# The Evolution of the Charters from the Unknown Charter to 1225

# **Richard Cassidy**

A visual summary of the addition, deletion and movement of the chapters of the various charters, using colour-coding to indicate how chapters were grouped by topic.

## Key:

### **Unknown Charter**

	Chancel Charter
1	Judgment; sale of justice
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	Inheritance of adults
3	Inheritance of minors; wardship
4	Re-marriage of widows
5	Chattels of intestates
6	Rights of widows
7	Overseas service
8	Scutage 1 mark, more by counsel
9	Disafforestation
10	Knights' woods in forest
11	Debt to Jews
12	Penalty of life or limb for beast

Key:	
Church	
Family & property	
Taxes and service	
Legal matters	
Local govt	
Towns and trade	
Forest	
Topical issues	
Enforcement and socurity	

# Articles of the barons

		Articles of the parons
D	1	Inheritance of adults
D	2	Inheritance of minors
-	3	Wardship, maintenance, marriage
V	4	Rights of widows
	5	Debt
	6	Assessment of aids by tenants-in-chief
	7	Limitation of service
	8	Common pleas, assizes
1	9	Amercement of freemen and villeins
	10.	Amercement of clerks
	11	Bridges
	12	Weights & measures
	13	County sessions
	14	Pleas of the crown; shire revenues
\	15	Debts of deceased tenants-in-chief
/4	16	Chattels of intestates
Ą	17	Re-marriage of widows
	18	Payment for prises
	19	Castle guard
	20	Commandeering of horses and carts
	21	Commandeering of timber
	22	Lands of felons
	23	Fish weirs
	24	Writ praecipe
	25	Unlawful disseisin in previous reigns
\	26	Writ of life and limb
$\mathbb{N}$	27	Prerogative wardship
1	28	Official unsupported allegations
7	29	Judgment of peers or by law of the land
'	30	Sale of justice
1	31	Protection of merchants
7	32	Scutage and aids; London
1	33	Freedom to travel
1	34 35	Debt to Jews Inherited debt to Jews
-	Acres 1	Heirs of tenants of escheats
	36 37	Remission of unlawful fines
	38	Restoration of hostages & charters
	39	Forest summonses; evil customs
	40	Dismissal of alien officers
	41	Dismissal of mercenaries
	42	Knowledge of law, and sheriffs
	43	Custody of abbeys
1	44	Welsh lands and liberties
1	45	Return of Welsh hostages
1	46	Restoration of Scottish hostages, liberties
1	47	Disafforestation; river banks
	48	Extension of liberties to undertenants
	49	Court of Twenty Five
	10	Joseph Janes

