

[Substantive matters highlighted in blue, editorial comment in red italic type.]

CHARTER of INCORPORATION of the HIBERNIAN SOCIETY

GEORGE the Third, by the grace of God, King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Defender of the Faith , and so forth :

To all unto whom those presents shall be granted, come, greeting :

Whereas, by our letters patent, enrolled in our High Court of Chancery of Ireland, the fourteenth day of July, in the ninth year of our reign, We did grant, ordain , constitute, and appoint George Viscount Townshend, our LieutenantGeneral and General Governor of our kingdom of Ireland, and our ChiefGovernor or Governors of our said kingdom for the time being, and the several other officers and persons in the said letters patent particularly mentioned, and their successors for ever, to be one body politic and corporate, in deed and in name, by the name of "**The Hibernian Society, in Dublin**, for maintaining, educating, and apprenticing the Orphans and Children of Soldiers in Ireland for ever," and by the same name to have perpetual succession:

And whereas it has been represented unto us, that the ends and purposes for which the said letters patent were granted may be more effectually promoted, and our military service in that part of our said United Kingdom called Ireland, more essentially and permanently benefited, if we should be pleased to grant new letters patent, with further and other qualifications, to the effect herein-after mentioned, to the said Hibernian Society; and the said Corporation having besought us to grant unto them new letters patent, to the effect and with the powers and qualifications herein-after mentioned, we are graciously pleased to condescend thereto; Know ye therefore, that we, of our special grace, certain knowledge, and mere notion, by and with the advice and consent of our right trusty and right entirely beloved Cousin and Counsellor Charles Duke of Richmond, our Lieutenant General and General Governor of that part of our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland called Ireland, have made, ordained, authorized, constituted, and appointed, and by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors, we **do make, ordain, authorize, constitute, and appoint,**

[Voting members of the society. Ex-officio members noted by the underlined office. Military and War Department members, ex-officio and individually appointed highlighted in gray. Note that they may be retired or hold militia or yeomanry commissions.]

our right trusty and right entirely beloved Cousin and Counsellor Charles Duke of Richmond, our Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland, and our other Chief Governor or Governors of Ireland, for the time being;

our most dearly beloved son George, Prince of Wales;

our most dearly beloved son Field Marshal, Frederick, Duke of York and Albany, Commander in Chief of all our Forces in our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland;

the most Reverend Father in God, our right trusty and right well-beloved Counsellor William, Lord Archbishop of Armagh, Primate of all Ireland ;

the most Reverend Father in God, our right trusty and right entirely beloved Counsellor Charles, Lord Archbishop of Dublin, Primate of Ireland; and the Archbishops of Armagh and Dublin respectively for the time being;

our right trusty and well-beloved Counsellor Thomas Lord Manners, our Chancellor of Ireland, and the Chancellor of Ireland for the time being ;

the Right Reverend Father in God, our right trusty and well-beloved Counsellor Charles Bishop of Kildare, and the Bishop of Kildare for the time being ;

our right trusty and well-beloved Counsellor William Downes, Chief Justice of our Court of King's Bench in Ireland ;

our right trusty and well-beloved Counsellor John Baron Norbury, Chief Justice of our Court of Common Pleas in Ireland ;

our right trusty and well-beloved Counsellor Standish O 'Grady, Chief Baron of our Court of Exchequer in Ireland ;

and the Chief Justices of our said Courts of King's Bench and Common Pleas,

and the Chief Baron of our said Exchequer respectively,
for the time being ;

our right trusty and well-beloved the Lord Mayor of our city of Dublin ;
the Chief Secretary of our Lieutenant General or other Chief Governor or Governors of
Ireland ;

our Attorney and Solicitor General in Ireland ;

our first Serjeant at Law ;

the Commander of our Forces, or in his absence, the General commanding the Troops in
Ireland;

the Adjutant General ;

the Quarter Master General;

the Dean of St. Patrick's; Dublin;

the Reverend Archdeacon of Dublin;

the Under Secretary for the Civil Department;

the Under Secretary of the War Department;

the Secretary to the Commander of the Forces;

the Judge Advocate General;

the Officer at the head of the Barrack Department;

the Director General of Military Hospitals;

the Commissary General;

the Deputy Adjutant General;

the Deputy Quarter Master General;

the General Officers on the Staff of Ireland;

the Deputy Inspector General of Recruits;

the Field Officers of the respective regiments doing duty in the garrison of the city of
Dublin;

the Recorder of the city of Dublin;

all for the time being;

our right trusty and well. beloved Cousin and Counsellor Charles Marquis of Drogheda,
our right trusty and entirely beloved Cousin and Counsellor George Marquis of Buckingham
our right trusty and well- beloved Cousin and Counsellor John Marquis of Sligo,
our right trusty and right well- beloved Cousin Richard Earl of Shannon,
our right trusty and well-beloved Cousin Thomas granted Viscount Cremorne,
our right trusty and well-beloved John Lord de Blacquiere,
the Right Reverend Father in God our right trusty and well beloved Counsellor William

