

SANT BEQ/28/1/9/170-177

Papers on legal proceedings in respect of riot at Court Leet at Morpeth, Northumberland, 1761.

The Business of the Court and encouraged Aided and Assisted them in their Riotous proceedings And Defend^ts Thomas and W^{illiam} Weatherhead James Hewit W^{illiam} Tate (And Depon^{er}[en] Fenwick says) Defend^{er}[en] Bates and Barker gave much Abuse and made great uproar and Noise in the Court

That John Ord Leg^t a Justice of the Peace for the County of Northumberland being then in Court with the Deputy Steward Endeavour^d to persuade Defend^ts Thomas and W^{illiam} Weatherhead James Hewit W^{illiam} Tate and others to desist from their proceedings aforesaid But said that and W^{illiam} Weatherhead Hewit & Tate (And Depon^{er}[en] Fenwick says) Bates & Barker and those in them Assembled Continued their Riotous Proceedings without taking any Notice thereof

That the Deputy Steward Ordered the Serjeant of said Manor and Borough to Adjourn said Court And the Serjeant was put from his Seat in the Court so that the Deputy Steward Jury Depon^{er}[en]s and the sutors of said court left the Court

That about 3 in the Afternoon of said 30th of March Depon^{er}[en]s were present w^{ith} Said Deputy Steward who intended (as Believe) to have return^d to the Town Hall with the Jurys and Sutors of said Court to Finish the Business of the Court but being then told that a great Number of People were Assembled in and Near the Town Hall and had Used Threats the Deputy Steward Jurys and Sutors did not for that reason (as believe) return to said Town Hall to Finish the Business of the Court

That the Deputy Steward told the People that were sent to him in Depon^{er}[en]s presence that the Riotous proceedings prevented him from returning to the Town Hall or Court on that Night

That on the 28th of March last he was Sworn one of the Jury in the Court Leet and Court Baron of the Earl of Carlisle that day in the Town Hall in and for the Manor and Borough of Morpeth as usual

That during the Time of holding said Court Depon^{er}[en]s Tate and Hewit with others Assembled in said Court on a sudden in a Riotous Manner and w^{ith} Noises Interrupted and Stopped the Business of said Court and got upon the Table in said Court

That Defend^ts Thomas Weatherhead being then in said Court sitting on the Bench as an Alderman of said Manor and Borough And who ought according to his duty to have Assisted in keeping the Peace of said Court and Borough was on the Bench on the said Table in said Court Among said Rioters and Interrupters of the Business of said Court And Abused them in the Riotous proceedings

That no Business could be done further in said Court for the Reasons aforesaid the Deputy Steward and Jury left said Court

That the Jury being told that a great Number of People were Assembled in and Near the Town Hall and the Deputy Steward being also Remov^d therewith about 3 in the afternoon of the said 30th of March when the Deputy Steward Jury and Sutors of said Court designed to have returned to the Court to Finish the Business thereof as usually they for fear of some Mischief or Hurt from said Rioters and their Abusers did not return to said Court to Finish the Business thereof

That there was much Noise Struggling and Confusion in said Court that he does not Remember the Other Rioters and Interrupters of said Court

That Defend^ts Bates and Barker had return^d to the Court to Finish the Business of the Court these would have been some Mischief done

That on the 30th of March last the Court Leet and Court Baron of the Earl of Carlisle for the Manor and Borough of Morpeth was held in the Town Hall within said Manor and Borough as usual And that Depon^{er}[en]s were Sworn of the Jury in said Court

That during the Time of holding said Court a great Number of People being Assembled in said Court on a sudden in a Riotous Manner and with much Clamour and Noise Interrupted the Business of said Court

That Depon^{er}[en]s Approaching some Mischief w^{ould} be done by the Rioters and Disrupters of the Court all left the Court And George Marshall Another of said Jury left the Court at same Time and gave as a Reason Reason for so doing that he was afraid of some Mischief

And Depon^{er}[en]s Bottom says that before he left the Court Defend^ts Hewit Forc^ed himself over the Bar on to the Table in said Court And Depon^{er}[en]s Saw Defend^ts W^{illiam} Weatherhead W^{illiam} Tate and Others on said Table And also Saw Defend^ts Thomas Weatherhead One of the Aldermen of said Borough Come from the Bench in said Court and get upon the Table (And Defend^ts W^{illiam} Weatherhead Struggled for the Bible) interrupting the Business of the said Court

That they heard that a great Number of People were Assembled in and Near said Town Hall And for fear of some Mischief or Hurt from said Rioters and their Abusers the Deputy Steward Jury & Sutors of said Court did not as was usual on the occasion return to the Court in the afternoon of said 30th of March to Finish the Business of said Court

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the Business of the Court and encouraged Aided and Assisted them in their Riotous proceedings And Defend^ts Thomas and W^{illiam} Weatherhead James Hewit W^{illiam} Tate (And Depon^{er}[en] Fenwick says) Defend^{er}[en] Bates and Barker gave much Abuse and made a great uproar and Noise in the Court

That John Ord Esq^{re} A Justice of the Peace for the County of Northumberland being then in Court w^{ith} The Deputy Steward Endeavour^d to persuade Defend^ts Thomas and W^{illiam} Weatherhead James Hewit William Tate and Others to desist from their proceedings aforesaid But said Tho^mas and W^{illiam} Weatherhead Hewit & Tate (And Depon^{er}[en] Fenwick says) Bates & Barker and others w^{ith} them Assembled Continued their Riotous Proceedings without taking any Notice thereof

Say the Deputy Steward Ordered the Serjeant of Said Manor and Borough to Adjourn Said Court And the Serjeant was put from his Seat in the Court so that the Deputy Steward Jury Depon^{er}[en]s and the sutors of said court left the Court

That about 3 in the Afternoon of said 30th of March Depon^{er}[en]s were present w^{ith} Said Deputy Steward who intended (as Believe) to have return^d to the Town Hall with the Jurys and Sutors of said Court to Finish the Business of the Court but being then told that a great Number of People were Assembled in and Near the Town Hall and had Used Threats the Deputy Steward Jurys and Sutors did not for that reason (as believe) return to said Town Hall to Finish the Business of the Court

That the Deputy Steward told the People that were sent to him in Depon^{er}[en]s presence that the Riotous proceedings prevented him from returning to the Town Hall or Court or to that Effect

Affidavit of Gilbert Shotton - Says on the 30th of March last he was Sworn one of the Jury in the Court Leet and Court Baron of the Earl of Sworn 23rd May 1761 Carlisle that day in the Town Hall in and for the Manor and Borough of Morpeth as usual

That during the Time of holding said Court Defend^ts Tate and Hewit with others Assembled in said Court on a sudden in a Riotous Manner and w^{ith} Noises Interrupted and Stopped the Business of said Court and got upon the Table in said Court

That Defend^ts Tho^mas Weatherhead being then in said Court sitting on the Bench as an Alderman of said Manor and Borough and who ought according to his duty to have Assisted in keeping the Peace of said Court and Borough was on the Bench on to the Table in said Court Among said Rioters and Interrupters of the Business of said Court And Assisted them in the Riotous proceedings

That as no Business could be done further in said Court for the Reasons aforesaid the Deputy Steward and Jury left said Court

