 14-xx-xx
Christopher(9A) Kearton, of Roxby, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 14-xx-xx
Christopher(10) Kearton, of Gunnerside, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 1?-xx-xx Pages 32, 39, 45.
Christopher(10A) Kearton, fellmonger of Richmond, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 1?-xx-xx
Christopher(11) Kirton, of Sedgfield, N. R. Yorkshire & of St. John's College, Cambridge (where he died).	Generation 1?-xx-xx
Christopher(12) Kirton, of Richmond, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 1?-xx-xx
Christopher(13) Kearton, of Satron, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 1?-xx-xx Pages 31 - 33, 43.
Christopher(13A) Kearton of Dikehead, Gunnerside, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 16-xx-xx Pages 32 & 41-2.
Christopher(14) Kearton / Kirton, of Hipswell & Catterick, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 16-26-04 [Study”, Page 276]
Christopher(15) Kearton, of Gunnerside / Muker, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 17-xx-xx Pages 33 & 43
Christopher(16) Kearton, of Ivelet, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 19-xx-xx Page 52
Conan de Kirketon / Kyrketon, Sir Knight, of Kirketon / Kirton in Haylaund / Holland, co. Lincs.	Generation 1-01-01 [Study Pages 39-41] Page 29
Cuthbert(1) Kearton, of Richmond and Hipswell, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 12-05-02 Page 16

**E**

Edmund(1) de Kirketon / Kirton, of Saxton & Saxton Wodhouse, co. Yorks.	Generation 5-02-02 ["Study", Pages 103-4]
Edward(6) Kearton, of Gunnerside, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire. Born about 1594.	Generation 15-33; 05 Pages 30, 32, 40-42
Edward(10) - (spare)	
Edward(12) Kirton / Kearton, of Satron, married & moved to Thwaite, Swaledale North Riding, Yorks.	Generation 14-xx-xx Pages 26, 29, 31.
Edward(13) Kerton / Kearton, Yeoman, of Whitaside, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 19-xx-xx Page 68
Edward(14) Kearton, of Whitaside, Low Whita, Feetham, & Grinton, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 19-xx-xx
Edward(15) Kearton, of Low Whita, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 20-03; 01 Page 74

**G**

Galfrido / Gaufrido / Geoffrey(2) de Kirketon / Kerton, of Appleby, co. Westmorland & of Reeth, Swaledale, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 4-10-03 Page 1, 14, 21-2.
Geoffrey / Jeffery(3) Keyrton of the 1539 Reeth Muster Roll (later moved away or died).	Generation 11-xx-xx Page 17, 18, 22
George(2) Kearton - (Spare)	
George(3) Kearton, Yeoman of Gunnerside, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 14-51; 03 Pages 24, 27, 30
George(5) Kearton/ Kirton, of Lodge Green (circa 1618/9) near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 16-xx-xx Pages 32, 39, 41, 46.
George(5A) Kearton, of Dikehead, Gunnerside, (born c. 1600) North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 15-xx-xx Pages 15-6, 32, 41-2.
George(5B) Kirton, of Gunnerside (possibly born at Morton- upon-Swale, NRY, c. 1639, but later "of Gunnerside")	Generation 18-01; 01 Pages 34-5, 38-9, 42, 44-5, 54.
George(6) Kearton/ Kirton, "Old" George, of Oxnop Hall, at Low Oxnop, near Muker, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire. [born 1660 - 1666]	Generation 19-14; 01 Pages 42, 45, 48-51, 53-8, 61-9, 73.
George(7) Kearton, of Lodge Green, nr, Reeth [born c. 1661] North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 17-xx-xx Pages 39, 45.
George(8) Kearton, of Lodge Green, nr. Reeth [bapt. 1662] North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 17-xx-xx Pages 39, 45.
George(9) Kearton, of Satron, & Ivelet, [bapt. 1654] near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 16-xx-xx Pages 31, 33, 43.

- George(10) Kearton, (Junior), of Oxnop Hall at:-  
Low Oxnop, North Riding of Yorkshire, then of:-  
Kearton's Plantation, St. Patrick's Parish,  
St. Vincent, West Indies. Generation 20-02; 05  
Pages 55-6, 61-4,  
72-3, 75.
- George(11) Kearton, of Gunnerside &  
Lodge Green, near Reeth,  
North Riding of Yorkshire. Generation 17-xx-xx  
Pages 33, 43.
- George(12) Kearton, of Satron & Ivelet,  
near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire. Generation 17-xx-xx  
Pages 33, 43, 52.
- George(13) Kearton, of Satron & Lodge Green,  
near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire. Generation 17-xx-xx  
Pages 33, 43.
- George(14) Kearton, of Low Oxnop, near Reeth,  
North Riding of Yorkshire & unknown. Generation 20-02; 02  
Pages 64, 69, 75
- George(15) Henry Kirton, of Yarm,  
North Riding of Yorkshire. Generation 21-02; 01  
Page 71, 75.
- George(16) Henry Kirton / Kearton(I), of Yarm,  
co. Durham, and the City of London. Generation 21-02; 02  
Pages 61, 63-4, 71-83
- George(17) Kearton, of Ivelet , near Reeth,  
North Riding of Yorkshire. Generation 19-xx-xx  
Pages 43, 52.
- George(18) Kearton, of Hipswell and Hornby,  
North Riding of Yorkshire. Generation 18-xx-xx
- George(19) Kearton, of Hipswell and Downholme,  
North Riding of Yorkshire. Generation 18-xx-xx
- George(20) Kearton, (illegitimate) of co. Westmorland,  
& later the Island of St. Vincent. Generation 22-03; 02  
Pages 63-4.
- George(21) Henry Kirton / Kearton (II), born 1795,  
of London, The Kearton Lead Mill & Shot Mfg. Co.. Generation 22-04; 04  
Pages 62-4, 80, 82-3.
- George(22) Kearton, of Ivelet, near Reeth,  
North Riding of Yorkshire. Generation 20-xx-xx  
Page 52.
- George(23) Kearton, of Ivelet, near Reeth,  
North Riding of Yorkshire. Generation 20-xx-xx  
Page 52.
- George(24) Kearton, of Ivelet, near Reeth,  
North Riding of Yorkshire and London. Generation 20-xx-xx  
Page 52.
- George(25) Henry Kearton (III) of London,  
England. Generation 22-xx-xx  
Page 83.
- Gilbert(1) de Kirkleton / Kyrketon, Sir Knight,  
of Screveton, co. Notts., & of Appleby,  
co. Westmorland. Generation 2-02-02  
Pages 1, 14.
- Gilbert(2) de Kirketon, Under-sheriff, of Appleby,  
co. Westmorland, & Screveton, co. Notts. Generation 4-06; 01  
Page 1.
- H**
- Henry(1) Keyrton, 1539 Muster Roll of Reeth,  
and the (Swaledale) Villages,  
North Riding of Yorkshire. Generation 11-xx-xx  
Pages 17, 18, 23.
- Henry(2) Keirton / Kearton, of Welbury,  
North Riding of Yorkshire. Generation 12-xx-xx

- Henry(6) / Henricus Kerton, of Richmond,  
North Riding of Yorkshire. Generation 14-xx-xx
- Henry(8) Kearton, of Hipswell, and Hudswell,  
North Riding of Yorkshire. Generation 20-04; 03
- Henry(9) Kearton, of Hipswell,  
North Riding of Yorkshire. Generation 18-xx-xx
- Henry(10) Brown Kirton / Kearton, of Whitechapel,  
London, & then Van Dieman's Land (Tasmania). Generation 22-04; 01

## J

- James(1) / Jacob / Jacobus Kearton, of Grinton Parish (1538) and later of Welbury, (died c. 1550)  
North Riding of Yorkshire. Generation 11-xx-xx  
Pages 19, 20, 21.
- James(2) Kearton, of Welbury,  
North Riding of Yorkshire. Generation 12-xx-xx  
Page 20.
- James(3) Kereton, of Satron, near Reeth, North Riding  
of Yorkshire, by 1562 he living in the City of York. Generation 13-16; 02  
Page 23.
- James(4) Kerton / Kearton, of Richmond and Hipswell,  
North Riding of Yorkshire. Generation 12-24; 02
- James(5) Kerton, of Welbury,  
North Riding of Yorkshire. Generation 13-xx-xx  
Page 20
- James(10) Kearton, of Gunnerside, near Reeth,  
North Riding of Yorkshire; but by 1597 he was  
resident in Norrish / Norwich, co. Norfolk. Generation 14-51;01  
Pages 27, 30.
- James(12) Kearton, of Dikehead, Gunnerside & Oxnop,  
(born 1615-20) Moved to: Fremington, Reeth,  
North Riding of Yorkshire. Generation 18-02; 01  
Pages 32, 41, 45-6, 52.
- James(13) Kearton, of Dikehead, near Reeth,  
North Riding of Yorkshire. Generation 18-xx-xx  
Pages 45, 52.
- James(14) Kearton, Yeoman, of Fremington,  
Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire. Generation 16-xx-xx
- James(17) Kearton, of Thwaite, in Swaledale, (born 1699)  
North Riding of Yorkshire. Generation 19-02; 02  
Pages 33, 43, 52.
- James(18) Kirton, of Yarm, [may not be ours ??]  
co. Durham. Generation 21-02; ??  
Page 71.
- James(19) Kearton, of Whitaside, near Reeth,  
North Riding of Yorkshire. Generation 20-xx-xx
- James(20) Kearton, of Thwaite,, near Reeth,  
North Riding of Yorkshire. Generation 22-02; 03  
Page 33.
- John(1) de Kirketon / Kyrketon, Armiger,  
of Screveton, co. Notts. & Appleby,  
co. Westmorland. Generation 3-07-03  
[See "Study", Rev. "Q"]
- John(2) (Bozon) de Kirketon,  
of Aisthorpe, co. Lincolnshire,  
& Saxton / Saxton Wodhouse, West Riding Yorkshire. Generation 4-06; 03  
[See "Study", Rev. "Q"]

John(4) de Kirketon / Kirton / Kerton of Reeth in Swaledale, North Riding of Yorkshire.	(Revised at Revision K) Generation 5-07-01 [See "Study", Rev. "Q"]
John(7) de Kirketon, of Screveton, co. Notts. & later of the Manor of Johnby / Jonby, co. Cumberland.	Generation 6-05; 03 [See "Study", Rev. "Q"]
John(12) through (21) - (spare) [John(22)] Kereton / Keyrton / Kearton, of Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 11-03; 01 Pages 16, 17, 18, 21.
John(26) Kereton / Keyrton, of Satron, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 13-16; 01 Pages 21, 23-4.
John(27) Kearton / Keretonne, of Richmond & of Hipswell, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 13-17; 01 [See "Study", Rev. "Q"]
John(30) Kearton - of Hipswell, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 14-11; 01 [See "Study", Rev. "Q"]
John(31) / Johannis Kerton, of Richmond, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 13-xx-xx
John(32) Keirton / Kirton / Kearton, of Richmond, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 13-xx-xx
John(32A) Kearton of Satron, born 1575, then steward at Burton Constable, then to rental at Low Oxnop.	Generation 14-49; 03 Pages 25-6, 29, 35, 41, 48.
John(35) Kearton, of Lodge Green, near Reeth, NRY. North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 16-33; 03 Pages 30, 31, 32, 39.
John(36) Kirton, of Satron, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 14-xx-xx Pages 25, 29, 31.
John(36a) Kearton / Kearton, of Roxby, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 14-xx-xx
John(37) Kearton / Kirton, The Reverend, of Hipswell & Richmond, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 14-52; 03 [see "Study", Rev. "Q"]
John(38) Kirton, of Welbury, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 14-xx-xx
John(39) Kirton, of Welbury, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 14-xx-xx
John(40) Kearton, of Gunnerside, near Reeth, North Riding, of Yorkshire.	Generation 18-02; 02 Pages 41, 46.
John(41) Kirton, of Lodge Green, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 16-xx-xx Pages 32, 39.
John(42) Kearton, of Satron, Gunnerside, and Lodge Green, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorks..	Generation 16-31; 01 Pages 29, 31, 33.
John(42a) Kerton / Kearton, of Hipswell, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 15-36a-01 [See "Study", Rev. "Q"]
John(43) Kirton, The Reverend, of Hipswell, Aycliffe, Easeby, Catterick, North Riding Yorks.	Generation 15-38-07 [See "Study", Rev. P-3]
John(46) Kearton / Kirton, of Lodge Green, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 17-xx-xx Pages 39, 45.
John(47) Kirton, of Lodge Green, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 17-xx-xx Pages 39, 45.

John(48) Kirton of Gunnerside & Lodge Green, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	(Revised at Revision K) Generation 16-xx-xx Pages 31, 33, 43.
John(48a) Kearton, of Hipswell, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 16-29a; 05 [See "Study", Rev. "Q"]
John(49) Kirton, of Stockton-upon-Tees, co. Durham.	Generation 16-21; 03 [See "Study", Rev. "Q"]
John(50) Kirton, of Stockton-upon-Tees, co. Durham.	Generation 16-21; 05 Page 69
John(51) Kearton, of Thwaite, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 16-32; 02 Pages 29, 31, 33.
John(52) Kirton, of Reeth, Swaledale, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 17-xx-xx Page 47.
John(53) Kearton, of Muker, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 20-02; 06 Pages 56, 73.
John(54) Kearton, of Muker, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 19-xx-xx Pages 55-6, 73-4.
John(55) Kerton, of Whitaside, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 20-03; 06 Page 74.
John(56) Kearton, of Gunnerside, & Lodge Green, near Reeth, NRY.	Generation 17-xx-xx Pages 33, 42-3.
John(57) Kirton, of Lodge Green, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 17-xx-xx Pages 33, 43.
John(58) Kearton, of Gunnerside, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 17-xx-xx Page 33.
John(59) Kearton, of Hipswell & Hornby, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 20-04; 02 [See "Study", Rev. "Q"]
John(60) Kearton, of Thwaite, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 19-09; 01 Pages 33, 43, 52.
John(61) Kirton, of Fremington, Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 18-xx-xx
John(62) Kirton, of Fremington, Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 18-xx-xx
John(63) Kearton, Captain, North Regiment of St. Vincent Militia; Kearton's Plantation, St. Vincent.	Generation 20-01; 01 Pages 55, 62-4, 69, 75.
John(64) Kearton, Whitaside, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 20-xx-xx
John(65) Kearton, Whitaside, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 20-xx-xx
John(66) Kearton, of Ivelet, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 18-xx-xx Pages 43, 52.
John(67) Kearton, of Hipswell & Hornby, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 18-xx-xx
John(68) Kearton, of Hipswell, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 18-xx-xx
John(69) Kearton, of Thwaite, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 22-02; 02 Pages 33, 43.



John(70) Kirton / Kearton, of Yarm, co. Durham; Lawyer, London; & Magistrate on the Island of St. Vincent.	(Revised at Revision K) Generation 22-05; 02 Pages 76, 81, 82, 83.
John(71) Kearton, of Grinton, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation ??-xx-xx
John(72) Kearton, of Gunnerside, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation ??-xx-xx
John(73) Kearton, bapt. 1807, of Barrouallie, St. Patrick's Parish, Island of St. Vincent.	Generation 20-02-01 [See "Study", Rev. "Q"]
[Jordan(1)] de Kirketon, of Alnwick, co. Northumberland & [maybe] Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 4-03; 01 [See "Study", Rev. "Q"]
Jordan(2) de Kirketon / Kirton / Kerton, of Bockenfield, co. Northumberland.	Generation 6-03; 01 [See "Study", Rev. "Q"]
Joseph(3) Kearton, of Whitaside, Grinton Parish, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 18-xx-xx
Joseph(4) Kearton, of Ivelet, Muker Parish, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 18-xx-xx Pages 43, 52.
Joseph(5) Kearton, of Hipswell and Hornby, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 19-xx-xx Page 52.

**L**

Liellus de Kirketon/ Kirkton, of Bockenfield, co. Northumberland.	Generation 6-03; 03 [See "Study", Rev. "Q"]
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**M**



**N**

Nicholas(3) de Kerton = wife Avice of York, Yorkshire - Administration Anno 1398.	Generation 7-xx-xx
Nicholas(4) - (10) - (spares)	
Nicholas(11) Kirton, of Sedgfield, North Riding of Yorks., then of Stockton-upon-Tees, co. Durham.	Generation 15-37; 02 [See "Study", Rev. "Q"]

**O**

Ordinellus de Kirketon / Kirkton, of Bockenfield, co. Northumberland.	Generation 6-03; 02 [See "Study", Rev. {"Q"}]
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**P**

Peter(3) de Kirketon / Kirton, of Saxton & Saxton Wodhouse, co. Yorkshire.	Generation 5-02-01 [See "Study", Rev. "Q"]
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Posthumous Kirton, of West Camel, co. Somerset, & of London. Professional soldier; served in the Low Countries. Then Colonel of a Regiment of the Marquess of Newcastle's Foot, the "White Coats". Killed in action at the Battle of Marston Moor, 1644.

Generation 14-16; 07  
[See "Study", Rev. "Q"]

## R

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|---|--|
| Ralph(2) de Kirketon / Kyrketon, Sir Knight,<br>of Kirketon, co. Lincs., & Alnwick, co. Northumberland. | Generation 3-01; 03<br>[See "Study", Rev. "Q"] |
| [Ralph(5)] de Kirketon, of Alnwick, Northumberland,<br>& possibly also of Calveton, co. Yorks.          | Generation 5-04; 01<br>[See "Study", Rev. "Q"] |
| Ralph(10) Kearton, Yeoman, Recusant, of Gunnerside,<br>near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.           | Generation 15-30; 01<br>Pages 27, 30-2.        |
| Ralph(11) Kearton, of Satron, near Reeth,<br>North Riding of Yorkshire.                                 | Generation 14-49; 02<br>Page 25.               |
| Ralph(12) Kearton, Recusant, of Gunnerside, Satron<br>& Oxnop, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.   | Generation 17-12; 01<br>Pages 32, 40-2.        |
| Ralph(13) Kirton, of Gunnerside, & Fremington,<br>near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.                | Generation 18-02; 03<br>Pages 41, 45-7.        |
| Ralph(14) Kearton / Kirton, of Gunnerside, & Fremington,<br>near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.      | Generation 19-12; 06<br>Pages 44-7, 52-3, 74.  |
| Ralph(15) Kearton, of Fremington, Reeth,<br>North Riding of Yorkshire.                                  | Generation 19-13; 01<br>Pages 47-8, 53.        |
| Ralph(16) Kearton, of Gunnerside & Lodge Green,<br>near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire                | Generation 17-xx-xx<br>Pages 33, 43, 68.       |
| Ralph(17) Kearton, of Fremington, Reeth,<br>North Riding of Yorkshire.                                  | Generation 20-01; 01<br>Page 51.               |
| Ralph(18) Kearton, of Whitaside, near Reeth,<br>North Riding of Yorkshire.                              | Generation 18-xx-xx                            |
| Ralph(19) Kearton, Yeoman, of Ivelet, near Reeth,<br>North Riding of Yorkshire.                         | Generation 18-xx-xx<br>Pages 43, 52.           |
| Ralph(20) Kearton, of Ivelet, near Reeth,<br>North Riding of Yorkshire.                                 | Generation 19-xx-xx<br>Page 52.                |
| Ralph(21) Kearton, of Ivelet, near Reeth,<br>North Riding of Yorkshire.                                 | Generation 19-xx-xx<br>Page 52.                |
| Raper(1) Kearton, of Whitaside, Grinton, near Reeth,<br>North Riding of Yorkshire.                      | Generation 19-xx-xx                            |
| Reginald(1) / Raynauld Keirton / Kearton, of Richmond,<br>North Riding of Yorkshire.                    | Generation 12-xx-xx                            |
| Reginald(2) Kearton, of Richmond,<br>North Riding of Yorkshire.   | Generation 14-xx-xx                            |

Richard(1) to (9) - (spare)

Richard(10) Kirketon / Kirkton, Merchant, of Kingston-upon-Hull, East Riding & City of York.	Generation 10-xx-xx
Richard(11) Kirketon / Kyrton, Sir Priest, of Reeth; Arkylgarth; Topclyff, York & City of York.	Generation ??
Richard(20) Kearton, of Fremington, Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 19-12; 08 Pages 45, 53.
Richard(22) - (spare)	
Robert(1) (no surname, father of Conan) of: - unknown.	Generation 00-xx-xx [See "Study", Rev. "Q"]
Robert(8) to (15) - (spare)	
Robert(16) Kyrketon / Kirkton, Burgess / Memb. of Parlia. Kingston-upon-Hull, East Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 9-02; 01 [See "Study", Rev. "Q"]
Robert(18) Kearton, of Satron, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 13-16; 03 Pages 23, 24, 25.
Robert(19) Kearton, of Hipswell, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 14-11; 02 [See "Study", Rev. "Q"]
Robert(21) Kirton, of Welbury, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 14-xx-xx
Robert(23) Kearton / Kirton, of Easeby, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 16-30; 02 [See "Study", Rev. "Q"]
Roger(1) de Kirketon / Kyrketon, Sir Knight, of Kirketon, co. Lincs., & Alnwick, co. Northumberland.	Generation 3-01; 04 [See "Study", Rev. "Q"]
Roger(3) de Kirketon, of Doncaster, South Riding Yorkshire.	Generation 6-04; 02 [See "Study", Rev. "Q"]
Roger(5) Kearton, of Dikehead, Gunnerside, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 16-xx-xx Pages 32, 41-2.

## S

Simon(2) to (9) - (spares)

Simon(10) / Symon Kereton / Keyrton, 1535 & 1539 Muster Rolls of Reeth & the (Swaledale)Villages, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 11-xx-xx Pages 17, 18, 22, 23.
Simon(11) Kerton, of Satron & Gunnerside, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 13-16; 04 Page 24.
Simon(12) Kearton, of Gunnerside, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 14-51; 01 Page 27.

## T

Thomas(5) to (9) - (spares)

Thomas(10) Keirton / Kearton, of Richmond, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 12-xx-xx
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- Thomas(11) Kirton of London & Thorpe Mandeville,  
co. Northamptonshire. (Revised at Revision K)  
Generation 13-06; 01  
[See "Study" Revision "Q"]  
Generation 13-xx-xx
- Thomas(12) Keirton / Kirton / Kearton,  
of Richmond, North Riding of Yorkshire. Generation 15-35-01  
[See "Study", Revision "Q"]  
Generation 15-xx-xx
- Thomas(16) Kirton, of Welbury,  
then Snailsworth Farm,  
North Riding of Yorkshire. Generation 20-05; 05  
[See "Study", Revision "Q"]  
Generation 20-02; 04  
Pages 55,59-61, 63-4,  
69-73, 81.
- Thomas(21) Kirton / Kearton, of Hipswell,  
moved to Catterick, North Riding of Yorkshire. Generation 21-01; 06  
Page 75.
- Thomas(23) Kearton / Kirton, of Oxnop Hall,  
physician & surgeon of Yarm,  
North Riding of Yorkshire. Generation 21-02; 04  
Page 71.
- Thomas(24) Kearton, of Low Oxnop and Muker,  
near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire. Generation 21-xx-xx  
Page 63-4, 71, 76, 81-2.
- Thomas(25) Kirton, of Yarm,  
North Riding of Yorkshire. Generation 18-xx-xx
- Thomas(26) Kirton, Captain, Master Mariner,  
of Yarm, North Riding of Yorkshire,  
then Hove & Brighton & Shoreham, co. Sussex. Generation 18-xx-xx
- Thomas(27) Kearton, of Hipswell,  
North Riding of Yorkshire. Generation 22-03; 06  
Pages 63-4.
- Thomas(28) Kearton, of Downholme,  
North Riding of Yorkshire. Generation 22-04; 06  
[See "Study" Revision "Q"]  
Generation 22-05; 04  
[See "Study", Revision "Q"]  
Generation 22-05; 07  
Pages 81, 83.
- Thomas(30) Kearton, born on St. Vincent, then of,  
Barrouallie, St. Patrick's Parish, St. Vincent. Generation 22-xx-xx
- Thomas(31) Joshua Kirton, of Hyde Vale & Blackheath,  
London. Generation 22-xx-xx
- Thomas(32) Kirton, of Yarm,  
North Riding of Yorkshire. Generation 22-xx-xx
- Thomas(33) Brown Kirton, Master Mariner,  
of Hove, Steyning, Shoreham & Lewes,  
co. Sussex. Generation 22-xx-xx
- Thomas(34) Saunders Kirton, of Steyning & Shoreham,  
co. Sussex, London & Sidcup, Bromley, co. Kent. Generation 22-xx-xx

V

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W

- William(1) de Kirketon, Sir Knight, of Kirketona / Kirton,  
co. Notts., then acquired lands in Lincs. of the  
Honour of Richmond, co. Yorkshire & subsequently  
moved up to co. Cumberland. Generation 3-03; 02  
[See "Study", Rev. "Q"]
- William(3) de Kirketon, Priest, Vicar of Appleby,  
co. Westmorland & monk in co. Northumberland. Generation 4-6; 02  
[See "Study", Rev. "Q"]

William(7) Kereton / Keyrton, 1539 Muster Roll of:- "Reeth & the Swaledale Villages".	Generation 11-xx-xx Pages 17, 18, 19, 21.
William(12) / Willmus Kearton, of Richmond, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 13-xx-xx
William(13) Keyrton, Yeoman, of Welbury, North Riding of Yorkshire & Northamptonshire.	Generation 13-xx; xx Page 20
William(17) Kearton, of Roxby & Hipswell, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 14-52; 01 [See "Study", Rev. "Q"]
William(18) Kearton / Kerton, of Richmond, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 14-xx-xx
William(19) Kirton, of Welbury, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 14-xx-xx
William(19a) Kerton / Kearton, of Hipswell, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 15-xx-xx
William(25) Kearton, of Gunnerside, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 17-xx-xx Pages 39, 45.
William(26) Kirton, of Lodge Green, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 16-xx-xx Pages 31, 33, 43.
William(27) Kearton / Kirton, of Hipswell, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 16-26-01 [See "Study", Rev. "Q"]
William(28) Kearton, of Hipswell, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 20-25; 03 [See "Study", Rev. "Q"]
William(29) Kirton, of Fremington, Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 17-xx-xx
William(30) Kearton, of Oxnop Hall / Muker, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 20-02; 03 Pages 55, 69.
William(31) Kearton, of Hipswell & Downholme, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 20-04; 04 [See "Study", Rev. "Q"]
William(33) Kearton, of Oxnop / Muker, near Reeth, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 18-14; 03 [See "Study", Rev. "Q"]
William(34) Kearton, of Downholme, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 18-xx-xx
William(35) Kearton, of Downholme, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 18-xx-xx
William(36) Kearton, of Thwaite, North Riding of Yorkshire.	Generation 22-02; 04 Page 43.
William(37) Kearton, Bapt. Muker, 1743	Generation 21-01; 03 Page ?
William(38) Lindow Kearton, (illegitimate) of the Kearton Plantation, St. Vincent.	Generation 22-03; 05 [See "Study", Rev. "Q"]

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**Nota Bene:** Please see my "Appendix 1A" pdf:- "A List of Grinton Parish Owners and Tenants 1538 -1800" - Translation & transcription by Marion Hearfield, 8 Aug., 2008, as extracted from the Bridlington Priory Accounts transcribed from the Charlesworth v Broderick case by Ian Spensley and Mike Gill, via Ian's sister Christine Amsden; which was originally prepared on behalf of the Upper Dales Family History Group.

(continued from Page 1)

Sir Alexander had had a long term relationship dating from 1242 with Robert de Ros, eldest son and heir of Sir William de Ros of Helmsley, co. York, whose family had been amongst the main supporters of Rievaulx Abbey, which then owned the greater part of upper Swaledale, from which, under normal circumstances, its flocks of sheep provided substantial income, however at this time the sheep had been suffering from a severe sickness for some time, which had brought the Abbey into debt.

We have two references, one of which specifically refers to Geoffrey / Galfrido / Jeffery(2) de Kirketon / Kerton :-

1. "Galfrido Kerton, near Reeth, paid 1/15th (2 shillings & nine pence) in 1298 and 1301" (ref.: "Yorkshire Lay Subsidies", 30 Edward I, Yorkshire Archaeological Society, Vol. XXI, pages 8 & 35).

