County Louth Archaeological and History Society

The Charter of Dunleer Corporation

Author(s): Richard Chapel

Source: *Journal of the County Louth Archaeological Society*, Vol. 5, No. 1 (Dec., 1921), pp. 49-57

Published by: [County Louth Archaeological and History Society](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/27728141>

Accessed: 14/06/2014 06:20

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at <http://www.jstor.org/page/info/about/policies/terms.jsp>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

County Louth Archaeological and History Society is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *Journal of the County Louth Archaeological Society*.

<http://www.jstor.org>

The Charter of Dunleer Corporation.

UNLEER was an important monastic centre from very early times. Its original name Lann Leire = "House of Austerity" is evidence of its repute, and with the substitution of Dún=fort for the previous "Lann" it still preserves the tradition of its religious character.

The monastery was a frequent object of attack and pillage by the Danes in their incursions into the territory of Louth and in the raids made from their base at Annagassan, especially in the decade A.D. 840-850 and in 921. Again in 968 Danes entered Louth and seized the monastery of Dunleer as well as those of Monasterboice, Louth and Dromiskin. Domnal, son of the King of Tara, led an army to drive them out and killed 400 of them who had taken refuge in the monastery of Dunleer.

Dunleer was a town, whether of Irish or Norman foundation, in the early part of the thirteenth century. The "vill" of Dunleer is referred to in A.D. 1227, and a weekly market and a yearly fair of three days duration (24th-26th March) were established by royal grant in 1252.

The Manor of Dunleer was granted by the king—Henry III—to the family of De Audley (or in apparently a Saxon form Aldithel) in 1227. It had been part of the fee of Hugh De Lacy, Earl of Ulster.

Mandate 2nd July, A.D. 1221, from the court of King Henry III, Westminster, to the Justiciar of Ireland to respite to the following Easter the assize of Mort. D'Ancestor which Ivo de Dunlere arraigned against Henry de Audley touching one carucate of land in Dunleer; and the plea of dower in the same vill before the Justiciary between Margaret de Blaby and the said Henry.—(*Calendar of Documents Relating to Ireland*).

2nd May, 1227.—Grant and confirmation to Henry de Aldithel of lands in England, and of the following lands, tenements and hereditaments of the gift of Hugh Lascy, Earl of Ulster in Ireland. The vill called Dunlir, with its appurtenance, all the lands which Adam de Aldithel brother of Henry held of Hugh, the constablenick of Hugh's land of Ulster, and of all Hugh's purchase.

25th April, 1252.—Grant to Henry de Audley of a weekly market on Tuesday at his Manor of Dunler and of a yearly fair three further days—namely, on the vigil, the day, and the morrow of the Annunciation.

Given at Windsor.

(*Cal. Doc. R. Ireland.*)

H

Unlike our other boroughs—Drogheda, Dundalk, Ardee and Carlingford, which had a governing corporation from the thirteenth century, Dunleer is, comparatively, a very modern Corporation. It was not so constituted till the year 1682 in the reign of Charles II.

At the time of the Cromwellian Confiscation the old palesmen proprietors of the site of the town and the lands all about it were George Plunket of Dunleer, Patrick Ardagh of Dunleer, Christopher Tallon of Dunleer, Richard White of Richards-town, Mathew Ardagh of Ardaghstown, John Dromgoole of Dromgoolestown, Christopher Barnwell of Rathescar, John Fynglas of Toberstown, Sir Christopher Bellew and the Lord of Louth, Irish Papists, and one Protestant proprietor—Thomas Breg (in Book of Survey. Gregg in Act of Settlement), whose property was reserved to him.

The Book of Survey and Distribution does not specify the amount of land held by each of these, but groups them altogether as owners of 1046 Irish acres in the townland of Dunleer, and also of "20 parcills in the same per estimacion 16 acres," probably the town houses and gardens. This total of 1046 Irish acres equates exactly with the Ordnance Survey measurements of 1699 statute acres comprised in the 14 townlands of the modern enumeration which were returned in the Cromwellian list as the one townland of Dunleer. These 14 townlands with the two others of Athclare and Burren, specified separately in the Cromwellian Survey, make up the 16 townlands of the parish of Dunleer as then and now delimited.

The 1046 Irish acres confiscated by the Cromwellian parliament (Gregg's reserved portion must have been about 16 acres) was probably assigned by the Cromwellian Commissioners to certain soldiers from whom they were taken after the Restoration, and whose claims must have been provided for elsewhere, for these were given under the Act of Settlement to Colonel William Legge, a personal friend and devoted adherent of Charles I and Charles II.