Says the Jury being told that a great Number of People were Assembled in and Near the Town Hall and the Deputy Steward being also Acquaint^d therewith about 3 in the afternoon of the said 30th of March when the Deputy Steward Jury and Sutors of said Court designed to have returned to the Court to Finish the Business thereof as usual they for fear of some Mischief or Hurt from said Rioters and there Assistants did not return to said Court to Finish the Business thereof

That there was so much Noise Struggling and Confusion in said Court that he does not Remember the Other Rioters and Interrupters of said Court

Believes if said Deputy Steward Jury and Sutors had return^d to the Court to Finish the Business of the Court there would have been some Mischief done

Affidavit of William Bottoman - Says that on 30th of March last the Court Leet and Court Baron of the Earl of Carlisle for the Manor and Borough of Morpeth was held in the Town Hall within said Manor and Borough as usual And that the Depon^{er}[en]s were Sworn of the Jury in said Court

Sworn 23rd May 1761 That during the Time of holding said Court a great Number of People being Assembled in said Court on a sudden in a Riotous Manner and with much Clamour and Noise Interrupted the Business of said Court

That Depon^{er}[en]s Approaching some Mischief w^{ould} be done by the Rioters and Disrupters of the Court all left the Court And George Marshall Another of said Jury left the Court at same Time and gave as a Reason Reason for so doing that he was afraid of some Mischief

And Depon^{er}[en]s Bottom says that before he left the Court Defend^ts Hewit Forc^ed himself over the Bar on to the Table in said Court And Depon^{er}[en]s Saw Defend^ts W^{illiam} Weatherhead W^{illiam} Tate and Others on said Table And also Saw Defend^ts Thomas Weatherhead One of the Aldermen of said Borough Come from the Bench in said Court and get upon the Table (And Defend^ts W^{illiam} Weatherhead Struggled for the Bible) interrupting the Business of the said Court

That they heard that a great Number of People were Assembled in and Near said Town Hall And for fear of some Mischief or Hurt from said Rioters and their Abusers the Deputy Steward Jury & Sutors of said Court did not as was usual on the occasion return to the Court in the afternoon of said 30th of March to Finish the Business of said Court

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Affidavit of George Nicholls
 Says on Monday 30th March last he was in the Market place of Morpeth And hearing a great Noise in the
 Town Hall, where the Court Leet and Court Baron of the Earl of Carlisle for the Manor and Borough of Morpeth
 was held Depon^t went up to the Town Hall where the Court was sitting and saw Depon^t William
 Weatherhead Hewitt and Barker wth Others upon the Table in said Court And they wth Others in a Riotous Manner
 made great Noises that no Business could be done in said Court And for that and no Other Reason (as believes) the
 Deputy Steward Jury and Others left said Court
 That about 3 in the afternoon of said 30th March the Law a great Number of People Assembled in and Near
 the Town Hall And saw Depon^t William Weatherhead talking to some of said People And it being reported that they
 intended to make a Riot and some Mischief in said Court in case the said Deputy Steward and Jurys should re-
 turn to the Court in the afternoon of said Day as was usual on the like Occasions to Finish the Business of said Court
 Depon^t thereupon went to the Deputy Steward and Others who were then going to said Court and told them (from what he
 heard and saw) if the Deputy Steward and Jurys went to the Court there would be Mischief done Or to that Effect
 And Depon^t therefore Advised said Deputy Steward and Others there present not to return to said Court
 Says for that and no Other Reason (as believes) the Deputy Steward and Jurys did not return to the Court to Finish
 the Business thereof.

Affid. of Robert Lisle Gent
 Says he being Appointed by the Hon^{ble} the Earl of Carlisle his Deputy to hold the Court Leet and Court Baron of the Earl of
 Carlisle for the Manor and Borough of Morpeth he Attended in the Town Hall as usual on 30th March last to
 execute said Office And the Suits of said Court were then and there called and the Jurys sworn And the Business
 of said Court was proceeded in and before the same was finished A sudden uproar and Confused Noise was made
 in said Court by a great Number of People there Assembled so that no Business could be done therein
 That John Ord Esq^r one of his Majestys Justices of Peace being then in said Court did wth Depon^t
 Endeavour to persuade them to desist from their Riotous proceedings w^{ch} said Rioters totally disregarded so that
 Depon^t finding he would not suffer any Business to be done in said Court he Ordered the Sergeant to Adjourn the
 Court till 3 in the afternoon as usual But the Rioters took no Notice and continued the uproar Clamorous
 Noise and Disturbance in said Court so that Depon^t wth the Bailiffs of said Borough and Others left the Court
 That about 3 in the afternoon of said 30th of March he intended to have returned to said Court According to said
 Adjournment thereof to Finish the Business in said Townhall as Usual But being told that the Rioters were much
 increased in Number and seem^d more Outragious Depon^t Consulted wth Several of the Jury, Gentlemen, and Sutors of the
 Court, who were of Opinion it would be very imprudent to return to the Court, for that the Rioters would not suffer Any Business
 to be done there, as a great Number were Assembled in and Near said Town Hall, And as they had no Business there it
 was most likely they intended some Mischief by such an Unusual Assembly at that place, And from their Riotous behaviour
 in the Forenoon in said Court
 That he was the more Confirmed of the Rioters Intentions by the Messages sent him to go to said Court - To which he
 Answered that the Riotous proceedings that day had prevented his returning to said Court or to that Effect To which they sent him
 no Answer, That he the Jurys and Sutors might safely return to the Court to Finish the Business thereof as usual.
 That therefore Depon^t and the Jurys of said Court were prevented from Finishing the Business of said Court
 Saith That during the time of holding the s^aid Court on the 30th of March last a Great Number of People then & there assembled in
 a Riotous manner made so much Noise & Confusion in the s^aid Court that no business could be done.
 That he endeavoured to persuade them to desist but they paid no regard thereto but continued their Riot & therefore this
 Depon^t the Deputy Steward and others [or bailiffs] left the court and dont believe the Rioters would have suffered
 Business to be done had they Returned

Affid. of John Ord Esq^r Justice of Peace
 Saith That during the time of holding the s^aid Court on the 30th of March last a Great Number of People then & there assembled in
 a Riotous manner made so much Noise & Confusion in the s^aid Court that no business could be done.
 That he endeavoured to persuade them to desist but they paid no regard thereto but continued their Riot & therefore this
 Depon^t the Deputy Steward and others [or bailiffs] left the court and dont believe the Rioters would have suffered
 Business to be done had they Returned

Affid. of Robert Lisle Milburn, Robert Leighton, Ralph Bullock, & Tho^s Bittlestone, all of Morpeth
 sworn the 30th Oct^r 1761 & filed the 18th Nov^r 1761 - They severally say that on Monday the 30th of March last
 they severally attended the Court Leet & Court Baron held in & for the Manor & Borough
 of Morpeth as Aldermen of the said Borough & Sutors of said Court
 That Robert Lisle officiated as Steward of s^aid Court & that s^aid Court
 were sworn & the Actions there depending determined wth great peace & Harmony
 That after the s^aid Actions were tried, Matthew Potts Clerk of s^aid Court without any
 directions from the s^aid Robert Lisle called s^aid names of several persons to be sworn in Freeman
 of s^aid Borough, & at s^aid same time threw a Bible upon s^aid Table in order to tender them s^aid
 usual Oath on their Admission
 That they these Depon^ts together wth several others then present Freeman & Brothers
 of s^aid Borough apprehending that s^aid Persons so called were not entitled to their
 Freedom by the Constitution of s^aid Borough protesting agst their admission.
 They

