ACTS OF THE CORPORATION
OF COLERAINE, 1623–1669

Edited by
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IRISH MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION
2017
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am very grateful to the late marquess of Waterford, owner of the manuscript, for lending it to me, which allowed me to work on it at my leisure. It was a huge privilege to have this precious manuscript in my home, and to be able to transcribe and edit it at any hour. I am also very grateful to Kenneth Nicholls, who facilitated the loan of the manuscript and maintained a keen interest in the progress of its production into this book.

I benefited, as always, from valuable conversations with Aidan Clarke, David Edwards, Susan Flavin, Pádraig Lenihan, Annaleigh Molesworth, the Hon. William Molesworth, Kenneth Nicholls, Jane Ohlmeyer, Micheál Ó Siochrú and Tadhg Ó hAnnracháin. I am grateful to Gráinne McLaughlin for her palaeographical skills and to Róisín McLaughlin for her assistance with Gaelic terminology. Charles Benson’s notes on the paper and binding are a valuable addition to this volume.

I am grateful also to David Boyle MBE for showing me around Coleraine and providing me with a history of New Row Church; and to John and Astrid Baxter for their hospitality, providing me with maps of old Coleraine and for their encouragement.

My husband Simon Devilly and our children Oisín and Sibéal were as patient as ever with a project which took me away from them. Sibéal and I enjoyed a memorable field-trip to Coleraine and north Antrim with Majella and Hannah Matthews.

Finally, this book is dedicated to the late Margaret Carton, who gave me abundant love, support, encouragement, advice, stimulation, example and fun for more than 40 years. Tá thú go bhfuil leabhar bog aici sna flaithis.

DUBLIN AND ERRISBEG
July 2017
INTRODUCTION

This edition is a transcript of a manuscript book containing the acts or minutes of the common council of the corporation of Coleraine for the period 4 July 1623 to 29 July 1669. The first manuscript book, which is not known to have survived, would have contained the decisions for the period between the issuing of Coleraine’s charter on 28 June 1613 and July 1623. It is likely that, like other similar books, the first volume would have contained much more administrative material, such as oaths taken by office holders. The manuscript is currently in the possession of Sir Tristram Beresford.

The layout of the book is similar to the other corporation books of the period, with a wide margin on the left of the page, which was used to note briefly the contents of each entry for subsequent reference, and with the writing justified on the right hand side. There is a variety of hands, the earlier entries being in the standard clerk’s secretary hand and later entries in diplomatic script. The legibility of the hands is generally good, although the later ones are considerably less neat than the earlier ones, suggesting that the later town clerks had not received the usual clerk’s training. The manuscript has very little elaboration; the deaths of significant members of the corporation were often noted in heavy gothic script, and other headings were very occasionally given in the same script. While there is one single beautifully elaborated capital on f. 76r, there is nothing comparable in the manuscript ‘Acts of the corporation of Coleraine’ to the lovely pen and ink drawing that appeared annually in the Galway corporation book and also in the Waterford corporation manuscripts. However, other corporation books, such as Clonmel and Youghal, do not include such decorative elements. The greater part of the text (usually meetings or matters inserted, including deaths or swearings-in) is in chronological sequence, but very occasionally strict chronological sequence seems to break down. The minute of the corporation’s proceedings for 1 October 1668 (f. 191r) comes between the minute for 25 March [1668] (f. 190v) and the minute for 27 March 1668 (f. 192r), suggesting

