

These charters also coincide with the period of the rise of the Cromwells. Sir Ralph de Cromwell (d.1398) married Maud, sister and heiress of Sir William Bernake in 1367. Bernake also held of the Honor of Tickhill. By this marriage, the Cromwells became lords of Tattershall in Lincolnshire. Sir Ralph became Lord Cromwell in 1375 upon receiving a writ of summons to Parliament. In 1373 he had been retained to serve the King with 20 men at arms and 20 archers. In 1386, he was created a banneret. Sir Ralph had also served on the commission of array, peace and sewers for Lindsey from 1371. He was probably on the commission of the peace for Lindsey from 1369, and was appointed capitalis justiciarius in 1395-6. He also served on the county commission for Lincolnshire in 1382. This service in local administration for the county of Lincolnshire illustrates the ambivalent position of the gentry of the Trent valley, residing in Nottinghamshire, but having great affinity with Lincolnshire. The Trent, peculiarly, did not form an administrative or social barrier between Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire in the area around Newark and Cromwell.

The last of the Cromwells was the most illustrious-Ralph, Lord Cromwell of Tattershall. He was Lord Treasurer of England, 1433-43, and was responsible for the building of Tattershall Castle, one of the earliest brick-built domestic buildings in England, and South Wingfield. Ralph's sister, Maud, married Richard Stanhop, who had issue, Henry, Joan and Maud. Of these, Henry died s.p., whilst Joan, the heiress, married Humphrey Bourchier.

Hirst Gibson Charity . Less well known than the Bede Houses this charity came from a sum of money left by a merchant in 1854 to be paid as 10 cauldrons of coal, one to each almshouse. Also £20 to the master of the local school and £20 for the vicar of Tattershall on condition he prayed for the soul of the merchant on a regular basis. Added to this the most deserving poor in Tattershall or Thorpe would receive an amount of calico and flannel. However prior to the Great War this proved to be 34 people and it was dropped during the war. Then both the schoolteacher and the vicar had their money cut off to enable there to be enough to buy coal.