2. From the Vernona Smith MSS, held by the Library of the Society of Genealogists, London, England, Vol. 36, page 43, which states:-

"KIRKETON, KYRTON or KIRTON ARMS:- Argent, a Fesse & a Chevron in Chief, Gules: WESTMORLAND and of REETH, near York, from Westmorland"

(Vernona Smith was a descendant of two Doctor Kirtons, father and son, of Barbados, and was the wife of a captain in the Royal Navy; she was an enthusiastic and well known collector of genealogical records, particularly of the Kirton family, until her death in 1913. This writer has copies of many of her notes, and has often been able to cross-check them to original records; I have yet to find any error in her work.)

There is now no doubt at all that her note about the coat-of-arms borne by Sir Gilbert(1) de Kirketon is accurate, and I think it very likely indeed that the Kirketon / Kerton armiger living near Reeth must indeed have been Sir Gilbert(1)'s grandson, who may have possibly been employed in some lay roll by Rievaulx Abbey.

With regard to the above coat-of-arms I have been able to follow its descent from Sir Gilbert(1) de Kirketon down through the senior line of the family to the 18th. century, and this has been reviewed with and accepted by the College of Arms.

I think that Mrs. Smith's specific mention of 'Reeth' is extremely significant, and almost positively confirms that Geoffrey / Galfrido / Jeffery(2) de Kirketon / Kerton was indeed an armiger living near Reeth, and that it is very probable that he gave his name to the nearby hamlet still known as "Kearton" (or "Kirton" on early maps), high up on the north side of the Dale just west of Reeth.

I now wish to address the National Archives Public Record Office File No. E 36/44, specifically the parts concerning the Muster Rolls taken in the years 1534 and 1539 for the male inhabitants of "Reeth (Grinton) and the Villages" of Swaledale, of men aged between 16 and 60, which allows us to estimate their births over a range of years.

This document had already been transcribed when I received it, but from its composition I do suspect that the original "Reeth (Grinton)" Muster Rolls 'as taken', had subsequently, in ancient times, been joined together, and then had been made into an additional 'alphabetical listing' of all the names recorded. Later, at some point in time, either some of the original 'as taken' rolls were lost, or became unreadable, which would account for the 'double mention' of some names, and the fact that some of them are not duplicated in each list. The incomplete lists shown on the next two pages (3 & 4) were evidently taken from the original, 'as taken' rolls, while the part (sheet 3) taken from the 'alphabetical list' is shown on Page 5.

"MUSTER ROLLS - REETH (GRINTON)  
& THE VILLAGES" Page 1 of 2  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES - PROFILE # E36/44

1534			1539		
Title	First Name	Last Name	Title	First Name	Last Name
	Jamys	Blade	Anton	Atkinson	
	John	Blades	Thomas	Atkinson	
	Richard	Blade	James	Blaide	
	Thomas	Blades	John	Blaide	
			Richard	Blaide	
			William	Blaide	
			John	Blande	
			Lancelot	Bowshaw	
			Anton	Braidrige	
	Edmond	Bradrigge	George	Braidrige	
	John	Bradrigge	Rauf	Braidrige	
			William	Braidrige	
			Robert	Burke	
	Edmond	Carter	George	Carter	
	Geofferay	Carter	George	Carter	
			James	Carter	
	Jamys	Carter	James	Carter	
	Leonard	Carter	Leond	Carter	
	Olyn	Carter	Ottybell	Carter	
	William	Carter			
	Richard	Clerkson	Richard	Clarkson	
	John	Close	John	Close	
Jnr	John	Close	John	Close	
			Rauf	Close	
	William	Cotes	William	Coksild	
	John	Cook	John	Coote (Cooke)	
			Symon	Coote (Cooke)	
	Steven	Crofton	Stephen	Croston	
	Thomas	Crofton			
	William	Crofton			
			William	Dent	
	William	Dowson	William	Dowson	
	Thomas	Emote			
	William	Fylhos			
	Edmond	Fyrbank			
			Henry	Greye	

This and the following page show the actual printouts from E 36/44 'as taken', with labelling added by this writer in order to make these pages more easily understood.

<u>1534</u>		<u>1539</u>	
Christopher	Harkaye	Christopher	Harkay
Myles	Harkaye	John	Harkay
Jamys	Harkey	Myles	Harkay
John	Hutchinson	John	Hochonson
John	Hlyrd	John	Hyrde
Thomas	Johnson	John	Johnson
John	Kereton	Thomas	Johnson
William	Kereton	William	Johnson
? Edmund	Manorst	William	Keyrton
Anthony	Metcalfe	Boward	Manor
Michael	Metcalfe	Anton	Metcalfe
Richard	Morland	James	Metcalfe
Geoffery	Nicholson	John	Metcalfe
Ralph	Paycok	Thomas	Metcalfe
Robert	Paycok	James	Orton
Thomas	Plaice	John	Page
		John	Paycok
		Robert	Paycok

This writer cannot explain the reason or reasons why these Muster Rolls were presented in this format by the P. R. O., but may be they were transcribing old original documents which had been added together in ancient times to combine the results of the 1534 and 1539 Rolls, and all were then added together into a separate 'alphabetical list'. Why all the names do not appear in both lists is unclear, but possibly some parts of the original documents have not survived, or have become unreadable.

[Here please note that we also have the 1552 will and inventory of CUTHBERT(1) KEARTON of Catterick, North Riding, whose connection probably went back to an earlier Generation before JOHN(22), and who had evidently moved away from Grinton Parish well before 1534 (Appendices 1 C/1, 1 C/2 & 1 C/3). Note that Cuthbert(1) also named his first-born son John, so this record is in the right time frame, and may well represent an even earlier JOHN, perhaps in Generation 6 or in 8, who was perhaps a brother of that Sir RICHARD(11) KIRKETON / KYRTON, chaplain & priest of St. Mary's Church, Arkylgarth (ref.: Swaledale / Richmondshire Chart, Rev. D). It also needs to be noted that one of the original three individuals who took the first DNA Y-Chromosome test is provably directly descended in the male line from Cuthbert(1), thus once again confirming that the descent, father to son, went back to an even earlier generation.]



NATIONAL ARCHIVES P.R.O. FILE NO. E 36/44  
 MUSTER ROLLS, 1534 & 1539 FOR REETH  
 (GRINTON) & THE VILLAGES - Alphabetical Page 3 of 5

1534		1539	
		Thomas	Holmer
		William	Hpyying
		Christopher	Hudson
		Robert	Hudson
		Thomas	Hudson
		Thomas	Huntershall
Simon	Hyer	Christopher	Hyrde
Christopher	Hyrd		
Robert	Johnson	Robert	Johnson
Robert	Johnson	Christopher	Keyrton
<u>Christopher</u>	<u>Kereton</u>	<u>Giffray</u>	<u>Keyrton</u>
		<u>Henry</u>	<u>Keyrton</u>
John	Kereton	John	Keyrton
<u>Simon</u>	<u>Kereton</u>	<u>Symon(Symoy)</u>	<u>Keyrton</u>
		<u>William</u>	<u>Keyrton</u>
William	May	Antony	Metcalfe (Ayetcalfe?)
Antony	Metcalfe	Antony	Metcalfe (Ayetcalfe?)
Antony	Metcalfe	Antoy	Metcalfe
Edmund	Metcalfe	Edmund	Metcalfe (Ayetcalfe?)
Frances	Metcalfe	Francis	Metcalfe (Ayetcalfe?)
		Geffray	Metcalfe
		Gyffray	Metcalfe (Ayetcalfe?)
		George	Metcalfe (Ayetcalfe?)
			Metcalfe (Ayetcalfe?)

From the lists of names on the foregoing pages it shows that it in fact we have just five individuals on the 1534 list, with their 'name numbers' which I have assigned to them (and incorporating suggestions made by researcher Kathy Sztanko (nee Kearton)):-

- John(22) Kereton, therefore born after the year 1474, but before the year 1518.
- Christopher(1) Kereton ===== " =====
- William(7) Kereton ===== " =====
- Simon(10) Kereton ===== " =====

Note particularly that whoever made the 1534 Roll was consistent in spelling the name as "Kereton", while whoever made the 1539 Roll was consistent in using "Keyrton".

From the 1539 Roll, five years later, we now have six:-

- John(22) Keyrton, born after the year 1479, but before the year 1523.
- Christopher(1) Keyrton, ===== " =====
- William (7) Keyrton, ===== " =====
- Simon(10) Keyrton, ===== " =====
- Giffray (Geoffrey)(3) Keyrton, ===== " =====
- Henry(1) Keyrton, ===== " =====

From the named individuals in 1534 it is apparent that all were present in what was then Grinton Parish, which included that part of it on the south side of the River Swale. From which, from the wills and documents shown in what follows, we can clearly identify specific individuals in both lists, using my given name numbering system, as follows:-

#### GENERATION 11 (Rev. "K")

=====

**JOHN(22) KERETON / KEYRTON.** The then senior figure of the Swaledale family. However since there is no record of him in Appendix 1A with a land holding on the north side of the river, either this John was fairly old by 1539 & had already surrendered his holding, or, that he only held at Satron. It should also be noted that Simon(10) did have a brother named John who was evidently still alive when Simon(10) wrote his will in 1548 (Appendix 3, Revision "B"), but who also held no tenancy, from which we can conclude that Simon(10) must have been descended from a family whose head had earlier left Swaledale, and that Simon(10) had returned to Gunnerside in Swaledale only as a result of his marriage to his wife CECYLLY at some date prior to 1534, as a result of which he had acquired his late father-in-law's (surname unknown) former tenancy there.

#### GENERATION 12 (Rev. "K")

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**CHRISTOPHER(1) KERETON / KEYRTON,** of Satron, south of the river; his name does not appear in Appendix 1A evidently because Satron was not initially held by the Priory.

**WILLIAM(7) KERETON / KEYRTON,** who we will show with a joint 1538 land tenancy on the north side of the River Swale as a tenant of Bridlington Priory & probably later of the Crown (Appendix 1A).

**SIMON(10) KERETON / KEYRTON,** with a tenancy at Gunnerside, from his 1548 will, (Appendix 3, Revision "B") which he had likely obtained by his marriage prior to 1534, with his wife **CECYLLY** (likely his father-in-law's former tenancy), & their two daughters.

**GIFFRAY (GEOFFREY)(3) & HENRY(1)** both evidently able-bodied, but held no land.

It then became apparent that it was going to be necessary to understand how the land in Grinton Parish was held, and for this we can refer to "The Swaledale Big Dig - Final Report" by the "Swaledale and Arkengarthdale Archaeology Group" (SWAAG), which fully explains this, as follows:-

From page 13:- The entries in the Domesday Book show that Count Alan of Brittany (Penguin (2003) p. 815) had land holdings at Grinton and Reeth of the king.

From page 14:- Count Alan of Brittany was succeeded by his brother Stephen, who, early in the 12th century granted the Manor of Swaledale to Walter de Gant on the occasion of the later's marriage to Stephen's daughter, Maud. This estate consisted mainly of Reeth, Grinton and Fremington (i. e. all of Swaledale on the North side of the River Swale from Fremington westwards).

Sometime around AD 1113 Walter de Gant founded Bridlington Priory, which was actually located in the East Riding of Yorkshire close to the coast, to which his wife Maud gifted the Church of St. Andrew of Swaledale at Grinton, together with Grinton and its surroundings. Subsequently their daughter Alice also gave to the Priory lands on the south side of the River Swale. However it should be noted:-

From page 20:- See Note 80, in which it identifies that the definition: “Reeth cum (with) its hamlets (villages) means all of Swaledale on the North bank (i. e. excluding any on the south bank.).

From page 21:- “Prior to the Reformation much of this land in Swaledale was held by tenants of the Lord of the Manor based on custom. In essence this meant that land was transferred from one person to another through the Manor Court”....”Over time tenants acquired various rights such as a rent fixed for all time and also the right to transfer ‘their’ tenancy to family members”.

From page 22:- The Reformation brought about a major change to Grinton following the Dissolution of the monasteries between 1536 and 1541, after which it was the Crown which retained the lands of Bridlington Priory in Grinton.

In 1544 Sir Thomas Wharton (b. 1498, d. 1568) Warden of the West Marches, and later General Warden of All the Marches, had been made a baron, the 1st Lord Wharton, for his services at Solway Moss, and in that same year was granted the Manor of Muker in fee on a 200 year lease (ref.: “Swaledale - The Spirit Speaks Loud”, Sandra R. Wood, Book III, p. 37). Subsequently he also received a moiety of the Manor of Healaugh directly from King Philip and Queen Mary in 1556.

The Bridlington Priory land tenancies continued, as recorded in the surviving list of Grinton tenants until 1576, except that by 1579 all the customary tenancies had begun to change into 21 year leases, initially from the Crown (ref.: Appendix 1 A, “Grinton owners and tenants 1538 - 1800”) up until the year 1599, when this extensive estate, which evidently initially only extended along the north bank of the Swale, was sold to Richard Wiseman, a London goldsmith, the Crown retaining the mineral rights. Customary tenure did continue through much of the rest of Swaledale, including evidently along the south bank of the Swale in Grinton Parish, particularly including Satron. “In addition to customary tenure, land holdings were adversely affected by partible inheritance, also known as ‘gavelkind’ whereby on the death of a tenant the property was divided amongst all the primary heirs rather than the custom of primogeniture where property would be passed to the eldest male heir”.

In the period between 1534 and 1539, just as the lands of Bridlington Priory were being returned to the Crown, we have evidence that **WILLIAM(7) KERETON / KEYRTON / KYRTON** is named as a tenant with a land holding recorded in Grinton Parish in the names of “**WILLIAM KYRTON + JAMES KYRTON**” in the year 1538, when they held one tenement at “**Overwhitlay**” (which I have not been able to identify) consisting of Steplingsyng (3 small closes), Stayne Yng (2 small closes) & Fecham Holm at 33 shillings & 4 pence, twice per annum in equal parts (ref.: Appendix 1A, “Grinton Owners and Tenants 1538 - 1800” ). In this case it is this writer’s contention that these two were almost certainly brothers, with **WILLIAM(7)** probably eventually either dying sometime after 1539, or moving away, and / or leaving no heirs. and thus surrendering their whole tenancy holding completely to his brother **JAMES(1) KYRTON**. This writer suspects that in order to be named as a co-tenant in 1538 **JAMES(1)** would have been of age, i. e. over 21, so why he was NOT named in the 1539 Muster Roll was possibly because

he was not 'able-bodied', or was away from Swaledale when the muster was held. This is because it is now certain that he was married to a wife (name unknown), with whom he was the father of **ANTHONY(2) KYRTON / KEARTON** of Gunnerside, in my GENERATION 12, who is also named in 'Appendix 1A' as having in the year 1580 held a 21-year lease on "**Upper Whittawe**", along the north side of the River Swale consisting of a total of 10 acres, made up of 3 closes and some Common ground, for an annual rent of 6 shillings & 8 pence. This writer **very much suspects** that "**OVERWHITLAY**" and "**UPPER WHITTAW**" are in fact **ONE AND THE SAME** piece of ground, the holding of which was inherited by **ANTHONY(2)** from his father **JAMES(1) KYRTON** sometime around the year 1550. Subsequently **JAMES(1) KYRTON**'s wife either inherited, or perhaps he had re-married a second wife, whose maiden name may have been 'CARTON' (although this may have been her married name and a scribe's misspelling of it?), which brought to the marriage an evident 'freehold' property at Welbury, in the North Riding. **JAMES(1) KYRTON / KEYRTON** also had two more sons, **JAMES(2)** and **CHRISTOPHER(2) KEYRTON**. **JAMES(1) KYRTON / KEYRTON** died and was buried at Welbury in 1550. His second son, **JAMES(2) KYRTON** inherited this Welbury freehold property, which must have come from his mother's family, & married a **MARGERY** {surname unknown), but then died soon after begetting a son, **JAMES(5) KIRTON**. Margery then remarried (ref.: Appendix 1B, "State Papers-Domestic-Addenda, Elizabeth", Vol. XIII, p. 25, Item 50 Suit.. during the minority of James(5) Kirton of Welbury ....).

Here I need to mention the **DNA Y-Chromosome Testing** which has been undertaken beginning with three individuals named either Kearton or Kirton, all of whom knew that they were descended from the Swaledale family, who took the 'Ancestry.com' test to 46 Markers (alleles) with 100% identical results. Here it should also be noted that the "Y" or male chromosome descends from father to son with minimal mutation over thousands of years, so such results proved that all three were indeed descended from one or more common ancestors, leading back eventually to one common progenitor.

This writer then took an additional "Deep Clade" test to 37 Alleles with Family Tree DNA in the USA, which company then informed me that I had a 100% match over 36 Alleles, with a variation of 1 on the 37th, with a Stephen Douglas Kirton who was from a family which had been living in Canada since the 1830s, having emigrated from Northamptonshire. I then contacted him & he has visited me here. He is very probably a direct descendant of **JAMES(1) KYRTON** via **WILLIAM(13) KEYRTON** of Welbury, who was able to sell his inherited freehold property at Welbury & likely moved to Northants., so **JAMES(1)** is very probably our joint "Most Recent Common Ancestor" (M. R. C. A.).

Stephen can also trace his ancestry back in the maternal line to **URSULA KIRTON** the youngest daughter of **THOMAS(11) KIRTON**, armiger, of Thorpe Mandeville, Northants.. Since that time two more closely related Kirtons have been tested, including one by the US National Geographic 'Geno 2' program. These tests all show that we are in the category:- 'R-DF25/S253' = ISSOG classification:- R1b1a2a1a2c1g2a.

(the writer can provide copies of some of these test results if desired)

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Here please note that since many of the individuals mentioned in what follows were Roman Catholic recusants, who in much of the period being discussed were baptized & married in secret to avoid prosecution, often their only surviving record is their burial.

As mentioned above on Pages 18 - 19, and referring to my Pedigree Chart entitled "Kirketons, Kirtons & Keartons, Version 16".pdf, the writer believes that it is possible to positively identify some of the men on the Muster Rolls as the following individuals:-

GENERATION 11 (Rev. "K")

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**JOHN(22) KERETON / KEYRTON / KEARTON** - In addition to what was already mentioned above on Page 18, my reason for this identification is based mainly on the extremely common practice in my family, of which there are many proven examples, of naming a first-born son of an eldest son after his paternal grandfather. In my numbering of the given 'Christian' names of sons, "John" is by far and away the most common of all, which I believe tends to confirm that all owe their descent directly from John(1) de Kirketon, undersheriff of Appleby, co. Westmoreland, & later of Kirketon Hall, Screveton, co. Notts. which he inherited in 1271 (ref.: my "Study", Revision "P-3").

Furthermore since we are dealing with the very parish where Galfrido(2) de Kirketon had clearly first settled well prior to 1298, and paid taxes, his descendants in the senior line would have been very unlikely to leave or give up copyhold land and buildings (tenements) which the members of this family had held for at least seven generations.

GENERATION 12 (Rev. "K")

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The CHRISTOPHER KERETON / KEYRTON in the Muster Rolls of 1534 and 1539 can only be **CHRISTOPHER(1) KERETON**, of Satron, born after 1479, circa 1491; married circa 1521 to **JANET**, with whom he had several children, beginning with an eldest, surviving first-born son and male heir, **JOHN(26) KERETON / KEARTON**, so it is very likely indeed that **CHRISTOPHER(1)** was indeed the oldest son in GENERATION 11, and that was why their son had been named after Christopher's father John(22). **CHRISTOPHER(1)** wrote his will in March, 1556, see Appendices 2/1, 2/2 & 3/3, and died a few days later.

The WILLIAM KERETON / KEYRTON named in the 1534 & 1539 Muster Rolls can only be **WILLIAM(7) KYRTON**, probably another son of JOHN(22), but who almost certainly left no heirs of his body. As mentioned above, we also see him in 1538 with a land holding from the Bridlington Priory on the north side of the River Swale, held jointly with his probable younger brother, **JAMES(1) KYRTON**. There are no further references to any other William in Swaledale for at least three generations, so it is probable that he had simply died soon after 1539, without heirs of his body, or had moved away, so that **JAMES(1) KYRTON** seems to have inherited the whole of their joint tenancy.

**JAMES(1) KYRTON** - as already mentioned above, almost undoubtedly another son of JOHN(22), with a shared holding in 1538 from Bridlington Priory, which he eventually inherited outright from his brother WILLIAM(7), and which eventually, after **JAMES(1) KYRTON**'s death in 1550, almost for certain was then surrendered to his son:-

GENERATION 12 (Rev. "K") continued):-

**ANTHONY(2) KEARTON / KERTON / KYRTON**, of Gunnerside (see below).

SIMON KERETON / KEYRTON in the Muster Rolls can now be positively identified as **SIMON / SYMOND(10) KERETON / KEYRTON / KEARTON** (certainly not a son of John(22)), of Gunnerside, per his will, WYAS #RD/AP1/53/3 written in 1548 (Appendix 3, Rev. "B"). There seems to be no record of probate for this will, and it is possible that it was originally written perhaps during a bout of sickness from which he subsequently recovered. The will is clear that he is hoping that his brother John would soon produce a male heir, which evidently never occurred. The will clearly identifies his wife, **CECYLLY**, and their daughters, Margaret and Agnes. The 'overseers' of his will are his brother, John (of whom we find no further mention); Anthony Metcallffe (sic Metcalfe) who in 1548 must be that same Anthony Metcalfe named in the "Rievaulx Cartulary" (1889) p. 329, from before 1538, as "Oxhoppe" (sic Oxnop) where Anthony Metcalfe held "tenementi et pasturis" at 6 shillings & 8 pence per annum", which by 1544 had passed into the hands of Lord Wharton, who then held both the "Manor of Muker" and a moiety of the "Manor of Healaugh", the stated 'tenementi' being almost certainly one half of the building now known as "Oxnop Hall", at Low Oxnop, within the Manor of Muker. This same Anthony Metcalfe is also a named witness to the will. One 'overseer' of this will is named as "Anthony Kerton" who this writer is CERTAIN was ANTHONY(2) KERTON / KEARTON, SIMON(10)'s son-in-law, who had married his probable cousin, Simon(10)'s daughter, **AGNES**. It is clear that Simon(10) of Gunnerside held a "farmhold" there which had probably come to him as a result of his marriage to **CECYLLY**, i. e. from copyhold land originally held as a tenancy from Bridlington Priory, probably by Cecylly's father, which would be why **SIMON(10)** is not named in Appendix 1A. The succession of copyhold land was jealously guarded, with every attempt usually being made to retain such land within a family, so marriages to a second or third cousin often are very likely indeed. We have no way of knowing exactly when **SIMON(10)** died; but as we have seen, by 1580 ANTHONY(2) had a 21 year lease at Gunnerside, and in Jan., 1595, when he was convicted of recusancy at the Quarter Sessions at Thirsk, he was stated by the Court to be "**RICHE IN GOODES**". We see no further reference to **SIMON(10)**'s daughter Margaret; so she may have married, or, if she had died, her sister Agnes may have inherited the whole of their father's 'farmhold', which she then brought to her marriage to ANTHONY(2) of Gunnerside. Agnes herself, as shown in Peacock's "Yorkshire Roman Catholics in 1604", Page 68, is very well recorded as a Roman Catholic recusant widow of Gunnerside between 1604 and 1616, but by 1620 she must have died because there is no further mention of her. It is certainly also clear that Anthony(2) and his wife Agnes probably named their second son, Simon(12), after her father; he was evidently the last 'Simon Kearton' to be found in Swaledale in our period.

**GEOFFREY / GIFFRAY / JEFFERY(3) KEYRTON** - I have not found any secondary reference to this individual, whilst being very pleased to see a continued use of a name in Reeth (Grinton) which I believe shows a continuity of descent from that GALFRIDO / GEOFFREY(2) de KIRKETON, who I believe first brought the Kearton / Kirton name down to Swaledale from Appleby. I do think it almost certain that he was a younger brother of Christopher(1), and thus another son of John(22), & had died or moved away.

GENERATION 12 (Rev. "K") (continued):-

**HENRY(1) KEYRTON** - again I have found no further reference to this man in Swaledale, so he probably either died soon after 1539, or had simply moved away. He too most probably was another younger son of JOHN(22) KERETON / KEYRTON.

**GENERATION 13 (Rev. "K")**

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1) **JOHN(26) KERETON** of Satron, eldest son of CHRISTOPHER(1) of Satron. He is named in Christopher(1)'s will (Appendix 2). He had inherited evidently part of his father's farm copyhold in 1556. In 1561, 5 years later, he is again recorded in the "Estates of Thomas, Lord Wharton - Manor of Healaugh. 1561 "Survey of Rentals"" - at Satteron (sic Satron) in which "JOHN KEIRTON held a house and garden with 5 acres of Meadow Pasture - Rent: 11 shillings and 2 pence per annum.". In the end **JOHN(26)** wrote his will (Appendix 4 - Note that it shows a page from "Swaledale Wills and Inventories 1522 - 1600" by Elizabeth Berry, since my copy of the will is illegible.) as JOHN KERETON of Satron in Grinton on 18 December, 1562 (WYAS # RD/AP1/53/20/1). There is no record of probate and the Inventory is undated, but he probably died without heirs of his body soon after the will was written. He mentions no wife so if he had one, she had probably predeceased him, but he names nearly all his siblings. Amongst the witnesses named is another John Kereton, who may be the JOHN, brother of SIMON(10), mentioned above, and Anthony(2) Kereton of Gunnerside. By 1562 it is evident that out of his brothers who were named in his father Christopher(1)'s will, that James(3) has moved away to York, and Robert(18) Kearton, third son of Christopher(1) of Satron, who was named in his elder brother John(26)'s will (Appendix 4), but who had evidently died before the will was written in 1562, so that John(26) only left to Robert(18)'s daughter, Alice a silk doublet which had once belonged to her father, and one brass water container(?) and six sheep.

Many years later however, by 1570, Alice had married a certain Henry Ryder, who proceeded to bring a suit in Chancery Court (ref.: Calendar of Chancery Proceedings, 12 Elizabeth, Vol. II, page 429, Year 1570).

This case does not appear to have been heard for some 27 years!

See Chancery Suit, April, 1597. Ryder & Wife v Christopher Kyrton, who was either Christopher(3), fifth son of Christopher(1), or Christopher(7), Christopher(3)'s eldest son, who by 1597 seems to have taken over the whole of the Satron holding:-

"Henry Ryder claims through Alice his wife as heir to the lands at Satteron in Swadale(sic), co. York, late the Estate of Robert(18) Kyrton deceased - Father of Alice - held by him of Lord Wharton - Christopher(1) Kyrton deceased, late Father of the Defendant, Christopher(3)(or(7)) & also of Robert(18), was seized of the said Property 40 years ago (1557)." (ref.: Vernona Smith MSS, Vol. 36, page 144, Library of the Society of Genealogists, London). Unfortunately she gives no resolution of the case.

2) **JAMES(3) KERETON**, 2nd son of Christopher(1) had left Swaledale and was living in York, as stated in his elder brother's will.

GENERATION 13 (Rev. "K") (Continued)

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3) **ROBERT(18) KERETON**, 3rd son, had married and had a daughter, Alice, but had died before 1562 when his elder brother, John(26) wrote his will. It seems that he may have initially received a share of his father's Satron holding, but after his death this seems to have passed to his younger brother, Christopher(3) and probably subsequently to Christopher(3)'s eldest son, Christopher(7). (See previous page 23)

4) **CHRISTOPHER(3) KERETON** of Satron, the fourth son, born circa 1540, was actually the first of Christopher(1)'s sons to produce a male heir, **CHRISTOPHER(7) KERETON**. His line was probably thus eventually the only inheritors of what must have been the original Satron copyhold.

5) **SIMON(11) KERETON** of Satron, the fifth son. He was still alive in 1566 when his father wrote his will and left Simon(11) some money, but thereafter he vanishes.

Christopher(1)'s two daughters were:-

6) **ELIZABETH**, who married a George Metcalfe, and:-

7) **ALLISON / ALLICEN**, who the writer is quite certain subsequently became the wife of **GEORGE(3) KEARTON** of Gunnerside, the third son of Anthony(2).

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At Gunnerside, on the north side of the River Swale, we have:-

The children of James(1) Kyrton and his possible first (& only?) wife (name unknown):-

1) **ANTHONY(2) KEARTON / KERTON / KIRTON** - Yeoman and householder of Gunnerside, who had probably been born in about 1527, since he was too young to have been listed on the 1539 Muster Roll, but was probably aged over 21 by the time he was named in **SIMON(10)**'s will written in 1548.