Colonel Legge was of an old English family of landowners primarily of Italian origin seated for three centuries at "Legg's Place," Tunbridge. He was Groom of the Bedchamber to Charles I; distinguished himself in that king's battles against the Parliamentary forces, and was recommended by Charles to his son as "the faithfullest servant ever prince had." He joined the younger Charles at Worcester, was captured by the Cromwellian army, but was assisted by his wife to escape from prison and execution. When Charles regained the throne he offered Colonel Legge an earldom in fulfilment of his father's recommendation, but the dignity was declined because of want of sufficient means. Charles then enriched him with estates in England, and with a valuable property in Ireland—this parish of Dunleer, the Manor of Kilsaran, the Manor of Templetown (Cooley), the lands of Dunany and Draghanstown (616 acres), 123 acres in Termonfeckin, and lands in Galway, Roscommon, and the county of O'Faile—lands taken by the Cromwellian government from the Anglo-Irish adherents of his father, whose loyalty he felt no similar duty to recompense, but left them the expropriated victims of his enemies.

After Colonel Legge's death in 1672, his son George, who was a naval commander, obtained many important military appointments, and was made Master of the Horse and Gentleman of the Bedchamber to James, then Duke of York.

In 1682 Charles created him Baron Dartmouth of Devon in England, erected his Dunleer property into a Manor with the addition of lands in other parts of the county—Rathbrist (Tallanstown), Haggardstown, &c.—and made Dunleer a Corporation by Letters Patent in 1682 and by Charter in 1683 with Lord Dartmouth

as its patron. This first Lord Dartmouth held high office under James II, and was Admiral of the Fleet sent to prevent the landing of William of Orange. He remained faithful to James, was arrested for his loyalty by the new government, and died a prisoner in the Tower of London in 1691. His son, who succeeded him, won distinction in the government administration of Queen Anne's reign afterwards, and transmitted the title and the properties to his descendants the present holders.

The family probably never made any residence at Dunleer even temporarily, their home being in the south of England in Devon and Kent.

Robert Pierce, the first sovereign is given as the *titulado* or resident landowner of Dunleer in the 1659-60 census. (Louth Arch. Journal, 1904.)

The Fosters of Dunleer, ancestors of the Speaker Lord Oriel of Collon, were the local family most intimately connected with the Corporation from its establishment and for a hundred years afterwards.

The Tenisons of Thomastown Castle—now Knock Abbey, Mr. O'Reilly's seat, descendants of a Bishop of Meath—became prominently identified with it in 1722, and remained so as long as the Minute Book records, 1773.

The Coddingtons of Oldbridge, who intermarried with the Tenisons, first appear in the Corporation about 1750. To one of them the Earl of Dartmouth sold the Manor in the eighteenth century and they remained its owner and patron of the Borough and frequently its Sovereign and one of its representatives in Parliament till the Union.

The Corporation continued to elect a Sovereign annually up till 1811, but ceased to meet after that date as it had no business to do and no Parliament to which to send Members—(Report of Municipal Corporations Commission, 1833).

The Manor estate, which, as already mentioned, the Dartmouth family had sold to the Coddingtons, passed by sale to the Counts De Salis, and afterwards to Lord Bellew's family of Barmeath, the present owners.

The only Corporation Records remaining are one large book, 20" by 15", in which is transcribed the full text of the Charter of Charles II and the Minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Corporation from 1709 to 1773. The Minutes are apparently not the original entries, as the handwriting is the same all through. Apparently the minutes of the earlier period 1683-1709 have not been preserved.

The Report of the Municipal Corporation Commission, 1833, mentions that Mr. Coddington, the late proprietor of the manor had retained the books of the Corporation.

Probably this book passed to the De Salis family with the estate. It is marked in ink on the cover "R De Salis" who may have handed it over to the Bellews on selling the property. Mr. Gaskin has pencilled "Lord Bellew" in the fly-leaf. He evidently received it from Lord Bellew, and Miss Garstin gave it into the custody of the Archæological Society after his death.

TEXT OF THE CHARTER.

CHARLES THE SECOND by the Grace of God of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, King Defender of the Faith, to all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting.

