SANT/BEQ/28/1/13/54-56

Handwritten notes re manor & borough courts held at Morpeth, Northumberland & election of court officials, nd. [c.1850]

Brissel There are 3 courts of record, held within the morror and bus of Majetth which are one and the same place in front of atent and comprehend the tour of mapeth and a small protion of the adjoining lands I The first is held on Monday next often me whole week from carter day, it is the court lest and court lum of the Early barbale the poid of the monor, here we of course have two distinct jurisdictions, one to view the framhibled get within The liberty, and to present by Juny all misoness within the jurisdiction, the other forthe recovery of debts under 401 value, The steward of the lad of the mount on his defuty presides, and the junes are composed of the resident greenen within the borough who are chosen by the boulige and summoned by the Seyeand The first or grand jung is confrond of an indefinite number ut less than 12 who walli the learnedarus and perambulate the Interaction within the limits of the bors, and present to the steward a his defently such amusances at meet their own view, or may be land before them on outh, which are amounted by the steward or his defeating Two afferns are then chosen who/after being moon as since affern a where to a frecie sum the afroncionness which has been summed inflicted whom the presentment. These americaments may then be extracted, i.e extracted, from the hole or book in which they are unded and level by the sergeout by distress and sale of the harties of anoda. The

Courts

There are 3 courts of record held within the manor and boro[ugh] of Morpeth (which are one and the same place in point of extent and comprehend the town of Morpeth and a small portion of the adjoining lands) The first is held on Monday next after one whole week from Easter day, it is the court leet and court baron of the Earl of Carlisle, the Lord of the manor, here we of course have two distinct jurisdictions, one to view the frankpledges within the liberty, and to present by jury all nuisances within the jurisdiction, the other for the recovery of debts under 40s/value, The steward of the lord of the manor or his deputy presides, and the juries are composed of the resident freemen within /of\ the borough who are chosen by the bailiffs and summoned by the Serieant The first or grand jury is composed of an indefinite number not less than 12 who walk the boundaries and perambulate the footpaths within the limits of the boro[ugh], and present to the steward or his deputy such nuisances as meet their own view, or may be laid before them on oath, which are amerced by the steward or his deputy Two affeerors are then chosen who after being sworn reduce affeere or reduce to a precise sum the amerciament which has been amerced inflicted upon the presentment. These amerciaments may then be estreated, i.e. extracted, from the roll or book in which they are recorded and levied by the serieant by distress and sale of the parties goods.

The





The party or futly jury consults of 12 who hear and determine all causes of debt origing within their jurisdiction
under the value of 40% too for this the fel mint is entered with
the took steward who issues a summons which is served by the
upont; when a judgment is recovered the steward or his
white operate an execution against the goods of the defendant
within the morror and boro lapand which it is if no force,
and in case of non-payment the argument to whom it is
directed is outhorised [I have of no authority except outon) bet
tookers to all the costs of an action are for entering the
plaint of for summoning the defendant of a the execution
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for Sunday from the Epiphony when a father or harty from

existing court best and fourt baron is held on himstay met often hicknehmers day when similar quies are during with like powers as at the Easter court. But at this court the officers of the corporation are chosen in the following man we, vor. Each jury chooses 2 of its body as bailiffs one as expensit one as fish and flesh looker and two as constables, there are estimated to the strong or his deputy who estables, there is from the 4 estimated as bailiffs and I from the two estimated as expenses, to fill the offices; the two estimated as fish one of furth bodiers.

The party or petty jury consists of 12 who hear and determine all causes of debt arising within their jurisdiction under the value of 40s/lue For this the plaint is entered with the lord steward who issues a summons which is served by the serjeant, where a judgment is recovered the steward or his deputy grants an execution against the goods of the defendant within the manor and boro[ugh] beyond which it is if no force, and in case of non payment the serjeant to whom it is directed is authorised (I know of no authority except custom) by custom to sell. The costs of an action are for entering the plaint 6d for summoning the defendant 6d for the execution when issued 6d.

A court baron alone is held on Monday next after the first Sunday from the Epiphany when a petty or party jury is returned by the bailiffs

Another court leet and court baron is held on Monday
next after Michaelmas day when similar juries are chosen
with like powers as at the Easter court. But at this court
the officers of the corporation are chosen in the following manner, viz. Each jury chooses 2 of its body as bailiffs one as
serjeant one as fish and flesh looker and two as constables, these
are returned to the steward or his deputy who selects therefrom
2 from the 4 returned as bailiffs and 1 from the two returned as
serjeants to fill these offices; the two returned as fish and flesh lookers-/ale tasters
& bread weighers\

fill





ful that office, and the 4 fearons returned as constables fill office, the full and fath formers of the preceding year are away the she tasters and regard weighter of the next, and we always returned as such by they junis, but I apprehend in case of death on at their own well the finies may return two of their own body. It is evident no person can fill offices two successed your with the exception just named) on they are chosen from the junis and no officer can be whom a juny. all these officers of the corporation and attend the baddles on fullis occasions, the explant bean the make, emmone juries and common quilds and affine the caparate real, by direction of the badliff, and is in fact gunally the sevent of the confinction; he is also the crysis, the course, serves summoney of executes executions there from. The duting of the officers are sufficiently dissignated by their names seconthis It was formally and even continued so the within a were like ferrod; for buch as have been builty to be shown addressed of their wopestive companies the year after they quitted the office of bully which made two years slaper before they could again become bully. The regulia a plate of the corporation is of a most constable description for the servents many a to most

capacions and very withfure silver fruith bould, and a

large when cup and covery

fill that office, and the 4 persons returned as constables fill
that office, the fish-and flesh lookers /ale tasters and bread weighers\ of the preceeding year are
always the ale tasters and bread weighers /fish and flesh lookers\ of the next, and are
always returned as such by the juries, but I apprehend in case of
death or at their own will—the juries may return two of their own
body. It is evident no person can fill offices two successive
years (with the exception just named) as they are chosen from
the juries and no officer can be upon a jury. All these /are\ officers
of the corporation and attend the bailiffs on public occasions. The
serjeant bears the mace, summons juries and common guilds and
affixes the corporate seal, by direction of the bailiffs, and is in fact
generally the servant of the corporation, he is also the cryer of the
courts, serves summonses & executes executions therefrom. The duties
of the officers are sufficiently designated by their names (see oaths).

It was formerly /customary\ and even continued till within a very late period, for such as had been bailiffs to be chosen aldermen of their respective companies the year after they quitted the office of bailiff which made two years elapse before they could again become bailiffs.

The regalia or plate of the corporation is of a most corporate like description viz the serjeant's mace, a la most capacious and very antique silver punch bowl, and a large silver cup and cover.



