

## Form of Admission to a Chaplainry in the Parish Church of Elgin.

Head Burgh Court – 4<sup>th</sup> May 1546

**T**he quhillk day We, William Gaderar, eldar, provest of the said bru<sup>t</sup>., Andro Gaderar, Daud Harde, Alexander Tailzour, and William Gaderar, zoungar, baillies of the samyn, with consent and assent and command of the haille consell and communate of the said bru<sup>t</sup>., for the vphald of the seruice of God to be dovne within the paroche kirk of the forsaid brugh hes conducit and be the tenour heirof conducis ane discreit man Sir Thomas Rage, chepland, for all the dais and termes of his lyvetym to sey mes and sing Devyn service within the said paroche kirke with the wtheris cheplanis and chorestouris in the said kirke at all dais, houris and tymes he beis disposit thairto / and we, provest, baillies, consell and cummunate forsaidis for vs and our successouris in all tyme to cum during the said Sir Thomas lyvetym bindis and oblise vs and our successoris be the faythis and trwthis in our bodies to content and pay to the said Sir Thomas Rag the sovm of sax merkis vsuall money of this realm at tua termis in the zeir viz. the tain half thairof at Whitsunday and the toder half at Martimes in vyntir Togiddy with his honest burd in

auch nychbouris hovsis or in fourteyne at the maist And  
attour we oblise vs and our successouris in caice ony  
cheplandry or seruice within the said paroche kirke attouris  
our paroche clerkschip happin to vaik throch the decese off  
ony possessour thairof beand at our presentatioun and gyft  
to gif the samyn to the said Sir Thomas and to present him  
thairto the said Sir Thomas obligand him to the seruice aboyn  
writin and dischargand vs of his zeirlie fie and burd as said is  
and for the obserwing of the premises we the forsaidis  
provest and baillies for vs and our successouris and in naym  
and behalf of the haill consell and communate of the said brugh  
hes subscrievit thir presentis with our handis and for the  
fulfilling of the part of the said Sir Thomas Rag he hes  
subscrievit the samyn siclik dayzeir and plaice forsaidis befor  
thir vitnes Sir James Kar, Alex<sup>r</sup>. Wynchistir, zoungar,  
Johane Pantoun, Sir Thomas Robertsoun and Thomas Trovp  
with wtheris divers to the subscriptionis, William Gaderar,  
provest, w<sup>t</sup>.my hand / David Harde w<sup>t</sup>. my hand / Alexander  
Taillzour w<sup>t</sup>. my hand at the pen led be Sir James Kar,  
cheplane.

Nomina assise: George, erle of Catness, William Sincler of  
Dunbeyth, James Innes in Leuchars, Alex<sup>r</sup>. Strathbrok, James  
Sincler, John Thomsoun, zoungar. Alex<sup>r</sup>. Wynchester, eldar,  
Cutbert Cummyng, William Auldcorne, Johne Watt, William

Douglas, John Bayne, Johne Murray, William Murray,  
Thomas Ayir.

Burgh Court 8<sup>th</sup> November 1546

The quhilik day the baillies commandit Sir Thomas Rag to desist fra ony fordir instructing of barnis few or mone in ony plaice in tym to cum but that all tha he hed ma cum to the prencepall gramer schoill to be thechyt by the master admittit be the provest and baillies.

Notes:

- Thomas is to have the chaplainry for life.
- Thomas was not the only chaplain in the Parish Church.
- The parish church had choristers to help with the singing of services.
- Thomas was to receive six merks of usual money (of Scotland) at two terms - Whitsunday and Martimas in winter.
- Thomas was to "have his honest burd" - to be boarded - in eight neighbours houses (or at most fourteen) presumably going to them in some sort of rotation.
- He is to have the office of Parish Clerk should it become vacant by the death of the incumbent.
- He was obviously in the habit of teaching a group of youngsters (probably including the choristers). Such an arrangement was common and provided a chaplain with an additional (if small) source of income.
- The town seems to have recently established a Grammar School and all the children Thomas had been teaching were to attend there instead.
- The fact that he was teaching the children and that he was to be Parish Clerk at the next vacancy, implies that Thomas was educated and could write.
- Some of the senior baillies, including the provost himself, could not write and had to have their "hand at the pen" guided by James Kar, one of the chaplains present, when they 'signed' the document. (In 1544 (Sir) James Kar is named as Chaplain of the Rood Altar within the Parish Church. [Recs. of Elgin, vol. i., p.81])