

ACTS OF THE CORPORATION
OF COLERAINE, 1623–1699

Edited by
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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 administrative material, such as oaths taken by office holders.¹ The manuscript is currently in the possession of descendants 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.² 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.³ 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, LA/79/2AA/1; www.proni.gov.uk); see also the 'editorial note' following this introduction.

³ Galway corporation statute book (James Hardiman Library, NUIG, '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 the 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 London⁵ 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.⁶ Citizens were appointed as necessary as assessors and collectors for levies, auditors of accounts, praisers of meat and surveyors of the highway and so on 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.⁷ 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

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, 172v, 176r, 180v, 181r.

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, clergy, coopers, couriers, curriers, feltmaker, ferryman, glasiors, glover, inn-keepers, masons, mercers, midwife, saddler, sailor, schoolmaster, scribe, shoemakers, slater, smiths (including blacksmiths; the fact that freemen had to give an engraved silver spoon worth 13s. 4d. suggests that there was a resident silversmith), soldiers, tailors, tanners, vintners, weavers, and, invariably, idle persons and beggars. While the corporation made orders managing trade, and the charter empowered them 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 such relatively small settlements as Athboy.⁹ However, Coleraine's corporation exercised tight control over commerce and the liberty to trade¹⁰, 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, including 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 tradesmen 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 of the franck-pledge* (London, 1642).

⁹ Mary Clark and Raymond Refaüssé (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 Bríd 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, 132r, 133v, 135v, 137r, 138r, 140r, 142r, 143r, 147r, 148v, 149r, 154v, 155r, 156v, 157v, 158v, 162v, 166v, 173r, 176r, 177r, 178v–79r, 190r, 198v.

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, 150r, 151v, 161v, 168v, 186r, 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 Walmsley) 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) and Matthew Poley (glover), Hannibal Harper (shoemaker), John Edgecombe (slaver), 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 sat 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.¹² Moreover, at least six burgesses could not sign their names: Robert and Thomas Andrews, Richard Bettson, Hannibal Harper, Robert Mayne and Richard Smith.¹³ 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.¹⁴

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.¹⁵

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.¹⁶

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 Brownent, Edmund Cossens, Stephen Cuppage and Francis Haward), held lowlier paid municipal offices. While three of Clonmel's recorders served as mayor,¹⁷ 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 men 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 Cochrane/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 urban 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 Deerpriest). 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.

¹⁸ <http://www.billmacafee.com/17thcenturydatabases.htm>; R. C. Simmington, (ed.), *The Civil Survey, A.D. 1654–56* (IMC, 10 vols. Dublin, 1931–61), vol. iii; R. J. Hunter (ed.), *The Ulster port books 1612–15* (Belfast, 2012); Great Parchment Book.

¹⁹ R. M. Young (ed.), *The town book of the corporation of Belfast 1613–1816* (Belfast and London, 1892); McGrath, *Minute book, Clonmel*; Richard Caulfield, (ed.), *The council book of the corporation of the city of Cork* (Gunniford, 1876); Caulfield (ed.), *Council book of the corporation of Youghal*; J. T. Gilbert, (ed.), *Collection of ancient records of Dublin* (18 vols. Dublin, 1889–1922); 'Archives of the municipal corporation of Waterford', ed. J. T. Gilbert in HMC, *Report 10*, appendix 5 (London, 1885), pp 265–339; 'Archives of the municipal corporation of Galway', ed. J. T. Gilbert in HMC, *Report 10*, appendix 5, pp 380–520. The Belfast, Cork and Youghal books are available free online at www.archive.org; for Galway see note 3 above.

²⁰ Brian Ó Dálaigh (ed.), *Corporation book of Ennis, 1660–1810* (Dublin, 1990); T. Gogarty (ed.), *Council book of the corporation of Drogheda*. Vol. I: *From the year 1649 to 1734* (Drogheda, 1915).

²¹ The single folio of the New Ross Corporation records from 1634 is reproduced in B. McGrath, 'Women in New Ross, 1635' in T. Dunne (ed.), *New Ross, Rospointe, Ros Mhic Treoin: an anthology celebrating 800 years* (Wexford, 2007), pp 158–61; see also pp 195–200 for images of later records. Londonderry's records, from 1673, are now available online at www.proni.gov.uk. Belturbet's records survive from 1657 (www.cavancoco.ie/cavanweb/publish/domain/cavancoco/file/leisure-and-culture/Archives/Belturbet.pdf). A fragment of Clonmel's minute book for 1657–8 (NLI, MS 49,518/66) is being prepared for publication in *Archivium Hibernicum* by the editor; see also B. McGrath, 'A fragment of the minute book of the corporation of New Ross' in *JRSAI*, 144–5 (2014–15), pp 100–12.