### **Topics omitted**

7	Overseas service
10	Knights' woods in forest
12	Penalty of life or limb for beast

Articles of the barons Magna Carta 1215 Rights and liberties of church Inheritance of adults New Inheritance of adults Inheritance of minors Wardship, maintenance, marriage Inheritance of minors Rights of widows Wardship and wastage of land Maintenance of land by guardians Debt Marriage of heirs Assessment of aids by tenants-in-chief Rights of widows 18 Re-marriage of widows Common pleas, assizes Amercement of freemen and villeins Debt 10 Amercement of clerks 10 Debt to Jews 411 Inherited debt to Jews Bridge Scutage and aid Weights & measures 13 County sessions 13 Liberties of London New Summoning of counc 14 Pleas of the crown 15 Assessment of aids by tenants-in-chief 15 Debts of deceased tenants-in-chief 16 Limitation of service 16 Chattels of intestates 17 Common pleas Re-marriage of widows 18 County assizes 18 Payment for prise County sessions Castle guard 20 Commandeering of horses and carts 20 Amercement of freemen and villeins New 21 Amercement of peers 21. Commandeering of timber Lands of felons Amercement of clerks 23 Bridges 23 Fish weirs Pleas of the crown 24 Writ praecipe 25 Unlawful disseisin in previous reigns 25 Shire revenues 26 Debts of deceased tenants-in-chief 26 Writ of life and limb Prerogative wardship Chattels of intestates 28 Official unsupported allegations 28 Payment for prises Judgment of peers or by law of the land 29 Castle guard 30 Commandeering of horses and carts 30 Sale of justice 31 Commandeering of timber Protection of merchants Scutage and aids Lands of felons 33 Fish weirs 33 Freedom to travel Debt to Jews Writ praecipe 34. 35 Weights & measures Inherited debt to Jews 35 36 Writ of life and limb 36 Heirs of tenants of escheats Remission of unlawful fines Prerogative wardship 38 Official unsupported allegations 38 Restoration of hostages & charters Judgment of peers or by law of the land Forest summonses; evil customs 4 40 Sale of justice 40 Dismissal of alien officers 41 Protection of merchants 41 Dismissal of mercenaries 4 42 Freedom to travel 43 Custody of abbeys 43 Heirs of tenants of escheats 44 Welsh lands and liberties Summonses to forest courts ★ 45 Knowledge of law, and sheriff 45 Return of Welsh hostages 46 Restoration of Scottish hostages, liberties 46 Custody of abbeys Disafforestation; river banks Disafforestation; river banks 48 Investigation of evil customs 48 Extension of liberties to undertenants Restoration of hostages & charters 49 Court of Twenty Five 50 Dismissal of alien officers 51 Dismissal of mercenaries Unlawful disseisin in previous reigns 53 Crusader's respite for disafforestation etc New Restriction of appeal by women New Key: Church 55 Remission of unlawful fines 56 Welsh lands and liberties Family & property Crusader's respite for Welsh lands New Taxes and service 58 Return of Welsh hostages 59 Restoration of Scottish hostages, liberties Local govt 60 Extension of liberties to undertenants Towns and trade Court of Twenty Five Forest Pardon & amnesty, letters testimonial New Topical issues Corroboration and oath of observance

Enforcement etc

1	Rights and liberties of church	
3	Inheritance of adults	
3 4	Inheritance of minors	
5	Wardship and wastage of land Maintenance of land by guardians	
6	Marriage of heirs	
7	Rights of widows	
8	Re-marriage of widows	
9	Debt	
10	Debt to Jews	
11	Inherited debt to Jews	
12	Scutage and aids	
13	Liberties of London	
14	Summoning of council	
15	Assessment of aids by tenants-in-chief	
16	Limitation of service	
17	Common pleas	
18	County assizes	
19		
-	County sessions  American and villeins	
20		
21	Amercement of peers	
22	Amercement of clerks	
23	Bridges	
24	Pleas of the crown	
25	Shire revenues	
26	Debts of deceased tenants-in-chief	
27	Chattels of intestates	
28	Payment for prises	
29	Castle guard	
30	Commandeering of horses and carts	
31	Commandeering of timber	
32	Lands of felons	
33	Fish weirs .	
34	Writ praecipe	
35	Weights & measures	
36	Writ of life and limb	
37 38	Prerogative wardship Official unsupported allegations	
39	Judgment of peers or by law of the land	
40	Sale of justice	
41	Protection of merchants	
42	Freedom to travel	
43	Heirs of tenants of escheats	
44	Summonses to forest courts	
45	Knowledge of law, and sheriffs	
46	Custody of abbeys Disafforestation; river banks	
47 48	Investigation of evil customs	
49	Restoration of hostages & charters	
50	Dismissal of alien officers	nine.
51	Dismissal of mercenaries	d priv
52	Unlawful disseisin in previous reigns	
53	Crusader's respite for disafforestation etc	
54	Restriction of appeal by women	
55	Remission of unlawful fines  Wolch lands and liberties	-
56 57	Welsh lands and liberties Crusader's respite for Welsh lands	-
57 58	Return of Welsh hostages	
59	Restoration of Scottish hostages, liberties	
60	Extension of liberties to undertenants	
61	Court of Twenty Five	
61 62 63	Pardon & amnesty, letters testimonial Corroboration and oath of observance	