Affidavit of George Nicholls
 Says on Monday 30 March last he was in the Market place of Morpeth And hearing a Great Noise in the...
 Town Hall, where the Court Leet and Court Baron of the Earl of Carlisle for the Manor and Borough of Morpeth
 was held Depon[en]t went up to the Room in the Town Hall where the Court was holding And saw Depon[en]ts William
 Weatherhead Hewitt and Barker wth Others upon the Table in said Court And they with Others in a Riotous Manner
 made a Great Noise so that no Business Cou[ld] be done in said Court And for that and no Other Reason (as believes) The
 Deputy Steward Jury and Others left said Court
 That about 3 in the afternoon of said 30th of March he Saw a Great Number of People Assembled in and Near
 the Town Hall And Saw Depon[en]t William Weatherhead talking to Some of Said People And it being reported that they
 intended to make a Riot and do some Mischief in said Court in Case the said Deputy Steward and Jurys return[ed] to
 the Court in the afternoon of Said Day as was usual on the like Occasions to Finish the Business of Said Court
 Depon[en]t thereupon went to the Deputy Steward and Others who were then going to said Court and told them (from what he
 heard and saw) if the Deputy Steward and Jurys went to the Court there would be Mischief done Or to that Effect
 And Depon[en]t therefore Advised Said Deputy Steward and Others there present not to return to said Court
 Says for that and no Other Reason (as believes) the Deputy Steward and Jurys did not return to the Court to Finish
 the Business thereof.

Affid[avit] of Robert Lisle Gent
 Deputy Steward of the Court } Says he being Appoin[te]d by Tho[mas] Rudd Esq[ui]t[he] his Deputy to hold the Court Leet and Court Baron of the Earl of
 Carlisle for the Manor and Borough of Morpeth he Attended in the Town Hall as usual on 30th March last to
 Sworn 28th May 1761 } Execute Said Office And the Suits of Said Court were then and there Called and the Jurys Sworn And the Business
 of Said Court was proceeded in and before the same was Finish[ed]. A sudden uproar and Confused Noise was made
 in Said Court by a great Number of People there Assembled so that no Business Cou[ld] be done therein.
 That John Ord Esq[ui]t[he] one of his Majestys Justices of Peace being then in said Court did wth Depon[en]t
 Endeavour to persuade them to desist from their Riotous proceedings w^{ch} said Rioters totally disregarded so that
 Depon[en]t finding he wou[ld] not suffer any Business to be done in Said Court, he Ordered the Sergeant to Adjourn the
 same till 3 in the afternoon as usual. But the Rioters took no Notice and Continued the uproar Clamorous
 Noise and Disturbance in said Court so that Depon[en]t wth the Bailiffs of Said Borough and Others left the Court.
 That about 3 in the afternoon of said 30th of March he intended to have returned to said Court According to said
 Adjournment thereof to Finish the Business in said Townhall as Usual But being told that the Rioters were much
 increased in Number and seem[ed] more Outragious, Depon[en]t Consulted wth Several of the Jury, Gentlemen, and Sutors of the
 Court, who were of Opinion it wou[ld] be very imprudent to return to the Court, for that the Rioters wou[ld] not suffer Any Business
 to be done there, as a great Number were Assembled in and Near Said Town Hall, And as they had no Business there it
 was most likely they intended some Mischief by such an Unusual Assembly at that place, And from their Riotous behaviour
 in the Forenoon in said Court
 That he was the more Confirmed of the Rioters Intentions by the Messages sent him to go to said Court - To which he
 Answer[ed] that the Riotous proceedings that day had prevented his returning to said Court or to that Effect To which they sent him
 no Answer, That he the Jurys and Sutors might safely return to the Court to Finish the Business thereof as usual.
 That therefore Depon[en]t and the Jurys of Said Court were prevented from Finishing the Business of Said Court
 Saith That during the time of holding the s[ai]d Court on the 30th of Mar[ch] last a Great Number of People then & there assembled in
 a Riotous manner made so much Noise & Confusion in the s[ai]d Court that no business could be done.
 That he endeavoured to persuade them to desist but they paid no regard thereto but continued their Riot & therefore this
 Depon[en]t the Deputy Steward and others [or bailiffs] left the court and dont believe the Rioters would have suffered
 Business to be done had they Returned

Affid[avit]s filed to discharge the Annexed Rule for an Information.
 The Affid[avit] of Rob[ert] Milburn, Robert Leighton, Ralph Bullock, & Tho[mas] Bittlestone, all of Morpeth
 sworn the 30th Oct[ober] 1761 & filed the 18th Nov[ember] 1761 - They severally say that on Monday the 30th of March last
 they severally attended the Court Leet & Court Baron held in & for the Manor & Borough
 of Morpeth as Aldermen of the said Borough & Sutors of the said Court.
 That Robert Lisle officiated as Steward of s[ai]d Court, & that s[ai]d Court
 were sworn & the Actions there depending determined wth great peace & Harmony.
 That after the s[ai]d Actions were tried, Matthew Potts Clerk of s[ai]d Court without any
 directions from the s[ai]d Rob[ert] Lisle called s[ai]d names of several persons to be sworn in Freeman
 of s[ai]d Borough, & at s[ai]d same time threw a Bible upon s[ai]d Table in order to tender them s[ai]d
 usual Oath on their Admission.
 That they these Depon[en]ts together wth several others then present Freeman & Brothers
 of s[ai]d Borough apprehending that s[ai]d Persons so called were not entitled to their
 Freedom by the Constitution of s[ai]d Borough protesting ag[ain]st their admission.
 3) They

They severally say that they thought it their Duty, so to do as Aldermen & Rep[re]sentatives of several Companies to which they belonged whose rights & Liberties they thought thereby injured & invaded.

That this proceeding of the said Mathew Potts occasioned some Noise in the sd Court by many persons speaking at the same time & desiring to be heard for redress & occasioned some of the Freemen & others Brothers of the sd Borough who thought themselves most interested to gett upon the Table in the sd Court in order (as they believe) to have the matter argued & explained & to be better heard & not wth any view or design to offer any insult to the sd Court or to interrupt the necessary business thereof.

That the sd several persons so called to be sworn Freemen as afores^d greatly contributed to the noise that was so made in the said Court.

That the sd Robert Lisle did not appear to interest himself in the sd affair or to shew any signs of fear or express any apprehensions of Riot or other mischief being committed, nor did he as Depon[en]t remember declare his opinion therein or once order Silence to be called by proclamation or otherwise on that occasion.

Say there was no unusual Number of People assembled at the sd Court the 30th of March & that in the opinion of these Depon[en]ts, there was no Riot insult or abuse given committed or intended by any person at the sd Court whereby any person whatsoever could reasonably apprehend any danger or mischief.

Thomas Davison, John Ramsay, Tho^s Henderson Tho^s Cooper, Ralph Brady, Edw^d Smith, Alex^r Reid Tho^s Smith John Nevill Alex^d Nevill, Henry Bittlesome George Rutter Andrew Gilmour & Charles Turner swore the 30th of October 1761. Filed 10th Nov^r 1761.