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 7ber or 8ber (e.g. '9th. Day of 7ber: [September] 1645'; 8th. Day of 8ber. [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.

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[1623]

[f. 1r] [page torn] [At] a courte of Common Councell [hol]den befowre 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 Haward¹ esquire
Maior

aldrmn [aldermen]

George Robinsone
James ffouchere³
Paule Brasier⁵

alden

Phillipp Taylor²
John Hatten⁴
Richard Baryn^{1,6}

burgss [Burgesses]

Edward Harflete⁷
Chamberlaine
Humfry Sharpe⁹
William Rogers
Henry Courtney
Paule Downe
William Barraby¹²
James Walmesley¹³

burgss

Nathaniel Davis
William Godfrye⁸
Robert Nasone
Thomas Rowley burgss
Thomas Dorlington¹⁰
George Brookes¹¹
Randall Hall

<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 aforesaide. That every yeere upon the Daye of the election of the Maior of this towne of Colerane,

¹ Appears as Edmund 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 ffouchere was exporting £328 5s. worth of beef, salt hides, candles and tallow to France in February 1615 (cf. 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').
Great Parchment Book.

⁷ Edward Harflete was presumably related to Sir Thomas Harflete of Moland, Kent, who was closely connected with Tristram Beresford by marriage (NLI, G.O. MS 161, p. 124).

⁸ A landholder in Balleagheran, Coleraine liberties (*Civil Survey*, iii, 145; Great Parchment Book).

⁹ Delivering £100 loan from Sir Richard Boyle to Sir Thomas Phillips 24 June 1616 (A. B. Grossart (ed.), *Lismore Papers* (10 vols, London 1886), 1st ser., i, 116, (London, 1880)).

¹⁰ Described as yeoman in Great Parchment Book.

¹¹ A landholder in Balleagheran, Coleraine liberties (*Civil Survey*, iii, 145).

¹² A landholder in Balleagheran, Coleraine liberties (*Civil Survey*, iii, 144–5; Great Parchment Book).

¹³ 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 councill of the towne of Colerane aforesaide 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 alsoe yt is enacted by the foresaide Maior and Common councill at the foresaide Courte, that from time to time, the Maior & Maiors of this towne of Colerane shall be Chosen and made ellection of by waye of Ballatting.

<An act to goe to [page torn] urch before ye [page torn] be sworne>

And alsoe 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 takeing of his saide Oa[page torn] Common Councill, 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 eleccion Day & ye Day he take his oath) without warneing upon paine of vs the defaulters>

And further yt is enacted by [page torn] and Common Councill, that every [page torn] the foresaide towne, wch from time [page torn] and every yeare, wth out sommons, o[page torn] Daye of Elleccion of the Maior of th [page torn] Daye of the takeing of the Maiors oat[page torn] in the more [page torn] 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 elected his oath. And that every [page torn] Burgesse wch shall neglect, his attendance upon the [page torn] the tyme beinge, eyther to goe to Church, or Court as [page torn] eyther upon the Daye of election or sweareing the May[page torn] shall paye for every such neglect 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 pries offendinge, by the officers of this incorporacon, and delivered in unto the Chamberlaine of Colerane aforesaide, for the tyme beinge, for the use of the Maior aldermen, and Common Councill of the fore said towne of Colerane and their Successors.

<An Act for the Maior stafe>

And alsoe 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^d for evy default>

Alsoe at this Courte it is enacted, that allwayes upon the Sabath dayes, att due tymes, both forenone and afternoone 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 wth the Mayor for the time being as afore saide, shall pay the fine of twelpepence englishe money for every such default, to be levied upon the goods and Chattells of the ptie or pries 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 theire successors.¹⁴

[f. 2r] <An act for gauging of butter & tallow>

Alsoe yt is en acted at this Courte by the Mayor, Alderm and common Councell afore saide, that the Gauger of the Towne of Colerane for the time beinge, shall search and take veive of all Butter and Tallowe exported, and Carried att any tyme 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 att both ends otherwise, if the same shal be insufficient, to make staye and seizure thereof, untill order therewth shal be further taken wth by the Mayor, alderman and Common Councell of this towne for the time beinge. And the Gauger to take for his foresaide searching and sealeing the fee of ffourpence the tonn for tallow and a halfpenny the firkin for butter, and for p[ro]porconaly according to the quantitie of butter, viewed and searched.

