

Extract from the Annals of Dunfermline:

CHARTER FROM ROBERT, ABBOT OF DUNFERMLINE, TO THE BURGESSES AND COMMUNITY OF DUNFERMLINE. - This is the first Charter from the Monastery to the Burgh. The following is a free translation of the Charter :-

"To all who shall see or hear this Charter, - Robert, by Divine permission, Abbot of Dunfermline, and the Convent of the same place, humbly wishes eternal salvation in the Lord: Be it known to you, that we (after serious and attentive deliberation in our Chapter-House on what regards the interests of our Monastery) have given, granted, and by this present Charter confirmed, to the community of our burgh of Dunfermlyn, and the burgesses thereof, as a Common, that part of our moor, extending in length from the boundaries of Waltirsellis to the straight marshes of Beedgall (reserving to ourselves the great moss of Beedgall), and from the highway to Perth, and the boundaries of Greenauch to the straight marches of Tulch, in breadth, together with the peat-moss in said moor: And likewise that piece of land extending from the highway to Perth to Moncor-bank, and situated within the two ditches (duo sycheta) running in a line from Moncor, till they reach the highway to Perth, the said piece of land being of equal breadth with that of Moncor opposite thereto, to be freely, and without the slightest disturbance, completely, honourably, and peaceably, holden and possessed by the existing community and burgesses in all time coming, together with all conveniences derivable from said grazing their cattle: And, in consideration of the premisses, the said community and burgesses are to pay to us and our successors annually, at the Festival of the Blessed Queen Margaret, one pair of white Paris Gloves, or Sixpence sterling, good and lawful money, in addition to the feu-duty yearly payable to us and our Monastery by the said burgesses for the burgage and privileges of our said burgh. In testimony whereof, we have affixed to this Charter the seal of our Chapter, the Chapter being witnesses."

There is also a transcript of this Charter in the Town Council Charter-chest of Dunfermline. (Vide Print. Regist. Dunf. No. 596, p.415; Fernie's Hist Dunf. pp. 195,196; Mercer's Hist. Dunf. pp. 306,307.)

Note. - This Charter is not dated; it is placed near the middle year of the Abbotship of Robert of Crail. His predecessor Hugh was the first Abbot who styled himself Abbot by "Divine permission." Robert of Crail, Abbot (from 1313-14 to 1327-28), continues the style or designation, and as there were no other Roberts Abbot until A.D. 1500, there remains no room to doubt that Robert of Crail was the granter of this Charter, and it has been thus placed about the middle year of his Abbotship to reduce the error of date to a minimum.