Say that they were present at the Court Leet & Court Baron of the Earl of Carlisle held at Morpeth the 30th of March last by Rob^t Lisle nearly from the first sitting of the sd Court till the adjournment thereof.

That the Jurors of the sd Court were sworn & the usual business thereof conducted with the greatest peace, and that after the determination of the several actions depending in the sd Court Mathew Potts the Clerk or Assistant to the sd Court proposed swearing certain Persons Freemen of the sd Borough who as Depon[en]ts were informed & verily believe were not entitled to their Freedom according to the Custom of the sd Borough which Occasioned a great Surprise & discontent, amongst most of the Aldermen Jurors & other Freemen & Brothers of the sd Borough there present, and several of them to remonstrate and Protest ag^{ainst} the same as an Unjust and Arbitrary proceeding & contrary to the Constitution & Rights & Privileges of the sd Borough.

Say they believe that some of the said Brothrs claimed a Right to be made Freemen of the sd Borough in preference to the persons so proposed to be sworn by the sd Mathew Potts & at the same time with them laid their hands on a Bible w^{ch} was lying on the Court Table requesting that they might be sworn Freemen of the said Borough.

Say that altho^{ugh} they were very attentive to what was then doing in the sd Court they saw no violence or outrage committed by any person, nor did they hear any abusive Language given by or to any Person then in the said Court.

That they are severally perswaded & firmly believe that none of the Persons who so objected to the above proceeding of the sd Mathew Potts or requested as afores^d to be sworn Freemen had any intention of making a Riot or disturbing or preventing the business of the sd Court, but that what was said & done on that Occasion was entirely owing to their desire of having the sd affair argued & explained & of preserving their Rights & the Liberties & Privileges of the sd Corporation.

Tho^s Davison & George Rutter severally say that they have frequently present at the holding of the sd Court, don't think that there were any greater Number of Persons assembled at the sd Court on the 30th of March than was usual on such occasions, & that each of these Depon[en]ts walked in the Market Place before the Town Hall where the sd Court was held the greatest part of the time between the hours of two & four in the afternoon of the same day, & that they did not perceive any unusual Number of People or any thing like a Riot or tumult among the Persons

They severally say that they thought it their Duty so to do as Aldermen & Rep[re]sentatives of the several Companies to which they belonged whose rights & Liberties they thought thereby injured & invaded.

That this proceeding of the said Mathew Potts occasioned some Noise in the sd Court by many persons speaking at the same time & desiring to be heard for redress & occasioned some of the Freemen & others Brothers of the sd Borough who thought themselves most interested to gett upon the Table in the sd Court in order (as they believe) to have the matter argued & explained & to be better heard & not wth any view or design to offer any insult to the sd Court or to interrupt the necessary business thereof.

That the sd several persons so called to be sworn Freemen as afores^d greatly contributed to the Noise that was so made in the said Court.

That the sd Robert Lisle did not appear to interest himself in the sd affair or to shew any signs of fear or express any apprehensions of Riot or other mischief being committed, nor did he as Depon[en]t remember declare his opinion therein or once order Silence to be called by proclamation or otherwise on that occasion.

Say there was no unusual Number of People assembled at the sd Court the 30th of March & that in the opinion of these Depon[en]ts there was no Riot insult or abuse given committed or intended by any person at the sd Court whereby any person whatsoever could reasonably apprehend any danger or mischief.

Thomas Davison, John Ramsay, Tho^s Henderson Tho^s Cooper, Ralph Brady, Edw^d Smith, Alex^d Reid Tho^s Smith John Nevill, Alex^d Nevill, Henry Bittlesome George Rutter Andrew Gilmour & Charles Turner swore the 30th of October 1761. Filed 10th Nov^r 1761.

Say that they were present at the Court Leet & Court Baron of the Earl of Carlisle held at Morpeth the 30th of March last by Rob^t Lisle nearly from the first sitting of the sd Court till the adjournment thereof.

That the Jurors of the sd Court were sworn & the usual business thereof conducted with the greatest peace, and that after the determination of the several actions depending in the sd Court Mathew Potts the Clerk or Assistant to the sd Court proposed swearing certain Persons Freemen of the sd Borough who as Depon[en]ts were informed & verily believe were not entitled to their Freedom according to the Custom of the sd Borough which Occasioned a great Surprise & discontent, amongst most of the Aldermen Jurors & other Freemen & Brothers of the sd Borough there present, and several of them to remonstrate and Protest ag^{ainst} the same as an Unjust and Arbitrary proceeding & contrary to the Constitution & Rights & Privileges of the sd Borough.

Say they believe that some of the said Brothrs claimed a Right to be made Freemen of the sd Borough in preference to the persons so proposed to be sworn by the sd Mathew Potts & at the same time with them laid their hands on a Bible w^{ch} was lying on the Court Table requesting that they might be sworn Freemen of the said Borough.

Say that altho^{ugh} they were very attentive to what was then doing in the sd Court they saw no violence or outrage committed by any person, nor did they hear any abusive Language given by or to any Person then in the said Court.

That they are severally perswaded & firmly believe that none of the Persons who so objected to the above proceedings of the sd Mathew Potts or requested as afores^d to be sworn Freemen had any intention of making a Riot or disturbing or preventing the business of the sd Court, but that what was said & done on that Occasion was entirely owing to their desire of having the sd affair argued & explained & of preserving their Rights & the Liberties & Privileges of the sd Corporation.

Tho^s Davison & George Rutter severally say that they have frequently present at the holding of the sd Court, don't think that there were any greater Number of Persons assembled at the sd Court on the 30th of March than was usual on such occasions, & that each of these Depon[en]ts walked in the Market Place before the Town Hall where the sd Court was held the greatest part of the time between the hours of two & four in the afternoon of the same day, & that they did not perceive any unusual Number of People or any thing like a Riot or tumult among the Persons



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then & there assembled.
George Rutter, for himself saith that he saw George Nicholls the younger come into the said Court on y^e 30th of March last while the s^aid affair abt making freemen was in Agitation, and saith that he verily believes the s^aid Court was adjourned in less than five minutes after he so came into Court, & the s^aid Matter being then almost over he could not as Depon^t apprehend be properly acquainted with y^e Grounds & Motives upon which y^e Debate arose or be able to form so true a Judgment thereof & of y^e Intentions of y^e Persons therein concerned as those who were present during y^e whole transaction.

Andrew Gilmour & Charles Turner Say, that on y^e 30th of March they stood in y^e s^aid Court very near John Bates during y^e Continuance of y^e s^aid Transaction relating to y^e s^aid Mathew Potts Proposal for swearing in y^e s^aid Freemen, and say that the s^aid John Bates never went from his Place or offered to speak on y^e said occasion until y^e Court was adjourned, and that then he did not speak in any riotous manner in the s^aid Court or make use of any violence or abusive Language to any person whatsoever.

William Weatherhead, James Hewitt, Robert Milford, George Barker, John Bates & Joseph Warriner swore the 30th of October 1761, and filed the 18th of Nov^r 1761.
Say that they were present at the s^aid Court on Monday y^e 30th of March last and that Robert Lisle officiated as Steward, and Mathew Potts as Clerk or Assistant to the said Court.