Whereas upon Humble Petition made unto us by our Trusty and well beloved George Legg, Esqr., Master-General of our Ordinance, now George Legge, Baron of Dartmouth, We were graciously pleased in and by our Letters under our royal signet and signe manual, bearing date at our Court at White

Hall, the twentieth day of February in the thirty-fourth year of our reign, directed to our right trusty and right cntirely beloved cousin and Councillor James, Duke of Ormond, our Lieutenant General and General Governor of our said Kingdom of Ireland and to our Chief Governor or Govrs. there for the time being to declare our Royal Will and pleasure that the towns and lands of Ratheedy, Rathbrist als. Rabristy, Verdonstown, Manghreagh, Rathmore, Ballurgan, Ballyboy-beg, Ballyboy-more, the moiety of Great Haggarstown; the towns and lands of Baronstown, Cunigar and Durvallan, all situate lying and being in the Baronys of Dundalk and Lowth in our County of Lowth in our Kingdom of Ireland and now in the possession of the said George Legg shall be annexed unto and made part and parcell of the Manor of Dunlier situate lying and being in our said Barony of Dundalk in our said County of Lowth, to be hereafter held and reputed part and parcell of the said Manor of Dunlier with like power to the said George Legg, his heirs and assigns to alien in Fee, or for lives under such reservations and services as in the said Manor of Dunlier was and is by us directed and appointed to be held or enjoined together with such other Grants, Liberties, Priviledges and Freedoms as have already been granted to the said George Legg of or within the said Manor of Dunlier.

And whereas two fairs in the Yeare are held in the said town of Dunlier (that is to say)—one on the Feast of St. Andrew, and the other on the Feast of St. John the Baptist, which fairs continue for two days only, we did in and by our said letters signify our Royal Will and pleasure, that the said respective fairs should continue for three days each of them. And the said George Legg, his heirs and assigns, should and might constitute and appoint for ever from time to time one certain person to be Clerk of the Markette within the said Manor of Dunlier as it was formerly limited, and as it is by our said letters directed and intended to be enlarged, which said Clerk of the Markett so appointed from time to time shall have, receive, take and enjoy to his own use all such Fees, Advantages, Commodities and Emoluments as are usually and accustomedly taken and due to the Clerk of the Markett of Lanesborough or Dunlier at the election of the said George Legg.

And for the better encouragmt. of the planting of the said town of Dunlier We did also in and by our said letters signify our further will and pleasure and wee did thereby authorize our sd. Lieut. or other Chief Governor or Governors of our said Kingdom of Ireland for the tyme being to cause the said town of Dunlier to be created a Corporate Town to be henceforward governed by a Sovereigne and twelve Burgesses out of the inhabitants of the sd. town of Dunlier to be at present named by the said George Legg and Robert Peirce, Gent., to be the first Sovereigne. And that he and his successors should and might for ever exercise the said office of Sovereigne in all things as any other Sovereigne of any town Corporate within our said Realm of Ireland doth.

And yt. the said Sovereigne and Burgesses of the said town or the major part of them whereof the Sovereigne to be one might whensoever and as often as there should be a Parliamt. held in the said Kingdom of Ireland elect and return two Burgesses to serve in the said Parliament who might have the like priviledges and imminuties as any other Burgesses who serve or shall serve in Parliament there have. The Sovereigne for thetime being to be approved of by the said George Legg his heirs and assigns Lords of the said Manor of Dunlier. And the sd. town to have all such other priviledges, benefitts and Immunities as the Borough and Town Corporate of Lanesborough in our County of Longford within our said Kingdom of Ireland hath, and as full as if the same were particularly and expressly mentioned in these our letters. And wee did in and by our sd. letters, authorize our said

Lieut. or other Chief Governor or Governors of that our Realm by the advice of some of our learned Councill of our said Kingdome to cause one or more Letters Pattents to be passed under the Great Seale of our said Kingdome of Ireland for the end and purposes aforesd. with all such beneficiall clauses and non-obstantes as might make the same good, vallid and effectuell in the Law, and for so doing those our letters should be as well unto our said Lieut. or other Chiefe Governor or Governors of our sd. Kingdome of Ireland for the time being or to our Chancellor or Keeper of our Great Seale for the time being and all other our officers and Ministers of our sd. Realm whom it should concern a full and sufficient warrant, as in and by our said letters remaineing of Record in the Rolls of our High Court of Chancery in our said Kingdome of Ireland relation being thereunto had more fully and at large it doth and may appeare.