1 See, for example, McGrath, Minute book, Clonmel, pp 5–9; Niall J. Byrne (ed.), The great parchment book of Waterford: Liber Antiquissimus Civitatis (IMC, Dublin, 2007), pp 43–52.
2 For an example of this style, see the minute book of the corporation of Londonderry, 1673–1686 (PRONI LA79/2AA/1; www.proni.gov.uk); see also the ‘editorial note’ following this introduction.
3 Galway corporation statute book (James Hardiman Library, NUI, Liber A; http://archives.library.nuigalway.ie/LiberA/html/LiberA.html); Julian C. Walton, The royal charters of Waterford (Waterford, 1992), p. 4; Council books of the corporation of Youghal (Cork City and County Archives, IE CCCA/ YTR/B; Richard Caulfield (ed.), The council book of the Corporation of Youghal: from 1610 to 1659, from 1666 to 1687, and from 1690 to 1800 (Guildford, 1878)).
that some text at least was entered at a later date. Likewise the minute of a meeting for 24 October 1653 was entered in the act book immediately following the minute of the court of common council for 29 October 1653 (ff 142r–142v).

Coleraine’s charter allowed for a common council of twelve aldermen, including the mayor, twenty-four burgesses and a chamberlain (the official who received and managed the town’s income), as well as the appointment of men to other functions such as recorder, town clerk, sword-bearer and serjeants at mace.4

Many towns received charters in 1613, but Coleraine, like Londonderry, was intended from its inception to be a significant settlement; Coleraine was given a larger territory than other towns (three miles in each direction from the centre of the town) and its chief officer was a mayor, whereas smaller settlements had a less prestigious status of sovereigns, portreeves or provosts; its council had 36 members, against the more standard twelve burgesses for smaller towns. Despite this, however, the charter placed significant and unusual constraints upon the mayor and common council, that any by-laws, acts or statutes they might make had to be approved and ratified by The Honourable The Irish Society of London within six months and that the Society had to approve the election of any man as mayor or alderman for the first ten years after the date of the charter; where the town did not elect officers, the Irish Society had the right to do so for the first decade. Similar conditions were imposed on Londonderry, clearly in an attempt to ensure both towns’ development and protect the London companies’ investment.

Coleraine had the usual municipal officers common to any town, such as the town clerk and chamberlain, and lesser officials such as bailiffs, including water-bailiffs, church wardens, clerks of the market, clerks and attorneys of the court of record, clock-keeper, constables, coroners, gaugers, measurers, porters, sealers of leather, serjeants at mace and sword-bearers. It also had the usual civic furniture such as a mace and members of the council wore civic robes. Citizens were appointed as necessary as assessors and collectors of rates, auditors of accounts, praisers of meat and surveyors of the highway and were employed for other routine tasks. However, although permitted by its charter to have a recorder (the town’s law officer), and even though John Wilkinson was nominated as its first recorder, there is no record of another man in that position until 1641, and subsequently 1663, and even then the men appointed are not known to have had any legal training. In effect, the office was executed by the town clerk.

The charter’s provision that any decision made by the common council had not merely to be in accordance with the laws in force in Ireland, but also to be ratified

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4 A concise view of the origin, constitution and proceedings of the Honourable Society of the Governor and Assistants of London of the new plantation in Ulster (London, 1822), pp cxi et seqq.

5 Hereafter cited as the Irish Society; see T. W. Moody, The Londonderry plantation, 1909–41: the City of London and the plantation in Ulster (Belfast, 1939).

6 For Kilkenny’s civic furniture see John Bradley, Treasures of Kilkenny: charters and civic records of Kilkenny city (Kilkenny, 2003), pp 118–21. Such insignia were not confined to towns and cities; universities also had their own ceremonial instruments, e.g. the sceptre or pedum (see Hereditas Minervae: a selection from Semmelweis University’s cultural treasures (Budapest, n.d.), p. 76 (the editor is grateful to Batiz Judit for drawing this reference to her attention).

