

FREEMASONRY DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

THE STATUTES
OF KING EDWARD VI
1549

MARY'S CHAPEL
THE SECOND OLDEST MASONIC MINUTE
1599

THE CHARTER
SINCLAIR
1601

Statutes of King Edward VI of England

1548/1549

Anno secundo & tertio. CAP. XV.

The bill of conspiracies of victuallers and craftsmen.

IV. And it is ordained and enacted by the authority aforesaid,
That no person or persons shall at any time after the first day

of April next coming, interrupt, deny, let or disturb any free-mason, rough-mason, carpenter, bricklayer, plaisterer, joiner, hardhewer, sawyer, tiler, paver, glasier, lime-burner, brick-maker, tile-maker, plumber or labourer, born in this realm or made denizen, to work in any of the said crafts in any city, borough or town corporate, with any person and persons that will retain him or them, albeit the said person or persons so retained or any of them do not inhabit or dwell in the city, borough or town corporate where he or they shall work, nor be free of the same city, borough or town ; any statute, law, ordinance or other thing whatsoever had or made to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding; (2) and that upon pain of forfeiture of five pounds for every interruption or disturbance done contrary to this statute ; the one moiety of every such forfeiture to be to the King, and the other moiety thereof to be to him or them that will sue for the same in any of the King's courts of record, by bill, plaint, action of debt or

information, wherein no wager of law, essoin nor protection shall be allowed. Continued by 22 & 23 Car. 2. c. 19. except as such things as are thereby altered or repealed.

Anno tertio & quarto. CAP. XX.

**An act touching the repeal
of a certain branch of an act passed
in the last session of this parliament
concerning
victuallers and artificers.**

W HERE by a certain act in the parliament holden at Westminster by prorogation the fourth day of November in the second year of the reign of our most dread sovereign lord the

King that now is, it is enacted and established, That no person or persons should at any time after the first day of April then next ensuing, interrupt, deny, let or disturb any free mason, rough mason, carpenter, bricklayer, plaisterer, joiner, hewer, sawyer, tiler, pavier, glasier, lime-burner, brick-maker, tile-maker, plumber or labourer, born in this realm, or made denizen, to work in any of the said crafts in any city, borough or town corporate, with any person and persons that will retain him or them, albeit the said person or persons so retained, or any of them, do not inhabit or dwell in the city, borough or town corporate where he or they shall work, nor be free of the same city, borough or town; any statute, law, ordinance or other thing whatsoever, before had or made to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding; (2) and that upon pain of forfeiture of v. li. for every interruption or disturbance done contrary to the said estatute; the one moiety of every such forfeiture to be to the King, and the other moiety thereof to be to him or them

that will sue for the same in any of the King's courts of record, by bill, plaint, action of debt or information, wherein no wager of law, essoin nor protection should be allowed, as by the said act of parliament amongst other things more plainly appeareth.

II. And forasmuch as in the city of London being the King's chamber, and most ancient city of this realm, the artificers and craftsmen of the arts, crafts and mysteries aforesaid, are at great costs and charges, as well in bearing and paying of taxes, tallages, subsidies, scot, lot and other charges, as well as to the King's majesty, as to the said city, and at many and sundry triumphs, and other times for the King's honour, and that if foreigners should come and work among them, within the liberties of the said city, contrary to their ancient privileges, that the same should be a great decay of cunning, and an impoverishment and driving away of the free-men, being artificers of the crafts, arts and mysteries aforesaid, within the said city of London, to the great hurt or destruction of the said

city :

III. For reformation whereof the King's majesty is pleased and contented that it be enacted by the authority of this present parliament, with the assent of the lords spiritual and temporal, and of the commons, in this present parliament assembled, That the said act, only touching the article and clause aforesaid, and all and every sentence and branch contained in the said act concerning the same article, shall from henceforth be resumed, repealed, annulled, revoked, annihilated and utterly made void for ever; any thing contained in the said former act touching the clause or article aforesaid in any wise to the contrary notwithstanding.

Mary's Chapel the second oldest masonic minute

Vltimo July 1599.

The qlk day George Patoun maissoun grenttit & confessit that lie had offendit agane the dekin & mrs for placeing of ane cowane to wirk at ane chymnay held for tua dayis and ane half day, for the qlk offenss he submittit him self in the dekin & mrs guds willis for qt vnlaw they pless to lay to his charge, and thay having respect to the said Georges humill submissioun & of his estait, they remittit him the said offenss,

Providing alwayis that gif ather he [or] ony vther brother
comitt the lyke offenss heirefter that the law sall stryke vpoun
thame indiscreta wtout exceptioun of personis. This wes done
in prcs of Paull Maissoun dekin, Thoas Weir warden, Thoas
Watt, Johne Broun, Henrie Tailzefeir, the said George Patoun,
& Adam Walkar.

Ita est Adamus Gibsone norius.

Paull Maisoun, dekin.

