

Cumnock History Group

Old Cumnock Kirk Session Minutes

Nov 1704 to Jan 1737

The below records have been transcribed as accurately as I am able, using the original spelling and punctuation where possible. There are abbreviations/shorthand which sometimes make the text unreadable (words such as quhn, quhr etc, or name likes Jas/Jhn etc) and I have written these in full to make the text legible.

The Scotland's People website shows that there are no marriage records in Old Cumnock prior to 1759, no records of burials prior to 1784 and very limited birth records from about 1704 (the first birth recorded in Cumnock was the baptism of James Hamilton on 19/11/1704) and so the majority of the 500+ people mentioned in these pages do not appear elsewhere in official records. YS

Transcribed by **Yvonne Saunderson** for ©Cumnock History Group 2023 from images on scotlandsppeople.gov.uk

Link to the original images Minutes (1704-1737) ([CH2/81/1](#)) which you can view for free once you have created an account.

There is also a glossary of archaic words and Latin phrases compiled by Cumnock History Group.

This later volume has also been transcribed by Yvonne Saunderson, Karl Alan Craig and Kay McMeekin

Minutes (1816-1860) ([CH2/81/7](#)).

Email info@cumnockhistorygroup.org for more information.

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November 16th 1704

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt the minister and Elders.

(Information of fornication betwixt McKie and Hall. They are ordered to be cited to Session.)

The which day the Session being informed by some of their number of an alleged scandall of fornication betwixt William McKie in this parish and Margaret Hall in the new parish of Cumnock*, doe appoint their Clerk to wryte to the Session of New Cumnock to cause cite the said Margaret Hall to compear before our said Session upon the thirtieth of this instant and also appoint the said William McKie to be cited to compear before them the said day.

**ie New Cumnock*

November 30th 1704

(McKie and Hall compear and confess and Hall appointed to appear in pubic.)

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

This day the Session being informed that Margaret Hall was cited according to their desyre did call her and she compearing confessed the alleged fornication and being rebuked for so hainous a sin it being a relapse to her was Exhorted and appointed to compear in the usual publick place to make profession of her repentance the next Lord's Day and the said William McKie having also appeared and confessed the said ?sin (page damaged).

November 30th 1704

(Hall not appearing in publick and excused to be cited to appear next Lord's Day.)

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

The which day Margaret Hall not having compeared conforming to appointment the Session Considering that a water att that tyme impassable lay betwixt her and this place did excuse her not compearing that day and desyre the Kirk Session of New Cumnock to cause cite her to compear in publick against the next Lord's Day.

(Gemmil ordered to be cited to the Presbytery.)

This day also conforme* to an appointment of the presbytery to whom the minister in name of the Session had applied for advice, order their officer to summond James Gemmill to appear before the presbytery at their next meeting being upon the sixth inst. to the effort that they might both use their endeavour to bring him to confession of his long denyed though very presumptuous alleged relapse into fornication with Bessie Crawford and also

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that they might rebuke him for his insolent and threatening language vented to the minister (*unreadable*) and the Session.

*conforme = agree

(Session of Sorn ordered to be written to for causing cite McKie)

As also they appoint the said day that their Clerk write to the Kirk Session of Sorn to cause cite the above William McKie to compear before our Session the twinty-eighth instant.

December 14th 1704

(Hall not appearing though cited. The Session of New Cumnock ordered to be written to for causing cite her to ours.)

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

The which day the Session being informed that Margaret Hall had been cited according to their desire and considering that she did not compear do appoint the Clerk to wryte to the Kirk Session of New Cumnock to cite her to compear before our Session upon the 17th instant that they might take account of her not compearance.

(Report of Gemmil's appearing before the Presbytery but denying... The Session order him to be cited.)

The said day also the minister reported that the above James Gemmill according to citation had compeared before the Presbytery and acknowledged his insolent and threatening language which he had given to the minister and the Session and his sorrow for the same but persisted in denying of the said alleged scandal. And that the presbytery upon the whole removed him to this Session to be proceeded against according to order recommending it to the said Session to apply to the Civil

magistrate if they find it consensual that he may be punished for his said insolent and threatening language; Wherefor the Session appoint him to be cited to compear before them upon the twenty eight instant.

December 17th 1704

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Hall compears and is excused. She is appointed to make publick appearance this day.)

This day, the Session meeting before sermon at the earnest desire of severall members having account of Margaret Hall being cited. She is called, compears and gives for the reason of her not compearing in the publick according to appointment a hazardous disease that her chylde had then been under. Whereupon the Session excuse her and appoint her this day to appear in the publick for profession of her repentance.

(Brown compearing ultroneously accuses herself of fornication with Campbell.)*

The which day also compeared ultroneously Barbara Brown (who) confessed that during the time of her residence in this parish of Cumnock that years agoe she had fallen into the sin of fornication with the deceased Hugh Campbell and professing sorrow for the same and being rebuked and exhorted was appointed to appear in publick that same day also.

**ultroneously = spontaneously/of her own accord*

December 24th 1704

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Hall and Brown appear in publick last Sabbath for a first time, and this day for a 2nd)

Upon sabbath last according to appointment appeared in the public place the aforementioned Margaret Hall and Barbara Brown professing repentance for their said sin and being rebuked and exhorted were continued*.

And accordingly this day both compeared for a second time and being rebuked and exhorted were continued.

**continued = required to appear again*

(Brown appointed to compear before the Session.)

