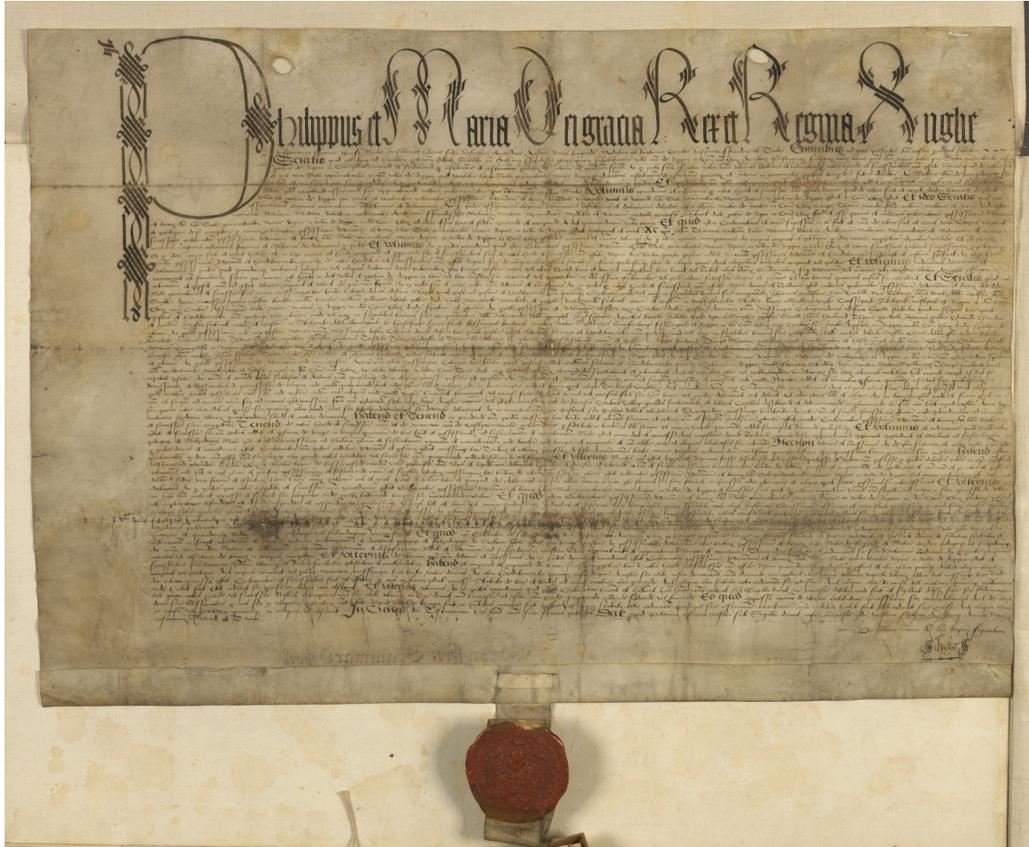


THE 1555 CHARTER OF THE RIPON FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL



***Translation by C.C.Swinton Bland RGS Headmaster
1895 –1919 ****

Free Grammar School of Queen Mary Created

Philip and Mary, by the Grace of God, King and Queen of England, the Spains, both Sicilies, Jerusalem and Ireland, Defenders of the Faith, Archdukes of Austria, Dukes of Burgundy, Milan and Brabant, Counts of Hapsburg, Flanders and Tyrol :

To all, to whom these our present letters shall come, greeting. Know ye that we, as well at the humble petition of our well-beloved subject Anthony Frankish, gentleman, as of the inhabitants of our Town of Ripon in the County of York, and of very many others of our subjects of all our country thereabouts, for a Grammar School to be erected and established within the Parish of Ripon in the County aforesaid, for the institution and instruction of boys and young men, of our special favour, certain knowledge and sincere goodwill, desire, grant and ordain for us and the heirs and successors of our said Sovereign Lady, the Queen, that from henceforth there be and shall be one Grammar School in the said town of Ripon, which shall be called the Free Grammar School of Queen Mary for the education, institution and instruction of boys and young

men, and that it shall endure for all times hereafter. And by these letters we erect, create, ordain, and found this school to continue for ever with one pedagogue or master, and one sub-pedagogue or usher.

The Governors

And that our intent aforesaid may take better effect, and that the lands, tenements, rents, revenues, and other profits to be granted, assigned, or appointed for the maintenance of the said school, may be the better governed for the continuance of the same school, we will, grant and ordain for us and the heirs and successors of our Queen aforesaid, that from henceforth there be and shall be ten men of the said Town and Parish of Ripon, who shall be and shall be called Governors of the possessions, revenues, and goods of the said school, commonly called and to be called the Free Grammar School of Queen Mary in the Parish of Ripon aforesaid in the County of York aforesaid.