Now know yee that Wee of our speciall grace certain knowledge and meere motion by and with the advice and consent of our right trusty and right well-beloved cousin and counsellor Richd. Earl of Arran our Deputy of our said Kingdome of Ireland and according to the tenor and effect of our before recited letters have given and granted, and by these presents for us our heirs and successors doe give and grant unto the said George Legg his heires and assignes that all and singular ye afforesd. townes, lands, tenements and hereditamts. (yt. that is to say) ye townes and lands of Ratheedy, Rathbrist als. Rabristy, Verdinstown, Manghreagh, Rathmore, Ballurgan, Ballyboy-begg, Ballyboy-more, ye moiety of Great Haggartstown, ye townes and lands of Barronstown, Cunnigar and Durvallan, all situate lyeing and being in ye Barronyes of Dundalk and Lowth and County of Lowth aforesd. and now in possession of the said George Legg, shall be from henceforth for ever hereafter annexed unto and be reputed and be in deed and in name part and parcell of ye sd. Manor of Dunlier situate lyeing and being in ye sd. Barony of Dundalk and County of Lowth aforesd. to all intents, construction and purposes wt. soever, and the same townes and lands Wee doe annex unto and make part thereof and ye whole into one entire Manor, wee doe for us our heires and successors erect and create by these presents. And wee doe for us our heires and successors strictly charge and command that ye sd. severall townes, lands, tenements and hereditaments by these our letters pattents annexed unto and ye sd. severall castles and townes, lands, tenemts. and hereditamts. heretofore created by us into a Manor be and shall be from henceforth for ever reputed and taken together for one entire Manor to be called and known by the name of the Manor of Dunlier.

And further of our like special grace certaine knowledge and meer mocon by and with the advice aforesd and according to the tenor and effect of our sd. letters wee doe for us our heires and successors by these presents give and grant unto the said George Legg his heires and assignes free licence, power and authority yt he ye said George Legg his heires and assignes and every of them shall and may att his and their pleasure freely and without ye lett hindrance or impediment of us our heires and successors give, grant, enfeoffe or alien soe much of all and singular the aforesd premisses annexed to and made part of the sd. Manor of Dunlier as aforesd as he the sd. George Legg his heires and assignes shall think fit to any person or persons wt. soever and their heires in fee or for lives to be held of him the said George Legg his heires and assigns under such reservations and services as in the said Manor of Dunlier was and is by us directed and appointed to be held or enjoyed.

And further of our especiall grace certaine knowledge and meer mocon by and with ye advice and consent aforesd and according to ye tenor and effect of our said letters wee doe by these presents for us our heires and successors give and grant unto the said George Legg his heires and assignes full and free and absolute power,

lycence, liberty, privilege and authority that he ye said George Legg his heires and assignes and every of them shall and may for ever within the sd. Manor of Dunlier as the same is now by these presents enlarged and created unto one entire Manor in manner as aforesd have, hold, use, exercise and enjoy all such other grants, libertyes, priviledges, jurisdictions, freedomes and advantages as have heretofore been granted by us to the said George Legg within the said Mannor of Dunlier.

And further, whereas two faires in the yeare are held in ye said Towne of Dunlier (that is to say one on the Feast of St. Andrew, and the other on the Feast of St. John the Baptist, which faires continue for two days only ; our will and pleasure is, and we doe by these presents and by and with the advice and consent aforesd and according to the tenor and effect of the said letters give and grant the said George Legg his heires and assignes full and free liberty, power and authority to hold and keep ye aforesd respective faires yearly for ever at the sd. town of Dunlier aforesd for three days each of them respectively.

And further of our more especiall grace certaine knowledge and meer motion by and with the advice and consent aforesd wee have given and granted and by these presents for us our heires and successors wee doe give and grant unto the sd. George Legg his heires and assignes thar he shall and may forever hereafter have full and absolute power and authority from time to time at his and their will and pleasure to make, constitute, nominate and appoint a certaine person from time to time to be Clerk of the Markett in and within the sd Manor of Dunlier as it, was formerly lymitted and as it is now enlarged. And that such person so to be constituted, nominated and appointed by the said George Legg his heires and assignes to be Clerk of the Markett as aforesd shall from time to time have, enjoy, use and execute all and all manner of power, jurisdiction, preheminance, fees, perquisites and emoluments and advantages in and within the said Manor of Dunlier as it is by these presents now enlarged, which doth in any wise belong to the office of Clarke of the Markett, or which were heretofore used and exercised within the Manor of Dunlier as formerly lymitted or which the Clarke of ye Markett of our Borrough of Lanesborough or Dunlier at the election of ye said George Legg hath had or enjoyed or ought to have, enjoy, use or execute by virtue of the said office and that no other Clarke of the Markett of us our heires and successors shall hereafter enter into the sd. Manor or any part thereof to exercise or execute the sd. office onless it shall happen that there be none other Clarke of the Markett appointed by the sd. George Legg his heires and assignes to execute the sd. office or in default of the Clarke of the Markett soe to be nominated by the sd. George Legg his heires or assignes, any other statute act, ordinance or provision, or any other cause,, matter or thing wt. soever to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