This day the Session appoints Barbara Brown to compear before them the 28th instant that they might take further tryall of her fitness to be absolved.

(McLennochan to attend the Presbytery as ruling Elder.)

This day also, John McLennachen is appointed to attend the Presbytery till the next Synod as ruling Elder.

December 28th 1704

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(McKie formerly delayed compears now. He is appointed to appear in publick.)

This day the Session being informed that William McKie has been cited according to their desire to the Session of Sorn he is called and compearing was further rebuked and exhorted having been delayed for some time after his confession because of the winter season and some dangerous waters lying in his way and is appointed to appear before the Congregation upon Sabbath (in) eight days being the 7th day of January to make publick profession of his aforementioned sin, of fornication with the aforementioned Margaret Hall.

(Brown compearing... (page damaged, unreadable))

Compeared also the said day ultroneously, the aforementioned Barbara Brown for citation to compear before the Session having been forgotten who appearing serious and being (then) rebuked and exhorted she was appointed to appear before the Congregation for the third time to be absolved from the scandal.

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(Gemmill compears and is rebuked for his insolence and threatening language to the Session. Further dealt with towards a confession but persists in his denial. Appointed to compear at next Session.)

Compeared also the said day the aforementioned James Gemmill according to citation and was rebuked for his insolence and threatening language aforementioned and was further dealt with to confess his alleged relapse into fornication with Bessy Crawford but persisting in his denyall the Session thought fitt to appoint him to compear before them at their next meeting that he might be yet further dealt with.

(Former treasurer accompts approven and George Campbell to succeed.)

The which day also they appoint George Campbell one of their number to be treasurer, they being satisfied with the former treasurers accompts*.

*Accompts = accounts

December 31st 1704

This day the Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Browns absolution: absolved to be marked.)

The which day they appoint the marking of Barbara Browns having appeared and been absolved according to appointment this day.

(Hall appears in public for a third time and is continued.)

As also that the aforementioned Margaret Hall appeared for the 3rd time the said day and being rebuked for her said relapse was continued.

January 11th 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(McKie appears for a fifth time and continued.)

This day they appoint William McKie's having appeared and been rebuked publickly for the fifth time upon the 7th of January according to appointment and to be marked as also his being continued.

(Hall appears for a fourth time and is continued.)

Likeways Margaret Hall her appearing for the fourth time in publick the said day, and her being rebuked continued.

(Gemmell compearing, continued to deny. Is threatened to be purged by oath. The officer acquaint him to the Sessions appointments.)

The said day also the aforementioned James Gemmill is called and compears according to appointment but persisting in his denyall is acquainted that there would be a very awful and terrible oath given him to swear for his purgation* if he did not confess and exhorting him to lay so weighty a matter (page damaged) to heart told him that he would be acquainted by the officer of the Session's further appointments to him.

**Purgation = purification or cleansing*

(... the solemnising of a marriage obstinately persisted in notwithstanding rebukes. Is ordered to be cited to the Session. Some members of the Session appointed to apply to the civil magistrates for punishing him.)*

This day also the Session being informed of a most contemptuous and prophane carriage* in Heugh Black one of our parishioners by contendance*, swearing and slander for an alleged displeasure received from the (unreadable - ?Church ?Congregation) which carriage was publick before many witnesses in the (?time of page damaged) the solemnising of marriage in the Church wherein he professed notwithstanding of severall rebukes given to him by the minister to restrain him upon which information they appoint him to be cited before them at their next meeting which the officer was to acquaint him with as in the (?last? page damaged) cases and in the mean time they appoint some of their number to acquaint the civil magistrate herewith (that) he might be punisht according to law.

**contendance = antagonising behaviour*

**notwithstanding = in spite of*

**carriage = behaviour*

January 28th 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders, ... re nata*

**re nata = things stand*

(McKie appears a 2nd time in publick & Hall a 5th. Both rebuked and ordered to wait upon the Sessions appointment.)

The which day they appoint to be marked that the said William McKie appeared in the publick place for professing his repentance for the second time and Margaret Hall for the fifth time upon the vith (6th) of this month the minister having been absent by appointment of the presbytery upon the ... (page damaged) and were both publickly rebuked for their aforementioned scandal and ordered by the minister to wait upon the Sessions appointment.

(The apply to the minister and several Elders for absolution. They appear before Session... Seem serious. Are appointed to be absolved this day.)

This day also... (which was the occasion of this Sederunt) The saids McKie and Hall seriously dealt with the minister (?consulted *page damaged*) severall of the Elders that they might be absolved that day upon which the Session being mett and they compearing before the Session and seeming serious: The Session considering circumstances did appoint them both to appear publickly that day in order to their being absolved.

February ith 1705 (February 1st 1705)

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(McKie and Halls absolution marked.)

The which day William McKies and Margaret Halls their absolution on 28th January last ordered to be marked.

(Gemmell ordered to be cited to hear the oath of purgation read and get a copy of it.)

This day also they appoint James Gemmell to be cited before them on the fourth instant in order to his hearing of the oath of purgation read and getting a copy of it.

(Black tho cited... Page damaged.)

This day also Hough Black being cited as (*page damaged*) appointment is called and not compearing... (*bottom line of page damaged*).

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February 4th 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Gemmell compears but continues to deny ut supra. Hears the oath read. Gets a copy of it. Ordered to converse frequently with the minister and to await the Sessions further appointment.)*

**ut supra = as above*

The which day James Gemmill was called and compeared according to appointment and being further dealt with to confess his sin but persisting in his denyall the oath is read to him and a copy of it given to him to consider upon & he appointed to conferr frequently with the minister thereanent and to wait upon the Sessions further appointment.