Lord Bishop of Derry,

our right trusty and well-beloved Counsellor Thomas Lord Bolton ,

the Right Honourable David Latouche,

Sir Charles Burton, Baronet,

General Charles Vallancy,

Dean Blundell,

Singleton Harpur, clerk,

Major Edward Cane,

Major George Vallancy,

Reverend Doctor H . L . Walsh ,

Major George Nicolls,

Major General Faucett,

George Stewart, Esquire,

Charles William Quin, Esquire,

Major General Pratt,

Archdeacon Burrowes,

Captain Joseph Atkinson,

Reverend Thomas Cradock,

Colonel Wright,

Major Faviere,

Luke White, Esquire,

Colonel J. D . Arabin,

General Péter Craig,

the Honourable Thomas Pakenham ,

the Right honourable William Elliot,

George Ball, Esquire,

Patrick Duigenan, Esquire, LL.D .,

Reverend John Lyster,

Brigadier General Brownrigg ,

John Grant, clerk ,

Major Sirr,

[Town-Major of Dublin who arrested Lord Fitzgerald in 1798.]

Major Sandys,

Major General Dunn,

Major Dunn,

Thomas Jones, Esquire,

Right Honourable Charles Abbott,

Major Swan,
Alexander Marsden , Esquire,
Major Stewart,
Reverend Doctor O 'Connor,
James Henthorn, Esquire,
Edward Haughton , Esquire,
Doctor William Brook,
William Farren , Esquire,
Colonel Charles Handfield,
Colonel Benjamin Fisher,
William O 'Connor, clerk,
Major General Manly,
Major Alexander Taylor,
William Johnson, Esquire,
Robert Slade, Esquire,
our right trusty and well-beloved Hely Lord Hutchinson,
Robert King, clerk,
Colonel Gore,
Reverend Mr. Littlehales,
Major Ormsby,
Captain Richardson,
Captain Woodward,
Colonel Talbot,
Colonel Clinton,
Brigadier General Freeman,
Colonel Anstruther,
George Renny, Esquire, M.D.,
Major Shortall,
Captain Gorges,
Sir John Carden, Baronet,
Alderman King,
the Honourable Baron Smith,
the Bishop of Limerick,
John Egan , Esquire,
Samuel Burrowes, Esquire,
Admiral Bowen,
Joseph Jameson, Esquire,
Edward C . Browne,
G . D . Yates, Esquire, M.D.,
Alexander Jackson, Esquire, M.D.,

and such others only as shall from time to time be added to the number of the said persons by us, or by the special appointment of the Lord Lieutenant, or other Chief Governor or Governors of Ireland for the timebeing, (anything in our former letters patent to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding);

to be one body politic and corporate, in deed and in name, by the name of "The Hibernian Society in Dublin, for maintaining, educating, and apprenticing, or

placing in our regular Army as private Soldiers, in such Corps as from time to time we shall please to appoint, the Orphans and Children of Soldiers in Ireland, for ever;" and by the same name to sue and to be sued, plead and to be pleaded, answer and be answered unto, defend and be defended, in all the courts and places whatsoever of us, our heirs and successors, in all suits, plaints, and demands whatsoever, in the same manner and form, and as amply as any of our subjects, bodies politic or corporate, in Ireland, may or can do :

And further we do hereby declare and grant, that they and their successors may have and use such common seal as they shall think proper, and that it may be lawful for them and their successors to change, break, alter, and make new the same, as they shall think fit :

And further, we do hereby declare and grant, that it may be lawful for them and their successors, by that name, to purchase, have, take, receive, and enjoy, to them and their successors, in fee and in perpetuity, any manors, lands, tenements, rents, annuities, pensions, tithes, and other hereditaments in Ireland, not exceeding in the whole the clear yearly value of two thousand pounds; and to take and receive any sum or sums of money, or any manner or portion of goods or chattels, that shall to them be given, granted, devised, or bequeathed by any person or persons, bodies politic or corporate, capable of making a gift or devise thereof, and therewith and thereout to erect, maintain, and support, in all places in Ireland where they shall judge the same to be most necessary and convenient, such and so many hospitals as they shall think proper :