7 See main text at ff 62r, 172r, 176r, 180r, 181r.
INTRODUCTION

and certified by the Irish Society, meant that effective power remained with the Irish Society; this presumably explains the absence of new rules in this minute book and also the town’s failure to appoint a lawyer to the office of recorder, although Londonderry did have such an officer. The Irish Society was actually managing matters and Coleraine’s council was left to deal only with very routine matters of little importance, besides levying and collecting money. As a result, the minute book does not record many decisions on major issues, largely concentrating on matters permitted to any court leet.8

Coleraine’s inhabitants had the usual range of occupations and employments, including merchants, brewers, brogue-makers, butchers, carpenters, chandlers, coopers, couriers, curriers, feltmaker, ferryman, glasiers, Glover, inn-keepers, inn-servants, ironmongers, midwife, salter, sailor, schoolmaster, scribe, shoemakers, tailors, smiths (including blacksmiths; the fact that freemen had to give an engraved silver spoon worth 13s. 4d. suggests that there was a resident silversmith), solders, sailors, tanners, vintners, weavers, and, invariably, idle persons and beggars. Hence the corporation made orders managing trade, and the charter empowered those in authority to authorise guilds and trade companies, there is no reference to the organisation of labour by means of guilds, fraternities and trade companies, nor to the existence of a merchant guild. This is very curious, as a merchant guild and trade companies were common in all European towns and in towns in Ireland such as Dublin, Cork, Kilkenny, Clonmel, New Ross and Youghal, and even in some relatively small settlements as Athboy.9 However, Coleraine’s corporation exercised tight control over commerce and the liberty to trade,10 and there must have been structures for managing the many apprenticeships and the quality of merchandise. In addition, in Clonmel, and presumably other places, trade companies were involved in the assessment and collection of levies, and there must have been a mechanism also for this in Coleraine, so the probability is that trade companies, not being a merchant guild, did exist but that their civic role was more restricted than in other towns. However, as Coleraine was established by London’s trade companies it may also be that they were not inclined to grant liberty of trade to merchants, who traditionally exercised greater commercial and political power than other men and that by limiting the role of a merchant guild, men of lower social status than merchants were able to attain and retain civic office and power.

8 Robert Powell, A treatise of the antiquity, authority, uses and jurisdiction of the ancient Courts of Leet, or view of frank-pledge (London, 1642).
9 Mary Clark and Raymond Refaussé (eds), Directory of historic Dublin guilds (Dublin, 1993). Clonmel’s corporation records provide considerable detail about the guilds and trade companies there (McGrath, op. cit., passim); for Athboy, see Brid McGrath, ‘Athboy’s election returns 1640 and 1641’ in Ríocht na Midhe, xxi (2010), pp 65–72. For the social role of religious confraternities, which obviously did not apply in a protestant settlement, see C. Lennon, ‘Fraternity and community in early modern Dublin’ in Robert Armstrong and Tadhg Ó hAnnracháin (eds), Community in early modern Ireland (Dublin, 2006), pp 167–78.
10 See below at ff 60r, 130v, 132v, 133v, 135v, 137, 138r, 140r, 142r, 143r, 147v, 148v, 149v, 154v, 155r, 156v, 157v, 158v, 162v, 166v, 173v, 176v, 177v, 178v–179v, 180v, 188v.
11 See below at ff 6r, 10r, 11r, 26r, 30r, 32r, 35v, 38v, 39r, 40r, 42r, 45r, 47r, 58v, 94r, 94v, 95r, 95v, 97r, 98v, 103r, 107v, 110r, 114v, 122r, 126r, 143v, 148r, 149v, 150v, 151v, 161v, 168v, 186v, 186v, 189r, 194v, 198v.
In effect, Coleraine’s minute book demonstrates the difference between towns which had developed organically over many centuries, and new settlements which were in the control of men who were not part of a political and commercial establishment. In older towns a hierarchy had developed and towns were generally managed by a combination of local gentry, merchants and lawyers. Only two members of Coleraine’s council (George Canning and James Walmesley) were described as ‘gent’, and only two others (John Ley(e) and Thomas Stansbey) as merchants. The members of the common council included the following tradesmen: John Hughes (blacksmith), Christopher Hasler, Robert Mayne and Robert Nason (butchers), Robert Andrews and Richard Smith (carpenters), William Adams, George Collymore (chandler), Matthew Poley (glover), Hannah Harper (shoemaker), John Edgecombe (slater), Richard Adams and George McLaughlin (tailors; McLaughlin also operated as an inn-keeper), William Adams jr, William Godfrey, jr, and Thomas Rowley (tanners), Thomas Church (vintner) and Thomas Darlington (yeoman). In most cases, however, their occupations or social standing are unknown; this is unusual as generally members of town or city councils were drawn from the local gentry and merchant communities, augmented by lawyers. Only one person below the rank of merchant (the glover John White fitz Geoffrey) is known to have served on Clonmel’s council in this period, and even the very wealthy waterman John English could not rise to any municipal office in that town outside his trade company. Nor, in Coleraine, did this lower social standing prevent their becoming mayor, as the tanner William Adams did. Moreover, at least six burgesses could not sign their names: Robert and Thomas Andrews, Richard Bettson, Hannibal Harper, Robert Mayne and Richard Smith. Coleraine was not the only new town to have men of inferior social standing on its council. Clonakilty’s 1613 charter names men described as carpenter, innkeeper, joiner, mason and shoemaker.