And therefore know ye, that we have assigned, elected, chosen, named, constituted and declared, and by these letters we assign, choose, name, constitute and declare that our well-beloved John Norton, of Norton, in the County of York, Esquire, Thomas Markenfield, William Mallorie, and Richard Ardington, Esquires, Ninian Staveley, Robert Walworth, Anthony Frankish, Miles Newton, Marmaduke Middleton, and Ninian Percivall, Gentlemen, inhabitants of the said Parish of Ripon in the County of York, shall be hereafter and now the first Governors for the present time of the' possessions, revenues and goods of the said Free Grammar School of Queen Mary in the Town of Ripon in the County of York, well and faithfully to exercise and occupy the same office from the date of this letter and during their lifetime ;

The Governors incorporated

And that the same Governors and their successors in substance, deed and name from henceforth be and shall be incorporated and erected a body corporate and politic of themselves for ever by the name of the Governors of the possessions, revenues and goods of the Free Grammar School of Queen Mary in the Town of Ripon in the County of York; and that by the said name we incorporate and fully create, erect, ordain, make and constitute, and by this letter declare them a body corporate and politic really to continue for ever.

And we will and by these letters grant that the same Governors of the possessions, revenues and goods of the Free Grammar School of Queen Mary in the Town of Ripon in the County of York, and their successors have a succession for ever, and by the same name be and shall be able, and in law competent, to have, receive, and purchase to them and their successors from us and the heirs and successors of our said Queen lands, tenements, meadows, pastures, rents, reversions, possessions, revenues, and inheritances hereafter written and beneath specified, and any other lands, tenements, possessions, revenues and inheritances whatsoever of us and the heirs and successors of our said Queen, or of any other person, or of any other persons whatsoever, or of any body or bodies corporate and politic.

Election of Governors

And we will, ordain, determine and declare by this letter that whenever it shall happen that one or more of the said ten Governors for the time being die or decease, then and so often at all times hereafter it be lawful and shall be lawful for the other surviving Governors aforesaid, or the greater part of the same to elect and name another fit person living, and for the most part having his family, in the said Town and Parish of Ripon, as successor into the place or the places of the party or parties thus dying in the said office of Governor or Governors, and that as often as this chance shall befall.

Grant of Property of the late Chantry of the Assumption of the Virgin

And know ye, that we desiring and willing to bring our intent and purpose to effect, of our special favour, certain knowledge and pure good will have given and granted, and by this letter in behalf of us and the heirs and successors of our said Queen, do give and grant to the aforesaid Governors for this time of the possessions, revenues and goods of the said Free Grammar School, and to their successors, all our messuages, lands, tenements, cottages, houses, buildings, shops, meadows, grazings, pastures, and inheritances whatsoever, with their appurtenances, now or lately in the several tenures or occupations of John Wilson, Richard Carlyle, Richard Gillow, John Banck, Robert Walsh, John Smith, the widow of Roger Moresbie, Christopher Burton, William Hunter, William Gillow, Robert Potter, Ralph Cooke, Margaret Moorebecke, and Percivall Richmond, situate, lying and being in North Staneley, Studley Roger, Allhallowgate, Crosgate, Skelgate, Westgate, and Ripon, in the said County of York, lately belonging and appertaining to and parcel of the possessions and revenues of the late Chantry of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in Ripon.

Grant of Property of the late Chantry of the Assumption of St James

And also all the messuages, cottages, houses, buildings, barns, stables, gardens, shops, lands, meadows, pastures, and inheritances belonging to us whatsoever with their appurtenances, now or lately in the several tenures or occupations of Robert Richmond, Robert Wright, John Spencer, Agnes Bracke, Isabella Cooke, widow Smith, Christopher Small, John Harland, Thomas Percivall, John Exilbie, Edmund Chamber, and William Dixon, situate lying and being in Skelgate, Allhallowgate, Horsefaire, Finklestreete, Blossomgate, Bondgate, Norton, Derton, Speltriggs, Long Furlong, Fishergate, and Ripon, in the said County of York, lately belonging and pertaining to the late Chantry of St. James the Apostle in Ripon in the said County of York and a part of the possessions thereof.

