

Jared Potter Kirtland's Gun

Compiled by Edward Kirtland Hine, Jr. ("Ted") – June, 2004

Below are scans of 2 letters and one biographical document regarding a gun given to a fellow named Tallmadge by Jared Potter Kirtland and how this gun came to be donated to the Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland.

The first letter was sent to me by my father's second wife, Mary P. Hine, in May of 1977 (a month after father had passed away) from Florida where they had retired in 1969. Apparently their friend Cal Norton (who I never met) had purchased the gun mentioned in the letter at a gun show (assumed to have been in Florida), in part because he knew that father's middle name was Kirtland which explained "Kirt" being father's nick-name. The Norton's then did some research on Jared Potter Kirtland which they passed along to my step mother (the document following the first letter) and which she passed along to me with her letter.

The second letter (below) was written three years later (1980) by the Western Reserve Historical Society thanking Cal Norton's wife for the donation of the gun. This suggests to me that perhaps Cal had passed away (I don't know this for sure) and that his wife had been thoughtful enough to make the donation. I don't specifically remember but apparently Mrs. Norton passed the thank-you note on to my step-mother Mary who must have sent it to me (as my generation's bearer of the Kirtland name) as it somehow ended up in my possession.

Mary P. Hine
Bay Meadow - Unit D
Riverbend,
Tequesta, Fla. 33458

May 1, 1977

Dear Ted:

I have just received the enclosed statement from Guardian Life in regard to your father's claim.

I have advised them that you will be the executor of your father's estate.

Somewhere in the insurance papers that you took back to Colo., you will find a bill from Dr. Joel F. Smith for his fees for the operation at Palm Beach Gardens. Dr. Smith's office has requested that an insurance claim form be sent to them. I have so informed Guardian Life, pointing out that Dr. Guy J. Dillard was the attending physician.

Friends of mine, Cal and Nan Norton, gave me the enclosed story about Jared Pötter Kirtland. Cal Norton collects guns, and has just bought a pistol that is engraved on the handle with Jared Potter Kirtland's name as the donor to a man named Talmadge. Your forbears seem to have been outstanding citizens. Surely this Kirtland handed down his ~~his~~ scientific bent, and his love of nature to your father.

With love,

Mary

Jared Potter Kirtland was born in Wallingford, Conn. in 1793 and died in Cleveland, Ohio in 1877 aged 84 years.

He graduated from Yale Medical School, and at age 30 he emigrated to Poland, Ohio, where he practised his profession and devoted his leisure to Natural Science. When a mere youth, he had become an expert in the cultivation of fruits and flowers, made his first attempt of new varieties of fruits and managed a large plantation of white mulberry trees for the raising of silk worms.

After coming to Ohio he served 3 terms in the State legislature. From 1837 to 1842 he was medical professor at Willoughby, Ohio. In 1837 he was assistant on the first geological survey of Ohio and made a report on its Zoology. About 1840 he removed to Rockport, just West of and near Cleveland, and became one of the founders of the Cleveland Medical College.

In the Civil War he was examining surgeon for recruits and devoted his pay to the Soldiers' Aid Society.

He made many investigations in many departments of Natural History, which were published in scientific journals.

In 1845 he was one of the founders of the Cleveland Academy of Natural Science, which in 1865 became the Kirtland Society of Natural History, and to which he gave his rich collection of specimens.

He was a man of great learning and personal magnetism, and more than anyone of his day was influential in improving agriculture and horticulture, and diffusing a love of Natural History throughout the entire northwest.

There is a painting of him in the Cleveland Museum of Natural History - in the Jared Potter Kirtland Hall of Nature.



THE WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

10825 EAST BOULEVARD/CLEVELAND, OHIO 44106

December 31, 1980

Mrs. Calhoun Norton
221 River Drive
Tequesta, Florida 33458

Dear Mrs. Norton:

On behalf of the Trustees I have the honor to acknowledge with thanks the gift described below.

Smith & Wesson 32 caliber army revolver,
engraved "From Professor J.P. Kirtland to
Lieutenant H.A. Tallmadge, ca. 1864.

Sincerely,

Kermit J. Pike
Acting Executive Director

KJP:af

*Many thanks for this
wonderful item.*