The minute book also demonstrates an unusual lack of involvement by successive bishops of Derry and local peers (although this may be explained by the fact that the earl, later marquis, of Antrim, who lived at Dunluce, was a Roman catholic). Honorary admissions to freedom were occasionally made to men such as the settler Sir Charles Poyntz, the Hon. Francis Moore and Lord Dunluce.

In fact, the town seemed anxious to ensure that merchants did not manage the town government, as was the case in other towns; Coleraine corporation controlled the licence to trade and frequently blocked its own merchants from assuming any role in the town’s government. It may be that as the town was developed and controlled by London trade companies, the craftsmen had no inclination to share power with their social superiors. On the contrary, as the position of burgess or alderman conferred considerable social status, retaining these positions guaranteed social advancement, especially as anyone holding the office of mayor acquired the title ‘Mr’ for life.

12 McGrath, ‘Communities of Clonmel’, pp 103–19.
13 See Great Parchment Book for references to burgesses not being able to sign their names.
14 RIA, MS Q.24.10 (unpaginated).
15 Poyntz was a settler from Gloucestershire, and Moore was the son of Viscount Moore of Drogheda.
16 McGrath, ‘Communities of Clonmel’, p. 108.
Even more unusually, serving burgesses, including town clerk and recorder (Godfrey Baker, Thomas Browntent, Edmund Cossens, Stephen Cuppage and Francis Haward), held lowly paid municipal offices. While three of Clonmel's recorders served as mayor, it would have been unheard of in other towns for the lower positions of constable (held by Henry Bennet and John Rowe), clock-keeper (occupied by Edward Glover) or sword-bearer (carried out by Isaac Barwick, Richard Cooke, Edward and George Godfrey) and sealer of leather (Randal Hall) to be held by serving members of the common council. While it is probable that the actual duties of these offices, especially the ceremonial role of sword-bearer, were carried out by paid subordinates, the burgesses were clearly reluctant to allow any paid office to be held by anyone who was not part of an inner circle. Burgesses of other towns would have regarded the exercise of these positions as beneath their dignity.

Coleraine's inhabitants' names were mainly of Scottish and English origin, but some were Gaelic Irish and at least one was French. Unsurprisingly, many of the same names recur, and it can be difficult to distinguish between members of the same name, especially within the same family, although some clues are given, such as senior or junior or place names appended to names (e.g. James Coughrane/Cochrane), where one is referred to as 'of the Bann side' and the other as 'Black' James.

The minute book records systems for raising money through levies and cess, including the appointment of assessors and collectors, means of managing money (mainly through the chamberlain, but also for auditing accounts); methods for managing records (including the chest for the charter) and the appointment of men to specific offices such as packer and gauger, and surveyors of the highways. Church officers including clergy, churchwardens, sidesmen and the vestry, are also mentioned. The market sold many commodities: salt, vinegar, beef and types of meat, candles, tallow, and cloth.