That after y^e usual business of the forenoon was done, the said Mathew Potts (in y^e absence of y^e Grand Jury or Jury of Inquests belonging to the said Court without any previous Notice to y^e Aldermen of y^e s^aid Borough w^{ch} as their Defts^{rs} were informed & believes is usual in y^e like Cases & even in appearance without the knowledge or direction of the said Robert Lisle) called y^e Names of several Persons to whom he y^e s^aid Mathew Potts proposed to swear Freemen of the said Borough.

Say that it being notorious that y^e s^aid Mathew Potts several of the s^aid Persons who the s^aid Mathew Potts called to be sworn Freemen of the s^aid Borough were not entitled to their Freedom by the Custom or Constitution thereof they their Depon^ts with several of y^e Aldermen Freemen & Brothers or Members of the inferior Class of Freemen of the s^aid Borough there present made remonstrances to y^e s^aid Court & protested agst y^e s^aid proceeding of the said Mathew Potts as illegal & Arbitrary & Injurious to y^e Rights & Interests of Depon^ts & y^e rest of y^e Freemen & Bro^s of y^e said Borough & contrary to the Constitution thereof.

Say they believe that some of them their Depon^ts did request of y^e s^aid Court to be sworn Freemen of y^e s^aid Borough as having a better right than several of y^e Persons so called by the s^aid Mathew Potts & laid their hands on a Bible for that purpose and that some of them got upon the Table of the said Court, in order to have their Remonstrances to the said Court better heard & understood.

But they severally say that they had no Intention of making any Riott or mischief or of disturbing or preventing the business of y^e s^aid Court and that they their Depon^ts used no violence or abusive Language to any person on that occasion.

William Dale sworn the 30th of Oct^r 1761, and filed 18th Nov^r 1761 — Says that he was present at y^e s^aid Court on y^e 30th of March last held by Robert Lisle as Steward.

That after several Causes depending in y^e s^aid Court were tried, & he was expecting that y^e s^aid Court would break up, he was alarmed by the Clerk of the s^aid Court calling the Names of four persons who he proposed swearing Freemen of the s^aid Borough without any direction from, and even contrary to a Declaration of y^e s^aid Robert Lisle who had a little before in this Depon^t hearing said that he knew nothing of any Freemen to be made that day or to that Effect.

That Depon^t having been elected by y^e Alderman & Company of Weavers upwards of 14 years ago as a proper person to be admitted a Freeman according to y^e Custom of y^e s^aid Borough & several of y^e s^aid persons so called & proposed to be made Freemen not being so Elected and

then & there assembled.

George Rutter, for himself saith that he saw George Nicholls the Younger come into the said Court on [the] s^aid 30th of March last while the s^aid affair ab[ou]t making Freemen was in Agitation, and saith that he verily believes the s^aid Court was adjourned in less than five minutes after he so came into Court, & the s^aid Matter being then almost over he could not as Depon[en]t — apprehends be properly acquainted with [the] Grounds & Motives, upon which [the] s^aid Debate arose or be able to form so true a judg[em]ent thereof & of [the] intention of [the] Persons therein concerned as those who were present during [the] whole transaction.

Andrew Gilmour & Charles Turner Say, that on [the] s^aid 30th of March they stood in [the] s^aid Court very near John Bates during [the] Continuance of [the] s^aid Transaction relating to [the] s^aid Mathew Potts Proposal for swearing in [the] s^aid Freemen, and say that the s^aid John Bates never went from his Place or offered to speak on [the] said occasion until the Court was adjourned, and that then he did not speak [or behave] in any riotous manner in the s^aid Court or make up of any violence or abusive Language to any person whatsoever.

William Weatherhead, James Hewitt, Robert Milford, George Barker, John Bates & Joseph Warriner swore the 30th of October 1761, and filed the 18th of Nov[ember]: 1761.

Say that they were present at the s^aid Court on Monday the 30th of March last and that Robert Lisle officiated as Steward, and Mathew Potts as Clerk or Assistant to the said Court.

That after [the] usual business of the forenoon was done, the said Mathew Potts (in the absence of [the] Grand Jury or Jury of Inquests belonging to the said Court & without any previous Notice to [the] Aldermen of [the] s^aid Borough w^{ch} as these De[fe]n[de]n[t]s are [w]ere informed & believes is usual in [the] like Cases & even in appearance without the knowledge or direction of the said Robert Lisle) called [the] Names of several Persons whom he [the] s^aid Mathew Potts proposed to swear Freemen of the said Borough.

Say that it being notorious that y^e s^aid Mathew Potts several of the s^aid Persons who the s^aid Mathew Potts called to be sworn Freemen of the s^aid Borough were not entitled to their Freedom by the Custom & Constitution thereof they these Depon[en]ts with several of [the] Aldermen Freemen & Brothers or Members of the inferior Class of Freemen of the s^aid Borough there present made remonstrances to [the] s^aid Court & protested ag[ain]st [the] s^aid proceeding of the s^aid Mathew Potts as illegal & Arbitrary & Injurious to the Rights & Interests of Depon[en]ts & the rest of the Freemen & Bro[the]rs of the said Borough & contrary to the Constitution thereof.

Say they believe that some of them these Depon[en]ts did request of [the] s^aid Court to be sworn Freemen of [the] s^aid Borough as having a better right than several of [the] Persons so called by the s^aid Mathew Potts & laid their hands on a Bible for that purpose and that some of them got upon the Table of the said Court, in order to have their Remonstrances to the said Court better heard and understood.

But they severally say that they had no Intention of making any Riott or mischief or of disturbing or preventing the business of the s^aid Court and that they these Depon[en]ts used no violence or abusive Language to any person on that occasion.

William Tate sworn the 30th of Oct[ober]: 1761, and filed 18th Nov[ember]: 1761 — Says that he was present at [the] s^aid Court on the 30th of March last held by Rob[ert] Lisle as Steward.

That after several causes depending in [the] s^aid Court were tried, & he was expecting that [the] s^aid Court would break up, he was alarmed by the Clerk of the s^aid Court calling the Names of four persons who he proposed swearing Freemen of the s^aid Borough without any direction from, and even contrary to a Declaration of [the] s^aid Robert Lisle who had a little before in this Depon[en]ts hearing said that he knew nothing of any Freemen to be made that day or to that Effect.

That Depon[en]t having been Elected by [the] Aldermen & Company of Weavers upwards of 14 years ago as a proper person to be admitted a Freeman according to the Custom of [the] s^aid Borough & several of [the] s^aid persons so called & proposed to be made Freemen not being so Elected and



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entitled to their Freedom he the Depon^t thought himself injured and together with several others who thought of same Complaind to y^e P^r Robert Lisle of y^e Grievance as unjust and unprecedented, who to y^e best of this Depon^ts remembrance & belief did not answer a word either in favour of the said proceeding of the said Clerk of the Court, or of this Depon^t and the Rest of the People complaining.

Says that he made use of no violence or abusive Language to any Man upon that occasion but was desirous of being made a Freeman & requested to be sworn as well as the Persons so proposed as above by the said Clerk of the Court he this Depon^t apprehending himself better entitled

George Oliver & Andrew Bullock both swore the 30th Oct^r 1761. & filed 10th Nov^r 1761 — Say that on y^e 30th of March last they attended y^e Court as Jurors for trying Causes there.