February 15th 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Black compears. Confesses his miscarriage and professes sorrow for it. Appointed to make publick acknowledgement.)

The which day Hugh Black was called compeared and confessed his above miscarriage professing sorrow for the same upon which the Session considering the publickness of the offence appoint him to make publick acknowledgement of the same before the congregation and that against sabbath next and to be rebuked.

(Lyndsay and McIrvail berated for adultery. (Page damaged)... case with the presumptions of their guilt to be laid before the presbytry.)

The which day also the Session was informed of a flagrant report of an adulterous carriage betwixt James Lyndsey a married person one of Captain Dunholms dragoons quartering here att this time and Agnes McKervail one of this parish herewith and with the presumptiones of the truth of it the minister and the Elder who waited upon the presbytery for the time are appointed to acquaint the presbytry att their next meeting to seek advice.

February 25th 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Isobell Morton delated ...(page damaged) fornication. Appointed to be cited to next Session. Black not appearing in publick to be cited also.)

The which day the Session being informed of Isobell Mortowns being with childe by fornication doe therefore appoint her to be cited before them against next Session being the first March. Likeways Heugh Black is appointed to be cited in before the next Session not having appeared in publick according to appointment.

March 1th 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Isobell Morton compears. Confesses guilt. Accuses Charles Wilson. Then ordered to be cited to next Session)

The which day Isobell Mortown was called and compeared confessing herself to be with childe, by fornication, to Charles Wilson^{**}; whereupon she was rebuked and ordered to wait upon the Sessions further appointments and Charles Wilson is ordered to be cited before them against the next Session, being the 4th instant.

*** This child was a daughter called Christian Wilson, baptised in Cumnock on 01/07/1705*

(Black compears not. Is ordered to be cited pro 2ndo)*

Pro 2ndo -= pro secundo = for a second time

This day also Heugh Black is called and not compearing is appointed to be cited before the next Session pro secundo.

March 4th 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Charles Wilson compears. Confesses guilt. His and Morton publick appearance delayed.)

The which day Charles Wilson is called and compears. Confesseth the alleged guilt, he is rebuked and the appointing of both their appearance in publick is delayed till the next Session that the Minister and any of the Elders who had occasion might further converse with them for bringing them to a further sense of their sin.

*(Black not compearing yet. Ordered to be cited pro 3tio. *)*

**pro 3tio = pro tertio = for a third time*

This day also Heugh Black not having compeared appointed to be cited pro 3tio against the next Session being the 18th instant.

March 18th 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Black having come privately to the minister excuses his not compearing. This being reported the Session satisfied. Appoint him to appear in publick next Lord's Day.)

She which day the minister informed the Session of Heugh Black's having come to him in private, and of the excuse he gave for his not compearing according to appointment and of his promising to appear before the Congregation the next Lord's Day if the Session should think it fit and accordingly the Session being herewith satisfied did appoint him to appear in publick and to be rebuked for his aforementioned miscarriage the next Lord's Day being the 25th instant.

miscarriage = misbehaviour

(Wilson and Morton appointed to appear in publick next Lord's Day.)

The which day also the Session appoints Charles Wilsone and Isobell Mortown to be summoned to appear in publick against the next Lord's Day for the *firsth time to make profession of their repentance for their said sin of uncleanness.

**firsth = first. Abbreviated to 1th*

(The presbytery advice about Lyndsay and McKervail reported. In pursuance thereof it is recommended that severall members of Session to make enquiry into that affair.)

This day also the minister reports to the Session that he had acquainted the presbytry with the alleged scandal of adultery betwixt Lyndsey and McKervail and that the presbytry advised that the Session should put it to a tryall judicially wherefore the Session recommends it to their severall members to be at further pains to get yett more particular information *anent this matter and of such as might be cited for witnesses in it to report as soon as they could be in a condition.

**anent = "about"*

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March 25th 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Blacks publick rebuke ordered to be marked.)

This day it is appointed to be marked that Heugh Black had appeared before the congregation and rebuked according to appointment and dismiss.

(Wilson and Morton not appearing in publick. Ordered to be cited to next Session.)

The which day also Charles Wilsone and Isobell Mortown not appearing in public according to appointment are ordered to be cited to the next Session with the time thereof the officer was to acquaint them.

*(Two Dragoons *delated for intemperance on profaning the Sabbath. This affair ordered to be more particularly inquired into.)*

**delated = "reported" or "informed against"*

The which day also the Session are informed of disorder and offence in the house of Alan Aitken by two Dragoons drinking in it through the most part of the Saturdayes night till one or two of the Clock in the Sabbath morning whereupon they appoint some of their number to get more particular information anent it and to report.

Aprile 8th 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Wilson compearing; excuses his not appearing in publick. Morton ... the same. Their excuses sustain'd. Wilson ordered to appear in publick next Lord's Day. Morton delayed.)

The which day being called compeared Charles Wilsone and Isobell Mortown and their excuses for not appearing in publick according to appointment being sustained he is appointed to appear in publick next Lord's Day and she is delayed until her childe be brought forth being judged so near the time of it.

(Report anent the two Dragoons Hutchinson and Dunlop returned. Tennent and her two daughters found also guilty. All of them ordered to be called to next Session.)