This act or minute book is of particular note both because it provides an account of Coleraine's early development and because it demonstrates a radical departure from the usual system of local government in Ireland. It presents a very different system of local government to that of the older Irish towns and cities. Unlike them it followed the structure of government in the City of London, the town being developed under the ownership and protection of London's different guilds and trade companies. It is therefore unsurprising that Coleraine followed the English capital's structure of a common council (as opposed to the Irish system of Deerehundred). There is no evidence of a bicameral system of a court of aldermen and common council as found in Dublin and Kilkenny.

In comparison with the minute books of Clonmel and Youghal, which have exceptionally high levels of detail, the Coleraine book gives relatively little information about decisions taken. Instead, it almost invariably gives the names of all the members of the common council who were present, in strict order of precedence (the dates of their admission to the council or to the list of aldermen). In other corporation minutes (e.g. Clonmel and Galway) the names of the aldermen and burgesses are

17 McGrath, 'Communities of Clonmel', pp 103–19.
given annually, at Michaelmas; Coleraine's repeated listing of the members of its council hints at social insecurity, a natural feature given the burgesses' generally lower social status.

Those interested in tracing men whose names appear in the book are referred to standard sources such as the 1630 muster rolls, the Civil Survey, the 1659 'Census' and the Hearth Money Rolls for the 1660s, which are held in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland and have mostly been published, to the port book of Coleraine and to the Great Parchment Book of Londonderry.18

The Acts of the corporation of Coleraine is the last of the eight surviving minute books of Irish corporations covering the period before 1649 to be published (with different levels of completeness).19 For the period after 1649, other towns' minute books have become available, and some, like Drogheda and Ennis, have been published;20 Trim's minute book (dating from 1654) is currently being edited. Others remain in manuscript form.21 It is hoped that others will be discovered, to add further to our understanding of urban government and society in Ireland in the early modern period.

EDITORIAL NOTE

In editing this manuscript, every effort has been made to preserve the original text and no amendments have been made to the text; spelling, grammar, and punctuation have not been standardised. Footnotes have been added to identify individuals or to explain unfamiliar terms.

Wherever editorial content has been added it is placed between square brackets. This applies in particular to dating. In editorial matter the year is treated as starting on 1 January; the start of each year (January) is therefore indicated in square brackets, centred and in larger font size; the relevant year also appears in the running heads on alternate pages. The full name of the month is given in square brackets where the manuscript uses numerical abbreviations such as July: or October: (e.g., “9th. Day of July: [September] 1645”; 8th. Day of October: [October] 1646”).

The summaries in the left margin of the manuscript have been placed between angle brackets and appear immediately above the entries to which they refer.
[f. 1r] [page torn] [At] a courte of Common Councell [hol]den beforwre the Maior aldermen and common [page torn] [co]uncell, of the Towne of Colerane, the [page torn] fourth Daye of July Anno Dni 1623 (vizt) before

Edmund Haward’ esquire
Maior

aldmnn [aldermen]                  alden
George Robinsone                  Philipp Taylor2
James Foucher3                     John Hatten4
Paule Brasier5                      Richard Burton6

burgss [Burgesses]                  burgs
Edward Harlifte7                      Nathaniel Davis
Chamberlaine                          William Godfreye8
Humfray Sharpe9                        Robert Nasone
William Rogers                          Thomas Rowley burgs
Henry Courtneyne                       Thomas Dorlington10
Paule Downe                                George Brookes11
William Barraby12                     Randall Hall
James Walmesley13

<An act yt ye Maior Aldrm & Burgesses shall goe to ye Church before ye elect ye Maior >

ffirste Yt is enacted, by the Maior aldermen and Common councell aforesaid. That every yeere upon the Daye of the election of the Maior of this towne of Colerane,