<for keepinge ye 4 keyes of ye townes Chest>

Alsoe yt is enacted att and in this Courte, That Tristram Beresforde¹⁵ esquire, alderman Paule Brasier alderm Nathaniell Davies burgesse and Robert Nasone Burgesse of this towne, shall from this time untill the ffive and twentyeth daye of Marche next everyone of them keepe one keye, being ffoure in number of a Chestre standinge in the now Court house of Colerane, wheerein, shall remayne, the Charter, and greate Towne seale of Colerane afore saide, And alsoe all Bonds and evidence, touching and Concereinge this towne of Colerane, and the officers thereof.

[f. 2v] Att the 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 affreem>

James Grimes was made and sworne a freeman whoe is to give a swoordecase to be placed in the Chamber of the foresaide towne to put the towne swoorde in.

¹⁴ For a similar act in Belfast, see Young (ed.), *Town book of the corporation of Belfast*, p. 6.

¹⁵ For Tristram Beresford (1574–1647/9) see *DIB*.

<Gorge Canning gent ffreem>

George Canning¹⁶ gent was made and sworne a freem[an] att this Courte.

<An act for the survey of waights & measures>

Att this Courte, yt was enacted that every yeere the Maior for the tyme beinge three aldermen the Chamberlane three Burgesses twoe Constables of this towne and the twoe sergants to attend them upon St Thomas Daye yf yt be not sunday but yf yt be then upon the Daye followinge shall goe and viewe all measures whereby wine, beere, Ale or any thinge ellce is sould within the towne and ffranchises of Colerane, as allsoe all waighes, measures yards and ells, wch shalbe founde deficient or insufficient, to [illeg.] take, breake burne or dispose of, as to them shall seeme most meet.

<An act for the selling beere or ale at 1^d. p qtr>

Yt is ffrurther inacted in att, and by this Courte that noe beere or ale wthin the towne and libets of Colerane after munday next shalbe sould for more then one penny englishe the wine quarte upon paine of forfaytinge six shillings of like money for every quarte wch shalbe sould att any higher or greater rate, to be levied upon the goods and Chattels of the offender, and put into the p[ar]ishe of Colerane.

[f. 3r] <An act to attend ye Maior at Courts of Common Counsell>

Alsoe yt is enacted, by and at this Courte, that all aldermen and Burgesses, of this incorporacon, shall from time to tyme upon waring give their attendance upon the Maior of this towne for the time beinge, at the howers they shalbe warned. to goe to all Courts of Common Counsell wth the fore said Maior heald wthin this towne, and that for every default or neglect that shalbe made therein, in the p[ar]tie neglecting or makinge

<Payne xij^d. for evy default>

defaulte, shall paye the some of twelve pence english money for every such defaulte, to be levied upon the goods & Chattells of the offender by the officers of this Towne for the time being and delivered in unto the Chamberlaine of this towne for the time being for the use of the Maior, aldermen and Common counsell of this incorporacon and their successors.

<An act for Juriors to appeare in time at Courts of tryalls upon paine of xij^d>

And alsoe that every pson warned up on any Jury in the towne Courte of this towne of Colerane shall paye for every default wch he shall make in not appeareinge the some of twelvence Englishe, to be levied upon the goods & Chattells of the offenders

¹⁶ 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 Coolraghtes and others in Loughinshollyn barony, Co. Londonderry, demised by George Canynge, 8 July 1622, with attached commission (TNA, Chancery, BB135).

for the use aforesaide by the officers of Colerane aforesaide and delivered in unto the Chamberlaine of this towne, for the time being as aforesaide,

<An act for ye towne clark to attend att Courts of tryalls payne ij>

And if the towne clarke of the Towne of Colerane for the time being shall neglect his attendance, att or in the Court, att the times afore saide, then he to forfeyte for every such neglect, the some of two shillings sterl: to be levied as aforesaide.

<An act for the sergiants to attend the Maior>

Alsoe by and at this Courte yt is enacted and ordayned, that the seriants of the Maie 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 shouldier.

<An act when to choose all ye towns officers>

Alsoe by and att this Courte yt is enacted and ordayned, that upon the ffirst Courte Daye of Common councell, wch shalbe every yeere helde within 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 every yeare>

Alsoe by and att this Courte it is enacted, that yearly and every yeere upon Wednesdaye and thursdaye in whitsone weeke for the Maior of this towne of Colerane for the time being, wth foure aldermen, and eight burgesses, of the same towne for the time being, 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 aforesaide thereby to mainteyne the true lawfull and iust bounds of the same.

[f. 3v] <An act for ye keeping of ye Rampier>

Alsoe where as this towne, is much pestered, fouled and the rampire¹⁷ 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 Cowes, steares, oxen, horses mares nags or sheepe, shalbe founde in this towne, eyther upon the rampier, eyther wth or without a keeper, or in any other place of this towne without a keeper or driver, [illegible] wth them, 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 [illegible] 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 afore saide and their successors.

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