That Robert Lisle acted as Steward, and Mathew Potts as Clerk of y^e Court, & that y^e Jury & also the Grand Jury were sworn & the Causes tried & finished in a very peaceable Manner — That after y^e Business was finished they heard the P^r Mathew Potts call y^e names of several Persons then in Court to be sworn Freeman of the said Borough who as they believe were not entitled to their Freedom thereof.

That this proceeding occasioned an Almost universal Surprise & discontent among y^e Aldermen Jurors & other Freeman & Bro^r of y^e Borough there present, and Depon^t several others interested apprehending their Liberties invaded & Interests affected thereby Protested ag^{ainst} it as arbitrary & illegal & injurious to y^e Rights of y^e Borough & comitt^{ed} out & intreated y^e Court not to proceed in making of such Freeman — But that y^e said Robert Lisle did not any way interpose therein either in Redressing the Grievance to complaind of, or in Justification of the said proceeding of the said Mathew Potts.

Say that the said Mathew Potts proceeded to swear the P^r several Persons so by him called as afores^d and did actually tender to them the usual Oath on y^e Admission of Freeman and that some of them have in consequence hereof been appointed a future Court as Freeman of y^e Borough to Offices which by y^e Custom of y^e Borough are or ought to be held & enjoyed by Freeman of y^e Borough.

Say they saw no unusual Number of People assembled in y^e Court on y^e 30th of March & do not apprehend or believe that any Riot or Mischief was either committed or intended in the said Court.

Say that they dined with y^e Jury at the Queens head, and that they heard no Person among them express any fears or apprehensions ab^{out} going to Court in y^e afternoon. But that they talked of going back at 3. o'Clock being the time to which the P^r Court was adjourned.

That they with several others of y^e Jury, did go to y^e Market Place which is before y^e Door of the Town Hall where the Court is held & walk there a considerable time for that purpose, and did not perceive any Unusual Number of Persons assembled there nor any Tumult or appearance of any Riot Danger or Mischief.

Tho^s Weatherhead an Alderman of Morpeth swore the 30th of Oct^r 1761. Filed 10th Nov^r 1761 — Says that he was present at y^e Town Hall at y^e holding of y^e Court on y^e 30th of March last, when & where Rob^t Lisle acted as Steward of y^e Court.

Saith that Charles Warriner one of y^e Jurors attending Suspecting (as Depon^t believes) some sinister intention of making Freeman contrary to y^e Custom & Constitution of Morpeth, asked the P^r Rob^t Lisle before y^e whole Court if there was any intention of making any Freeman that day, to which the P^r Robert Lisle replied that he knew nothing of it & was only there to try Causes or to that Effect.

That the Jurors of the said Court were sworn, & the Causes there depending tried in a very peaceable manner, & after the same were tried, Mathew Potts who acted as Clerk or Assistant of y^e Court without any direction from y^e P^r Rob^t Lisle & contrary to his Declaration called the names of four Persons whom he proposed to make Freeman of y^e said Borough & at y^e same time threw a Bible upon the Court Table in Order to swear

entitled to their Freedom he the Depon^t thought himself injured and together with several others who thought [th]e same complaind to [th]e s[aj]d Robert Lisle of [th]e Grievance as unjust and unprecedented, who to [th]e best of this Depon^ts remembrance & belief did not answer a word either in favour of the said proceeding of the said Clerk of the Court, or of this Depon^t and the Rest of the People complaining.

Says that he made use of no violence or abusive Language to any Man upon that occasion but was desirous of being made a Freeman & requested to be sworn as well as the Persons so proposed as above by the said Clerk of the Court he this Depon^t apprehending himself better entitled

George Oliver & Andrew Bullock both swore the 30th Oct[ober] 1761 & filed 10th Nov[ember] 1761 - say that on [th]e 30th of March last they attended s[aj]d Court as Jurors for trying Causes there.

That Robert Lisle acted as Steward, and Mathew Potts as Clerk of [th]e s[aj]d Court, & that [th]e s[aj]d Jury & also the Grand Jury were sworn & the Causes tried & finished in a very peaceable Manner - That after [th]e s[aj]d Business was finished they heard the s[aj]d Mathew Potts call [th]e names of several Persons then in Court to be sworn Freeman of the said Borough who as they believe were not entitled to their Freedom thereof

1^W transcribed as 'F' throughout

That this proceeding occasioned an Almost universal surprise & discontent among [th]e Aldermen Jurors & other Freeman & Bro[th]ers of [th]e s[aj]d Borough there present, & Depon[en]ts & several others interested apprehending their Liberties invaded & Interests affected thereby Protested ag[ainst] it as arbitrary & illegal & injurious to [th]e Rights & c of s[aj]d Borough & earnestly intreated [th]e s[aj]d Court not to proceed in making [th]e such Freeman - But that [th]e said Robert Lisle did not any way interpose therein either in Redressing the Grievance so complaind of, or in Justification of the said proceeding of the said Mathew Potts.

Say that the said Mathew Potts proceeded to swear the s[aj]d several Persons so by him called as afores[aj]d and did actually tender to them the usual Oath on [th]e admission of Freeman and that some of them have in consequence thereof been appointed at a future Court as Freeman of [th]e s[aj]d Borough to Offices which by [th]e Custom of [th]e s[aj]d Borough were are or ought to be [only] held & enjoyed by Freeman of [th]e s[aj]d Borough.

Say they saw no unusual Number of People assembled in [th]e s[aj]d Court on [th]e 30th of March & do not apprehend or believe that any Riot or Mischief was either committed or intended in the said Court

Say that they dined with [th]e Jury at the Queens head, and that they heard no Person among them express any fears or apprehensions ab[ou]t going to Court in [th]e afternoon. But that they talked of going back at 3. o'Clock being the time to which the s[aj]d Court was adjourned.

That they with several others did of [th]e s[aj]d Jury did go up to [th]e s[aj]d Market Place which is before [th]e Door of the Town Hall where the s[aj]d Court is held & walk there a considerable time for that purpose, and did not perceive any Unusual Number of Persons assembled there nor any Tumult or appearance of any Riot Danger or Mischief.

Tho[mas] Weatherhead an Alderman of Morpeth swore the 30th of Oct[ober] 1761. Filed 19th Nov[ember] 1761 - says that he was present at [th]e Town Hall at [th]e holding of [th]e s[aj]d Court on [th]e 30th of March last, when & where Rob[ert] Lisle acted as Steward of [th]e s[aj]d Court.

Saith that Charles Warriner one of [th]e Jurors attending suspecting (as Depon[en]t believes) some sinister intention of making Freeman contrary to [th]e Custom & Constitution of Morpeth, asked the s[aj]d Rob[ert] Lisle before [th]e whole Court if there was any intention of making any Freeman that day, to which the s[aj]d Robert Lisle replied that he knew nothing of it & was only there to try Causes or to that Effect.

That the Jurors of the said Court were sworn, & the Causes there depending tried in a very peaceable manner, & after the same were tried, Mathew Potts who acted as Clerk or assistant of [th]e s[aj]d Court without any direction from [th]e s[aj]d Rob[ert] Lisle & contrary to his s[aj]d Declaration called the names of four Persons whom he proposed to make Freeman of [th]e said Borough & at [th]e same time threw a Bible upon the Court Table in Order to swear



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Charles Warriner, Roger Marr, George Bullock, Cuthbert Bullock, Gabriel Dunn & Thomas Carnaby swore the 30th of Oct[ober] 1761. filed the 19th Nov[ember] 1761. Say that they attended the said Court on y^e 30th of March last as Jurors in the Grand Jury there, & were sworn into that Office.