Grant of Property of the late Chantry of the Assumption of St John the Evangelist

And also all our messuages, tofts, cottages, houses, buildings, lands, meadows, pastures, rents, reversions, services, and inheritances whatsoever, now or late in the several tenures or occupations of Ralph Withes, Robert Dixon, Helen Atkinson widow, Robert Lambert, Miles Newton, Thomas Haywell, Walter Johnson, John Teasedale, Thomas Hodgson and Thomas Blackburne, with all the appurtenances, situate, lying and being in Ripon, Bondgate, Thorpe, Sharow, Wallowthwaite, Markington, and Halseyings, in the said County of York, formerly belonging and appertaining to the late Chantry of St. John the Evangelist in the aforesaid Ripon, and a part of the possessions thereof, late in being.

Grant of Property of the late Chantry of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Manor of Hallgarth

And also all our six messuages and tenements, and all our lands, meadows, pastures, and inheritances whatsoever with the appurtenances, now or late in the several tenures or occupations of Robert Harrison, John Watson, John Fletcher, Thomas Wood, John Webster, and Joan Burbecke widow, situate, lying and being in Allhallowgate Street, Kirkgate Street, in Ripon aforesaid, and formerly belonging and appertaining to the late Chantry of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Manor of Hallgarth, in our said County of York, and a part of the possessions and revenues thereof, late in being.

Full rights in the above property granted to the School

And also all the messuages, cottages, lands, tenements, meadows, pastures, rents, reversions, services and inheritances whatsoever, with their appurtenances, in Ripon, North Stainley, Studley Roger, Norton, Derton, Speltriggs, Thorpe, Wallowthwaite, Markington, Halseyings, in our said County of York, and in any other place whatsoever, in the said County, which formerly belonged and appertained to the said late Chantries, or to anyone of them, or before this time were held, known, accepted, used or reputed to be as members parts or parcels of the same Chantries, or anyone of them; and all our woods and underwoods and trees whatsoever of every kind growing and being of, in or upon the premises; and the reversion or reversions whatsoever of all and each of the premises and of any part thereof; moreover the rents and annual profits whatsoever reserved upon every demise

and grant of the premises, or of any part thereof by whatsoever deed, as fully freely and entirely, and in as ample manner and form, as any Chantry Priests or Incumbents of the said late Chantries or any of them, or any other person or persons

before this time having or possessing, the premises or any parts thereof, or being seized thereof, ever had, held or enjoyed, or ought to have had, held or enjoyed the same or any part thereof; and as fully freely and entirely and in as ample manner and form, as all and each of these came or ought to have come to our hands or to the hands of our dear brother Edward the Sixth, late King of England, by reason and force of an act concerning divers Chantries, Colleges, Guilds, Fraternities and Free Chapels dissolved and brought to an end in the Parliament of our said brother held at Westminster in the first year of his reign, amongst other things done and provided, or by whatever other means right and title, and are now or ought to be in our hands; which messuages, lands, tenements, and the other premises all and each, with the appurtenances now extend to the yearly value of sixteen pounds fourteen shillings and ninepence; To have and to hold and enjoy all the said messuages, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services, and all and each of the other premises with the appurtenances, to the said Governors for the time being of the possessions, revenues, and goods of the said Free School and to their successors, as of our Manor of East Greenwich in the County of Kent by fealty only, in free socage and not in capite, for all rents, services, and demands whatsoever.

Proceeds to be used for maintenance of the School

And we will and ordain, that the aforesaid Governors and their successors disburse, expend, and convert all the outgoings, rents and profits from time to time arising from the lands, tenements and possessions now given and granted, or hereafter to be given and granted, purchased or appointed for the support and maintenance of the aforesaid school, and the support of a master and sub-master of the aforesaid school, and to other necessities touching and concerning the aforesaid school and the support, repair and maintenance alone thereof, and in no other way, and to no other uses or purposes.

Furthermore we have given and granted and of our favour, knowledge and entire goodwill aforesaid, we do give and grant by this our letter to the aforesaid Governors, all the issues, rents, revenues and profits aforesaid of the messuages, lands, tenements, and other premises from the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the year of Our Lord fifteen hundred and fifty-three, arising or growing, to be held by the same Governors at our gift free from any account or anything else to be given paid or done therefore to us, our heirs or successors.

Appointment of Attorneys

And further know ye, that we the aforesaid King and Queen have made, constituted, ordained, deputed, and by this letter put in our place our well beloved Christopher

Redshaw, of Givendale, in the County of York, and Roger Bayne, of Bishopside, in the said County, Gentlemen, our true and lawful attorneys, jointly and severally, to enter upon all and each of the messuages, burgages, lands., tenements and other premises, and upon any part, in our place and name, and for us, and after entry had and taken, full and peaceable possession and seizing of all and each of the said messuages, lands, tenements, and other premises with their appurtenances, to the aforesaid Governors of the possessions and goods of the Free Grammar School of Queen Mary in the Town of Ripon, or to their certain attorneys in this behalf, to be delivered according to the force, form and effect of these our letters patent, ratifying, and allowing all and whatsoever our said attorneys, or either of them shall do in this behalf, or cause to be done, in the premises, as fully and entirely as we could do, if we were there present.

