

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 acknowledged 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 the Lairdis 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 furduring of policie yaireintill the maist part 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 hail professors thereof within the said kingdom qrof they had power and commission sua that they and we nicht 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 subscriyvet 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 imperfectiones risen and ingennerit baith amangis ourselfis and in our saidis vocationes in defect of ane patrone and oversear over us and the samyn Sua that our saidis vocationes 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 vocation 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 patron 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 deputtis 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 whatsomever 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 whatsomever 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 revocation obstacle impediment or again calling quhtsomevir.

In witness of the qlke thing to thir presentis 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 Stirling. - John Thompsone James Rind The Ludge of Dunfermling. - (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 subscriwand 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. Henrysone 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 writt myself. J. Henrysone notarius asseruit.

David Robertson ane of ye mesteris Andrew Welsone master and Thomas (W)elsone varden of the sed Ludg of Sant Androis Andrew Wast and David Quhyit 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.