		Magna Carta 1216
-		Rights and liberties of church
▶		Inheritance of adults
->		Inheritance of minors
>		Wardship and wastage of land
	5	Maintenance of land by guardians
→		Marriage of heirs
→	200	Rights of widows
→		Re-marriage of widows
→		Debt
		Liberties of London
	11	Limitation of service
A	12	Common pleas
A	13	County assizes
A	14	County sessions
A	15	Amercement of freemen and villeins
A	16	Amercement of peers
A	17	Amercement of clerks
A	18	Bridges.
A	19	Pleas of the crown
A	20	Debts of deceased tenants-in-chief
A	21	Payment for prises
/1	22	Castle guard
/1	23	Commandeering of horses and carts
/4	24	Commandeering of timber
/1	25	Lands of felons
14	26	Fish weirs
/,	27	Writ praecipe
/1	28	Weights & measures
/1	29	Writ of life and limb
1	30	Prerogative wardship
1	31	Official unsupported allegations
A	32	Judgment of peers or by law of the land
1	33	Sale of justice
1	34	Protection of merchants
1	35	Heirs of tenants of escheats
1	36	Summonses to forest courts
1/1	37	Custody of abbeys
1/1	38	Disafforestation; river banks
11	39	Restriction of appeal by women
//	40	Welsh lands and liberties
1/4	41	Extension of liberties to undertenants
///	42	Doubtful topics deferred
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# Chapters from 1215 Magna Carta omitted in 1216

10 Debt to Jews 11 Inherited debt to Jews 12 Scutage and aids 14 Summoning of council 15 Assessment of aids by tenants-in-chief 25 Shire revenues 27 Chattels of intestates 42 Freedom to travel 45 Knowledge of law, and sheriffs 48 Investigation of evil customs 49 Restoration of hostages & charters 50 Dismissal of alien officers 51 Dismissal of mercenaries 52 Unlawful disseisin in previous reigns 53 Crusader's respite for disafforestation etc 55 Remission of unlawful fines 57 Crusader's respite for Welsh lands 58 Return of Welsh hostages 59 Restoration of Scottish hostages, liberties 61 Court of Twenty Five 62 Pardon & amnesty, letters testimonial 63 Corroboration and oath of observance		
12 Scutage and aids 14 Summoning of council 15 Assessment of aids by tenants-in-chief 25 Shire revenues 27 Chattels of intestates 42 Freedom to travel 45 Knowledge of law, and sheriffs 48 Investigation of evil customs 49 Restoration of hostages & charters 50 Dismissal of alien officers 51 Dismissal of mercenaries 52 Unlawful disseisin in previous reigns 53 Crusader's respite for disafforestation etc 55 Remission of unlawful fines 57 Crusader's respite for Welsh lands 58 Return of Welsh hostages 59 Restoration of Scottish hostages, liberties 61 Court of Twenty Five 62 Pardon & amnesty, letters testimonial	10	Debt to Jews
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Assessment of aids by tenants-in-chief Shire revenues Chattels of intestates Freedom to travel Knowledge of law, and sheritis Investigation of evil customs Restoration of hostages & charters Dismissal of alien officers Dismissal of mercenaries Unlawful disseisin in previous reigns Crusader's respite for disafforestation etc Remission of unlawful fines Crusader's respite for Welsh lands Return of Welsh hostages Restoration of Scottish hostages, liberties Court of Twenty Five Pardon & amnesty, letters testimonial	12	Scutage and aids
25 Shire revenues 27 Chattels of intestates 42 Freedom to travel 45 Knowledge of law, and sheriffs 48 Investigation of evil customs 49 Restoration of hostages & charters 50 Dismissal of alien officers 51 Dismissal of mercenaries 52 Unlawful disseisin in previous reigns 53 Crusader's respite for disafforestation etc 55 Remission of unlawful fines 57 Crusader's respite for Welsh lands 58 Return of Welsh hostages 59 Restoration of Scottish hostages, liberties 61 Court of Twenty Five 62 Pardon & amnesty, letters testimonial	14	Summoning of council
27 Chattels of intestates  42 Freedom to travel  45 Knowledge of law, and sheritis  48 Investigation of evil customs  49 Restoration of hostages & charters  50 Dismissal of alien officers  51 Dismissal of mercenaries  52 Unlawful dissessin in previous reigns  53 Crusader's respite for disafforestation etc  55 Remission of unlawful fines  57 Crusader's respite for Welsh lands  58 Return of Welsh hostages  59 Restoration of Scottish hostages, liberties  61 Court of Twenty Five  62 Pardon & amnesty, letters testimonial	15	Assessment of aids by tenants-in-chief
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<ul> <li>Return of Welsh hostages</li> <li>Restoration of Scottish hostages, liberties</li> <li>Court of Twenty Five</li> <li>Pardon &amp; amnesty, letters testimonial</li> </ul>	55	Remission of unlawful fines
<ul> <li>Restoration of Scottish hostages, liberties</li> <li>Court of Twenty Five</li> <li>Pardon &amp; amnesty, letters testimonial</li> </ul>	57	Crusader's respite for Welsh lands
61 Court of Twenty Five 62 Pardon & amnesty, letters testimonial	58	Return of Welsh hostages
62 Pardon & amnesty, letters testimonial	59	Restoration of Scottish hostages, liberties
		Court of Twenty Five
63 Corroboration and oath of observance		Pardon & amnesty, letters testimonial
	63	Corroboration and oath of observance