1 Appears as Edmond Hayward, a juror at gaol delivery at Londonderry, 31 July 1615 (Gogarty, ‘Ulster roll’).
2 A juror at gaol delivery at Londonderry, 31 July 1615 (Gogarty, ‘Ulster roll’).
3 James Foucher was exporting £328 5s. worth of beef, salt hides, candles and tallow to France in February 1615 (J. Hunter (ed.), The Ulster port books 1612–15 (Belfast, 2012), pp 74–5); a Frenchman, he received his denization on 16 June 1615 (Shaw, Denization, p. 321).
4 A landholder in Ringrash, Camus parish, near Coleraine (Civil Survey, iii, 149).
5 A juror at gaol delivery at Londonderry 31 July 1615 (Gogarty, ‘Ulster roll’). Described as yeoman in Great Parchment Book.
6 Edward Harlifte was presumably related to Sir Thomas Harlifte of Moland, Kent, who was closely connected with Tristam Beresford by marriage (NLI, G.O. MS 161, p. 124).
7 A landholder in Balleagheran, Coleraine liberties (Civil Survey, iii, 145; Great Parchment Book).
9 Described as yeoman in Great Parchment Book.
10 A landholder in Balleagheran, Coleraine liberties (Civil Survey, iii, 145).
11 A landholder in Balleagheran, Coleraine liberties (Civil Survey, iii, 144–5; Great Parchment Book).
12 Described as ‘gent’ in Great Parchment Book.
before such time as the Maior aldermen and Burgesses of the towne aforesaide for
the tyme beinge, shall goe to Courte to make ellection of the Maior as aforesaide
that they the saide Maior aldermen and Common councell of the towne of Colerane
aforsaid for the tyme beinge, shall goe to Churche to heere Divine service and a
sermon. and then after there returne from Churche shall goe to make ellection of the
Maior, according as is pscribed by the Charter of Coleraine

<An act to elect ye Maior by Ballatting>
And aloe yt is enacted by the foresaid Maior and Common councell at the foresaid
Courte, that from time to time, the Maior & Maiors of this towne of Colerane shalbe
Chosen and made ellection of by waye of Ballatting.

<An act to goe to [page torn] urch before ye [page torn] be sworne>
And aloe yt is enacted by and att the Courte aforesaide, that from time to time,
yeerely and every yeere upon the daye whereon the Maior of this towne is to take his
oath of Mairalty, that [f. 1v] before the taking of his saide oath [page torn] Common
Councell, of the towne [page torn] beinge, shall goe to Church [page torn] and after
there returne from [page torn] and there to have the Oath [page torn]

<An act to attend the Maior (upon the eleccon Day & ye Day he take his oath)
without warneing upon paine of vs the defaulter>
And further yt is enacted by [page torn] and Common Councell, that every [page torn]
the foresaid towne, wch from time [page torn] and every yeare, wth out sommons, o[page torn] Daye of Elleccon of the Maior [page torn] Daye of the taking of the
Maiors oat[page torn] in the moneth of mayr give there attendance[page torn] towne, for
the time beinge, to goe to Church[page torn] the time beinge and afterwards to come
to th[page torn] of the Maior ellected his oath. And that every[page torn] Burgesse
wch shall neclect, his attendance upon the[page torn] the tyme beinge, eyther to goe
to Church, or Count[page torn] eyther upon the Daye of election or swearinge
the May[page torn] and paye for every such neclect and defaulte, the some of [page
torn] shillings sterl. and lawfull money of and in England, to be levied[page torn] of
the goods and chattells, of the pties offendinge, by the officers of this incorporacon,
and delivered unto the Chamberlaine of Colerane aforesaide, for the tyme beinge,
for the use of the Maior aldermen, and Common Councell of the fore said towne of
Colerane and thire Successors.