It has already been shown above that **ANTHONY(2) KEARTON** in 1580 held a 21 year lease in Grinton Parish, showing that he held "3 small closes" amounting to 10 acres at "**UPPER WHITELAW**" (the location of which has not been positively identified; but is very likely to have been the same ground as had originally been held by his father, James(1)) for an annual rent of 6 shillings & 8 pence (ref.: Appendix 1A, "Grinton Owners and Tenants 1538-1800s", Sheet 3, from Bridlington Priory accounts, from Marion Hearfield). He married almost certainly a probably fairly distant cousin, **AGNES KEARTON**, younger daughter of Simon(10) Kearton of Gunnerside, who brought to the marriage at least part, and possibly all, of her father's holding in Gunnerside. He and **AGNES** had at least three sons and one daughter together.

In January, 1595 **ANTHONY(2) KEARTON** was convicted of Recusancy at the Quarter Session Assizes at Thirsk, the court making the comment, as already mentioned above, that **ANTHONY(2)** was "**RICHE IN GOODS**", which would seem to indicate that he enjoyed a level of prosperity at farming and mining ore.

**ANTHONY(2)** wrote his will (Appendix 5) on the 28th. Nov., 1597 and had died before 30 Nov., 1598 when his Inventory is dated, although I have found no record of his burial.

His will has a number of peculiarities which we will address in detail in what follows.

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Here we need to review the situation with regard to those individuals who had persisted in retaining their Roman Catholic faith in spite of King Henry VIII's break with the Roman Church by 1534. The actual Recusancy Acts were passed during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I in the year 1593, and instituted the legal obligation for Roman Catholics to worship regularly in the Church of England or Anglican parish churches, or face prosecution and civil penalties, which were usually fines, but even in some cases criminal penalties, up to and including death. The Acts were partially repealed in 1650 under Cromwell's Commonwealth, but individuals accused and convicted before 1650 evidently continued to still be required to suffer their penalties.

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**GENERATION 14 (Rev. "K")**

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At Satron we have already discussed **ALICE**, the daughter of Robert(18) Kereton.

The children of Christopher(3) Kereton of Satron & his wife (name unknown):-

1) **CHRISTOPHER(7) KERETON** of Satron, already mentioned above. Born circa 1577, with a wife **PHILLIS**, recorded as the Roman Catholic recusant wife of Christopher Kierton of Setron(sic) (ref.: Quarter Session Records, Vol. III, Part 1, p. 66) in April, 1611. He held a rental from Healaugh Manor in 1633. He was probably the Christopher who was the defendant in the Chancery suit brought by Henry Ryder in 1597 (Page 23). He and **PHILLIS** had one son, John(36) Kereton / Kirton, born about 1612.

2) **RALPH(11) KERETON** of Satron, 2nd son of Christopher(3) - All we know about him is that he had a Satteron(sic) rental in 1633.

3) **JOHN(32A) KEARTON / KIRTON** - after much study I am certain that he is a third son of Christopher(3) of Satron - in the first place we know for certain that he was born in the year 1575 (reported as aged 64 in the year 1639 (ref.: Borthwick Cause Papers #CP.H. 2252) and is indeed that **JOHN KIRTON**, Gentleman, of Burton Constable, in the East Riding of Yorkshire, an alleged Popish recusant, who, from as early as 1620 per: Covenant Deed #DDCC/133/12 naming him and witnessed by him, signed "Jo. or John Kirton", was evidently employed by Sir Henry Constable, Knight, of Burton Constable, who, by 1614 had been made 1st. Viscount Dunbar in the Scottish Peerage. He was probably Sir Henry's Steward, or possibly his Land Agent. This is further supported by the 1635 Inventory (Appendix 6) of his nephew and namesake, JOHN(36) KIRTON of Satron (in Generation 14), which records an outstanding debt owed to "John Kirton of Burton Constable" of 10 English pounds, which tends to confirm that John(32A) was indeed John(36)'s uncle, and probably also his godfather.

Sir Henry was a Roman Catholic and an ardent royalist and in the period leading up to the Civil War was evidently busy dividing up his land holdings into tenancies, probably in order to raise significant funds for what he anticipated was about to happen. John(32A) continued to sign innumerable deeds and other documents on behalf of Sir Henry up until March, 1641. However during the Civil War Sir Henry died of wounds following the Siege of Scarborough in 1645, plus his estates had soon been sequestered by the Parliamentary Committee for Compounding, leaving John(32A) unemployed. For an example of Sir Henry's debts & John(32A)'s own involvement with (continued, Page 26)

them see (ref.: Calendar of Proceedings of the Committee for Compounding, &c, 1643-1660; Cases, 1647 - June 1650, page 2147) (as illustrated below).

The writer believes that it is then that "**JOHN(32A) KIRTON**", who would have needed a job following Sir Henry Constable's death, returned to Swaledale in about 1645, and is the "**JOHN KIRTON**" who then RENTED the Oxnop Hall property at Low Oxnop from Ralph / Raife(12) Kearton and his wife, Margaret(2) Kearton (nee Milner) until **JOHN(32A)**'s death in 1661, aged about 86 (See below for further details).

5 July 1650. Wm. SEYMOUR, merchant of London, petitions that 11 his mother, Lady Jane Seymour, being possessed of a personal estate to a good value, in Oct. 1632 made her will, appointing Sir Wm. Pitt, Edward Pitt, his son, and Richard King, executors, they proved the will, and Edward Pitt and King managed the estate, taking bonds in their own name for it, amongst which one of 19 May 1640, wherein Henry, Viscount Dunbar, John Constable his son, and John Kirton, stood bound in 400l. to Edw. Pitt and Rich. King, for payment of 208l., which belongs to petitioner. Viscount Dunbar's estate being under sequestration, Seymour begs leave to prove his petition.

23 Jan. 1651. Order that Seymour's name be added to the list of 1 creditors.

Also, as described in Vernona Smith's MS, Vol. 36, page 142, at the Society of Genealogists' Library, London. At the top of this page she shows an entry thus:-

From the Registers of Muker, co. York

**JOHN(32A) KEARTON** ===== First wife, name unknown, d. c. 1645,  
of Oxnop Hall |  
b. 1575, died. before her. | ===== **ELIZABETH** (2nd wife)  
(i. e. 1661) | | bur. July 2nd 1663

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i | | | | |  
**EDWARD(12)** **MARGARET** **AGNES** **JENNY (FANNY?)** **JANNI**  
d. 1641 bur. Muker 1635 bap. Muker c.1647 bap. Muker 1648 bap. 1650

There is more to mention about the children of John(32A) and his probable two wives:- 1) unknown and 2) Elizabeth in the next GENERATION 14.

GENERATION 14 (Rev. "K") (continued)

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The children of Anthony(2) and his wife Agnes:-

1) **JAMES(10) KEARTON** - It is clear from Anthony(2)'s will that it is certain that his first-born son was the one so-named in his will, as the grandson of James(1), who was then of 'Norish' (sic Norwich, co. Norfolk), where he was probably involved in the wool trade in what was then England's second largest city after London, but had evidently displeased his father in some way, although it now is certain from other surviving records, that **JAMES(10) KEARTON** did in fact have a son who had remained in Gunnerside, **RALPH(10) KEARTON** of Gunnerside, & who had remained a Roman Catholic (see Generation 14), evidently a farmer, the proofs of which will be forthcoming below. From later events this writer believes that Ralph(10) by 1597 had already taken over some or all of his grandfather Anthony(2)'s lease at Gunnerside, which is why he was not specifically named in Anthony(2)'s 1597 will. We have no other record of **JAMES(10)** anywhere, other than in his father's will, so while he was evidently still alive in 1597, he probably never returned to Swaledale permanently.

2) **SIMON / SYMOND(12) KEARTON**, named after his mother's father, who was likely also his godfather, but **SIMON / SYMOND(12)**, had predeceased his father, almost undoubtedly 'sans progeny', and there are no further 'Simons' recorded in the family.

3) **GEORGE(3) KEARTON** - Yeoman and householder of Gunnerside, born c. 1560 (ref.: Peacock, page 68), who, when Anthony(2) wrote his will in 1597 was still a Roman Catholic, married to his wife Isabell. He was only left two parts of his father's "Grave", which almost undoubtedly refers to his father's mining diggings, probably for 'galena' (lead ore), which evidently formed only part of his father's Gunnerside leasehold. It does seem surprising that his father did not name him as executor of his will instead of his sister, but Anthony(2) must have had his reasons.

**GEORGE(3)** was convicted at the Thirsk Quarter Session Assizes in 1581 as a Roman Catholic recusant, and he and his wife are in Peacock's "List" in 1604, page 68, where **GEORGE(3)** is also identified as the **UNCLE of RALPH(10)**, who was also a Roman Catholic.

**GEORGE(3)** and his wife **ISABELL** do not appear to have ever had any children.

By 1606 **GEORGE(3)** had evidently had enough of the persecution afforded to Roman Catholics in England at this time, so that he took the "Oath of Conformity" thus accepting the Protestant faith (ref.: The North Riding Record Society, Vol. 1, "Quarter Session Records" (1884) page 67):- "Richmond, January 16, 1606/7 - George Kearton of Gouerside (sic), and ....., Recusants, are confirmed, and have nowe (sic) in open Court taken the oath &c."

However his wife **ISABELL** is still recorded as a recusant in Quarter Session Records, Vols. II & III up until 1620 (Vol. II, p. 252), but not later, so by then she must have died.

**GEORGE(3) KEARTON** was later also a witness in 1629 (ref.: Chancery Depositions, Group 1, Elizabeth I to Charles I, Bundle 6, Vol. 4, suit 4).

**GEORGE(3) KEARTON** is for certain the man of that name who was subsequently buried at St. Andrew's Church, Grinton on 30 Nov., 1642 (ref.: Parish Register).

4) **ISABELL ALDERSON** (nee KEARTON) - In an unusual happening for the age Anthony(2) named his married daughter ISABEL ALDERSON, also named on Peacock's 1604 List of Roman Catholics, pg. 68, by then a widow, as his sole executrix - Isabel by 1604 was almost undoubtedly the widow of an Edward Alderson, possibly the one named in the 1539 Muster Roll of Reeth and the Villages (ref.: E 36/44).

In Figure 1 below, note the initials cut into the stone of the archway header which is now above the entrance to the front porch, which we know was reassembled and added on to the front of the Oxnop Hall structure probably sometime between 1685 and 1764, which may have originally come from a house which had once been owned by Edward and Isabel Alderson, probably at Gunnerside, which was dismantled, and reassembled on to the front of Oxnop Hall. Inside the porch still retains the three small carved stone sinks on an inside wall for holy water, typical of a Roman Catholic house. Perhaps the "1685" panel was added to the header when the porch was reinstalled at Oxnop Hall?

Look very closely at the lowest "1685" panel, it does seem to have been cut a bit more deeply than the panels above it, so it MAY possibly have been added, or simply recut, at a later date than the 'letter' panels above it.

"A over E I over 1685", probably stands for "Alderson / Edward & Isabel",



Figure 1

**GENERATION 15 (Rev. "K")**

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In Satron we have Christopher(7) Kereton & his wife Phillis' son:-

1) **JOHN(36) KIRTON** of Satron. He maybe the man who married **ELIS / ALICE LUCAS** in 1618 at Bedale, co. Yorks. (ref.: Boyd's Marriages, p. 392) & later, possibly, an **AGNES**, recusant wife of **JOHN KIRTON**, yeoman of Healaugh, in 1624 (ref.: Quarter Session Records, Vol. III, Part 1, page 221). He held a rental from the Manor of Healaugh in 1633. He died shortly before 24 Feb., 1635/6 when an inventory was made of his goods (Appendix 6 - WYAS #AD/AP1/53/153) and identifying amongst its appraisers: Ralph / Raife(12) Kirton of Oxnop, and Edward(12) Kirton of Thwaite. Note that he owed debts to several individuals named herein, particularly one to his almost undoubted uncle and godfather, John(32A) Kirton of Burton Constable, and one to his first cousin, Edward(12) Kirton of Thwaite. With likely his second wife he was the father of **JOHN(42) KEARTON** of Satron, Gunnerside & Lodge Green, born circa 1629.

In Thwaite, further up Swaledale, we have John(32A)'s son with his 1st wife (name ?):-

1) **EDWARD(12) KIRTON / KEARTON**, born probably to John(32A) and his first wife (name unknown), possibly at Burton Constable, probably in about 1614; he was undoubtedly baptized in secret by a Roman Catholic priest. He had evidently eventually returned to Swaledale where he met and married **JANE** (almost positively a member of the extensive **ALDERSON** family of Thwaite) in about 1639, possibly in a secret, Roman Catholic ceremony. The main reason for believing that Jane was an Alderson was because some years later their son, John(51) Kearton received several pieces of surrendered copyhold land at Thwaite from three different Aldersons.

From the above, and the aforementioned 1635 Inventory of John(36) Kirton of Satron (Appendix 6) for which he was one of the appraisers, shown as "**EDWARD KIRTON** of Thwaite". **EDWARD(12)** and **JANE** (probably nee Alderson) of Thwaite, had two children, a daughter, baptized at Grinton on 1 Nov., 1640 as "Jane Kerton, daughter of Ed Kerton". Followed by a son, John(51) Kearton, son of Ed. Kirton, of Thwaite, born c. 1641 (i. e. both in Generation 15) and born probably in the same year that his father Edward(12) died. He married an **ELINOR** (probably also nee **ALDERSON**) of Thwaite circa 1669. Eleanor was aged about 50 in 1698).

[It is from this **JOHN(51) KEARTON** of Thwaite that Basil E. Kearton of New Zealand is descended ("Yorkshire & Yonder, Families of Keartons", published in New Zealand in 1995, in which see particularly the pedigree on the back of the Table of Contents Page, & at the top of Page 35]. John(51) was Basil's 7th. great-grandfather, and died and was buried on 3 Jan., 1697. This accounts for the story which came down in that family that they had once had an involvement with Oxnop Hall, but evidently John(32A) had only rented the Hall from Ralph / Raife(12) & his wife, and never held it by inherited copyhold.

2) **MARGARITT KEARTON**, probable daughter of John(32A) and his first wife, as shown in the Muker Parish Register & Bishop's Transcript, who had probably been originally baptized in a secret Roman Catholic service, being buried at Muker on 12 Oct., 1635.

From the pedigree shown above (on page 26), **ELIZABETH** was evidently John(32A)'s second wife, & their children are shown on page 26, from the Muker register, including:-

4) "**JENNY**" (possibly **FANNY?**) **KEARTON**, baptized at Muker 21 June, 1648, dau. of John (ref.: Vernona Smith's MSS, Library of the Soc. of Genealogists, Vol. 36, p. 142).

GENERATION 15 (Rev. "K") (continued)

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Over in Gunnerside, on the north side of the River Swale, meanwhile:-  
The son of James(10) Kearton and his unknown wife:-

**RALPH(10) KEARTON**, the son of James(10) Kearton, born probably before 1555 (certainly before 1560) who had evidently remained with his grandfather, Anthony(2) Kearton, and had probably taken over a part of his grandfather Anthony(2)'s Gunnerside leasehold.

The first specific record of him is in 1581, at the Thirsk Quarter Session Assizes, when he was convicted of recusancy, the court actually going so far as to describe Ralph(10) as:- "Evell (sic Evil) Given, and doth Much Hurt " (against the Church of England).

The fact that **RALPH(10)** had likely taken over a part of his grandfather's lease at Gunnerside prior to 1597 probably explains why he was not named in his grandfather's 1597 will.

We next see him in Edward Peacock's "A List of the Roman Catholics in the County of York in 1604" (1872)(taken from the surviving Rawlinson MS. B.452 in the Bodleian Library), page 68, where he is shown as a yeoman of Gunnerside, with his uncle, GEORGE(3) KEARTON Kearton, (the brother of his father, James(10), who was still evidently absent from Swaledale).

It seems probable that his wife **ALLICEN / ALLISON**'s maiden name was in fact also Kereton, and that she was the last daughter of Christopher(1) of Satron, across the River Swale, born certainly before 1555/6, when she had been named in her father's will.

Also shown by Peacock are **RALPH(10)**'s & **ALLICEN / ALLISON**'s children in Generation 15:- 1) ANTHONIE(3); 2) JANE; 3) JOHN(35) in the year 1604.

By 1611 (ref.: Quarter Session Records, Vol. III, page 65) **RALPH(10)** had now died, but the fact that he appears to have had twin children born in 1606, probably means that he was still alive until that year. His wife, **ALLISON KIRTON** is now shown as a widow, and son ANTHONIE(3) is now absent, and a new son, 4) EDWARD(6) has now appeared.

From the Quarter Session Records of 12 July, 1614, page 79, we have:- "Gumerside(sic) - **ALISON** late wife of **RAPHE(sic)(10) KEARTON**, deceased, aged 60." Therefore she was born in about 1554, and on page 80 are their children, although the previously listed ANTHONIE(3) is still absent, and is believed to have moved elsewhere; JANE is now identified as a recusant spinster aged 38, so she had been born in about 1576. JOHN(35) is now shown as aged 26, so he had been born in about 1588. Also a new second daughter is now identified as 5) ELIZABETH, also a spinster aged 22, so born in about 1592. Plus her son EDWARD(6) Kirton, aged 20, and "other unnamed children of the same, all Recusants, aged 8" (presumably the abovementioned twins), who must have been born in 1606, whilst **RALPH(10) KEARTON** was probably still alive.

By 9 July, 1616 in the Quarter Session Records, Vol. II, page 151, **ALISON KEARTON**, widow is still listed (for the last time) and her evidently then surviving children, evidently still in Gunnerside, are shown as:- JOHN(35), EDWARD(6), JANE and ELIZABETH, but the unnamed twins, 6) & 7), who would by now have been aged about 10, have now vanished, so had presumably both died by 1616.

## GENERATION 16 (Rev. "K")

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The son of John(36) Kirton of Satron & one of his probable two wives, Alice or Agnes:-

1) **JOHN(42) KEARTON** of Satron, Gunnerside and Lodge Green. Born c. 1620; an adult by 1650. A member of the Church of England because there is no record of him in Roman Catholic Recusant returns. Held a Satteron(sic) rental from the Healaugh Manor of Lord Wharton's Estate in 1676. He likely died in 1691 when some of his copyhold property at Satron was surrendered to his daughter MARGARET (see details below). His wife's name may have been JOANNA (not confirmed, who may have been a Roman Catholic?); they had children, as follows:- 1) JOHN(48) KIRTON / KEARTON of Gunnerside and Lodge Green; 2) GEORGE(9) KERTON; 3) ELIZABETH KEARTON; 4) WILLIAM(26) KIRTON of Lodge Green; 5) CHRISTOPHER(13) KEARTON of Satron; 6) BRIAN / BRYAN / BRYON(1) KERTON / KEARTON of Gunnerside (& possibly Lodge Green); 7) MARGARET KEARTON.

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The children of Edward(12) Kearton & his wife Jane (prob. nee Alderson) of Thwaite:-

1) **JANE KERTON**, dau. of Ed. Kerton, baptized at Grinton 1 Nov., 1640 (Parish Register page 1), so by then they had evidently joined the Church of England.

2) **JOHN(51) KEARTON** of Thwaite, born evidently late in 1641 or early 1642 by which time his father EDWARD(12) was almost certainly already dead (as shown in Vernona Smith's account on Page 26). His widow ELINOR KEARTON (prob. nee Alderson) continued to live in Thwaite with her children, from whom descended many Keartons.

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The children of Ralph(10) Kearton & his wife Allison (nee Kearton) of Gunnerside:-

1) **ANTHONIE(3) KEARTON of Gunnerside** (ref.: Ed. Peacock, 1604 List, p. 68) born c. 1574, and shown in 1604, but not subsequently in 1611, 1614 or in 1616. This writer very much suspects that he is the man shown as "**ANTH. KEARTON, yeoman**, on a list of recusants dated 5 Oct., 1624", when he would have been aged about 46 (ref.: "Quarter Session Records", Vol. III, Part 1, page 221), who seems to have left Swaledale, although he likely as the eldest son retained a holding there, but was likely still alive and living elsewhere in Yorkshire. He is also very likely to have been the father of two sons, one being **Captain ANTHONY(3A) KEARTON / KIRTON**, born between 1603 - 1613.

2) **JANE / JAINE KEARTON** of Gunnerside; (ref.: Quarter Session Records, Vol. II, p.80) Recusant spinster; born c. 1576 (12 Jul., 1614 aged 38) & 9 Jul., 1616 (p. 151 & Vol. III, pages 65 & 89; Vol. IV, p. 62 & 201); Oct., 1634 still a spinster, now aged 58, and on 4 May, 1641 was publicly proclaimed a recusant at Thirsk aged 65. No burial found.

3) **JOHN(35) KEARTON** of Gunnerside, born c. 1588, recorded as a Roman Catholic recusant by Peacock, p. 68 in 1604, & in 1611 (QSR, Vol. III, p. 65) & in 1614 (QSR, Vol. II, p. 80) when he was stated to be aged 26. I think he is the man who first obtained a lease at Lodge Green (although I am puzzled why, as the apparent eldest resident son he did not stay on what had evidently been his father's home location?). His wife was evidently **DOROTHY** (maiden name unknown) whom he married c. 1625. (She is probably the **DOROTHY KIRTON** recorded as a widow in 1670, & again as a recusant widow, #1215 in 1690, but not thereafter.) They had the following children:-

(in Generation 16):- 1) George(5) Kearton / Kirton; 2) John(41) Kirton;  
3) Christopher(10) Kearton.

4) **ELIZABETH KEARTON** of Gunnerside, born c. 1592, not mentioned by Peacock in 1604, but first appears in 1614 (QSR, Vol. II, p. 80) as a recusant spinster aged 22, dau. of Alison Kirton, widow of Ralph(10), and appears again in 1616 (QSR, Vol. II, p. 151) by then aged 24. She does not appear again, and so had probably married or died.

5) **EDWARD(6) KEARTON** of Dikehead, Gunnerside, born c. 1594; initially recorded in 1611 as a recusant (ref.: QSR, Vol. III, p. 65) and again in 1614, aged 20 (QSR, Vol. II, p. 80) and in 1616 (QSR, Vol. II, p. 151), by which time he would have been aged 22, as the youngest son of Ralph(10) Kearton, and grandson of Anthony(2) Kearton.

He is later identified as an 'Artisan', but what sort of artisan is unclear.

He had evidently established himself on the Dikehead part of Gunnerside.

This writer's 8th. Great-grandfather

Edward(6)'s wife was named **JANAIN / JANA** (maiden name unknown) and they evidently had four sons:-

1) RALPH(12) KEARTON (in Generation 16) being the eldest;

2) ROGER(5) KEARTON;

3) CHRISTOPHER(13A) KEARTON;

4) GEORGE(5A) KEARTON. Born circa 1603.

[Nota Bene: The names of the last three sons all being derived only from Edward(6) Kearton's 1667 Admon. (Appendix 7), however I have been able to find no further information on what became of these three.]

We do not know **EDWARD(6) KEARTON**'s date of death, except that it was earlier than that of his Administration (Admon.), dated 18 January, 1667, WYAS #RD/AP1/54/16 (Appendix 7) filed on behalf of his eldest son RALPH / RAIFE(12) KEARTON of Dikehead, Gunnerside.

It will later be shown that RALPH(12) had died between the years 1650 & 1655, long before this Admon. was completed, i. e. at least 15 years after Ralph(12)'s actual death. [However this writer suspects that completing this Admon. may have been needed for the process leading up to the 1670 Bill of Complaint to the Great Seal of England brought by Ralph(12)'s eldest son, JAMES(12), regarding his inheritance from his father, which did not occur until some twenty years after Ralph(12)'s death, & some three years after the death of Ralph(12)'s wife, Margaret(2).]

[Two other things need to be mentioned in connection with the translation of sheet 3 of RD/AP1/54/16/3 only; the scribe writing it wrote "...**JANAIN KEARTON**, widow and relict of "Johnis" Kearton, formerly of Gunnerside, Parish of Grinton, Artisanat..." Clearly "Johnis" was written in error for "Edward", as is shown on all the other sheets of the Admon..]



## GENERATION 17 (Rev. "K")

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The children of John(42) Kearton of Satron & his probably wife Joanna:-

1) **JOHN(48) KIRTON / KEARTON** of Gunnerside and Lodge Green - born c. 1650, probably Recusant #1196 in 1690, married to **ELLEN / ELLIN / ELLINOR**, Recusant #1197 - Both **JOHN** and **ELLEN** were listed as absent from the Muker Parish church services during 1661 (ref.: QSB, 13 June, 1691). They had two sons, John(56) and George(11). **JOHN(48)** held a tenancy on "Mickle Ing" in April, 1703, but he must have died in that same year, his 1703 Administration WYAS #RD/AP1/54/114 showing his two sons as his heirs.

2) **GEORGE(9) KERTON** - "Baptized at Muker 21 Feb., 1654, son of John Kerton of Satteron (sic)". Basil Kearton identifies him as a lead miner and small farmer of Ivelet; and a Roman Catholic holding a 1676 rental from the Manor of Healaugh at Gunnerside. Married to **Phyllis**. There seems to be no record of his death, but **Phyllis** was buried at Muker on 14 Dec., 1753. They had one son, George(12) Kerton.

3) **ELIZABETH KEARTON**, dau. of John Kerton of Satron, bapt. at Muker 20 Dec., 1659.

4) **WILLIAM(26) KIRTON** of Lodge Green, born c. 1657; wife: **SISELLY**, with a son, John(57) Kirton. Surrendered land to his son John(57) in both 1692 and 1695 (ref.: the Manor Court Book), and died before 4 July, 1696 when an Inventory of his goods was made on 15 March, 1696/7 when his widow **SISELLY** appointed George Simson of Satron as her husband's administrator (ref.: WYAS #RD/AP1/54/98).

5) **CHRISTOPHER(13) KEARTON** of Satron - held a Wharton Estate rental in 1676, & was likely Recusant #1192 of Muker in 1690. In 1696 obtained 1/2 of the surrender of "Mittle Ing" at Gunnerside with his brother **Bryan(1)**, and the whole of it by 1697. He may have never married and had children because on his death in 1713 his heirs were his nephews, **George(9)** and one of the Bryans, probably **Bryan(4)**.

6) **BRIAN / BRYAN / BRYON(1) KERTON / KEARTON**, born c. 1649 (before 1655) - in 1676 held a Wharton Estate rental "part of Gunnerside". After the 11 June, 1684 "Quarrel with Lord Wharton" he obtained a rental at Gunnerside / Lodge Green as **Bryon Kearton** for 20 years at 4 shillings p. a.. When he was aged about 47 he surrendered some copyhold land "1/2 of the close:"Little Ing"" on 20 July, 1696 evidently to one of his brothers. His wife's name was **Rose**, and they had seven children:-

1) George(13); 2) Bryan(2); 3) Christopher(15); 4) John(58); 5) Bryan(3); 6) Bryan (4); 7) Ralph(16).

**Bryan(1)** died and was buried in 1724 aged about 75, and **Rose Kearton**, his widow of Ivelet, was buried at Grinton on 10 Feb., 1749 (ref.: Grinton Parish Register, page 191).

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The children of John(51) Kearton of Thwaite & his wife Elinor (probably nee Alderson):-

1) **JOHN(60) KEARTON** of Thwaite. Born c. 1670, married to **AGNES**; he was alive in 1739. They had four children:- 1) Elinor; 2) John(69); 3) James(20) & 4) William(36)

2) **JAMES(17) KEARTON** - no other information found.

3) **MARY KEARTON** - no other information found.

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GENERATION 17 (Rev. "K") (continued)

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A probable son of Anthony(3) Kearton, originally of Gunnerside, & his unknown wife:-

**CAPTAIN ANTHONY(3A) KEARTON / KYRTON / KIRTON:-** Here I wish to draw attention to the fact that there have been some long standing errors and discrepancies in my family's line of descent, which we have been trying very hard to understand and correct, & which I believe may now be resolved. This concerns the following situations:-

A) A family story reported by the late Lt. Commander DAVID KEARTON, RN & RCN, and by his sister, the late DIANA:- "That the father of "Old" George(6) Kearton / Kirton, a man widely INCORRECTLY publicized in contemporary newspapers as having lived to the age of 124 years [which, from Guinness World Records, would be a World Record for a human male] was an Anthony Kearton / Kirton who had been at the Battle of Marston Moor in June, 1644, where he was said to have served with Prince Rupert's own 'Regiment of Horse'."