And further of our more ample grace certaine knowledge amd meere mocon wee doe by these presents for us our heires and successors grant to the said George Legg his heires and assignes that these our letters pattents or ye inrollment thereof shall be in all things firm, good, available, effectuall and sufficient in ye Law against us our heires and successors as well in all our courts elsewhere within our sd. Realm of Ireland without any other grant, lycences, tollerations or confirmations of or from us our heires or successors, to be hereafter by the sd. George Legg his heires or assignes or any of them had, sued, procured or obtained notwithstanding the misnameing or not well nameing or misreciteall of the sd. Lands, Tenemts., Hereditmts. and other the premyses or any part or parcell thereof and notwithstanding ye misnameing or not naming of any Town, Hamlett, Village, parcell of land, place, parish or country wherein the premyses or any part or parcell thereof are situate lying and being and notwithstanding any other statute, act, ordinance, provision,

restriction or any other cause, matter or thing whatsoever to the evacuation, enervation or anihilation of these our letters pattents to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

And for the better encouragemt for ye planting ye said towne of Dunlier know ye that wee of our further especiall grace, certaine knowledge and meere mocon by and with ye advice aforesd and according to ye tenor and effect of our sd. letters, have, constituted, ordained and appointed and by this our present Charter for us our heires and successors doe constitute, ordaine, and appoint the said towne of Dunlier in ye sd. County of Lowth shall from henceforth for ever be a free Borrough and Corporation and shall be called by the name of the Borrough and town of Dunlier and that in the said town there shall be a body pollitique or corporate consisting of one soveraigne and twelve Burgesses of the said Borough and town of Dunlier to continue in succession for ever, which soveraigne shall likewise be a free Burgess of the sd. town and Borrough. And for the more full and perfect execution of ye said Corporation. We create, make, ordain, constitute, nominate, and appoint Robert Pierce, Gent., to be a free Burgess and to be the first and Modern Soveraigne of the said Town and Burrough of Dunlier and to continue in the said office untill the Monday next after the Feast of St. Michael the Arch Angill which shall be in the year 1684.

(THE FOLLOWING IS A SYNOPSIS OF THE REMAINDER OF CHARTER.)

We appoint Henry Earle of Drogheda, Henry Townley, Thomas Bellingham, Daniell Poe, Charles King, James Moore, John Holt, John Taaffe, Anthony Bury. Faithfull Bury, John Brunker and Anthony Foster, Esqrs., to be the first Burgesses of ye said Borrough and Town of Dunlier.

The Soveraigne and Burgesses shall be in name and deed a body Pollitique and Corporate, may admit to be freemen of the Burrough such and so many persons as they or the Soveraign and the greater part of the Burgesses shall think meet.

Shall from henceforth forever be a body Pollitique and Incorporate, shall be able persons in Law to make all manner of contracts, grants and purchases, and may implead or be impleaded.

Shall have the charge and free government of the said Town and Borrough of Dunlier during their time of office.

The Soveraign shall have power, with the consent of the Burgesses, to substitute in his absence some discreet and substantial person being one of the Burgesses inhabiting in the town to be Deputy Soveraign during his absence, and to have the powers of the Soveraign.

The Soveraign and Burgesses shall have a Common Seal under which they shall pass grants, warrants, deeds, &c. Shall and may build in the town a common hall or Tholsell, to be called the Tholsell of Dunlier, wherein to assemble. Shall and may be a free Guild Mercatory. Shall freely and lawfully make all such ordinances, statutes, orders by law as may tend to the good government of the Borrough and benefit of the inhabitants.

We grant to George Legg, his heirs and assigns full power to elect and nominate some one discreet and sufficient person learned in the law to be Recorder and Town Clarke during the pleasure of George Legg his heirs and assigns.

We appoint the Soveraign or the Deputy Soveraign in his absence to be a Justice of the Peace within the limits of the town and precincts.