<An Act for the Maior stafe>
And aloe it is enacted for Decencie Cause yt the Mayor of the Towne of Colerane
for the Time beinge, shall allwayes in the streets of Colerane walke wth a white staff
in his hand.

<An act to attend the Maior to the Church upon paine of xij for evy default>
Also at this Courte it is enacted, that allwayes upon the Sabath dayes, att due tymes,
both forenone and afternone the aldermen and burgesses of the towne of Colerane
afore saide for the time being, shall give there attendance to goe to Church wth the
Maior of the same towne for the time beinge except upon speciall busines hindering
the same, and that every alderman or Burgess making defaulte, in his attendance to
goe to church with the Mayor for the time being as afore saide, shall pay the fine of
twelvepence enlighe money for every such default, to be levied upon the goods and
Chattells of the pte or ptes offend[ing] by the officers of this towne for the time
beinge, and delivered in, unto the Chamberlaine of this towne for the time beinge
for the use of the Maior aldermen and Common Councell of the fore saide towne of
Colerane and their successors.14

[f. 2r] <An act for gauging of butter & tallow>
Alsoe yt
is enacted at this Courte by the Mayor, Alderm and common Council afore
saide, that the Gauger of the Towne of Colerane for the time beinge, shall search and
take view of all Butter and Tallowe exported, and Carried att any time or tymes out
of the same towne. And if the same be good mchantable and sufficient to allow of the
same, and seale the vessells at both ends otherwise, if the same shalbe insufficient, to
make staye and seizure thereof, untill order therewth shal be further taken by the
Mayor, alderman and Common Council of this towne for the time beinge. And the
Gauger to take for his foresaid searching and sealeing the fee of ffourpence the tonn
for tallow and a halfpenny the firkin for butter, and soe p[ro] porconaly according to
the quantitie of butter, viewed and searched.

<for keepeing ye 4 keyes of ye towns Chest>
Alsoe yt is enacted att and in this Courte, that Tristram Beresford15 esquire, alderman
Paule Brasier alderm Nathaniell Davies burgesse and Robert Nasone Burgesse of
this towne, shall from this time untill the five and twentyeth daye of Marche next
everyone of them keepe one keye, being ffoure in number of a Cheste standinge in
the now Court house of Colerane, wheerein, shall remayne, the Charter, and greate
Towne seal of Colerane afore saide, And alsoe all Bonds and evidence, touching and
Concereinge this towne of Colerane, and the officers thereof.

[f. 2v] At a courte of Common Councell holden for the Towne and libets of Colerane,
before the Maior alden and Common Councell of Colerane afore saide the first Daye
of September Anno Dni 1623.

James Grimes assreem>
James Grimes was made and sworne a freeman whoe is to give a swordcase to be
placed in the Chamber of the foresaid towne to put the towne swoorde in.
George Canning was made and sworn a freeman at this Court.

At this Court, it was enacted that every year the Mayor for the time being three aldermen, the Chamberlain three Burgesses, two Constables of this town and the two sergeants to attend to attend them upon St Thomas Day if they be not Sunday but if they be then upon the Day following shall goe and view all measures whereby wine, beer, Ale or any thing else is sold within the town and franchises of Coleraine, as alsoe all weights, measures yards and ells, which shall be found defective or insufficient, to (illeg.) take, break, burn or dispose of, as to them shall seem most meet.

Yt is further enacted in att, and by this Court that no beer or ale within the town and liberties of Coleraine after Monday next shall be sold for more than one penny English the wine quart upon pain of forfeiting six shillings of like money for every quart which shall be sold at any higher or greater rate, to be levied upon the goods and Chattels of the offender, and put into the poor box of the parish of Coleraine.