B) The finding of a "PETITION" addressed to the Committee for Compounding in Jan., 1654 from an "ANT. KIRTON" (Fig. 2) attempting to compound with the Committee for the return of 2/3 of his pre-Civil War estate, possibly at a place called Morton, which had been sequestered from him on the grounds of his recusancy. It is known that the Committee had begun its business of sequestering estates from Roman Catholic prisoners in early 1645, soon after the Battle of Marston Moor. This tended to support item "A" above, and confirm the family story.

C) The transcription of the Muker Manor Court Book "B", for the period 1700 - 1731, on page 167, which shows the surrender of the Oxnop Hall & farm property to our "Old" George(6) Kearton / Kirton at the Manor Court held on 24 April, 1714 "FROM HIS FATHER ANTHONY". Everybody, including myself, had always assumed that this "Anthony" was the man we have called Anthony(4) Kearton, who had originally 'purchased' the surrender of Oxnop Hall and its farm from his mother, Margaret(2) Kearton in Oct., 1661. However this has now been shown to be impossible, from the fact that Anthony(4) could not have been old enough to be the man in Items "A" & "B" above.

It will now be shown in what follows that the "ANTHO'. KEARTON" from whom "Old" George(6) accepted the surrender **COULD NOT HAVE BEEN ANTHONY(3A) KEARTON / KIRTON**, who I now suspect **MAY** be that "ANTONY(sic) KEARTON" who died and was buried at All Saints' Church, Great Ayton, North Riding of Yorkshire, on 24 Nov., 1701 (ref.: FreeReg), where he seems to have joined his brother's family in his old age, after the death of his wife **ANN**. We will now look at Captain Anthony(3A) in detail:-

**1) CAPTAIN ANTHONY(3A) KEARTON / KYRTON / KIRTON**, born 1603 - 1613. It is possible, as already mentioned above under the entry for his father, that he was indeed the "ANTH. KEARTON, YEOMAN" whose name appears on a list of recusants dated 5 Oct., 1624 (ref.: Quarter Session Records, Vol. III, Part 1, page 221), in which case he would have been over 21, and probably actually had been born in circa 1603.

GENERATION 17 (Rev. "K") (continued)

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He is probably also the man named on 10 April, 1633 in Public Record Office Deed #DDCC/54/51, held by the East Riding of Yorkshire Archives & Records Service, which is a deed between **Sir Henry Constable, Knight, 1st. Viscount Dunbar**, and the wife of a yeoman for the rental of some land, one of many such deeds by **Sir Henry** who was evidently trying to raise funds from his estates; amongst several witnesses to this deed is "**ANT. KYRTON**". This is very probable to have been our **Anthony(3A)**, who was perhaps over in the East Riding visiting with his Swaledale cousin, **John(32A) Kirton / Kyrton**, which is even more likely because they were all, including **Dunbar**, convinced **Roman Catholic** recusants.

We see him once again, by now aged about 31 and evidently still unmarried, in the following:- "**ANTH. KEARTON, Yeoman, publicly proclaimed as a recusant**" on **8 Oct., 1634** (ref.: Thirsk Quarter Sessions, "The North Riding Society of Co. York", Vol. 4, p. 23). He was evidently not then living in Swaledale, but was still living in Yorkshire.

By about 1638 **Anthony(3A)** had married a woman named **ANN** (although we still do not know her surname) who was already, or would soon become, the heir in her own right to an estate, which was possibly located at nearby Morton-upon-Swale (or possibly Morton, in the West Riding of Yorkshire?). This marriage was doubtless conducted in secret by a Roman Catholic priest, so that no record of it survives. By 1639/40 their probable eldest son, **GEORGE(5B) KEARTON / KIRTON** had been born, possibly at Morton, who was also baptized in secret by a Roman Catholic priest so that no record survives (They likely also had a second son named JOHANNES, but the proof of this is insufficient).

As proof that their marriage had indeed taken place they appeared as a married couple when they were charged together with recusancy in May, 1641, and were so convicted together before the Quarter Sessions court at Thirsk, recorded as:-

"**ANTH. KEARTON, yeoman, and ANN his wife**" (ref.: "The North Riding Record Society of County York", Vol. IV, "Recusants", Hang West Wapentake, page 201).

As a result of this marriage **Anthony(3A)** likely held the Morton estate in his own name.

**David and Diana Kearton's** family story was that **ANTHONY(3A) KEARTON / KIRTON**, who had fought at the Battle of Marston Moor, serving specifically in Prince Rupert's own Regiment of Horse, **WAS** our direct ancestor, and had been the father of "Old" **George(6) Kearton / Kirton** of Oxnop Hall, our undoubted ancestor, and they honestly believed this to be a fact. **HOWEVER, we now know for certain that this is clearly impossible.**

At the same time this writer believes that there WAS an element of truth in David's and Diana's story, except that **Captain Anthony(3A) was almost certainly the eldest son of Anthony(3), who was the eldest brother of our direct ancestor Edward(6) Kearton of Swaledale, and was thus a first cousin of our ancestor, Ralph(12).** This probably means that **Captain Anthony(3A)** retained through his father a tenancy holding at Gunnerside, which would explain how his son, **George (5B)** appeared by 1660 and was shown as being "of Gunnerside" when he was married at Muker on 28 Dec., 1660 (see Figure 5 on Page 44). Attempting to prove the truth of the family story, I set out to try & find & understand how this might have occurred during the first English Civil War, which had begun in August, 1642 when King Charles I raised his standard at Nottingham.

This writer therefore approached the British Army Museum at Chelsea, London, to see if they had any information about an **Anthony Kearton or Kirton** serving in a '**Regiment of Horse**' during the First English Civil War.

They reported the existence of a surviving letter from a trooper who had served in "Sir Richard Byron's Regiment of Horse", which stated that the trooper had served in "Captain Kirton's Troop". At the same time the Museum stated that to the best of their then knowledge Sir Richard Byron's Regiment of Horse had only served with the Newark garrison during that town's Siege, when Sir Richard Byron was Governor in 1643 - 4, but as far as they knew had not been present as a unit at the Battle of Marston Moor, which has been stated to have been the largest battle ever fought in Britain.

Sir Richard Byron was a younger brother of Lord John Byron, 1st Baron Byron, who would later command all the 'Horse' of the Royalist Right at Marston Moor.

Sir Richard had initially raised his Regiment of Horse on 20 Dec., 1642, under:-

**"A Brief of such Commissions for the raising of horse and dragoons, as have passed under the Great Seal and sign manuall(sic) since the 10th of October last 1642"** (ref.: "Osprey Military, Elite Series #27, "Soldiers of the English Civil War, 2/ Cavalry" by J. Tincey & A. McBride (1990), page 32; quoting "British Museum Additional Manuscript #18980, folio 20") which initially allowed Sir Richard Byron, Knight, to raise one troop of Horse and one troop of Dragoons (who fought dismounted).

In January, 1644 when the Scottish Army invaded England, both the regional commander, Lord Loughborough, and Sir Richard's Newark garrison (within Loughborough's territory, but quasi-independent, with a direct line to the overall commander in the North, William Cavendish, Marquis of Newcastle) had to send troops north to support Newcastle's attempt to contain the invasion. This had serious consequences for the region, and led to Newark being besieged.

The Parliamentary army's first Siege of Newark began by 2 March, 1644 when its army of between 6-7,000, including 2,000 Horse, surrounded Newark, within which Sir Richard Byron had fewer than 2,000 troops, consisting of 1,200 Foot and the 6 troops of his own Regiment of Horse, or a total of about 300 troopers, at about 50 men per troop.

The subsequent report of the siege (ref.: "Newark on Trent, The Civil War Siegeworks", by The Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England); published by Her Majesty's Stationary Office (1964), pages 81 - 85) specifically names the captains of each of Sir Richard's six Troops of Horse, one of which was "Captain Kirton". Also on page 82 it provides as a source:- "Public Record Office Document #SP29/68", which is the 1663 "List of Indigent Officers" giving the names of former Royalist officers eligible to apply for assistance from the **£60,000** sterling fund set up by King Charles II after his 1660 Restoration. "**Captain Kirton**" is indeed listed under Sir Richard Byron's Regiment of Horse, but his Christian or given name is not shown, which I am reliably informed means that he made no claim against the fund, so maybe by 1663 he had no such need. So, as above, at the time of the Siege each troop of Sir Richard Byron's 'Regiment of Horse' consisted of some 50 troopers under a captain.

The Siege of Newark was relieved by Prince Rupert on 6 March, 1644 whilst on his march towards the city of York, his force consisting of about 6,420 men, including 3,300 horse, amongst which was Prince Rupert's own "Troop of Lifeguards", consisting of 140 men under the command of Captain Sir Richard Crane, as well as Prince Rupert's own "Regiment of Horse", consisting of 500 men under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Dan O'Neale (ref.: *ibid*, HMSO 1964), page 19).

This writer then learned from specialist author Martyn Bennett that after the lifting of the siege Sir Richard Byron is known to have on two occasions provided additional reinforcements from his 'Regiment of Horse' to join the Royalist 'Northern Horse'; also it is clear from the named captains remaining in Sir Richard's Regiment of Horse AFTER the end of March, 1644 (ref.: *ibid*, pages 81 - 85) that the said Regiment now only contained four (4) Troops of Horse (ref.: *ibid*, HMSO (1964), page 55; & :- "The Royalist War Effort in the North Midlands 1642-1646" (1986) by Martyn Bennett. pages 200-201).

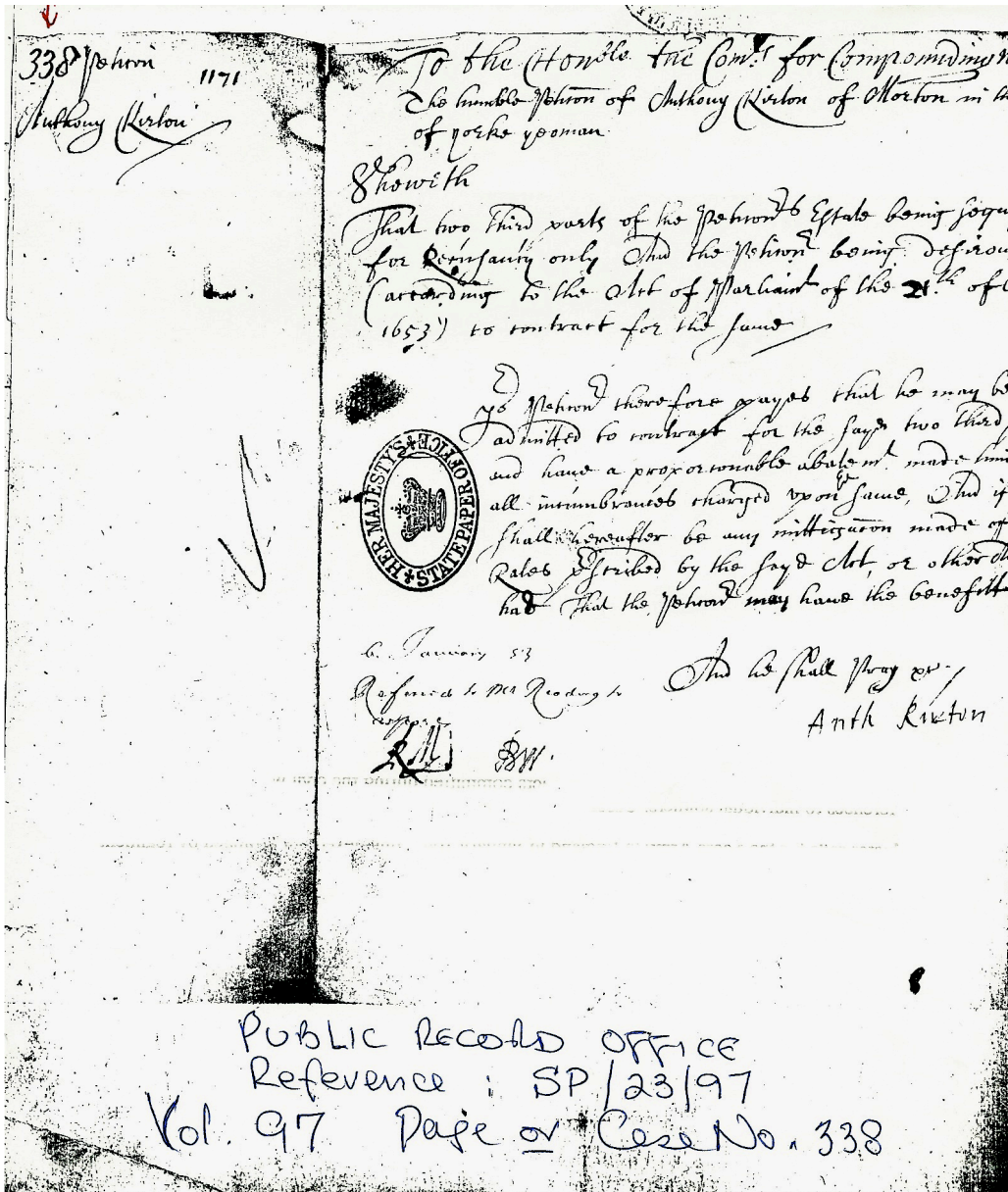
So in May / June, 1644, when Prince Rupert proceeded into Lancashire to begin the campaign which ended at Marston Moor, Captain Kirton, together with his Troop of Horse had evidently been released by Sir Richard Byron, and must indeed have formed one of the reinforcements, and were thus indeed evidently attached to Prince Rupert's own "Regiment of Horse" in time for the Battle of Marston Moor, as in David's and Diana's family story (ref.: Correspondence with Professor Martyn Bennett, Nottingham Trent University, *ibid* & also: "Roman Catholic Royalist Officers in the North Midlands, 1642 - 1646", & the "Journal of Military & Strategic Studies", Autumn 2003, Vol. 6, Issue 2, etc.).

Mr Bennett seems to have no problem at all in accepting that the Captain Kirton of Sir Richard Byron's 'Regiment of Horse' was indeed one and the same man as our Anthony(3A) Kirton, who evidently still held a tenancy at Gunnerside, & he was quite excited to be able to finally identify Captain Kirton more certainly, which also fits in well with Captain Anthony(3A) becoming a prisoner of the victorious Parliamentary army.

Royalist prisoners were well aware that they should, if captured, try to conceal their religion, and their estates, but the Committee for Compounding had been founded in Sept., 1643 with the express purpose of raising funds for the Scots army, which Parliament had undertaken to support (ref.: M. A. E. Greene's "Calendar", Preface page vi), being specifically assigned to drain funds especially from Roman Catholic land holders by sequestering (i. e. impounding) their estates in the name of recusancy. By August, 1644, just after the Battle of Marston Moor, the Committee began to compound with "delinquents" (as they called them) who were then "prisoners", or those whose estates had already been sequestered, and who, for the sake of liberty of persons and lands, were willing, and / or could afford, to come to a compromise with the Committee by sacrificing part of their estate in order to save the remainder (ref.: *ibid*, Preface, page vii; & Yorkshire Archaeological Society, Record Series, Vol. XX, Yorkshire Royalist Composition Papers, Vol. III (1896), page 199, Item No. 635: "Anthony Kirton").

The actual rules for compounding were not fully laid down until August, 1645, so as soon as he was finally released from imprisonment **Anthony(3A) Kirton** must have begun trying to compound with the Committee to try to regain part of his estate (see Page 38).

The "Calendar, Committee for Compounding, Part 5", "Cases before the Committee", HMSO (1892) pages. 3177-3200 show that, in January, 1654, he is named and recorded as "**Ant. Kirton of Hampsthwaite, co. York**", so he may have been moving around the county, awaiting an opportunity to meet with and try to compound with the Committee.



**Figure 2 - Anthony(3A) Kirton's** petition to the Committee for Compounding in January, 1653 (sic 1654) by which he was attempting to compound with the Committee in order to regain two thirds of his original estate, at Hampsthwaite or Morton(?). He may have been successful in regaining part, but it has not been possible to confirm this. Many recusants never did regain their estates, and this may be what happened in this case, which may explain his son, **George(5B) Kirton's** return to Gunnerside by 1660 (?).

GENERATION 17 (Rev. "K") (continued)

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Eventually **Captain ANTHONY(3A) KIRTON** must have been released from imprisonment, and the document in Figure 2 provides proof that he did indeed have a pre-Civil War estate, perhaps at Hampsthwaite or Morton, which had indeed been sequestered for recusancy, & that in 1654 he was still trying to get back at least part of it. By 1660 and the Restoration, he MAY have been able to regain at least part, if not all of his estate, and he and his wife **ANN**, the probable mother of **George(5B) Kirton**, may have continued to live there for many years.

Interestingly there is a burial of an "**ANTONY(sic) KEARTON**" on 24 Nov., 1701 at **Great Ayton, North Riding of Yorkshire** (ref.: FreeReg.) (very near **Stockton**), where there was a family of three generations living, beginning with a **Johannes Kearton**, who first appears there in 1632 when he baptized a daughter, Elizabeth, and who thus MAY be the brother of **ANTHONY(3A)**. Also there is an "**ANNE KEARTON**", an adult, otherwise unattached, **buried nearby at Stockton, co. Durham, on 25 Nov., 1729** (Family Search, England Deaths & Burials, Ref. ID 29, Batch No. B04515-7).

Since "Anthony Kearton / Kirton" is a rare name in Yorkshire, and given the timing, these two may indeed be **Captain ANTHONY(3A)** and his wife **ANN(E) KEARTON / KIRTON**. Perhaps the **George(5B) Kirton**, who appears as a resident of Gunnerside in 1660 (see Figure 5 on Page 44) had returned to Swaledale in order to regain a share of his grandfather, **ANTHONY(3) KEARTON's** Gunnerside leasehold (ref.: Pages 31 & 34); [if George(5B) is NOT the son of Anthony(3A), then this writer is quite unable to account for George(5B)'s ancestry and presence in Gunnerside in 1660!].

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The children of John(35) Kirton of Gunnerside (& Lodge Green?) & his wife Dorothy:-

1) **GEORGE(5) KEARTON / KIRTON** of Lodge Green, bapt. c. 1618 / 9, probably in a secret R. C. ceremony. Married to **DOROTHY** on 29 May, 1638 at St. Andrew's, Grinton, in a Church of England service conducted by Mr. Henry Person. Prob. the George with 1 hearth taxed in Grinton Parish in 1673. Died before 19 Oct. 1675 when his Inventory was prepared. Admin. & Tuition Bonds dated 30 Oct., 1675 (ref.: WYAS RD/AP1/54/36 x 3). He and **DOROTHY** had four children:- 1) John(46); 2) George(7); 3) Jane; 4) Mary. Though married in the Anglican Church, Dorothy seems to have returned to Catholicism & is listed as a recusant widow in 1670 & as #1215 in 1690, but not again thereafter.

2) **JOHN(41) KIRTON** of Lodge Green, born circa 1625. Wife's name not known. Lord Wharton Rental in 1684. "In 1688 brother & heir of George(5) Kirton, deceased - admitted tenant of 1 messuage with certain closes & a meadow "Monbank Bannered Ing" with a cowhouse & 1 piece called "Scartop" with appurtenances in Lodge Green" (ref.: Healaugh Manor Court Record) & "Montbank Croft". Still alive in 1712. He & his wife had 2 children:- 1) George(8) Kirton; 2) John(47) Kirton.

3) **CHRISTOPHER(10) KEARTON** of Gunnerside, born circa 1628. Married, but wife's name not known, but they evidently remained Roman Catholics. Lord Wharton rental in February, 1676. "Absent from Muker Parish Church in 1691" (ref.: QSR, 13 June, 1691). Died 1716 per the Healaugh Manor Court Book. Had a son William(25).

## GENERATION 17 (Rev. "K") (continued)

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The sons of Edward(6) Kearton of Dikehead, Gunnerside & his wife Jana / Janain were:

1) **RALPH / RADULPH / RAIFE(12) KEARTON** - was born in about 1586, and died & was buried at Muker on 19 March, 1657 (ref.: Parish Register.). He is not named in any Roman Catholic recusant records, so was always a member of the Church of England. In about 1614 he married a possible Roman Catholic, **MARGARET(2) MILNER** of Low Oxnop, possibly in a secret Roman Catholic ceremony. Before she had married, she had lived with her parents in the house at Low Oxnop now known as Oxnop Hall.

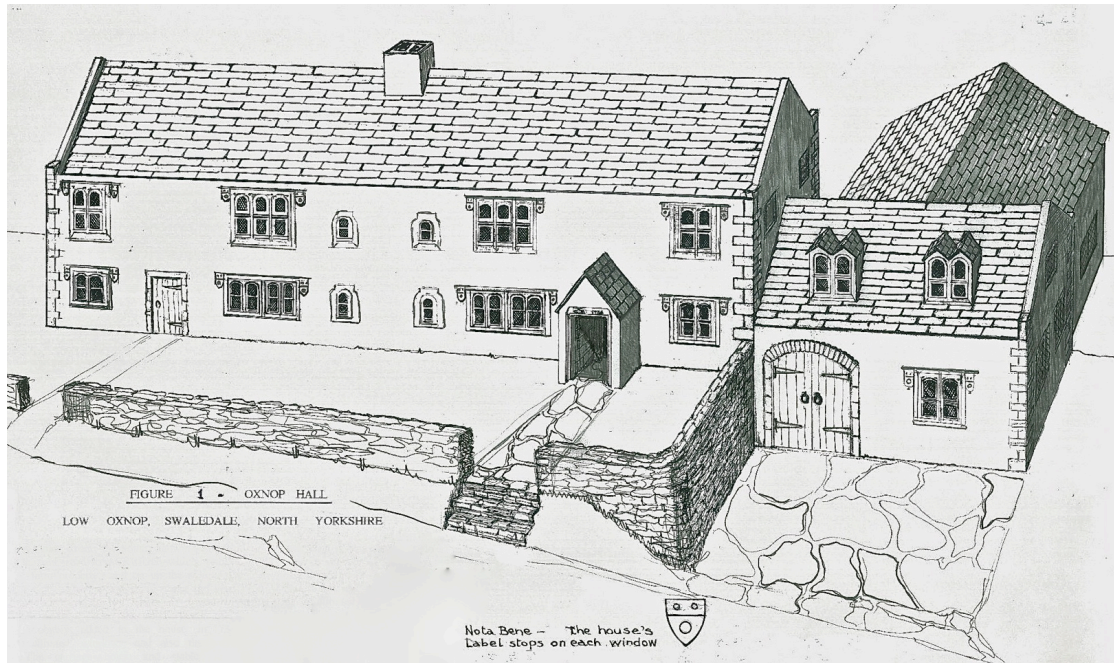


Figure 3 - Oxnop Hall, looking north, as it looked in about 1640, when the original west wall was still intact, and both front doors were still in use, and the original small porch on the eastern door still had its original stone lintle which is now installed on one of the other buildings. The carriage house and stable on the eastern side of the house is based on later descriptions in the Manor Court Books, and the sketch in Figure 24 (see Page 82). Her parents were **ANTHONY MILNER** (born 1535, bur. 16 Mar., 1640, aged 105) and his wife (likely his second wife) **MARGARET(1) (nee Metcalfe)**, respectively: the son of **WILLIAM MILNER** (born circa 1510) and his wife (name unknown); and the daughter of **ANTHONY METCALFE** (born circa 1515) and his wife (name unknown) (ref.: Soc. of Genealogists, V. T. C. Smith MSS, Vol. 36, page 143). Both men had been monastic tenants of Rievaulx Abbey prior to the 1538 Dissolution, which then owned much of Upper Swaledale (ref.: "The Rievaulx Cartulary" (Cartularium Rievallense) (1889), page 329), the house having been originally built for two individual families prior to 1538:- "Oxhoppe(sic). Where Anthonii Metcalfe (at 6 shillings & 8 pence, p.a.) & William Milner (at 26 shillings & 8 pence, p.a.) both had copyhold "tenementi et pasturis" (house & pasture)".



## GENERATION 17 (Rev. "K") (continued)

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**MARGARET(2)**'s father, **ANTHONY MILNER**, born 1535, died and was buried at Muker on 16 March, 1640 (ref.: Muker Parish Register) aged 105 (ref.: "Swaledale - "The Spirit Speaks Loud", Wood, Vol. 3, pages 2, 27, 36, 69, 161 & 163). Her mother, **MARGARET(1)** (born circa 1570) evidently died almost immediately afterwards, leaving **MARGARET(2) KEARTON / KEYRTON** (nee Milner) to thus become the sole surviving heir to the copyhold of the whole of the large "double", two family house at Low Oxnop, and its farm, which would eventually come to be known as "Oxnop Hall" (ref.: Vernona Smith MSS, Soc. of Genealogists, London, Vol. 36, p. 143, in which she states they were taken "From Registers of Muker co. York" (which must have been as they then existed when she was researching and writing her MSS in c. 1885, and in which she mentions having meetings with both John and Bernard Burke at the College of Arms in London). She wrote specifically:-"**MARGARET(2) of OXNOP** as heir of her mother **MARGARET(1)**". This thus resulted in the Deed Poll or Marriage Contract dated in April, 1641 between **RALPH(12) KEARTON** and his wife **MARGARET(2)** by which they were effectively "separate as to property", with **MARGARET(2)** retaining all her rights of the inheritance of the copyhold, plus with the provision that whichever of them outlived the other, the survivor would hold the right of determining the inheritance of the copyhold.

By 1640 they had four sons (See my Appendix 8C.pdf for proof):-

- 1) James(12) Kearton, born 1615-1620 (we know for sure that he was over 21 by 1641).
- 2) John(40) Kearton, born circa 1625.
- 3) Ralph(13) Kearton, born circa 1630.
- 4) Anthony(4) Kearton / Kyrton / Kirton, positively born circa 1635.



Figure 4 - Oxnop Hall as it is today, with the new large porch which was reassembled onto the front of the main house probably in about 1685. The old west wall had collapsed probably after 1764, (its foundations below ground level are still present) the new replacement west wall being relocated eastwards, shortening the house by some 20 feet. The eastern side carriage house wing has had a second story added in later times.

GENERATION 17 (Rev. "K") (continued)

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So in 1641 Mrs. **MARGARET(2) KEARTON / KEYRTON** (nee Milner) inherited the copyhold of Oxnop Hall and its substantial farm as a result of the death of her mother, Mrs. **MARGARET(1) MILNER** (nee **METCALFE**) of Oxnop.. Normally, as things were in those days, the copyhold of Oxnop Hall and its farm would have usually passed almost automatically into her husband's possession; in this case the marriage settlement between **MARGARET(2)** & her husband **RALPH(12) KEARTON** in April, 1641 as a Deed Poll together, was a binding, legal contract, whereby which ever one of them outlived the other would then retain the copyhold inheritance right of Oxnop Hall and its farm, which, while mostly located within the Manor of Muker, even in those days, extended to the eastern side of Oxnop Beck into Satron, within the Manor of Healaugh. From the Appendices 9A, 10, 12, 13A, and 14 to 20 provided, it is clear that **RALPH(12) KEARTON** and his wife **MARGARET(2)** had resided at Oxnop Hall after 1641, and had rented out probably most of its land, from which **RALPH(12)** had taken the profits until his death, and burial at Muker on 19 March, 1657.

After **RALPH(12)**'s death his widow or relict, **MARGARET(2)** exercised her right to hold the whole of the Oxnop Hall copyhold as her own, and to continue to take the profits.

This continued until she evidently made a decision to surrender the copyhold of Oxnop Hall and its landholding exclusively to her youngest son Anthony(4), as he claimed in his 1670 "Answer by Anthony(4) Kearton" (Appendix 13A) for a payment of 80 English pounds, and by her appointing 55 English pounds to her other son, Ralph(13), and for a fine payment of 7 English pounds, 10 shillings to the Lord of the Manor for entry.

So it is now quite clear that Anthony(4) did not "inherit" the Oxnop & Satron property copyholds from his mother, but was able, by the 1641 Deed Poll between his parents, which had ensured that her inherited copyhold property at Oxnop remained in her personal possession after her husband's death, to purchase it from her.

So Anthony(4) did purchase the Oxnop copyhold, which occurred on 4 Oct., 1661.

**MARGARET(2) KEARTON / KEYRTON** (nee **MILNER**) died and was buried at Muker on 29 April, 1668 (ref.: Muker Parish Register).

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The children of Edward(6) Kearton & his wife Jana / Janain (continued):-

2) **ROGER(5) KEARTON** - other than his mention by name in Edward(6)'s Admon. no other information has been found about him. He must have died or moved away.

3) **CHRISTOPHER(13A) KEARTON** - as above, no record found.

4) **GEORGE(5A) KEARTON** - as above, no record found. [I estimate that George(5A) was born circa 1600, so it is certain that he could NOT have been either George(5); or George(5B), born 1639; or "Old" George(6) who we now know was born in about 1663.]