This day also the Elders formally appointed to get particular information anent the aforementioned disorder committed in Alan Aitkens report that Bessie Tennant the said Alan's wife (himself having been from home) did acknowledge the truth of the alleged disorder but could not excuse the family of it wherefore the said Bessie with Elizabeth and Janet Aitkens her daughters (there being none else in the familay at that time) as also the two Dragoons John Hutchisone and Charles Dunlop are appointed to be cited in before., the Session against the next meeting wherewith the officer was *timeously to acquaint them.

**timeously = "in a timely manner".*

(Report anent Lindsay and McKervails affair returned. Who can give more light upon condescended upon. Lyndsay and McKervail with witnesses in their affair ordered to be cited to next Session.)

This day also the Elders formerly appointed to get more particular information anent Lindsay and McKervails aforementioned alleged scandall of adultery report that the following persons seemed to them to be in a condition to give more light in that affair namely William McKervail brother to the aforementioned Agnes, Margaret Hamiltone his wife, Janet Wilsone neighbour to the said Agnes McKervail. The Session doe appoint James Lyndsey and Agnes McKervail the persons accused and the above named William McKervail, Margaret Hamilton and Janet Wilsone as witnesses to be cited in befor the Session against their next meeting which is to be upon the 15th instant.

Aprile 15th 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Wilson appearing in publick at first time. Rebuked. Continued.)

The which day according to appointment appeared before the congregation Charles Wilson professing his repentance for his sin of uncleanness being the first time of his appearance in publick and being rebuked and exhorted was continued.

(Tennant, Aitkens and the two Dragoons compearing. Confess guilt. Profess themselves to be penitent and are rebuked. Dismissed.)

The which day also were called Bessie Tennant, Elizabeth and Janet Aitkens with John Hutchinson and Charles Dunlop who all (excepting the said Bessie who was excused because of her present indisposition and appointed to be spoken to in her house by some members) did compear separately and confessing the aforementioned alleged disorder whereof the said Elizabeth and Janet could not excuse themselves and professing their sorrow for the same were rebuked and exhorted and the Session thinking it fit they were so dismissed.

(Lyndsay and Mcervaiill appearing severally. Deny guilt. Witnesses called. Imp... Mcervaiill. His deposition.)

The *qch day also the aforementioned James Lyndsay and Agnes McKervaiill being severally called did compear according to appointment and being much dealt with to confess the alleged scandal they denied all whereupon the Session resolve upon calling in the witnesses and accordingly doe first call upon William McKervaiill who compearing and being purged of partiall counsel and malice depones as follows; viz that on(e) night in winter at four of the clock in the morning Margaret Hamilton his spouse went to Agnes McKervaiills door and hearing somebody with her whom she suspected to be James Lyndsay she came back and told her husband and that he arose and came out and went with his wife to the said Agnes her door and called till the said James Lyndsay

**qch = which (qu is an old Scots "wh")*

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came owt before them with his shirt hanging owt at his breeches but could not be positive as to his breast being open and that he knew no more in the matter.

(Hamilton compears. Her deposition.)

After him Margaret Hamilton called compeared and being purged of malice and partiall counsel deports the same with her husband only she could not be positive – either as to his shirts hanging owt att his breeches or his breasts being open adding that she went in and found the said Agnes in her bedd but whether naked or not could not be positive.

(Wilson compears. Her deposition.)

Janet Wilson being called compeared and being purged of malice and partiall counsel *depon'd as followes that one night about Eleven of the Clock while she was looking owt att her own window she saw James Lyndsey and his wife struggling together in the street and after that saw him go in to Andrew Mitchells a house hard by and within a little come owt again and goe about by the back of the yeards and come in another way and then went towards his own house door and after that came back and tried if Agnes McKervaiills door were unshutt and finding it shutt came to the street again as if he would hearken if he could hear anybody owt of bed and then went to her window and shutt it up with his hand and went in thereat and within a little Agnes McKervaiill came owt in her shirt and looked about her and went in again and closed the door behind her and that they stayed together

until the cock had crowen a second time and that is was near daylight and that then she saw him come owt his alone and that she knew no more in the matter.

All the aforementioned witnesses were of sufficient years all which the minister is to represent to the presbytry to get advice.

**depone = "to declare under oath"*

May 3rd 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Wilson appears in publick for a second time. Rebuked. He is rebuked exhorted and continued.)

The which day it is appointed to be marked that the aforementioned Charles Wilsone appeared before the Congregation professing repentance for his sin of uncleanness with Isobell Moretown for the second time of his publick appearance upon the 29th of Aprile last who being rebuked and exhorted was continued.

(Wilson's publick appearance a 3rd time at his desyre delayed. He is ordered to be cited to Session next Sabbath.)

This day also the aforementioned Charles Wilsone his desire expressed being delayed for one Sabbath before his appearing in publick for a 3rd time was granted and he is cited to compear before the Session Lord's Day next after sermons that they might judge of his fitness for being absolved from his scandal.

(George Campbells accounts approven and James Johnston chosen Treasurer in his stead.)

This day also the Session being satisfied with Mr Campbell's accompts doe nominate and appoint James Johnstone another of their number to succession during the Sessions pleasure.

(Gemmell ordered to be cited to Session against Sabbath next. To be further dealt with towards confession of relapse into fornication with Crawford.)