And we do hereby direct, that the said body corporate shall have a general meeting of the members thereof quarterly, at such place or places as they shall think proper, the first Monday in May, August, November, and February, yearly, in all times coming, and oftener when and where the same body corporate shall think meet ; and any seven of the members of the said body, who shall convene or assemble at the said times and places, to be a quorum of the said general meeting, and be able and capable to do and transact all matters and things relating to the affairs of the said corporation :

And further, we do hereby direct, that the first general meeting of the said body corporate shall be on the first of the said quarterly days that shall be thirty days after the date of these our letters patent:

And our further will and pleasure is, and we do hereby declare and grant, that our Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland for the time being, shall be always the president; and the Commander of the Forces, or, in his absence, the General Officer commanding the troops in Ireland, shall be always the vice president of our said Society ; any thing in our former letters patent to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding :

And we do hereby empower, authorize, and require the said body corporate, when they shall be assembled, to elect, by plurality of voices, such other officers as they shall find needful, to continue till the first Monday in November next thereafter, and until others shall be chosen to succeed them :

And we do hereby empower, authorize, and require the said president and vice president, or, in the absence of the said president or vice president, any two members of the said corporate body, to administer an oath or oaths to the said officers, which they shall be thereby required to take for the due and faithful execution of their respective offices :

And we do hereby further empower, authorize, and require the said corporation, upon the first Monday in November, in all times coming, or in case of any emergency preventing their meeting on that day, then, at the next quarterly meeting thereafter, to make a new election of persons to serve in the said offices, or to continue the former Charter of the officers, as they shall think most convenient:

[*The Committee of Fifteen is effectively the board of directors.*]

And we do hereby empower, authorize, and Hibernian Society, require the said body corporate, at their first general meeting, to nominate and appoint fifteen of the said body to be a committee, to meet in Dublin the first Tuesday in every month, or oftener, as need shall require, in such place or places as shall be agreed on by the said corporation; which committee are to be authorized and empowered to carry into execution such orders, rules, and directions as shall from time to time be made by the said corporation, and which committee shall continue till the first Monday in November next following the first general meeting; at which time, and afterwards, on every first Monday in November, yearly, the said corporation shall nominate fifteen of their members to be a committee for one year, for the purposes aforesaid:

And our further will and pleasure is, and we do hereby empower, authorize, and require the said corporation, at their general meetings, to nominate and appoint lesser committees in all places where any hospitals shall hereafter be erected for the purposes expressed in the said letters patent; which lesser committees shall be appointed at such times and places, and continue for such time or times, as the said corporation shall think proper:

And we hereby further empower, authorize, and require the said corporation, at their general meetings, to nominate and appoint fit persons in any place of our dominions, or elsewhere, to receive subscriptions, money, or other things contributed towards the said Institution:

And we hereby empower and authorize the said committee of fifteen, in the city of Dublin, and the lesser committees, in all places where hospitals for the purposes aforesaid shall hereafter be erected, to nominate and appoint chaplains for their respective hospitals, and also fit and able persons to be schoolmasters of the said hospitals, during the will of the said corporation, to teach the orphans and other unfortunate children of soldiers in the said hospitals to read, especially the Holy Scriptures, and to instruct them in the principles of the Protestant religion, established in Ireland, and in arithmetic, and such other parts of education as to the said Society shall seem meet; such chaplains and schoolmasters, nevertheless, to be licensed by the ordinaries in Ireland, in their respective dioceses, and to be approved by the said corporate body, otherwise such nomination or appointment by the said committee to be void:

And our further will and pleasure is, and we do hereby direct, that the treasurer and other officers shall be accountable to the committee of fifteen, at all times when required by the said committee; and the said committee are hereby required to report annually, at such times as the said corporation shall think proper, to the said corporate body, the state of the funds of the said corporation, the receipts and disbursements of the year, in order that they may be examined and entered in a book to be kept for that purpose; the said book, and all other the books and papers of the said corporation, to be at all times open and free for the perusal of the several members thereof:

And our further will is, and we do hereby empower, authorize, and require the said corporation, at their quarterly meetings, in all times coming, and at no other meetings, to make such rules and ordinances, and from time to time to alter the same, as they shall judge most convenient and needful for the good government of the said corporation, and management of the affairs thereof, and the effectual promotion of the good ends intended thereby, and to give such instructions, directions, encouragements, and salaries, to those they employ, as they shall judge needful and reasonable, provided that the said rules, ordinances, instructions, and directions be not repugnant to the laws and statutes in force in Ireland; such rules, ordinances, instructions, and directions not to require any confirmation or approval by any person or persons whatsoever, any thing in our former letters patent to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding :

And our further will and pleasure is, and we do hereby empower and authorize the said corporate body, and their successors, and the major part of them in a general assembly, to remove and displace any of the officers of the said corporation for any reasonable cause, the president and vice president only excepted, and to elect others in the place or places of the person or persons so removed ; and that as often as it shall happen that any of the officers of the said corporation for the time being shall die, or be removed for reasonable cause as aforesaid, or that any vacancy shall occur of an officer or officers of the said corporation, it shall and may be lawful for the members of the said corporation, and they shall be required within forty days (ten days notice being given) to choose and elect in his or their place or places, some other person or persons of the said corporation, in the manner hereinbefore mentioned, to continue in his or their office or offices till the first Monday of November next following his or their election or elections, and until some other person or persons shall be elected into his or their office or offices :

And our further will and pleasure is, and we do hereby direct, that in case the president and vice president shall be absent from any general meeting, that the said corporation, or any seven or more of them, shall have power to appoint one of the members then present, to preside for such time; and such president, vice president, or chairman, shall have a casting voice in case of any equality of votes ; and said president, vice president, or chairman, at any of the said general meetings, shall have power to administer an oath to any person or persons for discovering the truth of any matter or thing offered or proposed to the said corporation :

And our further will and pleasure is, and we do hereby direct, that no lease or leases of any lands or tenements belonging to the said corporation shall be made or executed but at some general quarterly meeting, with the approbation of the members then present, or the majority of them, such major part being at least seven in number; and that every lease so to be made shall be of lands, tenements, and hereditaments in possession, and not in reversion, and for a term not exceeding three lives or thirty-one years, whereon shall be reserved the best yearly rent that can be had for the said lands or tenements at the time of making such leases respectively, without any fine or other income to be taken or had for the same; and that it shall not be lawful for the said body corporate to diminish their capital stock arising from the annual rent or income of any manors, lands, tenements, annuities, pensions, tythes, or other hereditaments, whereof they shall at any time be seised or possessed; but that Charter of the they shall confine their expenses yearly to such annual rent or income, and to such sum of Hibernian Society, money, goods, and chattels, as shall from year to year be subscribed or given to them, or granted the interests or profits thereof; and that no child or children shall be received into any hospital now erected or hereafter to be erected, unless a certificate shall first be obtained from some commissioned officer or other creditable person or persons, that such child or children is or are, to the best of his belief, the child or children of non-commissioned officers or

soldiers of the line in actual service, or of soldiers deceased, or reduced or removed to foreign service; but that upon such certificate, such child or children may be received and admitted, anything in our former letters patent to the contrary thereof in anywise notwithstanding :

And our further will is, and we do hereby direct, that in the selection of children for admission, preference in general shall be given,

First. To orphans.

Secondly. To those whose fathers have been killed, or have died on foreign service.

Thirdly. To those who have lost their mothers, and whose fathers are absent on duty abroad.

Fourthly. To those whose fathers are ordered on foreign service, or whose parents have other children to maintain.

And that the parents or friends applying for the admission of children shall be required to sign their consent to such children remaining in the said Hibernian Society, as long as the said governors thereof may think fit, and to their being disposed of, when of proper age, at the discretion of the governors, as apprentices or servants, or if boys, to their being placed, with their own free consent, in our regular army, as private soldiers, in such corps as it may be our royal pleasure to appoint.

And lastly, our will and pleasure is, and we do hereby declare and ordain, that these our letters patent, and every clause, sentence, and article therein contained, or the enrolment thereof, shall be in all things firm, good, valid, sufficient, and effectual in the law, unto the said corporation, according to the purport and tenor thereof, without any further grant, license, or toleration from us, our heirs or successors, to be had, provided, or obtained : Provided always, that these our letters patent be enrolled in the rolls of our high court of Chancery, in that part of our said United Kingdom called Ireland, within the space of six months from the date hereof, otherwise these our letters patent to be null, void, and of none effect, anything herein contained to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

In witness whereof, we have caused these our letters to be made patent.

Witness our aforesaid Lieutenant General and
General Governor of Ireland, at Dublin, the sixth
day of February, in the forty-eighth year of our reign.

Enrolled in the office of the Rolls of His Majesty's high court
of Chancery in Ireland, the eighth day of February, in the
forty-eighth year of the reign of King George the Third, and
examined by Richard Hetherington, Deputy Keeper of the
Rolls.

Entered by Thomas Bouchiere, Deputy Clerk of the Hanaper.