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## GENERATION 18 (Rev. "K")

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The sons of John(48) Kearton / Kirton of Gunnerside & Lodge Green & his wife Ellen:-

- 1) **JOHN(56) KEARTON** of Gunnerside and Lodge Green, born circa 1675. alive in 1703 when he accepted the surrender as heir of his father per the Healaugh Manor Court Book. However unable to make a more positive identification.
- 2) **GEORGE(11) KEARTON** of Gunnerside and Lodge Green, born circa 1677. Alive in 1703 to receive the surrender of "Mickle Ing" according to the Manor Court Book.

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The son of George(9) Kerton of Gunnerside and his wife Phyllis:-

- 1) **GEORGE(12) KEARTON** of Ivelet. Born 1695/6. Married to **ELISABETH FRYER** on 2 Feb., 1722 at St. Andrew's, Grinton "both of this parish" (Parish Register page 140); and Basil Kearton's book "Yorkshire & Yonder - Families of Keartons" (1995), page 341, #01, column 2). They had four sons:- 1) Ralph(19) Kearton; 2) Joseph(4) Kearton; 3) John(66) Kearton & George(17) Kearton. **ELIZABETH** died 17 Jan., 1760, and **GEORGE(12)** died 5 April, 1766, both being buried at Grinton.

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The son of William(26) Kirton of Lodge Green and his wife Siselly:-

- 1) **JOHN(57) KIRTON** of Lodge Green. Born before 1671, he received the surrender of land from his father in both 1692 and 1695, who had died before 4 July, 1696. However he himself seems to have died by late 1696 or early 1697, since he is not named in his father's estate Administration WYAS #RD/AP1/54/98.

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The children of Brian(1) Kerton / Kearton and his wife Rose:-

- 1) **GEORGE(13) KERTON / KEARTON** of Gunnerside & Lodge Green. Bapt. at Muker, Aug., 1696 (Parish Register / Bishop's Transcript / IGI, Batch #C007763). Still alive in 1713/4 when he was named as heir to his uncle **Christopher(13) Kearton** of Satron, but no further information found.
- 2) **BRYAN(2) KERTON / KEARTON**. Bapt. at Muker 1700 (Parish Register). Probably a twin of **Christopher(15)(?)**. Had died before 1702.
- 3) **CHRISTOPHER(15) KERTON / KEARTON**. Bapt. at Muker 2 March, 1700 (ref.: The Bishop's Transcript). Died 1715, aged about 15.
- 4) **JOHN(58) KERTON / KEARTON**. Bapt. at Muker 20 April, 1701/2 (ref.: Bishop's Transcript) & re-baptized by a Roman Catholic priest at Gunnerside -"John, son of Bryan Kearton, on 20 April, 1702." No further record, possibly also died in 1715.
- 5) **BRYAN(3) KERTON / KEARTON**. Bapt. at Muker 1702, died before 1704.
- 6) **BRYAN(4) KERTON / KEARTON**. Bapt. at Muker 1704, buried at Muker 1709
- 7) **RALPH(16) KERTON / KEARTON**. Bapt. at Muker 24 Sept., 1704 (prob. a twin).

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The children of John(60) Kearton of Thwaite & his wife Agnes:-

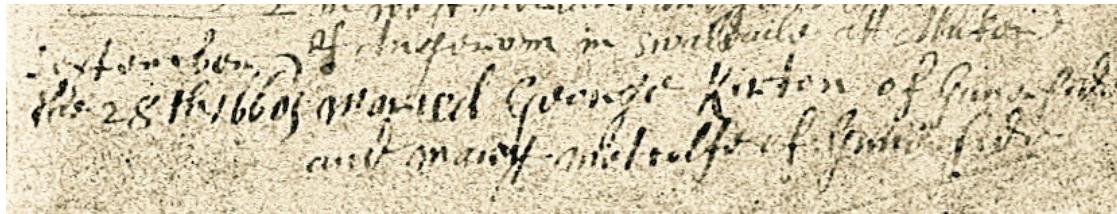
- 1) **ELINOR KEARTON**, b. 19 Nov., 1694; died & buried 8 April, 1727.
- 2) **JOHN(69) KEARTON** of Thwaite, b. 1697; m. 19 April, 1719 to **JANE MILNER**, dau. of **JOHN MILNER**, b. 1699. 4 children (see Basil Kearton's book for details).
- 3) **JAMES(17) KEARTON** of Thwaite, b. 1699; married 1718 to **AGNES TIPLADY**.
- 4) **WILLIAM(36) KEARTON** of Thwaite, buried 1701/2.
- 5) **SARAH KEARTON** of Thwaite, bapt. March, 1703.

GENERATION 18 (Rev. "K") (continued)

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The probable son of Anthony(3A) Kearton / Kyrton / Kirton & his wife Ann:-

**1) GEORGE(5B) KEARTON / KIRTON**, who was likely born in about 1639 at Morton-upon-Swale, in the old north Riding of Yorkshire, the son of the soon to be Captain of Horse, ANTHONY(3A) KEARTON / KYRTON / KIRTON and his wife, ANN, as discussed on Pages 34 - 39, where it was shown that both Anthony(3A) and his wife Ann together, were convicted of recusancy in May, 1641. It has already been shown above the circumstances which had occurred in Anthony(3A)'s life, but by about 1660, it seems probable that **George(5B)** may have returned to live at Gunnerside, probably to take up his grandfather's former holding there, and that it was he, at about the age of 21 on 28 December, 1660, married, the Muker ledger entry clearly identifying that he was now living at Gunnerside, as here shown:-



**Figure 5 - "Dec 28th 1660 I Married George Kirton of Gunnerside  
and Mary Metcalfe of Grinton Parish**

(ref.: Original Muker Parish register entry.)

So he was clearly married at the Muker Church of England 'Chapel of Ease', clearly showing that he was a protestant, and not Roman Catholic. Next year their only child:-

**1) MARY KIRTON**, likely named after her mother, was baptized at Muker on 16 July, 1661 (ref.: Parish Register)

However, after just two years of marriage, on 11 December, 1662, the Muker Register records the death and burial of his wife **MARY**, and her interment as:-

**"Buried the wife of George Kearton of Gunnerside".**

[Note: This appearance of **George(5B)** at Gunnerside cannot be explained by any other surviving record, UNLESS he is indeed a son of **Anthony(3A) KEARTON / KIRTON**].

## GENERATION 18 (Rev. "K") (continued)

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After 2 years **GEORGE(5B) KIRTON** was a widower, with a baby daughter. It is because of the report of him in Gunnerside at this time which **ACCOUNTS for the later error made about the supposed great age of "Old" George(6) Kearton / Kirton.** **GEORGE(5B)** must be the man buried at Grinton, 28 Feb., 1730 (ref.: P. R., page 155).

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The children of George(5) Kearton / Kirton of Lodge Green & his wife Dorothy:-

- 1) **JOHN(46) KEARTON** - born c. 1660; was under 21 in 1675; died before 1688.
- 2) **GEORGE(7) KEARTON** - born c. 1662, deceased before 1688.
- 3) **JANE KEARTON** - born c. 1664, deceased before 1688.
- 4) **MARY KEARTON** - born c. 1665, deceased before 1688.

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The children of John(41) Kirton of Lodge Green & his wife, name unknown:-

- 1) **GEORGE(8) KIRTON** - born c. 1662. Received land from his uncle Christopher(10) Kearton in 1716 (ref.: Healaugh Manor Court Book) but no further record found.
- 2) **JOHN(47) KIRTON** - born c. 1664. Also received land from his uncle Christopher(10) Kearton in 1716 (ref.: Healaugh Manor Court Book) but no further record found.

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The son of Christopher(10) Kearton of Gunnerside & his wife, name unknown:-

- 1) **WILLIAM(25) KEARTON** of Gunnerside, born c. 1660. Roman Catholic, baptized & married in secret. Two daughters, Jane & Mary, but he had died by 1716. Subsequently both daughters, Mary now being married with a son, received land holdings from their grandfather Christopher(10) in 1716 (ref.: Healaugh Manor Court Book).

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The four sons of Ralph(12) Kearton & his wife Margaret(2) Kearton / Keyrton:-

- 1) **JAMES(12) KEARTON** - born in c. 1620. Stated to be 'of Dikehead', Gunnerside, & later of Fremington, was about of age (21) when he married **MARGERIE**, daughter of **DICKINSON HUTCHINSON**, yeoman, in 1640/41. Their 8 children were as follows:-
  - i) Elizabeth, daughter of James Kerton was baptized at St. Andrew's, Grinton on 26 April, 1641 (ref.: Registers / parish church of Grinton, Yorks. Par. Reg. Soc. (1905) p. 2).
  - ii) Margaret. (no baptism record found; her testimony given in August, 1707 (p. 349) as Margaret Charder, when she stated that she was aged 64, i. e. born in 1643, a daughter of "James Kirton, late of Fremington, deceased." Wife of Francis Charder of Reeth). James(12) had moved to Fremington before Nov., 1645 because their next daughter:-
  - iii) Abigail, daughter of James Kearton of Fremington, was baptized at St. Andrew's on 28 Nov., 1645 (ref.: Parish Register, p. 8).
  - iv) James(13) Kearton, a possible twin, and
  - v) Deborah Kearton, (possibly twins), son & dau. of James Kearton of Dikehead, baptized together at St. Andrew's, Grinton, 25 June 1648 (ref.: P. R., p. 8).
  - vi) Ralph(14) Kearton, son of James Kearton of Fremington, baptized at St. Andrew's on 26 Jan., 1650/51 (ref.: The Register of the parish church of Grinton, page 9);
  - vii) Sarray Kearton, daughter of James Kearton of Fremington, baptized at St. Andrew's on 4 Dec., 1653 (P. R., p. 12) and:-
  - viii) Richard(20) Kearton, son of James Kearton of Fremington, baptized at St. Andrew's on 25 Dec., 1665 (P. R., p. 14).

GENERATION 18 (Rev. "K") (continued)

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**JAMES(12) KEARTON (continued):-**

(Note:- The writer can find no other James in Swaledale even close to the time of James(12), so he is convinced that Elizabeth, above, was indeed their first child.)

He & his family were evidently established in Fremington by 1645, & he was probably the James Kearton who was "1 of the 24" in 1661 (P. R., p. 64), & was a church warden at St. Andrew's, Grinton in 1670 (p. 65). He was again "1 of the 24" in 1674 (P. R. p. 74).

From his father he acquired the copyhold lands at Dikehead in Gunnerside worth 15 English pounds sterling per annum, as well as a 1/3rd part of his mother's original small holding in Satron worth 26 shillings & 8d per annum. It evidently greatly distressed him that his mother had allowed Anthony(4) to purchase the copyhold of Oxnop Hall, so in 1670 he made his evidently unsuccessful "Bill of Complaint" (Appendix 7A), which was not to be resolved for a good many years (see also Appendices 16 through 22).

In the year 1673 he must be the "Ja. Kirton" shown as paying taxes on no fewer than 4 Hearths in Reeth Parish (ref.: North Riding, Gilling West Hang West, Reeth, 1673 Hearth Tax Returns) which were likely distributed between Dikehead & Fremington.

He died and was buried at St. Andrew's, Grinton, on 16 June, 1704 (ref.: Parish Register, page 106). Some 6 months later his widow **MARGERY** (nee HUTCHINSON) died and was buried, named as:- "**MARGERY KIRTON** of Reeth" at St. Andrew's, Grinton on 15 Dec., 1704 (ref.: Parish Register). Their 8 children were as shown above.

2) **JOHN(40) KEARTON / KIRTON** - born after 1621, because we know that he had not yet reached the age of 21 by April, 1641 (Appendix 7A). As the second son he likely received a share of the Dikehead, Gunnerside leasehold, plus some financial recompense, as described in the Appendices. However there is no provable record that he married or had children. He is assumed to have died before the year 1668 because he is not mentioned as receiving a share of the land at Satron on the death of his mother Margaret(2) in 1668. However there seems to be no burial records for him at either Grinton, or in the Muker Bishop's Transcripts, or in the Manor Court Records, so he may have died elsewhere. He is reliably reported to have died "before" 1670.

3) **RALPH(13) KEARTON / KIRTON** - born between 1621 - 1638. His wife's name was **LUCY** (maiden name unknown), who had been born in 1640, to whom he had been married in circa 1660. [Note that Appendix 12 (Line 18) shows Ralph(13) with a wife, "**ANNE**"; this is evidently a clerical error, the exact same events being reported in three versions:- James(12)'s, Anthony(4)'s & Charles Driffield's (Appendix 12), but Anne is only named in the latter one, which itself later uses a different wife's name.]

**RALPH(13)**, who is shown as being of both Gunnerside and Fremington, must have received a share of his father's original Gunnerside holding, and on his mother's death in 1668 a 1/3rd share of her Satron holding worth 26 shillings & 8d per annum. However it is clear from his inventory following his death that he and **LUCY** had moved to **Fremington** where **RALPH(13)** evidently had a shop selling "drapery items", his inventory including "rolls of cloth".

GENERATION 18 (Rev. "K") (continued)

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**RALPH(13) KEARTON** and **LUCY** had two children:-

1) **RALPH(15) KEARTON**, baptized at St. Andrew's, Grinton on 3 Jan., 1671, identified as "Ralph Kearton, son of Ralph Kearton of Fremington" (Parish Register (1905), p. 29).

2) **JEAN** (sic **JANE**), 'ye dau. of Ralph Kearton of Fremington", baptized at St. Andrew's, Grinton on 3 Dec., 1673 (ref.: Parish Register, (1905) p. 31).

**RALPH(13)** had died before 21 April, 1684 in Fremington, based on his inventory of that date, shown in WYAS #AP1/54/64/2 (However, strangely, there seems to be no record of his burial in the Grinton Parish Registers; perhaps he was brought back to Muker?).

His widow or relict, **LUCY KEARTON of Fremington**, soon followed, her burial being recorded at St. Andrew's, Grinton on 5 Nov., 1684 (ref.: Parish Register (1905) p. 78).

His WYAS #AP1/54/64/1 Probate stated that: "The condition of this obligation is such that if the above bounden **RALPH KIRTON** of Gunnerside [probably **RALPH(14) KIRTON** of Gunnerside, Ralph(13)'s nephew] and **ANTHONY(4) KIRTON** of Oxnop [**RALPH(13)**'s younger brother] do well and truly administer all and singular the goods rights and credits cattells and chattels of **RALPH(13) & LUCY** late of Fremmington(sic) within the Archdeaconry of Richmond deceased in paying all their debts so far as their good will extend ..... Marked on the back "Adm".

WYAS #AP1/54/64/2 - Inventory dated 21 April, 1684

"of **RALPH(13) KEARTON** late of Fremmington" In the house & In the shop:-  
drapery items, rolls of cloth, etc. 167 English pounds, 14 shillings and 4-1/2d;  
including Debts owing: 65 English pounds, 9 shillings and 1d;  
& less Funeral expenses of 4 English pounds, 14 shillings and 6d;  
& Debts owing by the deceased:- 86 English pounds, 11 shillings and 9d.

Roger Scoville, Geo. Pinkney

**LUCY KEARTON, widow.**

Following **LUCY**'s death:- WYAS #AP1/54/64/3 dated 13 Nov., 1684:

Inventory of the goods and chattels of **LUCY KEARTON** of Fremmington:  
66 English pounds, 5 shillings and 1-1/4d.

Roger Covill, Geo. Pinckney, James Kearton [most probably James(12) Kearton, Ralph(13)'s eldest brother, or possibly his son, James(13)], John Watson.

On the reverse side is the probate record:-

All and singular of **RALPH(13)** and **LUCY KEARTON** of Fremmington, and in their minority curation and education to **RALPH(15)** and **ANTHONY(4) KEARTON**(sic) for **RALPH(15)** and **JANE KIRTON**.

WYAS #AP1/54/64/4 - Tuition Bond - **RALPH(14) KIRTON** of Gunnerside and **ANTHONY(4) KIRTON** of Oxnop and **ALEXANDER BURRED** of Richmond to pay unto **RALPH(15) KIRTON** and **JANE KIRTON** [Note that Jane's name has a line crossed through it?] natural and lawful children of **RALPH(13) KIRTON**(sic) late of Fremmington...when they shall accomplish the age of twenty one years be married or otherwise lawfully demand the same, etc..

Signed: **RALPH(14) KIRTON**, **ANTHONY(4) KIRTON**, **ALEX. BURRELL**

Witnessed: **JO. KIRTON** [Possibly John(52) Kirton, the taylor of Reeth?]

GENERATION 18 (Rev. "K") (continued)

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4) **ANTHONY(4) KEARTON / KEYRTON / KIRTON / KYRTON** was born in circa 1635, and was probably named after his two grandfathers (and he may have even been a godson of Anthony Milner, his mother's father, who was then aged 100, and did not die until 1640) plus his great-great-grandfather **Anthony(2) Kearton**.

Before his mother, **Margaret(2)** died, **ANTHONY(4)** had probably married **ELIZABETH** (maiden name unknown) in about 1659, when he would have been aged about 24, possibly in a Roman Catholic service because no record can be found of the marriage.

Their first child was evidently:-

1) "**OLD**" **GEORGE(6) KEARTON / KIRTON** who was born between 1660 and 1666, (and who may have been baptized in a secret Roman Catholic service(?), which may explain why there seems to be no surviving record of his baptism).

During the year 1661 **JOHN(32A) KIRTON** died, as already shown above on Pages 25 & 26, with the result that **ANTHONY(4)**'s mother, **MARGARET(2) KEYRTON / KIRTON** was going to need to find a new tenant to rent her **Oxnop Hall** copyhold farm. By now she must have been growing old so that she evidently decided to sell the Oxnop holding to her youngest son, probably because he was the most available, and able to buy it.

As is stated in the Vernona T. C. Smith MSS at the Society of Genealogists Library, London, Vol. 36, page 143; and Appendices 9a - 13A - 22:- "**Anthony(4) had Oxnop from his Mother in 1661**". This resulted in her eldest son's 1670 "**Bill of Complaint**" the judgement of which, having been thoroughly reviewed, dragged on until at least 1682, and maybe longer, and must have been very disruptive to relationships between the siblings and their families (See Figure 6 on the next Page 49).

**ANTHONY(4) KEARTON / KIRTON** of Oxnop's marriage to **ELIZABETH** did not last long, and she is probably the "**ELIZABETH KIRTON of OXNOP**" who was buried at Muker on "**(1)2th July, 1664**" (ref.: Original Parish Register from a transcription by E. Cooper). [The point has been made that she is not specifically identified as being the "wife of Anthony", however this writer can provide a scan of a page from the original parish register from this period, which shows that while children being buried are invariably identified together with a parent's name, the burial of adult, married females do NOT seem to be invariably identified with their husband's name. Furthermore, Low Oxnop was a very small area, which in the 17th. century only contained the single farmhouse, so it does seem unlikely that this burial of an adult Elizabeth Kirton can have been of anybody other than **ANTHONY(4)**'s first wife, and "Old George(6)'s mother].

**ELIZABETH MAY** have also been the mother of **ANTHONY(4)**'s second son, and may have died in childbirth having him in 1664(?), his baptism being delayed as a result, or **ANTHONY(4) MAY** have married a second wife, **AGNES**, (maiden name unknown) who died and was buried at Muker in 1668, who ALSO could possibly have been the mother of Ralph(16):-

2) **RALPH(16) KIRTON / KEARTON**, baptized at Muker on 5 April, 1668 (ref.: Parish register). **RALPH(16)** is later identified as being "of Oxnop & Gunnerside", so perhaps he eventually inherited part of his grandfather's former holding at Dikehead, Gunnerside.



GENERATION 18 (rev. "K") (continued)

THE OXNOP PROPERTY OF WHICH GEORGE KEARTON / KIRTON BECAME THE COPYHOLD TENANT ON 24 APRIL, 1714, AS THE INHERITOR OF HIS FATHER ANTHONY WHO HAD DIED IN 1713. Based on the 1841 Tithe Plan, which is probably the most accurate one available, and the 1803 Survey map. The position of the ancient dry-stone walls which divide up the "named" fields remains to this day virtually unchanged from the way they were nearly three hundred years ago, and perhaps even longer.

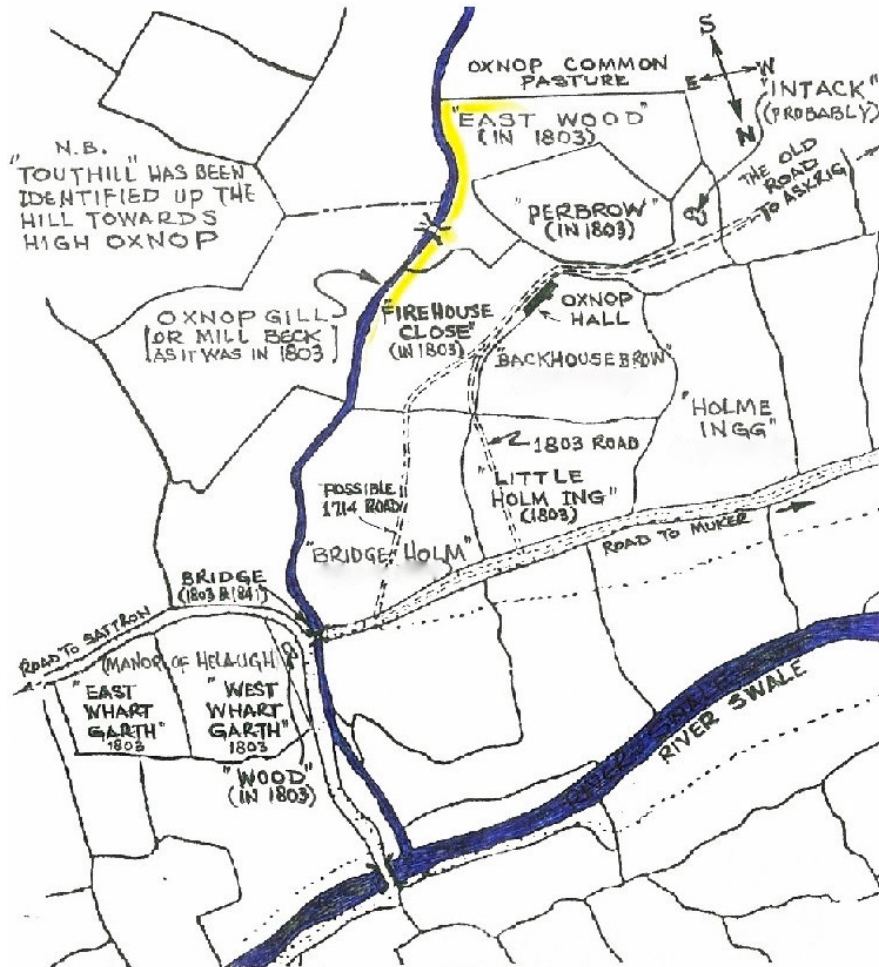


Figure 6 - The overall view of Oxnop Hall and its farm as it probably existed in 1661 when **ANTHONY(4) KEARTON** acquired the copyhold from his mother **MARGARET(2)**, as described in the Appendices 9 A through 13A. As can be seen most of the field names remained more or less unchanged, even if sometimes having the interpretation of the spelling of the names vary to some extent. Note particularly that all the land east of Oxnop Gill falls within the Manor of Healaugh and west of Oxnop Gill into the Manor of Muker. As shown above in the illustration this is also the copyhold property west of the Gill, which passed in 1714 to Anthony(4)'s eldest son "Old" George(6) Kearton / Kirton.

GENERATION 18 (Rev. "K") (continued)

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**MARGARET(2) KEARTON / KEYRTON (nee MILNER) of Oxnop Hall finally died & was buried as "Margareatt Keriton" at Muker on 29 April, 1668 (ref.: Parish Register).**

In about 1670 **ANTHONY(4) KEARTON / KIRTON** evidently married his probable third wife, **MARGARET(3)** (maiden name not known) with whom he had a daughter: **3) ELIZABETH KIRTON**, baptized at Muker on 6 Sept., 1679 (ref.: Parish Register; Bishop's Transcript & IGI Source #0207564) (Anthony was by then aged about 44). **MARGARET(3)** would outlive **ANTHONY(4)**; she died and was buried at Muker in 1743, so she had probably been considerably younger than Anthony(4)).

The 1673 Hearth Tax Returns for the North Riding of Yorkshire, Gilling West Wapentake, in the Township of Muker, show **ANTH. KIRTON** with one hearth (Here it should be noted that the Oxnop Hall 'double-sided' fireplace, which was evidently counted as just 'one' hearth, is still in existence.).

So **ANTHONY(4) KIRTON / KEARTON** lived on at Oxnop Hall as sole holder of the copyhold of Oxnop Hall and its considerable farmland. Please see the tithe map illustration of the property Figure 6. This is a composite map taken from several sources:- an 1803 survey map; an early tithe map, and from references to specific fields from the still extant Muker and Healaugh Manor Court Record Books. In 1693/4, by which time **ANTHONY(4) KEARTON** was aged about 58, he is recorded as being the "Constable of Muker"; although he was later served with a "Bill of Indictment" for having "neglected his office"!

In 1707, **ANTHONY(4) KIRTON** was a witness, making a deposition on behalf of the Lord of the Manor, **THOMAS, 5th. LORD WHARTON, Viscount WINCHINDUE, 5th. Baron Wharton of Wharton**, to be presented before Her Majesty's Court of Exchequer at Westminster, wherein the said Lord Wharton, now the Earl of Wharton, was a complainant against Her Majesty's Attorney General. **ANTHONY(4) KIRTON** responded to two of the interrogatories, giving precise answers demonstrating his extensive knowledge of Swaledale and its ownership and extent. His identity in the Deposition is very clear:- "**ANTHONY KIRTON of OXNOP in Swaledale, aged 72 years and upwards, Sworn & Examined**"(ref.:- Bernau: **ANTHONY KIRTON**, a deponent in Exchequer Depositions by Commission, Yorks. Group 1; Public Record Office File # E134 / 6 Anne / Michaelmas 38 {1707}). So by 1707 **ANTHONY(4) KEARTON** was in the 72nd year of his age, so the year of his birth is confirmed as being about 1635.

**ANTHONY(4) KEARTON / KIRTON** finally died and was buried at Muker on 14 June, 1713, aged about 78.

Note that about two months before **ANTHONY(4)**'s death, at the Healaugh Manor Court on the 16th day of April, 1713 "Old" **GEORGE(6) KEARTON / KIRTON** had

GENERATION 18 (Rev. "K") (continued)

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accepted the surrender, possibly from RALPH(17) KEARTON, of a field in SATTRON identified as "A moiety or half part of a Close called "Thwaite Garth" (ref.: Healaugh & Muker Manor Court Book "B", page 149, 1st item). This writer feels sure that this close is in fact one of the fields shown in Figure 6 lying just east of Oxnop Gill (or "Mill Beck" post 1803), and as identified at later Manor Courts in 1803 as "EAST & WEST WHART GARTH" (Thwaite & Whart seeming to sound quite similar phonetically).

A year later, at a following session of the Muker Manor Court on the 24th day of April, 1714 (ref.: Healaugh & Muker Manor Court Book "B", page 167, 3rd item) all of the fields, closes, pastures, etc. which together constituted the main part of Oxnop Hall and its farm within the Manor of Muker, were duly surrendered from the late Anthony(4) Kearton / Kirton to his son, "Old" GEORGE(6) KIRTON / KEARTON. As can be seen on the map in Figure 6, many of the field names are exactly the same as are specifically mentioned in the Appendices provided, # 9A through # 13A, and these same field names, still with their ancient stone dividing walls, most of which are still standing, are still used..

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**GENERATION 19 (Rev. "K")**

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The four children of George(12) Kearton of Ivelet & his wife Elizabeth (nee Fryor):-

**1) RALPH(19) KEARTON**, yeoman, of Ivelet born 1720 (Basil Kearton's book p. 341); married **ELIZABETH (nee KEARTON)** (which Elizabeth??); 3 children:- 1) George(22) Kearton; 2) Mary Kearton; 3) Ralph(20) Kearton. **RALPH(19) died before 6 May, 1766.**

**2) JOSEPH(4) KEARTON**, of Ivelet, born 1727. Married **MARY HARKER**, 7 children:- 1) George(23) Kearton; 2) Mary Kearton; 3) Christopher(16) Kearton; 4) Phillis Kearton; 5) Anne Kearton; 6) Rosamond Kearton; 7) Joseph(5) Kearton.