This day also James Gemmell aforementioned having now been for severall Sessions delayed that he might have time maturely to consider the awfull oath of purgation he had got to see: The minister and other members as they had occasion conversing with him privately thereanent* and also because of the throng* of the seedtime the whole of his fathers business att this time lying upon him, his father being sick, is appointed to be cited in before them Sabbath next after sermon that they might hear his thoughts of the oath and yet further deal with him towards a confession of his alleged aforementioned relapse into fornication with Bessie Crawford.

**thereanent = concerning the matter already mentioned*

**throng = pressing/busy*

(McMillain delated for fornication. Ordered to be cited to next Session.)

This day also the Session being informed of Janet McMillain her being with childe by fornication is ordered to be summoned against the next Session being on the 6th instant.

May 6th 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(McMillain compears. Denyes obstinately. Is delayed until further enquiry be made.)

The which day the said Janet McMillain being called and compearing obstinately denyed the aforementioned alleged (sin? *page damaged*) though there was great presumption of the truth ... whereupon the Session delayed her till they got ... (*page damaged*) tryall hereanent.

(Wilson compears. Seems grieved. Desyres earnestly to be absolved. Is appointed to appear next Lord's day for absolution.)

This day also the aforementioned Charles Wilsone being (called) compearing and seeming serious and greaved ... and earnestly desiring to be absolved from ... (*page damaged*)

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Thereof the Session doe appoint him to appear before the Congregation next Lord's day in order to his absolution.

(Gemmell compears. Continues to deny. His oath notwithstanding delayed because of great presumptions. Ordered further to converse with minister and Elders and to wait the Sessions further appointments.)

This day also James Gemmell being called and compearing though he persisted in his denyall is yet delayed as to the giving of his oath the Session finding so great presumptiones of his guilt appointing him further to consider the oath and to converse with the minister and Elders as he has occasion and to wait upon the Sessions further appointments.

May 13th 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Wilson's 3 publick appearances and absolution ordered to be marked.)

The which day it is appointed to be marked that the aforementioned Charles Wilsone appeared before the Congregation according to appointment for a 3rd time and professing his repentance for his sin with seeming seriousness and earnestly desiring to be absolved from the scandal thereof was absolved accordingly being exhorted as to his after life*.

**future behaviour*

May 20th 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Mr McLannochan to attend the presbytry till next synod.)

The which day John McLannochan is chosen to attend the presbytry as ruleing Elder till the next Synod.

May 27th 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Gemmill again appointed to be cited to Session to be further dealt with.)

The which day the aforementioned James Gemmill is again appointed to be cited in against the next Sabbath after sermon being the 3rd of June that they may hear what his thoughts of the oath now are and yett deal with him towards a confession.

May 31th 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Mitchell applying for testimonial is accused of theft. -Remainder of heading unreadable due to torn page.)

This day applied to the Session for a testimonial* William Mitchell being to goe owt of the parish and being judiciously accused for an alleged theft committed by him he confessed the same and professed sorrow for it whereupon he being rebuked and removed* the Session sought fit to appoint him to appear before the Congregatione next Lord's day to be rebuked and to make publick profession of his repentance the scandal having been already made publick and doe intimate the same to him.

**testimonial = a written description of character or conduct*

**removed = dismissed (as in case dismissed).*

June 3rd 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Mitchell appearing in publick is rebuked and absolved.)

This day appeared in publick the aforementioned William Mitchell who professing his repentance and sorrow for his aforementioned sin and scandall was rebuked exhorted and absolved.

(Gemmill compears and desires a dilature for 15 days which is granted.)*

This day also James Gemmill being called compeared before the Session conforme to appointment and desired a dilator* for fifteen dayes which was granted.

**dilature/dilator = legal postponement*

(Alan having a wife here upon flagrant report of having married another. Ordered to be cited to Session.)

This day also John Alan a vagrant person who has his wife living in this place upon a flagrant report of his having married another is appointed to be cited before the Session against the 10th instant being at this time in the parish.

June 10th 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Park applying for a testimonial. Accused of theft. Confesses it. Professes sorrow for it and is rebuked.)

The which day Jean Park spouse to the aforementioned William Mitchell applied to the Session for a testimoniall they having refused to include her in his because she was bruted* for being accessory to the aforementioned scandal of theft whereof the Session doe at this time judicially accuse her which she confessed and professing her sorrow with apparent seriousness fore the same was rebuked and removed whereupon the Session doe appoint her to appear before the congregation next Lord's day

to make publick profession of said sin and scandal and to be rebuked and absolved and doe intimate the same to her.

**bruted – to be accused by gossip/rumoured*

(Alan not appearing. Ordered to be cited to Session whenever he returns to the parish.)

This day also John Alan being called compeared not and it being reported that he was gone owt of the town the Officer is appointed to cite him whenever he should return to the then next ensuing Session and to acquaint of the time of it.

(Session agree that the sacrament of the supper be dispensed ... upon the 15th of July 3rd Sabbath of that month.)

This day also after mature deliberation the Session agree that the holy ordinance of the Lords supper be dispensed to the congregation upon 15th

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of July next being the third Sabbath of that month

June 14th 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Brown and Newin volunteer confession of fornication with one another. And being rebuked and exhorted are appointed to appear in publick next Lord's day for profession of their repentance therefore.)

The which day compeared ultroneously John Brown and Margaret Newin confessing themselves guilty of fornication and she herself to be with childe** to him there having been much pains taken privately to bring them to a Confession of the same from a private rumour hereof that was going, the Session not willing to make it publicke till they got better ground. Who being rebuked and exhorted they were both appointed to appear before the Congregation to make profession of their repentance and to be rebuked Lord's day next.