We give power to Sovereign and Burgesses to appoint one Sergeant at Mace and all other inferior officers and ministers whom they shall think convenient.

The Sovereign and Burgesses shall have free election of the Sovereign to be chosen yearly out of the Burgesses, as also all other officers and ministers out of the number of freemen and inhabitants.

The Monday next after the feast of St. John the Baptist shall be the day of election of the Sovereign.

Three days after death or lawful removal of Sovereign the Burgesses shall proceed to election of a successor, who shall take the oaths within three days after election.

Sovereign elected Monday after feast of St. John the Baptist shall be first approved of by George Legg, his heirs or assignes, lords of the Manor of Dunlir, and after such approbation shall take his oath upon Monday next after the Feast of St. Michael the Arch-Angel then next following.

We require that Robert Peirce before the first of ——— in the presence of our next going Justices of Assize for County Lowth do take the ancient oath of a Justice of Peace, the Oath commonly called the Oath of Supremacy, expressed in the Statute made the second year of the late Queen Elizabeth and also this Corporall Oath following upon the Holy Evangelists (to wit) : —

THE SOVEREIGN'S OATH.

“ I shall hold and be true to our Sovereign Lord the King his heirs and successors and perform unto his Majesty his heirs and successors all duty, allegiance and faithfully hold and keep the Franchises of Dunlir for his Majesty his Heirs and Successors to the utmost of my power against all the Rebels and Enemies of the Crown of England and duley and truly execute the office of Sovereign within the sd. Town and Franchises of Dunlir and do right as well unto the Poor as unto the Rich, and to the Rich as to the Poor and be counselled by the Burgesses of the said Town and no person Receive unto Franchises of the sd. Town contrary to ye Ordinance thereupon made, so help me God, &c.”

And the said Robert Pierce and his successors having taken the said Oathes shall cause the said several Oathes to be given to his Deputy Sovereign.

All succeeding Sovereigns shall take the several oaths the Monday next after the Feast of St. Michael before the Sovereign and Recorder and at least two of the most ancient Burgesses.

Sovereign shall give Oath of Supremacy to Recorder and also

THE RECORDER'S OATH

“ I shall be true Liegeman to our Sovereign Lord the King, his Heirs and Successors, and true to the Franchises of ye sd. Town and Borough of Dunlir and the same truly Maintain with all my might and power and truly obey the Sovereign of the sd. Town in all things Lawfull and truly Exercise the Office of Recorder of the sd. Town of Dunlir and also all that to ye same appertaineth, so help me God, &c.”

The Sovereign shall give to every Freeman the Oath of Supremacy and

THE FREEMAN'S OATH.

“ I shall be obedient, Profitable and True to our Sovereign Lord the King, his Heirs and Successors and to the Commonalty of the sd. Town of Dunlir and truly

ye Franchises thereof maintaine with all my might and power, and give and yield with my Sovereigne and neighbours after my liveing, worship my Elders and their Councells keep, and not be assenting or abetting to any confederacy against the sd. Town and Borough or my Neighbours and not be retained to any other man but only to the said Sovereigne for the time being and these Articles well and Truly keep, so help me God, &c.”

Sovereign and Burgesses may admit as many persons as they shall please to be freemen, such persons taking the usual Oath of a Freeman and paying five shillings for his admission to the Sovereign and Burgesses for the benefit and behalf of the Burrough.

Sovereign shall be Coroner. All other Coroners prohibited from intermeddling in the execution of the office in the Town.

Sovereign and Burgesses shall and may from time to time by the major part of the votes of the Sovereign, Burgesses and Freemen present in the Town at the time, return two discreet burgesses of the town to every Parliament to be summoned within this Realm.

Sovereign shall be Justice of the Peace within the town for a year after he held office.

Power to Sovereign and Burgesses to acquire, purchase, and take estates of lands and tenements up to the value of £20 a year.

The Sovereign, Burgesses and Freemen and all the Inhabitants of the Borough shall at all times do suit and service to the Manor of Dunlier, and in the said Manor plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered in all manner of actions as shall be heard in the Court Leet, Court Baron and Court of Record of the Manor of Dunlier.

Witness our Deputy General of our Kingdom of Ireland at Dublin, 3 August 35th of our reign.

Enrolled in Chancery Patent Rolls 16 Nov. 35th year Charles II.

Entered in the office of the Auditor General of Ireland, 6 February, 1683.

RICHARD CHAPEL,
Deputy Auditor.