That y^e Duty of that Jury, consists chiefly in Walking y^e boundaries of y^e P. Borough & presenting Nuzances & it is usual for them to make such presentm[en]ts to the Court in y^e afternoon, their business being a work of time.

Charles Warriner for himself saith that Just before he & y^e rest of y^e P. Jury went out of Court on their Duty, he this Depon[er] asked, & the rest of y^e Depon[er]s say that they heard him ask Rob[ert] Lisle who acted as Steward if he intended to make any freemen that day who replied that he knew nothing of it or to that Effect

That they proceeded in their said Office of Jurors & were ready to attend the P. Court again y^e afternoon to which time they heard y^e same was adjourned but they had no presentm[en]ts to make to y^e P. Court nor any other business to do or cause to attend again that they know of except to be discharged

That they know no other Cause save that there being no ot[her] further business to do Why the P. Lisle did not return to Court according to his Adjournment

That on their Return from their P. Dutys Jurors being informed that there had been an attempt in their absence to make certain Persons freemen who they were convinced had no right to be freemen, They with several others of the P. Jury did go to the Queen's head where the P. Rob[ert] Lisle & many of the Suitors & agents of y^e P. Court dined & formally protested before the P. Rob[ert] Lisle & the Company there ag[ain]st the said proceeding contrary to the Custom & Constitution of y^e P. Borough.

Roger Marr for himself saith that he was deputed a Messenger by y^e rest of y^e P. Jury to wait on the P. Rob[ert] Lisle to know if he would go to Court in the afternoon accord[ing] to his Adjournment, & saith that y^e accordingly waited twice on him & told him that y^e P. Jury expected him & at same time endeavoured to remove certain Apprehensions of Danger which he y^e P. Lisle pretended to have conceived in regard to his returning to y^e P. Court, - He the Depon[er] on y^e strictest Enquiry not having been able to find any real Cause for such Apprehensions.

William Wright swore the 30th of Oct[ober] 1761. filed Nov[ember] 19th 1761. saith that he attended at y^e P. Court on y^e 30th of March last as Serjeant of the P. Borough, & saith that he heard Rob[ert] Lisle who acted as Steward there declare there was not any intention of making freemen that day. That after the business of y^e said Court was finished for the forenoon, Mathew Potts as Clerk or Assistant of y^e P. Court called the names of 4 persons who he proposed swearing freemen of y^e P. Borough, some of whom was not as Depon[er] has heard & believed duly elected by their Companies & lawfully entitled to their freedom.

That this proceeding being looked upon and Considered by most of the Aldermen, freemen and Brothers of the said Borough then present as injurious to their Rights and Interest and the Liberties and Privileges of the said Borough Occasioned Many persons to speak at one and the Same time making Remonstrances to the said Court And Appealing and Protesting against the said Proceeding of said Mathew Potts

Saith he believes that Some of the said Brothers Alledging A right to be made Free of said Borough preferably to the Persons so Called by said Mathew Potts laid their Hands on the Same Bible (which the said Mathew Potts threw upon the Table of the said Court) with the said other persons Called by the said Mathew Potts desiring they might be Sworn freemen of the said Borough

Saith that said Robert Lisle Appeared to Depon[er] to be very Passive during this Transaction And did not as Depon[er] Remembers anyway Interpose therein

Saith he doth not believe that Any of the Persons Concerned in the above Transaction intended to Commit or in Depon[er]s Opinion did Commit Any riot or Mischief but their Intention was to preserve and support their Several Rights and Privileges and those of said Borough of Morpeth

Saith said Robert Lisle without Determining any thing in regard to said Rights and Pretensions Orderd the Court to be adjourned till 3 of the Clock in the afternoon with being done the people in the Court to Depon[er]s Remembrance & belief very peaceably departed

Charles Warriner, Roger Marr, George Bullock, Cuthbert Bullock, Gabriel Dunn & Thomas Carnaby swore the 30th of Oct[ober] 1761 filed the 19th Nov[ember] 1761. Say that they attended the said Court on [the] 30th of March last as Jurors in the Grand Jury there, & were sworn into that office.

That [the] Duty of that Jury consists chiefly in Walking [the] boundaries of [the] s[ai]d Borough & presenting Nuzances & it is usual for them to make such presentm[en]ts to the Court in [the] afternoon, their business being a work of time.

Charles Warriner for himself saith that Just before he & [the] rest of [the] s[ai]d Jury went out of Court on their Duty he this Depon[er] asked, & the rest of [the] Depon[er]s say that they heard him ask Rob[er]t Lisle who acted as Steward if he intended to make any Freemen that day who replied that he knew--- nothing of it or to that Effect

That they proceeded in their said Office of Jurors & were ready to attend the s[ai]d Court aga[in] in [the] afternoon to which time they heard [the] same was adjourned but they had no presentm[en]ts to make to [the] s[ai]d Court nor any other business to do or cause to attend again that they --- knew of Except to be discharged

That they know no other Cause save that /of there being no ot[her] further business to do Why the s[ai]d Lisle did not return to Court according to his Adjournment

That on their Return from their s[ai]d Duty as Jurors being informed that there had been an attempt in their absence to make certain Persons freemen who they wer[e] convinced had no right to be freemen, They with several others of the s[ai]d Jury did go to the Queen's head where the s[ai]d Rob[er]t Lisle & many of the Suitors & Agents of [the] s[ai]d Court dined & formally protested before the s[ai]d Rob[er]t Lisle & the Company there ag[ain]st the said proceeding contrary to the Custom & Constitution of [the] s[ai]d Borough.

Roger Marr for himself saith that he was deputed a Messenger by [the] rest of [the] s[ai]d Jury to wait on the

s[ai]d Rob[er]t Lisle to know if he would go to Court in the Afternoon accord[ing] to his Adjournment & saith that [the] accordingly waited twice on him & told him that [the] s[ai]d Jury expected him & at same time endeavoured to remove certain Apprehensions of Danger which he [the] s[ai]d Lisle pretended to have conceived in regard to his returning to [the] s[ai]d Court, --- He the Depon[er] on [the] strictest Enquiry not having been able to find any real Cause for such Apprehensions.

William Wright swore the 30th of Oct[ober] 1761 filed the 19th Nov[ember] 1761. Saith that he attended at [the] s[ai]d Court on [the] 30th of March last as Serjeant of the s[ai]d Borough, & saith that he heard Rob[er]t Lisle who acted as Steward there declare there was not any intention of making freemen that day

That after the business of [the] s[ai]d Court was finished for the forenoon, Mathew Potts as Clerk or Assistant of [the] s[ai]d Court called the names of 4 persons who he proposed swearing freemen of [the] s[ai]d Borough, some of whom w[er]e not as Depon[er] has heard & believed duly elected by their Company & lawfully entitled to their Freedom.

That this proceeding being looked upon and Considered by most of the Aldermen freemen and Brothers of the said Borough then present as injurious to their Rights and Interest and the Liberties and Privileges of the said Borough Occasioned Many persons to speak at one and the Same time making Remonstrances to the said Court And Appealing and Protesting against the said Proceeding of said Mathew Potts.