*** This child was a boy, John, who was baptised in Cumnock on 19th April 1705. On the record of the baptism, Margaret Newin is recorded as Margaret Euen.*

(Gemmill ordered to be cited to Session next Lord's day.)

This day also James Gemmill is appointed to be cited before the Session against Lord's day next being the 17th instant the dilator he desired being then elapsed.

(Morton hitherto delayed . Ordered to be cited to appear in public next Lord's day for profession of repentance for fornication.)

This day also Isobell Mortown having been delayed for severall Sessions till she should bring forth her chylde and recover some strength thereafter which being now came to pass she is appointed to be cited to appear before the Congregation to make publick profession of her repentance and to be rebuked for her aforementioned sin of fornication with Charles Wilsone and that upon Lord's day next for the first time.

June 17th 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Gemmill compearing confesses now. Is apud acta cited to appear before Session on the 28th instant. That further endeavours may be used to bring him to a deeper sense of his sin and wickedness.)

The which day James Gemmill being called compeared according to appointment and confessed his obstinately and long denied sin and scandal of relapsing unto fornication with the aforementioned Bessie Crawford and professing sorrow for the same was rebuked for it and for the hainous aggravations of it especially his obstinate and long denying and appointed to compear before them on the 28th instant that they might further endeavour to make him sensible of so wicked a practice before he appears in publick.

(Park appears in publick and upon profession of sorrow for her sin rebuked and absolved.)

This day also Jean Park appeared in publick according to appointment and professed her sorrow for her scandall of theft, was rebuked exhorted and absolved.

(Brown and Newin appear in publick for a first. Are rebuked and exhorted and continued.)

This day also the aforementioned John Brown and Margaret Newin appeared for the first time before the Congregation according to appointment and professing repentance for their said sin and scandal of fornication one with another were rebuked exhorted and continued.

(Morton appears in publick for a first time. Rebuked exhorted and continued.)

Which day also the aforementioned Isobell Mortown appeared before the Congregation according to appointment for the first time and professing repentance for her said sin and scandal of fornication with Charles Wilson was rebuked exhorted and continued.

June 24th 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Brown Newin and Morton their appearance this day ordered to be marked for a second time. Ordered to be cited to Session 28th instant.)

The which day it is appointed to be marked that John Brown Margaret Newin and Isobell Mortown did this day all of them appear in publick professing repentance for their respective scandalls and were rebuked and exhorted to obey the Session appointments and the Session doe now appoint them to be cited in before them against the next meeting being upon the 28th instant that the Session might take tryall of them anent their fitness to be absolved.

(Lyndsay and Mcirvail on advice of the Presbytry to be Censured as adulterers.)

The same day also the minister reports from the Presbytry from whom he was to get advice anent the Censure that should be given to the aforementioned James Lyndsay and Agnes McKervail for what probation* they had gott of their being guilty of the scandal of adultery from an extract of the process that was laid before them do appoint them to be Censured as adulterers the which report was delayed till this time because of the minister's necessary absence from the meeting of the Session immediately following our leaving of the aforementioned probation.

**probation = proof/the act of proving*

(Session informed that Mcirvall hath privately confess'd to be with childe by adultery to Lyndsay. She is ordered to be cited to next Session 28 instant in order to illicit a judicial confession from her.)

This day also when the minister hath made the aforementioned report of the Presbytry sentence the Session are informed by some of their members of the said Agnes McKervail her being with childe to

the said James Lyndsay and of her having confessed the same privately wherefor they think fitt to cause cite her in before them the next Session the 28th instant

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that they might get a judicial confession from her and so might goe one (go on) to censure her according to the Presbytry sentence with the greater confidence and with the greater conviction upon her.

(Session informed that McMillain hath confess'd she is with childe by fornication. She is ordered to be cited to next Session 28 instant.)

Which day also the Session are informed of the aforementioned Janet McMillain her having confessed herself to be with childe in fornication and therefore doe order her to be cited in before them against their next Session the 28th instant.

June 28th 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Brown not compearing because indisposed till Session be informed of his recovery.)

The which day also John Brown being called compeared not and the Session being informed of his being unable to attend through bodily indisposition doe delay him till they get notice of his being in a condition to attend the Session.

(Newin compears bt not satisfying the Session cited apud acta to next Session for further trial.)

This day also the forementioned Margaret Newin was called and compearing gave so small evidence of her fitness to be absolved that the Session thought it convenient to appoint her to compear before them for their taking a further tryall at their next meeting on July 1th.

(Morrison compearing also but not satisfying treated the same way.)

The same day also Isobell Mortown was called and compearing the Session were not satisfied of her fitness for being absolved and therefore appoint her to compear before them att their next meeting.

(Gemmill compears. Is further dealt with.)

This day also James Gemmill being called and compearing was rebuked and pains taken upon him to make him further sensible of the great wickedness of his aforementioned relapse and so long obstinate denying of the truth and appointed to appear before the Congregation next Lord's day to make publick profession of his repentance of the same and to be rebuked for the 1th tyme.

(McMillain compears. Confesses guilt. Accuses Walkinshaw. She delayed till he be examined.)