"Dubitabilia" in chapter 42 of Magna Carta 1216

Magna Carta 1216 Magna Carta 1217 Rights and liberties of church Rights and liberties of church Inheritance of adults Inheritance of adults Inheritance of minors Inheritance of minors Wardship and wastage of land Wardship and wastage of land Maintenance of land by guardians Maintenance of land by guardians Marriage of heirs Marriage of heirs Rights of widows Rights of widows Re-marriage of widows Re-marriage of widows Debt Debt 10 Liberties of London ▶ 10 Liberties of London 11 Limitation of service 11 Limitation of service 12 Common pleas 12 Common pleas 13 County assizes 13 County assizes 14 County sessions determined elsewhere New 14 County sessions New 15 Amercement of freemen and villeins 15 Darrein presentment at Bench 16 Amercement of freemen and villeins 16 Amercement of peers 17 Amercement of clerks 18 Bridges 17 Amercement of peers18 Amercement of clerks 19 Bridges 19 Pleas of the crown 20 River banks 20 Debts of deceased tenants-in-chief 21 Payment for prises 21 Pleas of the crown 22 22 Debts of deceased tenants-in-chief 23 Commandeering o 23 Payment for prises 24 24 25 Lands of felons 25 Commandeering of horses and carts 26 Fish weirs New Demesne carts 27 Writ praecipe 27 Commandeering of timbe 28 Weights & measures 28 Lands of felons 29 Writ of life and limb 29 Fish weirs 30 Writ praecipe 30 Prerogative wardship 31 Official unsupported allegations
32 Judgment of peers or by law of the land 31 Weights & measures 32 Writ of life and limb 33 Sale of justice 33 Prerogative wardship 34 Official unsupported allegations 35 Judgment of peers or by law of the land 34 Protection of merchants 35 Heirs of tenants of escheats 36 Sale of justice 36 Summonses to forest courts 37 Protection of merchants 37 Custody of abbeys 38 Disafforestation; river banks 38 Heirs of tenants of escheats New 39 Restriction of appeal by women 39 Alienation of fee 40 Welsh lands and liberties 40 Custody of abbeys 41 Extension of liberties to undertenants 41 Restriction of appeal by women New; from 1215, ch 25 42 Doubtful topics deferred 42 Sheriff's tourn; shire revenu 43 Alienation in mortmain New 44 Scu From 1215, ch 12 45 Extension of liberties to undertenants 46 Saving of liberties New 47 Adulterine castles New