**3) JOHN(66) KEARTON**, born & died & buried 24 Jan., 1732.

**4) GEORGE(17) KEARTON**, yeoman, born c. 1735, "Estates at Ivelet & Gunnerside"; married at Kirkby Stephen on 14 Sept., 1761 to **MARGARET ROBINSON**; 5 children:- (the first one out of wedlock) 1) Rosamond Kearton, bapt. 4 Mar., 1757; 2) George(24) Kearton; 3) Ann Kearton; 4) Ralph(21) Kearton; 5) Elizabeth Kearton (twins).

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[Note:- In this Generation 18 the descendants of JOHN(60) KEARTON and JAMES(17) KEARTON both of THWAITE, in Swaledale, are being omitted from this report since they are fully covered in "Yorkshire & Yonder - Families of Keartons" (1995) by Basil E. Kearton, published in New Zealand, which covers the descent to such individuals as the well known naturalists, the brothers Richard and Cherry Kearton, and the late Lord Christopher Frank Kearton, Baron Kearton, OBE, FRS, FRSA (1911-1992) Life Peer.]

The daughter of George(5B) Kirton & his wife Mary (nee Metcalfe) of Gunnerside:-

**1) MARY KIRTON**, baptized at Muker 16 July, 1661 (see also Page 44) - She is possibly the MARY KERTON buried at Muker 5 Nov., 1702

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The two daughters of William(25) Kearton of Gunnerside & his wife (name unknown):-

**1) JANE KEARTON** - No information found other than that she inherited a share of the copy holding of her grandfather, Christopher(10) Kearton in 1716 (ref:- Healaugh Manor Court Book).

**2) MARY KEARTON** - As for her sister, except by 1716 Mary was married (married name not known) and had a son.

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The seven children of James(12) Kearton of Dikehead, Gunnerside & Fremington and his wife Margery (daughter of Dickinson Hutchinson):-

**1) ELIZABETH KEARTON** - Baptized St. Andrew's, Grinton, 26 April, 1641 (P. R., p. 2)  
She married Ralph Hutchinson in March, 1665, aged 24 (P. R., p. 37)

**2) ABIGAIL KEARTON** - Baptized St. Andrew's, Grinton, 28 Nov., 1645 (P. R., p. 8)  
No other record found, possibly married in another parish.

**3) JAMES(13) KEARTON** - Baptized St. Andrew's - a twin - 25 Jun., 1648 (P. R., p. 8)

**4) DEBORAH KEARTON** - -----"-----"----- p. 8)  
No other record found, possibly married in another parish.

**5) RALPH(14) KEARTON** - Baptized at St. Andrew's, Grinton, 26 Jan., 1650/51 (p. 8).  
He appears to be the Ralph Kearton, aged 31, who married Dorothy(sic) Hutchinson at St. Andrew's, Grinton, on 14 July, 1681 (P. R., p. 73).

GENERATION 19 (Rev. "K") (continued)

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6) **SARRAY KEARTON** - Baptized St. Andrew's, Grinton, 4 Dec., 1653 (P. R., p.12).

No further records found, possibly married in another parish.

7) **RICHARD(20) KEARTON** Baptized St. Andrew's, Grinton 25 Dec., 1665 (P. R., p.14)  
& buried at St. Andrew's, Grinton on 15 Sept., 1666, aged ab't. 8 months (P. R., p.55)

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The children of Ralph(13) Kearton, of Dikehead, Gunnerside, later of Fremington, Reeth, Swaledale, and his wife, Lucy:-

1) **RALPH(15) KEARTON**, baptized at St. Andrew's, Grinton on 3 January, 1671/2, identified as "Ralph Kearton, son of Ralph Kearton of Fremington" (P. R. 1905, p. 29). As shown above on page 47, he was orphaned in 1684 when both his parents died in the same year, their Tuition Bond WYAS #AP1/54/64/4 entrusting his education to his older first cousin, Ralph(14) Kearton, and to his uncle Anthony(4) Kearton. However it is impossible to be certain what became of him - he may be the Ralph Kearton of "Healey" (sic), buried at Grinton on 16 Nov., 1686 (P. R., 1905, p. 82) in which case he would have been aged about 14.

2) **JEAN KEARTON** - ye daughter of Ralph Kearton of Fremington, baptized at St. Andrew's, Grinton, in a Church of England service, on 3 December, 1673. She was still evidently alive in 1684, aged about 11, when both her parents died, and her name appears as "**JANE**", but is crossed out, in the Tuition Bond mentioned above which she shared with her brother. There is no record of her burial at Grinton, so what became of her is a mystery - she may conceivably have married before the age of 21 in another parish?

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The children of Anthony(4) Kearton of Gunnerside & Oxnop & his wives, probably Elizabeth, Agnes and Margaret(3):-

1) "**OLD**" **GEORGE(6) KEARTON / KIRTON, gentleman**, of Oxnop Hall, was born between 1660 and 1666, possibly in about 1660, probably a son of Elizabeth, but no record of his birth or baptism seems to have survived, and much misinformation was spread about him after his death in 1764, which needs to be reviewed here to try and discover which parts of his story are positively untrue, and which parts are probably true. **There is ABSOLUTELY NO DOUBT THAT HE WAS NOT in his 124th year of his age when he died in 1764, but he MAY have reached the age of 100, or even 104. How did this story, recorded in what follows, come to be so widely reported?**

**It may be that local rectors in England may have been asked to keep a lookout for the deaths of very old individuals by newspapers seeking copy, and it is certainly true that by about 1750 newspapers had begun to be widely circulated in England. In this case we had the record already illustrated in Figure 5 on Page 44, of the 1660 entry in the surviving original Muker Register of the marriage of "George(5B) Kirton of Gunnerside" and it is likely that the Muker rector who had just buried "Old" GEORGE(6) in 1764, had occasion to look back in his Parish Register, and, by calculating that George(5B) was probably aged about 21 when he married, assumed that he had been born in about 1639, thus mixing up the two Georges,**

GENERATION 19 (Rev. "K") (continued)

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and having no other Georges in the Muker Parish Register, made the erroneous assumption that George(5B) and "Old" GEORGE(6) were one and the same man, and so proceeded to plant the seed of the error, which subsequently spread so far afield. It fooled this writer too, for many, many years!

There are so many stories told about "Old" GEORGE(6) KEARTON / KIRTON that we need to review his stories, to try and see which of them may be factual.

Even now, over three centuries later, there are still stories being told about him, for example:-

On one occasion at the Tan Hill Inn, reputedly the highest inn in Britain, which sits at the high western end of Swaledale, near which sporting events were some times held, something occurred which must have been in about 1683, when George(6) was still a young man. Evidently George(6) thought himself handy with his fists, for the story goes that he challenged the then Westmorland County champion to a bout of bare-knuckle boxing.

After a long, hard fight George(6) is supposed to have finally overcame his competitor, and it is said that the pair then washed away the blood and sweat together in the inn's horse trough, and proceeded to carouse together at the inn for a week, in friendly companionship.

He was also stated to have been well known as a keen fox hunter, and evidently an excellent rider, who rode to hounds regularly at every opportunity until he was aged over 80. This is the sort of fact about which the local Muker rector, who buried George(6), would have had first-hand knowledge, so it is probably true.

Another story told about George(6) is that on one occasion he had hired a gang of miners to dig galena (lead ore) from a mine on the Oxnop Hall property. He evidently supplied the workers with such a bountiful supply of beer, that this act, of perhaps unwise generosity, is still well remembered. Since we know from the Manor Court Records that there was a specific "Brew House" as part of the auxiliary buildings facing Oxnop Hall, where the family's beer and ale was prepared, this story is very likely also true, as was the story of 'no man making freer with his bottle', of which the Muker rector may have also had first-hand experience.

GEORGE(6) married on 25 Feb., 1711, at the age of about 48, at the Muker Chapel of Ease, evidently for the first time, to a much younger wife named MARY. From the record illustrated in Figure 7 (following) it is very likely indeed that her maiden name was STOCKTON, and FreeReg Record #5463bffa937902782573a01 shows a MARY STOCKTON, daughter of Robert Stockton of Aldborough, Richmondshire, baptized at Stanwick St. John, just north east of Richmond, on 6 Jan., 1681/82.

As already described, his father, Anthony(4) having died in 1713 aged about 78, "Old" GEORGE(6) became his father's sole heir to the copyhold of Oxnop Hall, and its considerable farmland in 1714, although he had actually probably been living there for some time, and operating the farm for his elderly father, or possibly just renting out the land to others, as his grandparents had done.

GENERATION 19 (Rev. "K") (continued)

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**"Old" GEORGE(6) KEARTON / KIRTON and his new, young wife MARY soon began to have children, as follows:-**

**1) ANTHONY(6) KEARTON, named no doubt after his grandfather, baptized at Muker on 9 February, 1713 (ref.: Parish Register).**

**2) ELIZABETH KIRTON / KEARTON, baptized at Muker on 10 Aug., 1714. The Muker Bishop's Transcript for 1726 does have a mostly illegible entry for an "Eliz. Kerton (sic) of — — buried 23/1/1726" and, according to Vernona Smith's MSS she died aged 13, & was buried in 1727. Also she does certainly not appear in her sister Mary's pre-1768 list of the surviving siblings.**

**3) WILLIAM(30) KEARTON, baptized at Muker on 25 Mar., 1717 (ref.: the Muker Bishop's Transcript). He is not named in his sister Mary's pre-1768 list of surviving siblings, nor in George(10)'s 1768 will written on St. Vincent, so he had probably died before the year 1768. So is likely the William Kearton buried at Muker in 1756, & would have been aged about 39 when he died before his father.**

**4) THOMAS(23) KEARTON / KIRTON, baptized at Muker Chapel on 3 Feb., 1719. (This writer's 4th. great-grandfather). Became a surgeon, an apothecary and a physician, with practices at Yarm, North Riding Yorks. & at Stockton, co. Durham. He had an estate at Preston-upon-Tees, co. Durham, halfway between his two practices (now buried beneath a roadway interchange). He inherited the copyhold of Oxnop Hall and its farm from his younger brother, George(10) by his will written on St. Vincent, following his death there in 1783. However the will was not probated in England until 1801, by which time Thomas(23) was over 80 and likely was unable to get back to the Manor Courts in Swaledale, a task which was left to his eldest son after Thomas(23)'s death in 1803. (The writer still has copies of his marriage licence, and both a gold-mounted miniature (see Figure 16, Page 70) and a large oil painting of him, and a copy of his original will).**

**5) GEORGE(10) KEARTON, baptized at Muker Chapel on 25 Feb., 1722. He initially seems to have inherited the Oxnop Hall copyhold from his father, possibly jointly with his younger brother John(54), perhaps as the only two sons currently then available to do so; although, evidently just prior to their father's actual death in 1764 he purchased a 1/2 share of a sugar plantation on St. Vincent, in the Caribbean, & he and John(54) also shared in the purchase of another 300 acre plantation on the island of Tobago, both evidently immediately leaving to manage these plantations. It seems clear that John(54) soon died, the Tobago plantation being soon resold. George(10)'s will written on the Island of St. Vincent in 1773 left the inheritance of the Oxnop Hall copyhold (his "Yorkshire Estate" being how he identified it) initially to his mother, & then to his elder brother Thomas(23) Kearton / Kirton. He died on St. Vincent, unmarried, in 1783, leaving the "Kearton's Plantation" to his nephew, JOHN(63) KEARTON.**

GENERATION 19 (Rev. "K") (continued)

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**6) JOHN(53) KEARTON**, baptized at Muker Chapel on 22 Jul., 1725. However this boy died, and was buried just 11 days later at Muker on 2 Aug., 1725.

**7) MARY KEARTON**, baptized at Muker Chapel on 4 May, 1728. She married, becoming Mrs MARY DAGNAY, as she wrote on the list which she prepared sometime before the year 1768 (Figure 11, Page 62) listing herself and her then living siblings, i. e. her three then surviving brothers. [This list was preserved in a case which was preserved by Thomas(23)'s eldest son, and passed down to the late David Kearton]. In Figure 7 we see that she evidently died without issue.

**8) JOHN(54) KEARTON**, bapt. Muker 23 Mar., 1730. When his brother George(10) bought the moiety of the plantation on St. Vincent in 1764, George(10) & JOHN(54) together purchased another plantation on the Island of Tobago, in the Courland Bay Division, on the North West coast of the island, Lot No. 4, of 300 acres, which was about the same size as the one on St. Vincent, evidently for JOHN(54) to operate (ref.: University College London, "Legacies of British Slave-ownership"). There cannot be much doubt that JOHN(54) succumbed to one of the diseases so prevalent then in the tropics; with no further mention of him on the island, & Lot No. 4 soon shown with new owners. He is not named in his sister Mary's list of siblings (Fig. 11, Page 62), nor in George(10)'s will, so he had certainly died before 1768.

Showing that "Old" GEORGE(6) KEARTON / KIRTON was indeed their father, at least in the case of THOMAS(23) KEARTON / KIRTON, the writer's fourth great-grandfather, we have the DNA evidence in the Ancestry.com Y-Chromosome testing to 46 Markers from three individuals, evidently now proving conclusively that this writer is indeed a direct descendant of "Old" George(6) Kearton / Kirton.

This evidence also proves conclusively that the spellings: KIRTON or KEARTON or KEYRTON were completely synonymous between 1500 and 1800 in this area of England, & were simply being written according to the phonetic comprehension & interpretation of the individual writers. Before the year 1400 one will search in vain for the spelling "Keyrton" or "Kearton", but by 1500 both had become quite common variant spellings in N. W. England, probably by the local rectors, with "Kearton" eventually becoming the most common local variant of the surname.

By 1747 "Old" George(6) began to surrender parts of the Oxnop Hall complex, initially to his eldest son Anthony(6) Kearton, as is shown on the entry on the next page from the Muker Manor Court Book on 14 May, 1747, which reads:-

"At the Court Leet Court Baron or Customary court of Thomas Smith of Gray's Inn Esquire Lord of the said Manor of Muker holden at the House of James Metcalfe in Meucar (sic Muker) in and for the said Manor on Thursday the 14th. day of May 1747 before Richard Walter Gentleman Deputy Steward of the Manor".



Manor of Meucar in Swaledale in the County of York

At the Court last before the Customary Court of Thomas Smith of Great Embsay Esquire Lord of the said Manor of Meucar at the House of James Metcalf Meucar in and for the said Manor on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of May 1747 before Richard Clerk Gentleman Deputy Steward of the Manor & Commissioner.

Oxnop. Anth: Kearton upon the Surrender of George Kearton his Father in open Court is admitted Tenant of one Fire House the House Anthony Kearton now lives in with one Brewhouse at the West end of the said Dwelling House and one Garden on the South side of the said Dwelling House, and one Stable on the North side of the said George Kearton's House.

Fine 3: 3:4 Dwelling House and a Moiety or one half part of one Garden on the South side of the said George Kearton's House, called the Great Garden with the Appurtenances situate at Oxnop in the said Manor of Meucar of the yearly Fineable Customary Rent of Two pence and he to pay Fine for the same 3d & 4d in hand.

Figure 7 - Muker Manor Court Book Pages dated for 14 May, 1747:-

“Anthony(6) Kearton upon the surrender of George(6) Kearton his Father in open Court is admitted Tenant of one Fire House the House Anthony now lives in with one Brewhouse at the West end of the said Dwelling house and one Garden on the South side of the said Dwelling house, and one Stable on the North side of the said George(6) Kearton’s House (i. e. Oxnop Hall itself) and a Moiety or one half part of one Garden on the South side of the said George(6) Kearton’s House, called the Great Garden with the Appurtenances situate at Oxnop in the said Manor of Meucar of the yearly Fineable Customary Rent of Two pence and he to pay Fine for the same 3d (pence) & 4d (pence) in hand.” On the next Page 58, Figure 8 map shows Anthony(6)’s 1747 holding at Oxnop.

GENERATION 19 (Rev. "K") (Continued)

Later Anthony(6) Kearton of Oxnop on 30 April, 1751 also acquired:- "One Stable called "Old Mill" at Sattron upon surrender from James Calvert ye Elder".

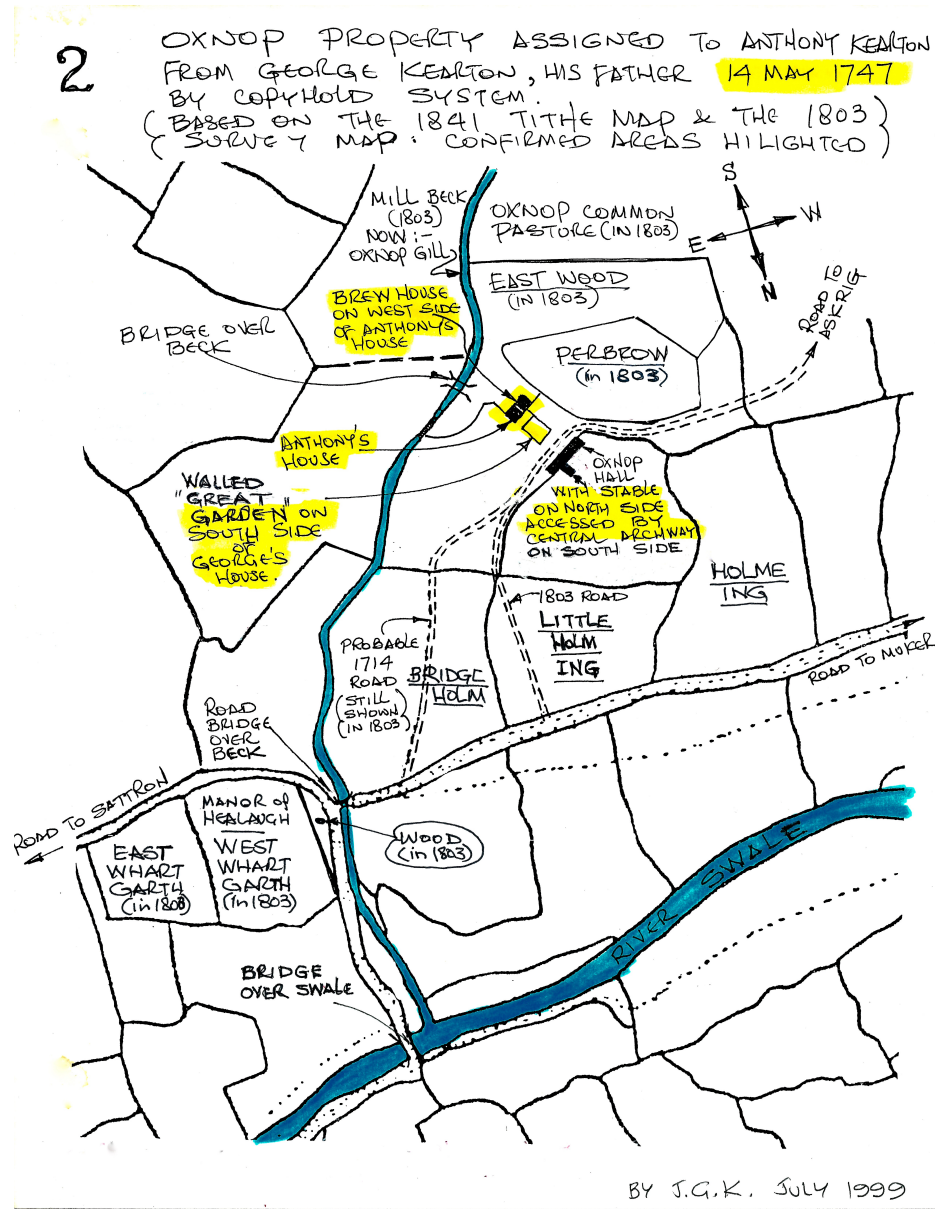


Figure 8 - This map #2 shows the locations of the parts of the Oxnop Hall copyhold (high-lighted in yellow) which were surrendered by "Old" George(6) Kearton on 14 May, 1747 to his eldest son, Anthony(6) Kearton, as shown in the Manor Court Record on the previous Page 57. From 15 July, 1742 Anthony(6) was employed as gamekeeper for both Manors to Thomas Smith, the Lord of the Manor. But later, before 1761, he had found new employment up in Westmorland, and had moved there with his family.

GENERATION 19 (Rev. "K") (continued)

It is evident that THOMAS(23) KEARTON, "Old" George(6)'s second surviving son, the apothecary, surgeon and physician, and his wife ELIZABETH (nee BROWN) must have been fairly frequent visitors to Oxnop for in the next Figure 9 we see Thomas(23)'s "Memorandum of an Agreement" for the apparent permanent ownership of a pew in Muker Chapel:-

October 20<sup>th</sup> 1760 Memorandum of an Agreement  
then made between Edward Milner of Eriholme in y<sup>e</sup> County of  
York Clerk, and Thomas Kirton of Yarm in y<sup>e</sup> said  
County Apothecary Viz Whereas I the said Edward Milner  
for Divers good Causes and Considerations from y<sup>e</sup> said  
Thomas Kirton do hereby give, assign, and convey to him  
y<sup>e</sup> said Thomas Kirton to him, his Heirs and Assigns for  
ever that Dow now standing in the North Side of the  
Chapel of Muker in Suptedale in y<sup>e</sup> County of York  
together with all the Rights, Titles and Priviledges in the  
said Dow to me Belonging or appertaining

Signed } Edward Milner  
In the Presence of }

W<sup>m</sup> Deason  
E. Brispick

Figure 9 - This is sufficiently easy to read to not need a transcription. Clearly Thomas(23) Kearton / Kirton (note that here he has already started to use the 'Kirton' spelling, even though he was baptized as 'Kearton'). He calls himself 'an apothecary', a position for which he had just qualified in 1755.

In just the following Spring, in May, 1761, we see in Figure 10 (Page 60) how Thomas(23)'s wife, ELIZABETH KIRTON (nee Brown), who did not yet have any children, was perhaps staying at Oxnop for the summer, since she takes over the surrender of the Oxnop Hall copyhold properties previously held by her brother-in-law, Anthony(6) Kearton before the Muker Manor Court:-

Manor of Muker in Swaledale in the County of York

At the Court next Court Customary Court holden at Muker in and for the said Manor on Wednesday the Sixth day of May One Thousand Seven hundred and Sixty One by Adjournment for Thomas Smith Esquire Lord of the said Manor before Solomon Bycliffe gentleman Steward of the said Court

6<sup>th</sup> May 1761

Oxnop - William Sutton Esquire upon the Surrender of George Kearton out of Court before M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Wilson Day life in the presence of Joseph Clarkson and Ralph Milner two Customary Tenants of the said Manor is admitted Tenant of Two Dwelling houses & Stables One garden One Close called Little Felde Dyng and one Close called Trenchouse Close and one Close called Per brow and one Close called East Wood Two Closes called West Closes and one piece of ground called Calf garth with the appurtenances situate & lying at Oxnop of the ancient yearly feeable Customary Rent of Fourteen Shillings and seven pence halfpenny and is assigned for his five Fourteen pounds Twelve Shillings & six pence

Oxnop - M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Kearton upon the Surrender of Anthony Kearton in open Court is admitted Tenant of One Dwelling house with a Brewhouse at the West end of the said Dwelling house and one garden on the South side thereof and one Stable on the North side of George Kearton's house & a piece of a half plot of one garden on the South side of the said George Kearton's house called the Great garden with the appurtenances situate at Oxnop of the ancient yearly feeable Customary Rent of Two Pounds and is assigned for his five Three Shillings and Four pence

Figure 10 - Muker Manor Court Book for 6 May, 1761, entry by which Mrs. ELIZABETH KEARTON, the wife of "Old" George(6)'s second surviving son, the surgeon, THOMAS(23) KEARTON / KIRTON, received the surrender from Anthony(6) Kearton of the same parts of the Oxnop Hall copyhold as were shown in Map #2 in Figure 8. ELIZABETH KEARTON (nee BROWN) was the daughter of HENRY BROWN, the long term mayor of Stockton-upon-Tees, co. Durham, and his wife CORNELIA (nee JOLANDT) [who Henry Brown had met and married while visiting Holland, who had been the sole heir to her family's ships' chandlery business in the Wine Harbour at Rotterdam].

GENERATION 19 (Rev. "K") (continued)

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"6 May, 1761, Oxnup (sic) - Mrs. Thomas(23) Kearton upon the Surrender of Anthony(6) Kearton in Open Court is admitted Tenant of One Dwelling house with a Brewhouse at the West end of the said Dwelling house and one garden on the South side thereof and one Stable on the North side of George(6) Kearton's house & a Moiety or half part of one Garden on the South side of the said Gerorge(6) Kearton's house called the Great Garden with the appurtenances scituate (sic) at Oxnup of the antient (sic) yearly fineable customary Rent of Two pence and is assessed for his (sic her) ffine (sic) Three shillings and Ffour (sic) pence."

So this is clearly exactly the same property which had previously been Anthony(6)'s, and this had evidently occurred PRIOR to the 1764 death of "Old" George(6) Kearton / Kirton.

Strangely this is the last Manor Court Record this writer has been able to find concerning the Oxnop Hall copyhold, until, long after "Old" George(6)'s death in 1764, we see George(10)'s mention of his "Yorkshire Estate" in his will written on St. Vincent.

**His will was finally only probated on St. Vincent in 1801, so that it was not until 1803 that, Thomas(23) having died in that same year, his eldest son., George(16) Henry Kirton was finally to take possession of Oxnop Hall, with his appearance in 1803 before the Manor Courts of both Healaugh and Muker to accept the surrender of the full Oxnop Hall copyhold, and his 1803 commissioned legal survey of the property, and the inventory of its actual acreage.**

**[More details about the St. Vincent plantation, "Kearton's", can be found in this writer's pdf file:- "KEARTON'S PLANTATION, ST. VINCENT", and from the records of University College London's "Legacies of British Slave-ownership" at:- <<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/2146632913>>, specifically regarding George(10) Kearton, the site being also searchable for all the members of that family.**

On the next page, Page 62, in Figure 11, is shown a note written evidently shortly before "Old" George(6)'s death in 1764, and also before Anthony(6) Kearton's death in 1768, written by his last surviving daughter, Mary Dagnay (nee Kearton), recording "Old" George(6) Kearton / Kirton's then surviving children (as written):- **1) Mary; 2) George(10); 3) Anthony(6) and 4) Thomas(23).** (Not in their chronological order).

GENERATION 19 (Rev. "K") (continued)

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Mary Dagnay Sister to George Kearton  
of the West Indies. Anthony Kearton  
of ~~the~~ Thos. Kearton of Stockton  
Sons & Daughter of George Kearton  
of Oxnip Hall near Muker, Swaledale  
Yorkshire and Mary his Wife

Figure 11 - Mary Dagnay (nee Kearton)'s original note, written before 1764:-

- Line 1:- "Mary Dagnay Sister to George Kearton
- Line 2:- of the West Indies. Anthony Kearton
- Line 3:- of --(erased) and Thos. Kearton of Stockton
- Line 4:- Sons & Daughter of George Kearton
- Line 5:- of Oxnip(sic) Hall near Muker, Swaledale
- Line 6:- Yorkshire and Mary his Wife"

Thomas, when he first moved to Stockton to set up his medical practice also still used the Kearton spelling, but soon changed to the more common 'Kirton' spelling, so that all his children were baptized as 'Kirton'. It is evident that when this was written, both "Old" George(6) & his eldest son Anthony(6) were both still alive, so all the other siblings, named earlier, must have all been already deceased.

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On the next Page 63, is illustrated in Figure 12 a paper which was evidently originally written in about the year 1827 by or for George(21) Henry Kearton (II) ["Old" George(6)'s great-grandson] when he first became aware that his father, &/ or he himself, had been left a sum of money as an inheritance by the will of Ann "Kearton" / Doyle, the common-law wife of Captain John(63) Kearton on St. Vincent. It explains in some detail the then current status of each of the descendants of "Old" George(6) and his wife, Mary (nee Stockton), and their issue, as George(21) Henry Kearton (II) came to realize that he might have a legitimate claim to the whole of George(10)'s original moiety of "Kearton's Plantation" there.