The same day also Janet McMillain being called compeared and acknowledging herself to be with childe in fornication to David Walkinshaw one of Capt Denholms Dragoons who had been quartered here. The Session therefore appoints their Clerk to write to the minister and Session of Dunse where that troop is now quartered to cause cite the aforementioned David Walkinshaw to compear before our Session against any Sabbath afternoon whereof he could get notice sent to us beforehand which the Clerk was to do with the first occasion and so she being rebuked was delayed till Walkinshaw be examined.

(Mcirvail compears. Confesses guild of adultery with Lindsay. Is rebuked and delayed apud modo que** McMillain.)*

**apud modo = for now*

***que = with*

This day also Agnes McKervail being called compeared and acknowledging herself to be guilty of that hainous wickedness of Adultery with the aforementioned James Lyndsay and that she was with chylde to him and so being rebuked was delayed till the Session of Dunse should be writt to in the same manner as in Walkinshaw's case in the immediately preceding minute.

July 1th 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Gemills publick appearance this day ordered to be marked being for a 3st time. Is delayed because of the Communion.)

The which day it is appointed to be marked that James Gemmill appeared this day for the 3th time before the Congregation for his aforementioned sin and scandal and being rebuked and exhorted was ordered to wait on the Sessions further appointments they having thought fit to delay him till the Communion which now drew near were over.

(Newin compears not but is delayed by reason of the Communion also.)

On this day also Margaret Newin being called compeared not but was delayed till the Communion were over also because it was very greveous to the Session to have so much of this kinde of work especially at such an occasion for it had happened to be much more and of a more grieveous sort than for severall years before.

(Morton compears seems penitent. Is appointed to be absolved next Sab(bath).)

This day also Isobell Mortowns being called compeared and seeming penitent was appointed to compear before the Congregation next Lord's day for a third time in order to her further censure and absolutione.

July 5th 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(A list taken of persons admittible to the Lord's table. Ordered to be kept in retentis. And observed as a rule in distributing tokens.)*

In retentis = in retention/retained.

The which day being mett together to qsidder* of some things relative to that great work of Celebrating the Lord's supper which was at hand especially to consider whom they could

warrantably admitt hereto of whom they draw owt a list from the minister's examination roll with much deliberation after severall had prayed to God for Light and direction in so weighty a business they appointed the said list to be kept in retentis

**qsidder = consider*

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as weel as to be strictly observed in distributeing of tokens att this time.

(Mcirvaill Mcgavin and Thomson delated for profaning the Lord's day. Ordered to be cited to next Session.)

The which day were delated for prophaning the Sabbath day by going owt of the town about sun setting on their journey to fair att some distance which was to be upon the Munday to witt William McKervvaill, William Mcgavin and Charles Thomsonsone who were herefore appointed to be cited in before the Session upon Sabbath next afternoon.

July 8th 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Mcirvail Mcgavin and Thomson compear. Confess guilt. Profess sorrow. They are rebuked exhorted and dismissed.)

The which day the said William McKervvaill William Mcgavin and Charles Thomsonsone being called compeared and confessed their being guilty according to the delation* that was made of them and professing themselves sensible of their great sin inso doeing and much grieved for it now rebuked and removed upon which the Session thought fitt to call them in and further to rebuke and exhort them and so dismiss them which was accordingly done.

(Morton not appearing in publick this day to be cited to next Session.)

Isob. Mortown not appearing is to be cited to the next Session.

August 9th 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Newin ordered to be cited to session for next Sabbath for further tryal for absolution.)

The which day Margaret Newin is ordered to be cited to appear again before the Session next Lord's day to take further tryall for fitness for absolution.

(Mortons not appearing in publick last Lord's day excused. She is ordered to appear next Sabbath.)

The which day also Isobell Mortown for her not appearing upon the eighth of July in the publick place in order to her absolution upon the account of an apparently dieing woman's chylde whereto she was giving suck* is now appointed to appear in the publick to the effect foresaid upon Sabbath next.

**giving suck = acting as a wet nurse/suckling*

(Gemmill appointed to appear in publick for a 2nd time next Lord's Day.)

As also this day James Gemmill is appointed to appear in publick to make profession of his repentance and to be rebuked for his aforementioned scandal and that upon Lord's day next for second time.

August 12th 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Gemmill appears in publick for a 2nd time. Rebuked exhorted continued.)

The which day appeared in public according to appointment James Gemmill who being rebuked and exhorted was continued.

(Morton not appearing in public this day. Ordered to be cited to next Session.)

This day also Isobell Mortown not having appeared in publick according to appointment is ordered to be cited to the next Session.

(Newin compears. Does not yet satisfy Session. Two members ordered to deal with her and report.)

As also this day Margaret Newin Compearing and the Session not being yet satisfied of her fitness to be absolved order two of their number carefully to deal with her betwixt and the next Session and to report.

(Brown recovers. Kirk Session of New Mills ordered to be written to for causing cite him to 23^d instant.)

The which day likewayes the Session being informed that John Brown (having been formerly delayed because of bodily indisposition) is now recovered doe appoint their Clerk to wryte to the minister and Session of New Milns where he resides to cause cite him to compear befor our Session against the 23^d instant.

(The Clerk not having yet had opportunity of writing to Dunse anent Lyndsey and Walkinshaw. It is thought needless as to Lyndsey being informed that he has run away with Mcirvaill and Walkinshaw delayed until the troops come again in October.)