Governors may have a Common Seal

And further, we will, and by these letters for us, our heirs and successors do grant to the aforesaid Governors of the possessions revenues and goods of the Free Grammar Queen Mary, In the Town of Ripon, and to their successors that from henceforth they may always have common seals to serve for their business, touching and concerning the premises and other things expressed and specified in these our patents, or any part thereof, and for no other purpose.

Their powers, rights and duties

And that the same Governors of the possessions, revenues and goods of the Free Grammar School of Queen Mary, in the Town of Ripon, in the said County of York, have power to plead and be impleaded, defend and be defended, answer and be answered in any courts, leets and places, and before any Judges and Justices as well temporal as spiritual, or other Justices, Commissioners, Officers, and Ministers whatsoever in whatsoever causes, actions, businesses, suits, disputes, pleas, and claims, of whatsoever nature and condition they may be, touching and concerning the premises and other things above mentioned, or any part thereof, or for any offences, trespasses, things, causes, or matters done or committed, or to be done or to be committed by any person or persons in or upon the' premises or any part thereof, or touching or concerning any thing mentioned in these letters.

And further of our more abundant grace, certain knowledge and entire goodwill, we have given and granted and by these letters give and grant to the aforesaid Governors for the time being of the school aforesaid, and to their successors and to the greater part of the same, of whom we will that the said Anthony Frankish during his life be one, full power and authority to nominate and appoint a master and sub-master of the aforesaid school, as often as and whenever the same school shall be without a master or sub-master.

And that the Governors themselves and their successors, with the advice of the Archbishop of York for the time being, shall from time to time make and have power to make fitting and wholesome statutes and ordinances in writing concerning and touching the order, government and direction of the master and sub-master and of the scholars of the aforesaid school for the time being, and of the possessions, revenues, tenements, lands, possessions and goods of the said school, and of the stipend and salary of the same master and sub-master and all other things touching and concerning the same school and the ordering, governing, preserving and disposing of the rents and revenues appointed or to be appointed for the maintenance of the said school, which statutes and ordinances we will and grant so to be done and by these letters command to be preserved from time to time without violation for ever.

Grant of licence in Mortmain

And further of our more abundant grace we have given and granted, and by these letters give and grant to the aforesaid Governors of the possessions, revenues, and goods of the said Free Grammar School of the Queen, in the Town of Ripon aforesaid and to their successors, special and free license and lawful power and authority of holding, receiving and purchasing to them and to their successors for ever, as well of us, and the heirs or successors of our said Queen, as of any other persons or person whatsoever, or of any body or bodies, corporate or politic, the manors, messuages, lands, tenements, rectories, tithes and other inheritances whatsoever within the Realm of England, or elsewhere within our dominions, not exceeding the clear annual value of twenty pounds besides the said messuages, lands, tenements, and other premises, granted to the aforesaid Governors and their successors, as is by us in form aforesaid; the statute of Mortmain concerning lands, and tenements being in abeyance, or any other statute, act, ordinance or provision, or any other cause or matter whatsoever to the contrary had, made, published, ordained, or provided in anything to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

And further we will and by these letters grant that the aforesaid Governors shall hold and do hold these our letters patent under the Seal of the Duchy of Lancaster, in due order made and sealed, without delivering or paying or doing any fine or fee, great or small, to us, our heirs or successors in our Hanaper or elsewhere in the Court of our Duchy of Lancaster to our use by any means therefor, because express mention of the further certainty of the premises, or of any of them, or of other gifts, or grants, by us or by any of the progenitors of our said Queen made before this time, has not in these letters been made; or any other statute, act, ordinance, provision, or restraint, to the contrary thereof, had, done, made, ordained or provided before this time, or in any other thing, cause, or matter whatsoever in anything notwithstanding:

27th June, 1555.

In witness whereof we have caused these our letters patent to be made and dated. at our Palace of Westminster, under our Seal of the Duchy of Lancaster, the twenty seventh day of June in the second and third years of our reign.

By warrant signed by the hand of the said Lady Queen.

GAYDON.

* *Reference: A History of Ripon Grammar School by Philip W Rogers, Wakeman Press 1954*