GENERATION 19 (rev. "K") (continued)

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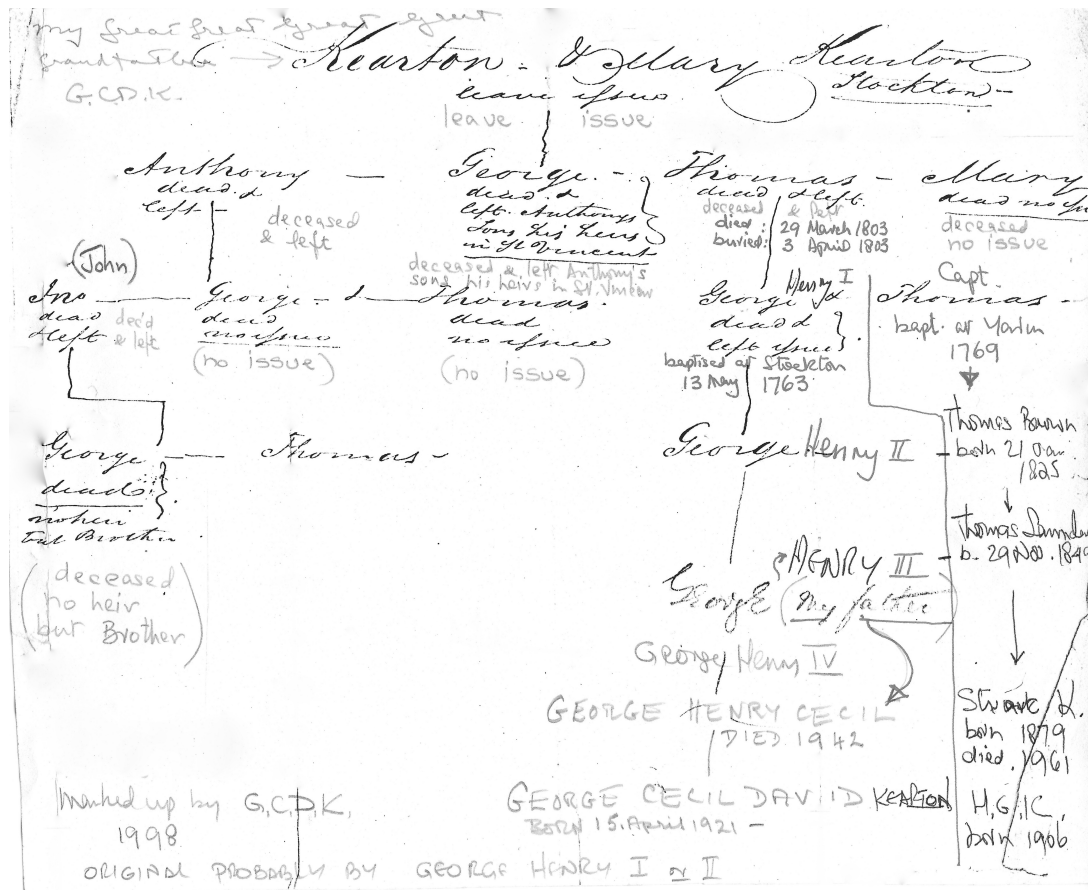


Figure 12 - This pedigree of the descendants of "Old" George(6) & his wife Mary Kearton (note the "Stockton" below her name, evidently her maiden name) came down from the family of Thomas(23)'s eldest son, George(16) Henry Kirton (I), (who later changed the spelling of his name back to Kearton) & was originally written by or for his son, George(21) Henry Kearton (II) in about 1827. George(16) Henry(I) was a solicitor in London, and was the man who in 1803 appeared before both Manor Courts in Swaledale to accept the surrender of Oxnop Hall. When I received this it had been marked up by the late George Cecil David Kearton, & I have added more notes, & the descent from Thomas(23)'s younger son, Captain Thomas(26) Kirton, master mariner, down to my late father H. G. Kirton (on the right).

The "leave issue" shows the last 4 surviving children of "Old" George(6) & his wife Mary:-

- 1) Anthony(6) "dead & left" - three sons:-
  - a) John(63), by 1827 was dead, survived by 2 (illegitimate) sons-
    - i) George(20) Kearton of "Kearton's", St. Vincent, had died in England in 1827. However George(20) had a daughter, who did inherit "Kearton's".
    - ii) Thomas(30) prob. alive, but had sold all his rights to "Kearton's" to George(20).
  - b) George, "dead, no issue".
  - c) Thomas, "dead, no issue".

## GENERATION 19 (Rev. "K") (continued)

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- 2) George(10) Kearton, evidently inherited the copyhold of Oxnop Hall on his father's death but in the same year, and before his father actually died, had purchased a moiety of the plantation in St. Vincent & moved there to manage it. Died there unmarried, on St. Vincent in 1783. His will leaving "Kearton's" to his nephew John(63).
- 3) Thomas(23) the surgeon & apothecary, left 2 sons:-
  - a) George(16) Henry Kirton (I), solicitor in London, changed surname back to Kearton and died and buried in the City of London 1814. Leaving eldest son:-
    - i) George(21) Henry Kearton (II) who left issue, his eldest son:-
      - ia) another George(25) Henry Kearton(III), etc.
    - b) Captain Thomas(26) Kirton, master mariner, who was not originally mentioned any further.

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The point of this exercise was due to the fact that George(21) Henry Kearton(II) had by 1827 become aware, from the legacy to him which appeared in the will of the late Anne Kearton / Doyle, the common-law wife of John(63), that he was the potential heir to the St. Vincent Plantation, due to the illegitimacy of his cousins on St. Vincent, who could not then, under English law as it then existed, inherit 'in fee' if they were illegitimate at birth, of which fact George(21) Henry (1) was now evidently fully aware.

The following note appeared, written in a very elaborate script on a scrap of paper, which was evidently a professional legal opinion, which also came from David Kearton:-

[The 'name numbers' have been added in order to clarify the meaning.]

"Original legatee - George(10) Kearton St. Vincent who was brother of Thomas(23) Kearton or Kirton of Stockton - also George(10) Kearton had a brother Anthony(6) Kearton, who had sons John(63), George(14), Thomas(24).

George(10) Kearton left property ("Kearton's" Plantation on St. Vincent) to John(36) Kearton, the (sic his) brothers having died before.

John(63) left two illegitimate sons George(20) and Thomas(30), thus (the) heir at law came to be Thomas(23) Kearton or Kirton of Stockton and his heirs - this is to (the) Jamaica (sic St. Vincent) property - Swaledale estates left to mother Mary Kearton for life interest and after to Thomas(23) Kearton or Kirton of Stockton - his heirs and forever entailed"

This was why, as shown in my file "The Kearton Family of St. Vincent", George(21) Henry Kearton (II) in 1827 began sending letters to the Plantation manager on St. Vincent, regarding his claim to the Plantation. However, in spite of initially getting some positive responses from the manager, George(21) soon ran into trouble when he had to deal with George(20)'s son-in-law, Crosby, who was a qualified lawyer and had been the island's Police Commissioner. Threats of lawsuits continued to float around as late as 1867, but the fact of the matter was that with the end of slavery in the British Empire the value of such plantations had been reduced to virtually nothing, and the plantation ended up being sold for a mere 500 pounds sterling, and all production soon ceased.

It is now owned by the St. Vincent government and is uncultivated, although it is still known as "Kearton's" and its seaside landing beach is still known as "Kearton's Bay".



GENERATION 19 (Rev. "J") (continued)

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So "Old" George(6) Kearton / Kirton lived on with his wife Mary, evidently continuing to hunt, and following the foxhounds on horseback until he was over the age of 80, and thereafter frequently attending all the local hunts which were within range of his "single horse chair" (probably a light, two wheeled, chaise, like the one in Figure 13, until he was at the very least close to 100 years old.



Figure 13

And, if even some of the stories told about him are true, "no man made freer with his bottle" up until he was over about the age of ninety years.

Finally "Old" GEORGE(6) KEARTON / KIRTON died & was buried at the Muker churchyard on 14 July, 1764 (ref.: Muker Parish Register).

Very soon after his death a **FALSE** and **UNTRUE** report was published in London which stated that "Old" George(6) Kearton / Kirton had been "in the 125th year of his age", i. e. that he had reached and passed his 124th birthday.

This **INCORRECT, TOTALLY FALSE and UNTRUE INFORMATION** as to his very great age at death first appeared in "**Dodsley's Annual Register, or a View of the History, Politics, and Literature, For the Year 1764**" published in London, as shown in the "**Index to Dodsley's Annual Register, Vol. 1, 1758-1780**", Vol. VII, by Edmund Burke, the front cover of which is shown in Figure 14 on Page 66, along with the actual text from its pages 95 and 96, both of which are reproduced in full in Figure 15 on Page 67.

**This writer suspects that then Muker rector, who probably knew "Old" George(6) well, looking back through his register, found the 1660 marriage of George(5B) Kirton of Gunnerside; made the erroneous assumption that he was the same man as "Old" George(6), and calculating that George(5B) had probably been aged about 21 when he married, arrived at the age of 124; he must have then some how informed Edmund Burke in London, from which the story spread far and wide.**

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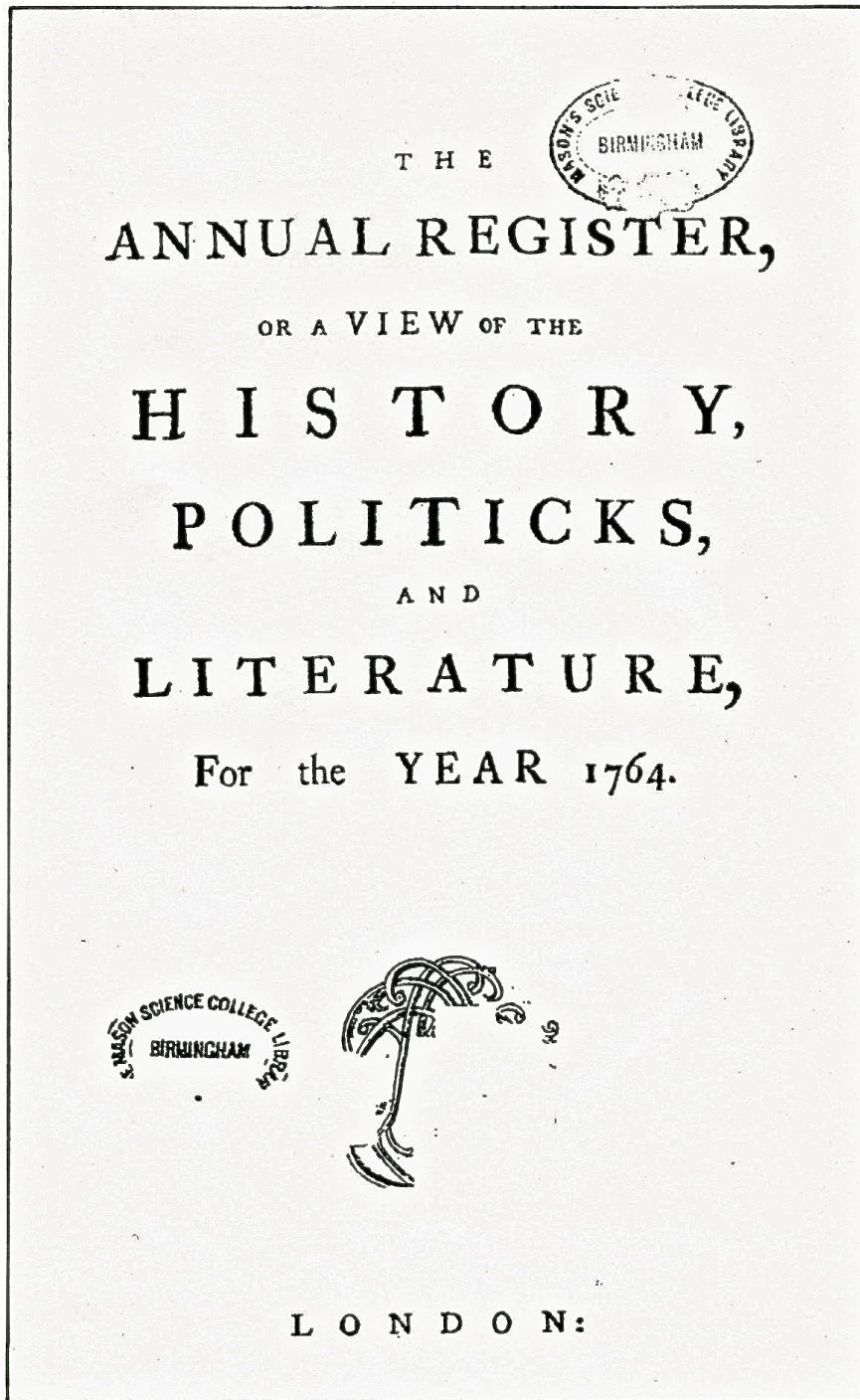


Figure 14 The front cover of Dodsley's "The Annual Register .. For the Year 1764" On page 67 are reproduced the actual entries for "Old" GEORGE(6) KIRTON from The Annual Register's pages 95 and 96, as an August, 1764 entry shows:-

In the 125th year of his age,  
George Kirton, of Oxnap:hall,  
near Reeth, in Yorkshire, esq; a

Figure 15 - Above: the UNTRUE STATEMENT of "Old" George(6)'s age at death.

gentleman more remarkable for  
fox-hunting than the famous Mr.  
Draper; for, after following the  
chace on horseback till he was  
upwards of 80, so great was his  
desire for the diversion, that (till  
he was 100 years old) he re-  
gularly attended unkennelling the  
fox in his single-horse chair. He  
was an instance that length of  
days is not always intailed on a  
life of temperance and sobriety;  
for no man made freer with his  
bottle than he did, even till with-  
in ten years of his death.

GENERATION 19 (Rev. "K") (continued)

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The rest of the printed report on Page 67 may well be completely true. The writer has never seen or heard of any denial of this untrue age statement, and one wonders if the family members even knew about it. It was no doubt from this initial report that other similar versions of the original began to appear elsewhere, such as the following:-

**"The Gentleman's Magazine and Historical Chronicler, 1764", Volume 34, page 38; and in**

**"The London Magazine Or Gentleman's Monthly Intelligencer. Volume XXXIII, For the Year 1764", page 484; and also in the**

**"Topographical Dictionary of Yorkshire for the Year 1822", T Langdale.**

It was repeated yet again, when none of our direct ancestors remained in Swaledale, in:-

**"OLD YORKSHIRE", Edited by William Smith, F. S. A. S. (1882),**

shown under:- YORKSHIRE CENTENARIANS

(Pages 166 - 167)

**"George Kirton, of Oxnop Hall, near Reeth, died (sic: was buried) July 15th.(sic 14th.), 1764, in his 125th year (UNTRUE). He was remarkable for his love of hunting. After following the chase on horseback till he was upwards of eighty, so great was his desire for the diversion, that till he was 100 years old he regularly attended the "breaking cover" in his single horse chair. He was a remarkable instance that length of days are not always entailed on a life of temperance and sobriety, for no man even till within a short time of his death, made more free with his bottle. His estate - which was considerable, and had been in the family for three centuries - descended to his son, Thomas Kirton, an eminent physician."**

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By 1882 William Smith was still repeating the incorrect age, but had added the part about Mr. Thomas(23) Kearton / Kirton, this writer's GGGG-grandfather.

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How old was "Old" George(6) Kearton / Kearton really? Best estimates are between 98 & 104 years of age, so chances are about even that he **WAS** likely past the 100 year mark.

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The other children of Anthony(4) Kearton, of Oxnop & Satron, & his probable 3 wives: Elizabeth, buried Muker,1664; Agnes, buried Muker 1668;

& Margaret, who outlived him, and was buried at Muker in 1743:-

2) RALPH(14) KEARTON / KIRTON, Oxnop & Gunnerside, probably born before 1664, but only bapt. Muker 5 April, 1668. Called "of Gunnerside", a miner. Wrote his will 13 Nov., 1716 & a codicil on 17 Nov., 1716. Wife MARY (nee Kearton) dau. of William Kearton of Healaugh. He died & was buried at Muker on 12 Feb., 1717, & will proved, executor his son, Edward(13). MARY wrote her will on 25 May, 1727, and was buried at Muker on 21 June, 1727, her will being proved on 24 June, 1727

3) ELIZABETH KIRTON, so baptized at Muker 6 Sept., 1679 (ref.: Muker P. R. & Bishop's Transcripts & IGI Source #0207564).

She married Robert Bousfield at St. Andrew's, Grinton on 24 April, 1704.

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**GENERATION 20 (Rev K) N. B. ONLY INCLUDING descendants of Anthony(4) Kearton.**

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The children of "Old" George(6) Kirton & his wife, Mary (nee Stockton), she who died & was buried at Muker on 21 Mar., 1776 (ref.: Muker Parish Register):-

**1) ANTHONY(6) KIRTON / KEARTON**, named after his grandfather, baptized at Muker on 9 February, 1713 (ref.: Parish Register). Yeoman and copyholder of "Anthony's House", located opposite to, and across the road from the southern, front face of Oxnop Hall (ref.: Manor Court Book entry). He became a game-keeper, working at one time for the then Lord of the Manor, Thomas Smith. He married JENNETT (nee SPOONER), dau. of John Spooner of Greenside, at Ravenstonedale, co. Westmorland, on:- 1 Nov., 1737 with whom they had:-

- 1) John(63) Kearton - bapt. Muker 20 Feb., 1739. Rec'd. St. Vincent Plantation.
- 2) George(14) Kearton - bapt. Muker 24 Mar., 1741. Died after 1773, before 1801.
- 3) William(33) Kearton - bapt. Muker 5 Apr., 1743. Prob. died before 1773.
- 4) Elizabeth Kearton - bapt. Muker 13 Feb., 1750. No other information.
- 5) Mary Kearton - ===== Buried at Muker 12 Feb., 1751
- 6) Thomas(24) Kearton - bapt. Muker 14 Oct., 1752. Prob. died before 1801.

Later Anthony(6) was employed near Kirkby Stephen, co. Westmorland, and his wife Jennett died and was buried there on 3 June, 1763. Anthony(6) later returned to Oxnop where he died & was buried at Muker on 8 Sept., 1768, aged only 55, and only four years after his father.

**2) ELIZABETH KIRTON / KEARTON**, baptized at Muker Chapel on 10 Aug., 1714. However according to Vernona Smith's MSS she died aged 13, & was buried in 1727, plus she does not appear in Mary's pre-1764 list of the surviving siblings.

**3) WILLIAM(30) KIRTON / KEARTON**, baptized at Muker Chapel on 25 Mar., 1717. We have never discovered for certain what became of William (30). He is not named in his sister Mary's pre-1764 list of surviving siblings, nor is he in George(10)'s 1768 will written on St. Vincent, so he had probably died before 1768, so he may be the William Kearton buried at Muker in 1756.

**4) THOMAS(23) KEARTON / KIRTON**, baptized at Muker Chapel on 3 Feb., 1719. He initially studied to become an apothecary, almost undoubtedly under his distant cousins Nicholas(11) Kirton, originally from Sedgefield, who had been apprenticed in London as an apothecary, and set up his own practice at Stockton-upon-Tees, co. Durham. With his wife Lucy he had five children, the youngest of whom, John(50) Kirton, took over his father's practice, and eventually probably trained and then sold the practice to Thomas(23). Thomas(23) was subsequently trained as a surgeon, possibly in Edinburgh, and by 5 Mar., 1755 was in practice at Yarm, North Riding, as both a Master Surgeon & as an apothecary, still using his baptismal surname Kearton, with an indentured surgeon apprentice, John Barker, for a period of 5 years at a total cost of 52 pounds Sterling. However by 2 Aug., 1755 he is again recorded, but now with the 'Kirton' spelling, at which time he had an indentured apprentice as both a surgeon and an apothecary, Valentine Milborn for 6 years at 30 pounds Sterling (ref.: "18th century Medics", p. 347).

GENERATION 20 (Rev. "K") (continued)

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He had become acquainted during his time in Stockton with his future wife, ELIZABETH BROWN, only daughter of Henry Brown the long time mayor of Stockton, and, in that same year, on 9 June, 1755, identifying himself as:- THOMAS KIRTON of Yarm, in the County of York, Surgeon, he posted a bond of 200 pounds Sterling and applied for a marriage licence to marry ELIZABETH BROWN of Stockton, Spinster, both being shown as being over the age of 21. However Elizabeth's mother, Cornelia Brown (nee Jolandt), who was originally from the Netherlands, died in September, 1756, which may account for the fact that they did not actually marry for some time.



Figure 16a - Miniature water colour on ivory of Mr. Thomas (23) Kearton / Kirton, painted from life circa 1775 when he was aged about 55. Attributed to John Bogle, R. A., b. 1746.



Figure 16b - The reverse of Thomas(23)'s gold mounted miniature with a lock of his wife's hair with gold foil wheat strands, and with her initials "E. K." in gold foil, outlined in seed pearls. Both faces covered with polished crystal, and still with its original fitted case.

## GENERATION 20 (Rev. "K") (continued)

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During 1760 he took on another indentured surgeon apprentice named William Deason. As shown on Page 59 Thomas(23) was at Oxnop Hall in October, 1760, and finally the couple were married at St. Thomas' Church, Stockton-upon-Tees, co. Durham, on 19 Jan., 1761, by which time Thomas(23) was aged 41 and his bride was aged 33. As we have seen on Pages 60 and 61, the following May the couple were up in Swaledale, perhaps on their honeymoon, when Anthony(6) Kearton surrendered his former holding at Oxnop to his new sister-in-law, perhaps as a wedding present(?).

They soon began having children, being baptized as follows:-

- 1) George(15) Henry Kirton, bapt. Yarm, 9 Jun., 1762, died at 11 months; he was named after the couple's respective fathers.
- 2) George(16) Henry Kirton (I), bapt. Yarm, 13 May, 1763;
- 3) Mary Kirton, bapt. Yarm, 26 Aug., 1765;
- 4) Thomas(25) Kirton, bapt. Yarm, 30 May, 1766; died at 9 months.
- 5) James (18) Kirton, bapt. Yarm, 13 Nov., 1767, (not sure about this one)
- 6) Elizabeth Brown Kirton, bapt. Yarm, 6 Nov., 1768, invariably known as Betty.
- 7) Thomas(26) Kirton, bapt. Yarm, 20 Nov., 1769.
- 8) Cornelia Kirton, ? ? Buried at Stockton, 20 March, 1774.

Yarm having had a history of severe flooding, and the church being next to the river, the survival of parish registers, including the Bishop's Transcripts has been problematical. Probably the worst flood occurred in 1771, and it seems that not long after that year Thomas(23) and his family moved to the high ground on the north side of the Tees, to Preston-upon-Tees, halfway between Stockton and Yarm, from where he evidently was able to maintain his practice in both towns. From the property survey conducted after his death it appears that his new estate amounted to some 82 acres, with a large garden on which he had a leasehold for three lifetimes (150 years) from the Lord Bishop of Durham. The estate is now evidently completely covered by roadworks and an interchange. From our family silver collection we still have just one of his original large, sterling silver serving spoons, engraved with his initials: "T. K.", and hallmarked as made by William Garrard of London in the year 1777.

Both of the surviving sons were well educated, George(16) Henry Kirton (I) eventually being accepted as an Attorney at the Court of Common Pleas at Westminster, London in June, 1789, and in the following year was the first to marry, to Lydia Tunstall from Yarm, the marriage taking place in London.

Thomas(26) Kirton was indentured in February, 1787 when he was aged 17 to a Ralph Willis, Master Mariner of London, to serve a four year apprenticeship in order to qualify as a master mariner. This he completed in 1791, when he was aged 21, and on Page 81 in Figure 23 is shown a portrait of him, painted in oil from life at about that time.

In the year 1790 Mr. Thomas(23) Kirton, now aged about 70, as recorded in a book "The Local Records of Stockton and the Neighbourhood" by Thomas Richmond (1868), page 90, providing surgical services at the dispensary of the Stockton Poor-House, evidently without charge, in conjunction with his former apprentice, Valentine Milborn / Milburne, who are both now named as being surgeons.

GENERATION 20 (Rev. "K") (continued)

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Five years later his wife, ELIZABETH died, being buried at St. Thomas' Church, Stockton-upon-Tees, on 20 Feb., 1795, identified as the wife of Mr. Thomas Kirton, Surgeon; she was aged about 67. As a result of her death he would have presumably received the holdings at Oxnop which had been in her possession ever since 1761 (ref.: Page 60), although there seems to be no record that these were ever surrendered to him, and they eventually became part of the holding of their eldest son, George(16) Henry Kirton (1).

Mr. Thomas(23) Kearton / Kirton wrote a detailed will on 29 January, 1801. All the contents of his house was divided between his two daughters; he forgave a debt of 290 pounds sterling made to his eldest son, George(16) Henry Kirton (1), no doubt in the full awareness that George(16) would eventually inherit the Oxnop Hall copyhold. All his estate at Preston-upon-Tees was to be surveyed and sold, with the proceeds setting up a trust for each of his three surviving younger children.



Figure 17 - Thomas(23) Kirton's signature on his will, and his seal, which shows the head of a woman, possibly a sculptured image of his wife Elizabeth.

On 14 Dec., 1801 the will of his younger brother George(10) Kearton of St. Vincent was finally probated in St. Vincent, leaving his instructions for the disposal "of his Yorkshire Estate", as he called the copyhold of Oxnop Hall and its farm, initially to his mother Mary (nee Stockton), but she had died back in 1776, so it all came to Thomas(23), who was now aged at least 82, and may not have been fit enough to undertake the journey up to Swaledale to appear before both Manor Courts in order to accept the surrenders, this job being left to his eldest son George(16) Henry Kirton(1) who in 1803 travelled up from London to appear before both Manor Courts in Swaledale to accept the whole surrender.

Thomas(23) died on 29 March, 1803 and was buried probably beside his wife at St. Thomas' Church, Stockton. His death was reported in **The Newcastle Courant newspaper, Issue of 9 April, 1803, Obituary & Death Notices:-**



GENERATION 20 (Rev. "K") (continued)

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KIRTON - On the 29<sup>th</sup> ult. Mr KIRTON, of Stockton, surgeon and apothecary, much respected.

Within two weeks, on the 11th of April, 1803, and probably even before the reading of the will, a Survey of his Preston-upon-Tees had been initiated, probably by George(16) Henry Kirton (I), because his name appears on the Survey Report's cover showing himself as a co-owner of the estate with his siblings, which was contrary to the Thomas(23)'s will, which made it completely clear that the proceeds of the sale of his 82 Acre estate property were in fact to be converted into life trusts for just the three younger siblings, who seem to have each benefited from their trusts for the rest of their lives.

5) GEORGE(10) KEARTON, baptized at Muker on on 25 Feb., 1722. It would seem that he must have obtained a substantial sum of money, perhaps partially from a loan, perhaps partially as an advance from his father, "Old" George(6), because we know that prior to his father's actual death in 1764 GEORGE(10) had been able to purchase a half share in the St. Vincent sugar Plantation, as well as, evidently, a half share of another 300 acre plantation jointly with his younger brother, John(54) on the Island of Tobago. In addition he also evidently inherited, perhaps also with John(54), the Oxnop Hall copyhold, although there seems to be no record of this fact in the surviving Manor Court Record Books. He and John(54) seem to have both left England during 1764 to manage the respective plantations which they had purchased, and neither, as far as is known, ever returned to England. The whole stories of their adventures in the Caribbean are told in my pdf file "The Keartons of St. Vincent". As shown therein, and as already mentioned, we do still have a copy of his will written on St. Vincent by which he left the inheritance of the Oxnop Hall copyhold initially to his mother Mary Kearton (nee Stockton) (who in the event had predeceased him) and then to his eldest and only surviving brother, Thomas(23) Kearton / Kirton. He died on the Island of St. Vincent, unmarried, in 1783, leaving his moiety of the St. Vincent plantation "Kearton's" to his nephew, his late, eldest brother Anthony(6)'s son, John(63) Kearton, who with his family was already living on and running the Plantation.

6) JOHN(53) KEARTON, baptized at Muker Chapel on 22 July, 1725. However this boy died, and was buried just 11 days later at Muker on 2 August, 1725.

7) MARY KEARTON, baptized at Muker Chapel on 4 May, 1728. She married, becoming Mrs MARY DAGNAY (or possibly Duguay?), and it was she who wrote the list of the names of "Old" George(6) Kearton / Kirton and his wife MARY (nee Stockton) and their then surviving 3 sons and one daughter, she herself, as shown in Figure 11, on Page 62. From the way that this list is worded it must have been written before "Old" George(6)'s death in 1764, but after John(54)'s death, & certainly before Anthony(6)'s death in 1768.