Saith he believes that Some of the said Brothers Alledging A right to be made Free of said Borough preferably to the Persons so Called by said Mathew Potts laid their Hands on the Same Bible (which the said Mathew Potts threw upon the Table of the said Court) with the said other persons Called by the said Mathew Potts desiring they might be Sworn freemen of the said Borough---

Saith that said Robert Lisle Appeared to Depon[er] to be very Passive during this Transaction And did not as Depon[er] Remembers Any way Interpose therein

Saith he doth not believe that Any of the Persons Concerned in the above Transaction intended to Commit or in Depon[er]s Opinion did Commit Any riot or Mischief but their intention was to preserve and support their Several Rights and Privileges and those of said Borough of Morpeth

Saith said Robert Lisle without Determining any thing in regard to said Rights and Pretensions Orderd the Court to be adjourned till 3 of the Clock in the afternoon w[ith] being done the people in the Court to Depon[er]s Remembrance & belief very peaceably departed

Says



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John Grey Swore 31st of October 1761 Filed Nov^r 19th 1761

Says he receiv[ed] no Injury Insult or ill usage in said Court that day from any person who ever Nor did Deponent Apprehend any Danger or Mischief from any thing that happened there either to himself or any Other person who Attended or was any way Concerned in the said Court of October 1761 Filed Nov^r 19th 1761

Saith that he did on the 30th of March last past Attend the Court Leet and Court Baron of the Earl of Carlisle holdn and for the Manor and Borough of Morpeth aforesaid as one of the Suitors of said Court And that the afores[aid] Robert Lisle Gent Acted as Steward of said Court And Depon[en]t heard said Rob[er]t Lisle in Answer to a Question put by Charles Warriner one of the Jury of Inquests belonging to said Court declare that he knew Nothing of Any Freeman to be made that day and that said Lisle was only there to try Causes

Saith that after the Causes depending in the said Court were all tried and Finished Matthew Potts who Acted as Clerk or Assistant to said Court Called the Names of Several persons to be Sworn Freeman of said Borough of Morpeth (who as Deponent was informed and believed and now ~~very~~ believes were not lawfully intitled to their Freedom according to the Custom of the said Borough) And at the same time threw a Bible on the Table in Order to Tender them the Usual Oath

Saith this unprecedented proceeding Occasioned a great discontent Among the Jury and Other Freeman and Brothers Attending the said Court And prompted some of them who has as Depon[en]t has been informed and believes a good right to their Freedom of said Borough to Assert their said right, And to lay their Hands on the said Bible with the said Other persons so Called by the said Matthew Potts at the same time requesting to be Sworn Freeman of said Borough

Saith that although this Transaction Occasioned Several people to Speak together And consequently some Noise in said Court Yet Depon[en]t Verily believes there was no Injury or Insult done or intended to be done by or to Any person then present Nor Any Business of the said Court intended to be interrupted or prevented

Saith the said Several Persons so Called by said Matthew Potts to be made Freeman as afores[aid] Contributed greatly towards making the said Noise

Saith he is persuaded and believes no lawful Business of the Court was prevented for that it Appear[ed] to Depon[en]t from the said Mr Lisles said Declaration and whole future Conduct that all the proper Business of the Court at that time was Finished and done, said Lisle never Offering as Depon[en]t remembers to interpose his Authority or give Any Opinion in relation to the said Proceeding of said Matthew Potts

Saith after said Court was Adjourned Depon[en]t together with the Jurors And most of the Other Freeman as Sutors of the said Court dined with said Robert Lisle & said Matthew Potts at the Queens Head in Morpeth afores[aid] And Depon[en]t Sat at the same Table with said Lisle but doth not remember to have heard him Express Any Apprehension or fear of going into Court again in the afternoon

Says he went into the Market place in Morpeth aforesaid after Dinner about the time to which said Court was Adjourned And expected said Court would sit Again to receive the presentm[en]ts of the Jury of Inquests which is Usually done in the afternoon

Says he knows not why said Robert Lisle and Jury did not return to Court to Finish the Business of said Court (if Any remained to be done) for Deponent Saw no Tumult nor Riot nor Any Cause to Apprehend any Mischief nor Any greater Number of persons Assembled before the Door of said Court than Usual on a Court day.

Says he receiv[ed] no Injury Insult or ill usage in said Court that day from Any person who ever Nor did Deponent Apprehend any Danger or Mischief from Anything that happened there either to himself or Any Other person who Attended or was any way Concerned in the said Court of October 1761 Filed Nov[em]ber 19th 1761 Saith that he did on the 30th of March last past Attend the Court Leet and Court Baron of the Earl of Carlisle held in and for the Manor and Borough of Morpeth aforesaid as one of the Suitors of said Court And that the afores[aid] Robert Lisle Gent[leman] Acted as Steward of the said Court And Depon[en]t heard said Rob[er]t Lisle in Answer to A Question put by Charles Warriner one of the Jury of Inquests belonging to said Court declare that he knew Nothing of Any Freeman to be made that day and that said Lisle was only there to try Causes

Saith that after the Causes depending in the said Court were all tried and Finished, Matthew Potts who Acted as Clerk or Assistant to said Court Called the Names of Several persons to be Sworn Freeman of said Borough of Morpeth (who as Deponent was informed and believed and now ~~very~~ believes were not lawfully intitled to their Freedom according to the Custom of the said Borough) And at the same time threw A Bible on the Table in Order to Tender them the Usual Oath

Saith this unprecedented proceeding Occasioned a great discontent Among the Jury and Other Freeman and Brothers Attending the said Court And prompted some of them who has as Depon[en]t has been informed and believes A good right to their Freedom of said Borough to Assert their said right, And to lay their Hands on the said Bible with the said Other persons so Called by the said Matthew Potts at the same time requesting to be Sworn Freeman of said Borough

Saith that although this Transaction Occasioned Several people to Speak together And consequently some Noise in said Court Yet Depon[en]t Verily believes there was no Injury or Insult done or intended to be done by or to Any person then present Nor Any Business of the said Court intended to be interrupted or prevented

Saith the said Several Persons so Called by said Matthew Potts to be made Freeman as afores[aid] Contributed greatly towards making the said Noise

Saith he is persuaded and believes no lawful Business of the Court was prevented for that it Appear[ed] to Depon[en]t from the said Mr Lisles said Declaration and whole future Conduct that all the proper Business of the Court at that time was Finished and done, said Lisle never Offering as Depon[en]t remembers to interpose his Authority or give Any Opinion in relation to the said Proceeding of said Matthew Potts

Saith after said Court was Adjourned Depon[en]t together w[ith] the Jurors And most of the Other Freeman as suitors of the said Court dined with said Robert Lisle & said Matthew Potts at the Queens Head in Morpeth aforesaid And depon[en]t Sat at the same Table with said Lisle, but doth not remember to have heard him Express Any Apprehension or fear of going into Court again in the afternoon

Says he went into the Market place in Morpeth aforesaid after Dinner about the time to which said Court was Adjourned And expected said Court would sit Again to receive the presentm[en]ts of the Jury of Inquests which is Usually done in the afternoon

Says he knows not why said Robert Lisle and Jury did not return to Court to Finish the Business of said Court (if Any remained to be done) for Deponent Saw no Tumult nor Riot nor Any Cause to Apprehend any Mischief nor Any greater Number of persons Assembled before the Door of said Court than Usual on a Court day.