Charter granted
by the masons
of Scotland
to William Sinclair
of Roslin

1601

Be it kend till all men be thir present letters ws Deacons

Maistres and freemen of the Masons within the realme of
Scotland with express consent and assent of Wm Schaw
Maister of Wark to our Souane Lord

ffor sa meikle as from aige to aige it has been observit
amangis that the Lairds of Rosling has ever been Patrons and
Protectors of us and our priviledges likeas our predecessors
has obey'd and acknowledged them as Patrones and tectoris
while that within thir few years throwch negligence and
sleuthfulness the samyn has past furth of vse whereby not only
has the Laird of Rosling lyne out of his just rycht but also our
hail craft has been destitute of ane patron and protector and
overseer qlk has genderit manyfauld corruptions and
imperfections, baith amangis ourselves and in our craft and
has given occasion to mony persones to conseve evill opinioun
of ws and our craft and to leive off great enterprises of policie
be reason of our great wtout correction whereby not only the
committers of the faults but also the honest men are

disapoyntit of their craft and ffeit. As lyikwayes when divers
and sundrie contraversies falls out amangis ourselfs thair
follows great and manyfald inconvenientis through want of
ane (Patron and Protector) we not being able to await upon the
ordinar judges and judgement of this realme through the
occasioun of our powertie and langsumness of process for
remeid qrof and for keeping of guid ordour amangis us in all
tymes cumyng, and for advancement of our craft and
vocioun within this realme and furthering of policie within
the samyn We for ourselves and in name of our hail
bretherene and craftismen with consent foresaid agrees and
consents that Wm Sinclar now of Rosling for himself & his
airis purchase and obtene at ye hands of our Souane Lord
libertie fredome and jurisdiction vpon us and our successors
in all tymes cummyng as patrons and judges to us and the hail
fessoris of our craft wtin this realme quhom off we have
power and commission sua that hereafter we may acknowlege

him and his airis as our patrone and judge under our Souerane Lord without ony kind of appellation or declynyng from his judgement with power to the said Williame and his airis to depute judges ane or mae under him and to use sick ampill and large jurisdictione upon us and our successors als weill as burghe as land as it shall please our Souerane Lord to grant to him & his airis.

William Schaw, Maistir of Wark. Edinburgh.

Andro Symsons Jhone Robeson St Androse

Hadington P. Capbell takand ye burdyng for Jon. Saw, J.

Vallance William Aittoun Achiesone Heavin

Georg Aittoun Jo. Fwsetter Thomas Petticrif

Dunfermling Robert Pest

Thomas Weir mason in Edr. Thomas Robertsoun wardane of the Ludge of Dunfermling and Sanct Androis and takand the burding upon him for the brethren of the Mason Craft within

they Lwdges and for the Commissioners efter mentionat viz.
David Skowgall Alexander Gilbert and David Spens for the
Lwdge of Sanct Androis Andrew Alisone and Archibald
Angous Commissionaris for the Lwdge of Dwmfermling and
Robert Baize of Haddington with our handis led on the pen be
the notaris underwritten at our commandis because we can
nocht write.

Ita est Laurentius Robertsoun notarius publicus ad praemissa
requisitus de specialibus mandatis dict. personarum scribere
nescien. ut aseruerunt testan. manu mea propria.

(Ita est) Henricus Banna(Tyne) connotarius ad premissa (de
mandatis) antedictarum personarum (scribere nescientium ut
aseruerunt teste) manu mea propria.

Charter granted
by the masons
of Scotland
to Sir William St Clair
in 1628

Beit kend till all men be thir present letters ws the Deacones
Masteris friemen of the Maissones and Hammermen within
the kingdome of Scotland That forsameikill as from aidge to
aidge it has been observet amangis us and our predecessors
that the Lairdis of Rosling has ever been patrons and

protectors of us and our priviledgis Likeas our predecessors
has obeyit reverencet and acknowledgedget them as patrons and
protectors qrof they had letters of protection and vtheris richtis
grantit be his Maties most noble progenitors of
worthy memorie qIkis with sindrie vtheris of theLairdis of
Rosling his writtis being consumet and brunt in ane flame of
fire within the Castle of Rosling in an The consumation
and burning qrof being clearly knawin to us and our
predecessors deacons maisteris and freemen of the saidis
vocations, and our protection of the samyn and priviledgis
thereof (be negligence) and slouthfulness being likely to pass
furth of us where throw not only wald the Lairdis of Rosling
lyne out of their just richt but also our hail craftis wald
haifbene destitute of ane patrone protector and oversear quhilk
wald engenner monyfald imperfectionis and corruptionis baith
amangis ourselves and in our craft and give occasione to mony
persones to conceive evill opinioun of us and our craft and to

leave af many and grit enterpryces of policie whilk wald be vndertaken if our grit misbehaviour were suffered to goe on without correctioun For remeid qrof and for keeping of good ordour amangis us in all time coming and for advancement of our craft and vocation within his Hienes kingdom of Scotland and furdering of policie yaireintill the maist pairt of our predecessors for themselves and in name and behalfe of our bretherene and craftsmen with express advice and consent of William Schaw Maister of Wark to Hienes umqle darrest father of worthy memorie all in ane voce agreit consentit and subseryvet that William Sinclar of Rosling father to Sir William Sinclar now of Rosling for himself and his airis should purches and obtain at the hands of his Majestie libertie freedome and jurisdiction upon us and our predecessors deacons maisteris and freemen of the saidis vocation, as patrones and judges to us and the haill professors thereof within the said kingdom qrof they had power and commission