[ff. 3r] Alsoe it is enacted, by and at this Court, that all aldermen and Burgesses, of this incorporation, shall from time to time upon warning give their attendance upon the Mayor of this town for the time being at the hours they shall be warned, and shall go to all Courts of Common Counsel with the said Mayor held within this town, and that for every default or neglect that shall be made therein, in the part neglecting or making

defaulce, shall pay some of twelve pence English money for every such default, to be levied upon the goods & Chattells of the offender by the officers of this Towne for the time being and delivered unto the Chamberlain of this town for the time being for the use of the Mayor, aldermen and Common counsell of this incorporation and their successors.

Also that every person warned upon any Jury in the town Court of this town of Coleraine shall pay for every default which he shall make in not appearing the same of twopence English to be levied upon the goods & Chattells of the offenders

Canning, from Barton, Warwickshire, was agent for the Ironmongers’ Company and founded a settlement at Garvagh, ten miles from Coleraine. Described as of Agheen, Co. Londonderry, esquire (Great Parchment Book), Canning, parish clerk, was a witness in the Star Chamber case (Marsh’s Library, MS Z3 1.6, no. 5, ff 25v, 26r); see Thomas Staples to John Leigh concerning a lease of the lands of Cooleragh and others in Loghinshehilb barony, Co. Londonderry, demised by George Canyng, 8 July 1622, with attached commission (TNA, Chancery, BB135).
for the use aforesaid by the officers of Colerane aforesaid and delivered in unto the Chamberlaine of this towne, for the time being as aforesaid,

<An act for ye towne clerk to attend att Courts of tryallsayne ij>
And if the towne clark of the Towne of Colerane for the time being shall neglect his attendance, att or in the Court, att the times aforesaid, then he to forfeyte for every such neglect, the some of two shillings stel: to be levied as aforesaid.

<An act for the sergians to attend the Maior>
Alseoe by and at this Courte yt is enacted and ordainyd, that the seriants of the Mace of this towne of Colerane, for the time beinge, shall att all times when the Maior of this towne goeth eyther to churche, or unto any Court or Courts, goe before the Mayor for the time being, with either of them with a haulbert on his shoulder.

<An act when to choose all ye towns officers>
Alseoe by and att this Courte yt is enacted and ordainyd, that upon the first Courte Daye of Common councell, wch shalbe every yeere helde wthin this towne, next after the Maior of this towne of Colerane shall take his Oath of Maioralty and all officers wch are Changable wth in this incorporacon shalbe elected and sworne.

<An act to walke ye bounds of ye liberts once evy yeare>
Alseoe by and att this Courte it is enacted, that every and every yeere upon Wednesdaye and thursdays in whitsone weeke for the Mayor of this towne of Colerane for the time beinge, with foure aldermen, and eight burgesses, of the same towne for the time beinge, and such other inhabitants as the Maior for the time being shalbe pleased to take wth him, shall perambulate the whole Circute and bounds of the libets of Colerane aforesaid thereby to mainteyne, the true lawfull and iust bounds of the same.

[f. 3v] <An act for ye pserving of ye Rampier>
Alseoe where as this Towne, is much pestered, fouled and the rampire trodden downe, made mire and uneven, by Cattell wch are suffered to come into this Towne of Colerane, for the avoyding of wch it is by this Courte enacted, that if any Cows, steares, oxen, horses mares nags or sheepe, shalbe founde in this towne, eyther upon the rampire or in any other place of this towne without a keeper or driver, that the ptie oweninge, the fore saide Cattell shall paye for every beast founde upon the rampire, or founde in any other place of this towne without a keeper or drover, the some of twelve pence english money, to be levied upon the goods and Chattells of the ptie or pties, whose Cattell shalbe founde offendinge against this order by the officers of Colerane for the time beinge, and delivered in unto the Chamberlaine of Colerane for the time beinge for the use of the Maior and Common Councell of Colerane aforesaid and their successors.

17 The ramparts, which remain in the town today, described as ‘the Mudwall wherewith Colraine ys compassed’ (Marsh’s Library, MS Z3.1.6, no. 5, f. 10v).