#### **Topics** omitted

14	County sessions
36	Summonses to forest courts
38	Disafforestation
40	Welsh lands and liberties
42	Doubtful topics deferred

Magna Carta 1217 Magna Carta 1225 Rights and liberties of church Rights and liberties of church Inheritance of adults Inheritance of adults Inheritance of minors Inheritance of minors Wardship and wastage of land Wardship and wastage of land Maintenance of land by guardians Maintenance of land by guardians Marriage of heirs Marriage of heirs Rights of widows Rights of widows; re-marriage 8 Re-marriage of widows Debt Debt Liberties of London 10 Liberties of London 10 Limitation of service 11 Limitation of se 11 Common pleas 12 County assizes; determined elsewhere 12 Common pleas 13 County assizes 13 Darrein presentment at Bench 14 Amercement of all groups 15 Bridges 14 County sessions determined elsewhere 15 Darrein presentment at Bench 16 River banks 16 Amercement of freemen and villeins 17 Amercement of peers 17 Pleas of the crow 18 Amercement of clerks 18 Debts of deceased tenants-in-chief 19 Brid Payment for prises 20 River banks 20 Castle guard 21 Commandeering of horses 22 Debts of deceased tenants-in-chief 22 Lands of felons 23 Fish weirs 24 Castle guard 24 Writ praecipe Weights & measures 25 26 Demesne carts 26 Writ of life and limb Prerogative wardship 28 Lands of felons 28 Official unsupported allegations 29 Fish weirs 29 Judgment of peers; sale of justice 30 Writ praecipe 30 Protection of merchants 31 Weights & measures 32 Writ of life and limb 31 Heirs of tenants of escheats 32 Alienation of fee 33 Prerogative wardship 33 Custody of abbeys 34 Official unsupported allegations 34 Restriction of appeal by women 35 Judgment of peers or by law of the land 35 Sheriff's tourn; shire revenues 36 Sale of justice 36 Alienation in mortmain 37 Protection of merchants Scutagi 38 Heirs of tenants of escheats Saving of liberties 39 Alienation of fee Extension of liberties to undertenants 40 Custody of abbeys Grant of fifteenth New 41 Restriction of appeal by women Liberties inalienable New; cf Articles ch 49 43 Alienation in mortmain

Omitted

47 Adulterine castles

45 Extension of liberties to undertenants

46 Saving of liberties

47 Adulterine castles

	Magna Carta 1297	Repealed
1	Rights and liberties of church	EG
2	Inheritance of adults	1863
3	Inheritance of minors	1863
4	Wardship and wastage of land	1863
5	Maintenance of land by guardians	1863
6	Marriage of heirs	1863
7	Rights of widows; re-marriage	1925, 1969
8.	Debt	1969
9	Liberties of London	
10	Limitation of service	1948
11	Common pleas	1879
12	County assizes; determined elsewhere	1879
13	Darrein presentment at Bench	1863
14	Amercement of all groups	1967
15	Bridges	1969
16	River banks	1969
17	Pleas of the crown	1892
18	Debts of deceased tenants-in-chief	1947, 1949
19	Payment for prises	1863
20	Castle guard	1863
21	Commandeering of horses carts & timber	1863
22	Lands of felons	1894
23	Fish weirs	1969
24	Writ praecipe	1863
25	Weights & measures	1948
26	Writ of life and limb	1828, 1829
27	Prerogative wardship	1863
28	Official unsupported allegations	1863
29	Judgment of peers; sale of justice	
30	Protection of merchants	1969
31	Heirs of tenants of escheats	1863
32	Alienation of fee	1887
33	Custody of abbeys	1863
34	Restriction of appeal by women	1863
35	Sheriff's tourn; shire revenues	1887
36	Alienation in mortmain	1863
37	Scutage	1863
	Saving of liberties	
	Extension of liberties to undertenants	
	Grant of fifteenth	
	Liberties inalienable	9