8) JOHN(54) KEARTON, baptized at Muker Chapel on 23 Mar., 1730. We now know with considerable certainty that at just about the same time as his elder brother, George(10) purchased the moiety of the plantation on St. Vincent, George(10) and

GENERATION 20 (Rev. "K") (continued)

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JOHN(54) also shared the purchase of an additional plantation on the Island of Tobago, in the Courland Bay Division, on the north west coast of the island, Lot No. 4, containing 300 acres, or about the same size as the one on St. Vincent of which his brother George(10) was about to take on the full management. JOHN(54) was evidently planning to do the same on Tobago on his own (ref.:- University College London, "Legacies of British Slave-ownership"). However it seems this plan was doomed to failure & JOHN(54) may have soon contracted one of the tropical diseases then so prevalent there, and died because there is no further mention of him on the island, and within a short period of time Lot No. 4 is shown with new owners. Also he is not subsequently named in his sister Mary's list of surviving siblings (Figure 11, Page 62), nor is he in his brother George(10)'s will, so he must have died just before his father. Presumably it must have been his brother George(10) who benefitted from the sale of their shared plantation on Tobago.

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The children of Ralph(14) Kearton / Kirton of Oxnop & Gunnerside & his wife Mary:-  
1) EDWARD(15) KERTON / KEARTON, yeoman, of Whitaside / Whiteaside / Whiteside [sure sounds like Anthony(2) Kearton's holding way back in 1598?] born circa 1670. Married: 1) ELIZABETH RAPER, daughter of Anthony Raper of Harkaside, Bapt. Grinton 13 Oct., 1672, married aged 26 on 21 Feb., 1697/8 (ref.: Grinton P. R. (1905) p. 92). 6 children. Elizabeth died 1716 bur. Grinton (P. R. p. 127). Married 2) ANN HIRD of Grinton, on 9 Feb., 1716/7 (ref.: P. R. p. 127), 4 more children.

2) MARY KERTON, eldest daughter (from will); married Rooksby / Rooksbe.

3) JEAN / JAIN / JANE KERTON, bapt. Muker 4 Jan., 1679/80. Married Edmond Milner.

4) BARBARA / BARBARY KERTON, marr. 30 Jan., 1706/7 John Scott (ref.:P. R., p. 110).

5) ELIZABETH KIRTON / KERTON, bapt. Muker 26 June, 1687 (ref.: P. R. & B. T.). Marr. aged 20 in 1717 to Jonathan Moss.

6) JOHN(55) KERTON, buried at Muker 14 Feb., 1697 (ref.: Bishop's Transcript).

7) ANNE KERTON, bapt. Muker 10 (or 18?) April, 1714 (ref.: Parish Register)

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## GENERATION 21 (Rev. "K")

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Note: Generation 21 will ONLY include the direct descendants of ANTHONY(4) KEARTON of Low Oxnop, as follows:-

The children of Anthony(6) Kearton of Oxnop & his wife Jennett (nee Spooner):-

1) Capt. JOHN(63) KEARTON, bapt. Muker 20 Feb., 1739. He had a common-law wife, Ann Doyle, with whom he had two sons, Anthony(8) and George(20) born in England. Between the years 1775 and 1777, at the suggestion of their uncle George(10) Kearton on St. Vincent, the family moved to Kearton's Plantation on St. Vincent, since, as shown in George(10)'s will written in 1773 he intended to leave his moiety of the Plantation to his nephew, JOHN(63). Just a couple of years later the French invaded and captured St. Vincent, and soon afterwards JOHN(63), who was already a member of the St. Vincent Assembly, served on a 'Peace Commission' to further negotiations between the British and French governments, which resulted in the 1783 Treaty of Versailles, by which the island was returned to Britain. George(10) died in that same year, so that JOHN(63) legally came to own the Plantation. At this time a militia was formed on the island to protect it against any future invasion threat and to protect the European settlers from possible insurrections by the native Carib Indians, JOHN(63) serving as Captain of the Northern Regiment of St. Vincent Militia. JOHN(63) by 1800 was "Speaker" of the "St. Vincent House of Assembly". He died on St. Vincent on 25 May, 1803 (ref.: Newcastle Courant obituary), leaving a will (which is evidently now lost) by which his holding of the Plantation was left to his common-law wife ANN DOYLE / KEARTON and entailed to his two surviving sons, George(20) Kearton and Thomas(30) (who had been born on St. Vincent on 26 July, 1787, & bapt. 18 June, 1789 at St. George's Cathedral, Kingstown, St. Vincent). [This is the reason for the future attempts to prove that it was then against the English Law to permit the children of an unmarried couple to inherit entailed property].

2) GEORGE(14) KEARTON, bapt. Muker 24 Mar., 1741. He was named in the will of his uncle George(10) written in 1773, but had evidently died before the will was finally probated in 1801.

3) WILLIAM(33) KEARTON, bapt. Muker 5 April, 1743. Not named in his uncle's 1773 will so had probably died before then.

4) ELIZABETH KEARTON, bapt. at Muker 13 Feb., 1749. No further information found.

5) MARY KEARTON, bapt. Muker / buried at Muker 12 Feb., 1751.

6) THOMAS(24) KEARTON, bapt. Muker 14 Oct., 1752. Left 100 English pounds Sterling in his uncle George(10)'s will, but had died before the will was probated in 1801.

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The children of Mr. Thomas(23) Kearton / Kirton & his wife Elizabeth (nee Brown):-

1) GEORGE(15) HENRY KIRTON. Bapt. Yarm, N. R. Yorks. 9 June, 1762.

Died at the age of 11 months.

GENERATION 21 (Rev. "K") (continued)

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2) GEORGE(16) HENRY KIRTON / KEARTON (I). Bapt. Stockton, co. Durham 13 May, 1763 as 'Kirton'. Barrister and Solicitor of Clifford's Inn in London (ref.: C24/1935 Town Depositions 1789).

In the Common Pleas

Trinity Term in the twenty ninth year  
of the Reign of King George the Third.

It appearing to this Court that George Henry Kirton  
of Great Prescot Street in the County of Middlesex Gent.  
is duly qualified to act as an Attorney of this Majesty's Court  
of Common Pleas at Westminster and he having this day  
taken in open Court the Oaths appointed to be taken &  
instead of the Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy and also  
taken and subscribed the Oath appointed to be taken by  
Attornies by an Act of Parliament made in the second  
year of the Reign of this late Majesty King George  
the Second intituled "An Act for the better regulation of  
Attornies and Solicitors" Let him be admitted an Attorney  
of this Court and let his Admission be enrolled by the  
Clerk of the Warrants pursuant to the direction of the said  
Act Dated this Sixteenth. day of June in the Year of  
our Lord One thousand seven hundred and eighty nine

16<sup>th</sup> June 1789  
Swan in County  
M.P. Mainwaring

Enrolled in the Common Pleas  
Attorney Roll the 17 of June  
1789.  
Richd. S. [Signature]

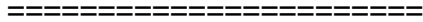
Figure 18 - George(16) Henry Kirton (I)'s Acceptance as an Attorney of the Court of Common Pleas on 16 June, 1789 when he was aged about 26. He was subsequently admitted as a Solicitor of the High Court of Chancery on 14 Feb., 1791, aged 28.

Married 6 Feb., 1790 in London to LYDIA TUNSTALL, as recorded in "The Gentleman's Magazine and Historical Chronicle", Vol, LX, "Marriages of eminent Persons", page 79. They had a total of ten children, and in addition evidently cared for and raised George(16)'s nephew, John(70) Kirton / Kearton, the son of his younger brother, Captain Thomas(26) Kirton, Master Mariner, when Thomas(26) was a widower, and often away at sea. John(70) was evidently trained in the Law like his uncle (we will meet him again).

In 1803 inherited the copyhold of Oxnop Hall and its farm and travelled up to Swaledale to appear before the Manor Court of Healaugh on 6 June, 1803 to accept the surrenders "of Two Parcels of Ground called WHART GARTHS with a Cowhouse thereon", etc.

[Please see Figure 19, on Page 77]

GENERATION 21 (Rev. "K") (continued)



Manor of Healaugh  
 Old Record in Swaledale }  
 in the County of York. } The Court Baron, and  
 Esquire, Lord of the said Manor, holden at Healaugh  
 in and for the said Manor, on Monday the sixth  
 Day of June, in the Year of our Lord One thousand  
 eight hundred and Three, before Sir James George  
 Gentleman, Steward of the said Manor -

Names of the Homage Jury  
 Mr. J<sup>r</sup>. Washes foreman Sw

J <sup>r</sup> . Roper	} Sw	Chris <sup>r</sup> . Keaton
J <sup>r</sup> . Galloway		James Woodward
James Lovdall	} Sw	M <sup>r</sup> . W <sup>m</sup> . Woodward
Thomas Pratt		
John Woodward	} Sw	
William Peacock		
James Medcalk		
James Gault		

Sutton  
 To this Court came George Henry Kirton of  
 Mansell Street, Goodman's Fields in the City of  
 London Esquire eldest Son and Heir at Law of  
 Thomas Kirton heretofore of Gazon in the County  
 of York and late of Stockton upon Tees in the  
 County of Durham Surgeon and Apothecary  
 deceased by Elizabeth Kirton his wife, also  
 deceased before her Marriage called Elizabeth  
 Brown and both of the said two Parcels of  
 Ground called Whart Garth with a  
 Barnhouse thereon with the Appurtenances  
 situate and being at or within the Township  
 of Sutton in the said Manor, of the annual  
 Rent of four Shillings and three Pence  
 which

Rent <sup>4 s. 3</sup> = 4. 3

Which George Sutton Esquire a Customary Tenant  
 of the said Manor at this Court by Edmund Alderson  
 his Attorney by virtue of a letter of Attorney  
 under the Hand and Seal of the said George Sutton  
 bearing Date the first Day of June now last past  
 surrendered into the Hands of the Lord before his  
 said Steward To have and to hold the same to  
 the Use of the said George Kirton his Heirs and  
 Assigns for ever, according to the Custom of the said  
 Manor in the Nature of a Copyhold, or Customary  
 Estate of Inheritance, Yielding and paying the  
 yearly Rent aforesaid; and doing, paying, and  
 performing to the Lord of the said Manor, all other  
 Rents, Duties, Fines and Services due and of Right  
 accustomed: For which he hath paid for his Fine  
 and Entry as in the Margin, and is thereof  
 accordingly admitted Tenant -

L. S. D  
 Fine 4. 5. 0

Figure 19 - George(16) Henry Kirton's appearance on 6 June, 1803 before the Healaugh Manor Court with proof that both his parents were deceased, and that he was their legal heir, to receive the surrender of the two parcels of East & West "WHART GARTH".

GENERATION 21 (Rev. "K") (continued)

*Manor of Muker*  
*in Northallerton in the County of York* } *The Court Baron, and Customary Court of Thomas Smith, Esquire,*  
*Lord of the said Manor, holden at Muker, in*  
*and for the said Manor, on Wednesday the*  
*Eighth Day of June, in the Year of our Lord One*  
*thousand eight hundred and Three, 1803, James*  
*George, Gentleman, Steward of the said Manor.*

*Names of the Homage Jury*  
*W<sup>m</sup> James Clarkson for and for*

<i>James Calvert</i>	} Sw.	<i>W<sup>m</sup> Alderson Birkdale</i>	} Sw.
<i>William Hall</i>		<i>David Cleasby</i>	
<i>James Givins</i>		<i>Edmund Milner</i>	
<i>Int. Keaton Sw.</i>			
<i>James Milner</i>	} Sw.		} Sw.
<i>W<sup>m</sup> Alderson Agill</i>			
<i>W<sup>m</sup> Minson, Clerk</i>			
<i>John Cleasby</i>			

*Oxnop* } *To this Court came George Henry Kirton of*  
*Mansell Street, Goodman's Fields, in the City of*  
*London Esquire, eldest Son and Heir at Law of*  
*Thomas Kirton, late of Oxnop in the County*  
*of York and late of Hookton upon Tees in the*  
*County of Durham Surgeon and Apothecary*  
*deceased by Elizabeth Kirton his Wife also*  
*deceased before her Marriage called Elizabeth*  
*Reverend and took of the Lord Two Dwellinghouses*  
*and Stables, One garden, One Close called Little*  
*Holme Sog, and one Close called Free house Or*  
*two Closes called Northow and East Wood Two*  
*other Closes called West Closes, and One Piece*  
*of Ground called Calf gath with the Appurtenances*  
*situate and being at or within the Territories*  
*of Oxnop in the said Manor, of the ancient*  
*yearly taxable Rent of fourteen shillings and*

*L. 10*  
*Rents 14. 12. 6*

*Two pence half penny Which George Kirton*  
*Esquire a Customary Tenant of the said Manor*  
*at this Court by Edmund Alderson Knowles his*  
*Attorney by Virtue of a Letter of Attorney under*  
*the Hand and Seal of the said George Kirton*  
*bearing Date the first Day of June now last past*  
*surrendered into the Hands of the Lord before his*  
*said Steward To have and to hold the same*  
*to the Use of the said George Henry Kirton his*  
*Heirs and Assigns for ever, according to the*  
*Custom of the said Manor, in the Nature of a*  
*Copyhold, or Customary Estate of Inheritance,*  
*yielding and paying the yearly Rent*  
*in for said, and doing, paying, and performing*  
*to the Lord of the said Manor, all other Rents,*  
*Duties, Fees, and Services due and of right*  
*accustomed: And with the he hath paid for*  
*his fine and Entry as in the Margin, and is*  
*thereof accordingly admitted Tenant.*

*L. 10*  
*Fine 14. 12. 6*

Figure 20 - On 8 June, 1803 George(16) Henry Kirton(I) appeared before the Muker Manor Court to accepted the surrender of Oxnop Hall itself, its additional houses and other buildings and the rest of its farm at Low Oxnop.

George(16) HENRY KIRTON (I) at this time commissioned the following map and survey of the copyhold property to be made, recording it exactly as it existed in June, 1803:-

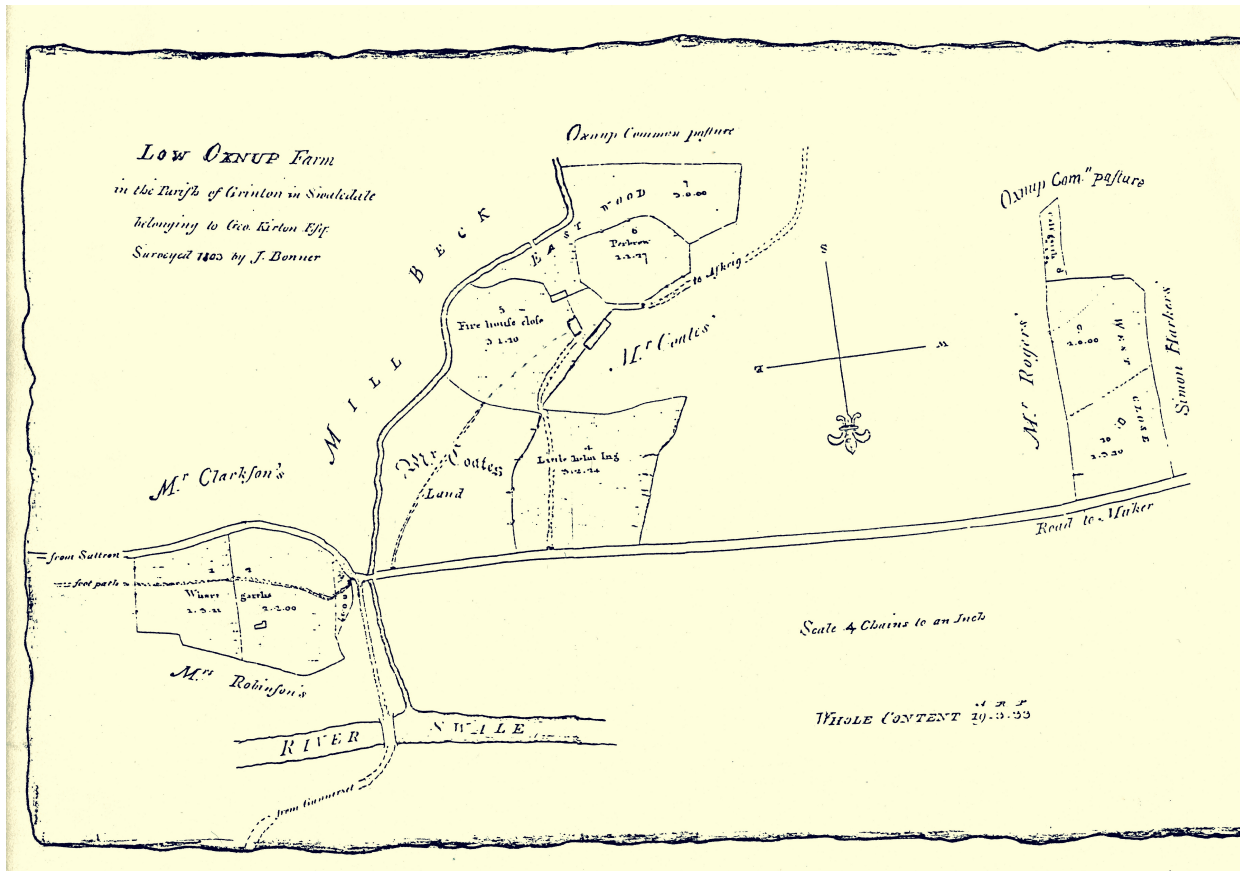


Figure 21 - "LOW OXNOP FARM"  
 in the Parish of Grinton in Swaledale belonging to Geo. Kirton, Esq.  
 Surveyed 1803 by J. Bonner  
 Scale: 4 Chains to an Inch  
 WHOLE CONTENT 29 Acres, 3 roods, 33 perches.

It can easily be seen that the old road to Askrigg, cutting across Bridge Holm, which was now held by a Mr. Coates effectively 'faded out' once it crossed onto "Fire House Close", onto which old road Oxnop Hall itself had originally faced, so that a new road has now been located to cross only the current copyholder's fields, and so provide access to the Hall from the Satron / Muker road.

It is strange that the small 27 perch area named as "Wood" in the Valuation was not included as part of the Healaugh Manor surrender which included Whart Garth?

The Valuation identifies "Three Houses & (?) Barns" which I think means Oxnop Hall itself, and two other houses as shown on the plan, probably one of which had been "Anthony's house" and the other the "Brew House". There were, I think, 3 barns / cow houses, including the one on West Whart Garth.

Detailed 1803 Valuation of George(16) Henry Kirton (I)'s Low Oxnop Copyhold Estate:-

*Valuation of Low Oxnop Estate*

N <sup>o</sup>	Fields Names	Quantity			Value per acre	Total value
		A	R	P		
1	East Whart garth ...	1	3	11	50	4. 10. 11
2	West do: .....	2	2	..	50	6. 5. ..
3	Wood .....	..	..	27	10	.. 1. 8
4	Little Holm Ing .....	3	2	24	25	4. 11. 3
5	Fire House clade .....	3	1	10	45	7. 7. 9 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
6	Perbrow .....	1	1	27	15	1. 1. 3
7	East Wood .....	3	..	..	10	1. 10. ..
8	Calf garth .....	..	1	04	20	.. 5. 6
9	High West clade .....	2	"	"	10	1 " " "
10	Low do: .....	1	3	10	40	3. 12. 6
19 3 33						30. 5. 10 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
Three Houses & 3 Barns .....						8. ....
Ten of a quarter Ox Streets @ 10/-						5. 2. 6
						43. 8. 4 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>

Figure 22 - "Three Houses & (I think) 3 Barns, which agrees with the map.

It is worth noting that the plan view in the map in Figure 21, of the actual Oxnop Hall building, does NOT show the projecting front porch which is now installed on the front of the building. It is also very probable that the relocating and rebuilding of the west wall had taken place at about this time. Also note on the map the complete absence of the stable which had previously been described on the north side of the Hall, and which must have been still in place as late as 1833, from the sketch in Figure 24. In 1803 George(16) Henry Kirton (I) would have been unable to sell the property, which must have had no maintenance work done on the building since the death of his mother, Mary (nee Stockton) in 1776, some 27 years earlier. So that it appears that the building must have decayed very badly between 1803 and 1833.

Unfortunately he later became involved in a failed investment scheme and became bankrupt in 1813, after which he reverted back to the 'Kearton' spelling of his name, perhaps as a way of avoiding notoriety, as did several of his family members. He died aged just 51, and was buried in the City of London in 1814.

The Oxnop Hall property then evidently passed to his eldest son, George(21) Henry Kirton / Kearton (II) (baptized as 'Kirton' in 1795, but who had also adopted the 'Kearton' spelling after 1813), although apparently no Manor Court Record Books now survive for this period.



GENERATION 21 (Rev. "K") (continued):-

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Before leaving Generation 20, we will look at the other children of Mr. Thomas(23) Kearton and his wife Elizabeth (nee Brown) who survived to adulthood & the year 1803:-

3) MARY KIRTON, baptized at Yarm 26 Aug., 1765. She was evidently still unmarried when her father died in 1803, & she began receiving the income from her trust, & also received half of the house contents, but I have been unable to trace her subsequently.

6) ELIZABETH (BETTY) BROWN KIRTON, baptized at Yarm 6 Nov. 1768. She also lived off the trust set up by her father, and remained a spinster all of her long life. She purchased a fairly large house, "Hove Lodge", set in its own grounds just back from the seafront in Hove, co. Sussex, where she lived for nearly all the rest of her life. Not long before she died she was taken to live with her nephew Thomas(33) Brown Kirton, Master Mariner & ship owner of the brig "Sea Adventure", and his family at nearby Shoreham, co. Sussex, where she died aged 85 and was buried on 10 June, 1853.

7) Captain THOMAS(26) KIRTON, bapt. at Yarm 21 Nov., 1769, Master Mariner.



Figure 23 - Their youngest son, Captain Thomas(26) Kirton, Master Mariner, circa 1790, painted from life in oils, & attributed to the school of John Hoppner, R. A.. See his three masted, square-rigged brig in the background, possibly the "Bee". He married three times, with his first wife having a son, John(70) Kirton / Kearton, a lawyer, & with his 3rd. wife, Sarah (nee Clear) having 2 more sons and 3 daughters. The writer's 3rd. great-grandfather. He died & was buried at New Shoreham, co. Sussex, on 18 April, 1834.

## GENERATION 22 (Rev. "K")

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George(21) Henry Kirton (II) married Elizabeth Ogilvie in London in 1818. He owned an emery & black lead mill in London, & manufactured lead shot for firearms. Owning and trying to maintain a property up in Swaledale must have been difficult, & by 1832, by Act of Parliament, former copyhold land was converted into freehold property, so that the former copyholders were permitted to sell freehold property on the open market.

So Oxnop Hall was sold to Lister Washington Metcalfe (1778 - 1846) for 3,350 pounds Sterling, several of the legal documents bearing the signature of a lawyer, "John Kearton" (who was almost certainly JOHN(70) KIRTON / KEARTON, the first born son of Captain Thomas(26) Kirton and his first wife, Mary (nee Pearce), whose death in the same year that John(70) was born, resulted in John(70) being raised with his uncle's family in London. He eventually also became a lawyer, who was probably representing his cousins's interests in the sale (We will meet him again later).

L. W. Metcalfe, the son of the Rev. Lister Metcalfe for 24 years vicar of Muker, had made a fortune as a merchant in Liverpool (ref.: "A Dales Heritage" by Marie Hartley & Joan Ingilby (1984) p. 18). I obtained the following sketch of Oxnop Hall from his great-grandson, Warwick Metcalfe, which I very much suspect shows the condition of Oxnop Hall very soon after L. W. Metcalfe purchased it in 1832-3, prior to its restoration.

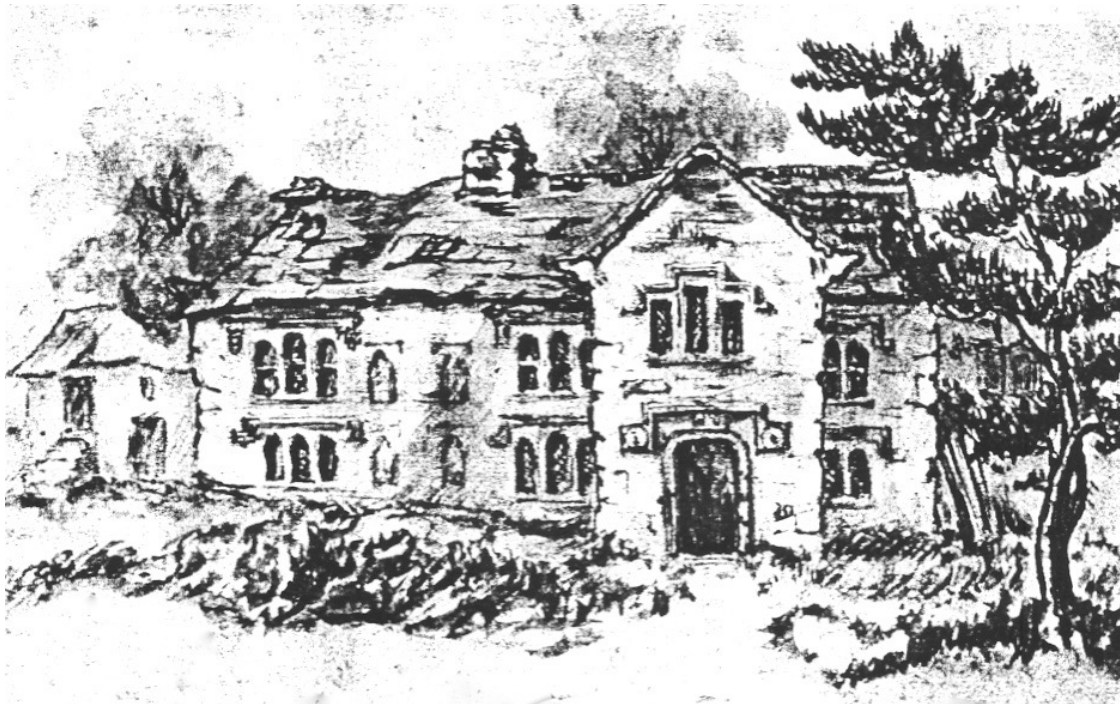


Figure 24 - In this sketch, c.1833, it is clear that the old west wall has already been partially foreshortened, and the peak of the roof at its western end is clearly in poor condition. The old 'western' front door is still visible, as is the added-on porch of the 'eastern' front door. Over on the right one can just make out the carriage house / stable arched entrance behind the tree's trunk, with the then still surviving pair of dormer windows in the low roof of the Hall's eastern extension.

GENERATION 22 (Rev. "K") (continued) & GENERATION 23 (Rev. "K")

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This is now getting very close to the end of the story of this writer's direct family as it is related to Swaledale, and there are just one or two things to add.

As has already been related, following the death of Ann Doyle / Kearton on St. Vincent, her will, which had originally been written in 1818, was finally registered in 1827, which provided a small legacy to the heirs of George(16) Henry Kirton / Kearton (I) in England, which was possibly intended to forestall any possible attempt by the cousins in England to make a claim to the ownership of the moiety of "Kearton's Plantation" on St. Vincent, simply because of the ineligibility of the sons of Captain John(63) Kearton to inherit the Plantation because of their being legally illegitimate.

When George(21) Henry Kirton / Kearton (II) discovered this fact in that same year of 1827, he evidently already was aware from legal opinions left in his father's satchel of papers that the legal inheritance of the Plantation should have gone to his father in the first instance, and thereafter to his own heirs.

However, by 1833, with the Abolition of Slavery Act in the British Empire, the working of such plantations became virtually untenable, and very quickly their once high value had diminished to such an extent that they were nearly worthless.

John(70) Kirton / Kearton had evidently taken a legal position on St. Vincent, serving as a magistrate on the island, and we still have a letter from Thomas(33) Brown Kirton addressed to his cousin, George(25) Henry Kearton (III), dated July, 1867, stating that "he had heard from John(70) Kearton in the West Indies, the son of my late father" (i. e. John(70) was Thomas(33) Brown Kirton's elder half-brother)" regarding a case in the Court of Chancery about the West Indian property, and I believe that you would be entitled to them, John Kearton being a Magistrate out at St. Vincent would come to England and be a very important witness as he is acquainted with the whole transaction from first to last."

This is quite strange, but I have to assume that if there ever was such a case, it came to nothing. Furthermore I have never been able to find out what became of John(70) Kirton / Kearton.

We still have several pieces of sterling silver which had come from his mother's family, which I suspect were being held for him, but he evidently never returned to England to collect them.

In 1867 he may very well have died in the islands; or, for example, may have simply moved to the United States.

John is a difficult enough name to trace, and he simply seems to have vanished.

Jonathan Grenville Kirton - 2 April, 2017. Revised 17 June, 2017 & 1 August, 2018.

<jonathankirton@sympatico.ca>

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