sua that they and we might yairafter acknowledge him and his
airis as patrone and judge under our Soverane Lord without
any kind of appellation or declinatour from thair judgement
forever, as the said agreement subscryvet be the said Mr of
Wark and our predecessors at mare length proportis In the
whilk office priviledge and jurisdiction over us and our said
(voca)tioun the said William Sinclar of Rosling ever continuit
to his going to Ireland qr he presently reamanes sen the quhilk
(time) of his departure furth ofthis realme there are very many
corruptiounes and imperfectiounes risen and ingennerit baith
amangis ourselfis and in our saidis vocatiounes in defect of
ane patrone and oversear over us and the samyn Sua that our
saidis vocatiounes are altogether likely to decay And now for
safety thereofwe having full experience of the efauld good
skill and judgement whilk the said Sr William Sinclar now of
Rosling has in our said craft and vocatioun and for reparation
of the ruines and manifold corruptiounes and enormities done

be unskilfull persones thereintill WE all in ane voce have ratified and approven and be thir presentis ratifies and approves the foresaid former letter of jurisdiction and libertie made and subr be our brethrene and his Hienes umqle Mr of Wark for the time to the said Williame Sinclar of Rosling father to the said Sr William whereby he and his airis are acknowledged as our patrone and judge under our Soverane Lord over us and the hail professors of our said vocation within this his Hienes kingdom of Scotlande without any appellation or declinator from their judgements in ony (time hereafter) forever And further we all in ane voce as said is of new have made constitute and ordainit and be thir presentis makis constitutes and ordanes the said Sir William Sinclar now of Rosling and his airis maill our only patrones protectors and overseers under our Soverane Lord to us and our successors deacons maisteris and freemen of our saidis vocationes of Masons hammermen within the haile kingdome

of Scotland and of our haille priviledges and jurisdictiones
belonging thereto wherein he his father and their predecessors
Lairdis of Rosling have been in use of possessioun thir many
aidges bygain with full power to him and them be themselves
thair wardens and deputis to be constitute be them to affix and
appoint places of meeting for keeping of good ordour in the
said craft als oft and sua oft as need shall require all and
sundry persones that may be knawin to be subject to the said
vocation to be called absentis to amerciat transgressuris to
punish unlaues casualities and vtheris duties whatsomever
pertaining and belonging or that may fall to be pait be
whatsomever persone or persones subject to the said craft to
aske crave receive intromet with and uplift and the samyn to
their own proper use to apply deuttis under them in the said
office with clerkis seruandis assisteris and all other officers
and memberis of court needfull to make create substitute and
ordain for whom they shall be holden to answer all and sundry

plentis actions and causes pertaining to the said craft and vocation and against whatsoever person or persones professors thereof to hear discuss decerne and decyde acts duties and sentences thereupon to pronounce And the samyn to due execution to cause be put and generallie all and sundrie other priviledges liberties and immunities whatsoever concerning the said craft to doe use and exerce and cause to be done and exercet and keipit siklyke and als freely in all respects as any vyeris thair predecessors has done or might have done themselves in anytime bygane freely quietly well and in peace but any revocatioun obstacle impediment or again calling quhtsomevir.

In witness of the qlke thing to thir presenttis wtin be Alexander Aikinheid servitor to Andrew Hay wrytter we have subt thir nts with our handis at . .

The Ludge of Edinburgh. - William Wallace decon John

Watt- Thomas Patersone

The Ludge of Glasgow. - John Boyd deakin. Robert Boyd
ane of the mestres.

Hew Douok deikon of the Measounes and Vrichtis off Ayre
and George Lid(ell) deacan of quarimen and nov
quartermaster.

The Ludge of Stirlinge. - John Thompsone - James Rind

The Ludge of Dunfermlinge. - (Robert Alisone one of the
masters of Dunfermling)

The Ludge of Dundee. - Robert Strachoune master Robert
Johnstone Mr of (-) David Mesone Mr of (-) Thomas Fleming
wardane in Edinburgh and Hugh Forrest with our hands att the
pen led be the notar under subd for us at our command
because we cannot wryt. A. Hay notarius asseruit.

Robert Caldwell in Glasgow with my hand at the pen led be
the notar under subscrywand for me because I cannot writt
myself. J. Henrysone notarius asseruit.

I John Serveite Mr of ye Craftis in Stirling with my hand att ye pen led be the notar under subscrivand for me because I cannot writt J.

Henryson notarius asseruit.

I John Burne ane of the mris. of Dumfermling with my hand att the pen led be the notar under subscriwand for me at my command because I cannot writ myself.

J. Henryson notarius asseruit.

David Robertson ane of ye mesteris Andrew Welson master and Thomas (W)elson varden of the sed Ludg of Sant Androis Andrew Wast and David Quhyt maisteris in Dundee with our hands att the pen led be the notar under subscrivand att our commands because we cannot writt. Thomas Robertson notarius asseruit.