This day also, the Clerk reporting that he had not yet gott occasion to wryte to the Session of Dunse according to a preceeding appointment anent Lyndsey and Walkinshaw's aforementioned affairs the Session find that as to Lyndsey it is now useless he having come privately as they are informed and run away with the aforementioned Mckervail with whom he was found guilty of the scandall of Adultery and as to Walkinshaw they now think fit to delay it till October when the troop is expected to be here again whereby we will ... finde him.

August 23rd 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Morton compears. Offers excuse which is repell'd. She is ordered to appear in public next Lord's day.)

The which day Isobell Mortown being called compeared and gave as her excuse for not appearing in publick according to appointment her not being able to provide the useall penalty whereto she had been enjoined* by the Session which was not sustained but she (was) ordered to appear in publick to the effect forsaid next Lord's day.

**injoin = enjoin = to urge or instruct someone to do something.*

(Elders reporting that Newin seems little more sensible. The minister is appointed to deal further with her.)

This day also as was above resolved the Elders appointed at the preceeding sederunt to deal with Margaret Newin report their diligence but that she seemed to them little more sensible to her condition that formerly wherefore the Session think it fit that the minister further deal with her for some time.

(No answer having been received from New Mills anent Brown's citation the appointment anent him renewed.)

This day also the Session having received no answer to their letter sent to the Session of Newmiln for citing of John Brown order their Clerk to wryte to them anew to the same effect.

August 26th 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

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(Brown allowed to compear ultroneously before sermon. The Session getting suitable satisfaction appoint him to appear this day in publick for absolution.)

The which day the Session being mett pro re nata*, that is being informed of the aforementioned John Brown's straitning circumstances did think it fit to allow him to compear ultroneously before sermon that they might consider of his fitness for absolution and accordingly being in some measure satisfied thereof did appoint him to appear in publick the said day in order to his being further rebuked exhorted and absolved.

**pro re nata = as things stand*

Septe.r 2nd 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Brown and Mortowns absolution ordered to be marked.)

Appeared in publick upon Sabbath last bypast according to appointment John Brown and Isobell Mortown who professing repentance for their aforementioned sin of fornication with the respective aforenamed persons were rebuked exhorted and absolved.

(Gemmill appears in publick last Lord's day for a third time. Is rebuked and continued. He appears this day for a fourth time. Is rebuked and continued.)

Which day also of the aforementioned persons absolutions appeared publicly James Gemmill not having had occasion the preceeding Sabbath through the minister's necessary absence was rebuked and exhorted for the third time for his above relapse and continued.

Appeared also the said James this second of September for a fourth time and being rebuked and exhorted was continued.

Septe.r 9th 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Gemmill appears for a 5th time in publick and ordered to wait Sessions further appointments.)

The which day the aforementioned James Gemmill appearing in publick for a 5th time for his said relapse was spoke to as formerly and ordered to wait upon the Session's further appointments.

(Session upon ministers report that Newin seemed more sensible of her sin appoint her to appear in publick next Lord's day for absolution.)

This day also the minister reports that he had been dealing with Margaret Newin according to appointment and that she seemed somewhat more sensible of her aforementioned sin than formerly. The Session doe now think fitt to appoint her to appear in publick next Lord's day in order to her being further rebuked exhorted and absolved.

Septe.r 16th 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Newin appears in publick a 3rd time. Rebuked exhorted and absolved.)

This day Margaret Newin having appeared in publick for a third time and made profession of her sorrow and repentance for her aforementioned sin of fornication with John Brown was rebuked exhorted and absolved.

(Gemmill ordered to be cited to next Session for trial of his fitness for absolution.)

This day also James Gemmill is ordered to be cited to the next Session to be tried as to his fitness in order to his absolution.

Septe.r 23rd 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Gemmill compears but not satisfying the Session is delayed.)

This day James Gemmill being compeared and the Session not being yet satisfied of his fitness for being absolved delay him for the time.

Octo.r 14th 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Gemmill ordered to be cited to next Session to be further dealt with.)

The which day James Gemmill is appointed to be cited to compear before them against their next Session that he will be further dealt with for bringing him to some more sense of his sin.

Octo.r 25th 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Gemmill compearing seems more serious and sensible of his sin. Is appointed to be absolved next Sabbath.)

James Gemmill cited compeared and seeming to be more sensible of his sin and more serious in professing his sorrow for it they think fitt to appoint him to appear in publick next Lord's day in order to his absolution.

(Walkinshaw coming to the place ordered to be cited to the Session.)

This day also the Session being informed of the aforementioned Walkinshaw his now being upon the place doe appoint him to be cited to compear before their next session.

Nov.r 8th 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

Walkinshaw compears. Confesses fornication with McMillain is ordered to appear in publick upon sabbath come 8 days.)

This day David Walkinshaw being called compeared confesses his alleged guilt of fornication with the aforementioned Janet McMillain and being rebuked and exhorted the Session thought fitt to appoint him to appear to make publick profession of his repentance upon Sabbath come eight days.

(Gemmill appearing in publick ordered to be cited to next Session. McMillain yet delayed because sick.)

This day also James Gemmill not having appeared in publick according to appointment is ordered to be cited to the Session next to give account thereof.

Janet McMillain now further delayed because of her indisposition.

Novr 11th 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Gemmill compears offers excuse which is repell'd. He is appointed to appear in publick next Lord'd day.)

James Gemmill being called compeared and gave as his excuse for not appearing in publick according to appointment his wanting the usual penalty which he was imposed* to pay which the Session sustained not and thought fitt to appoint him to appear in publick to the effect foresaid next Lord's day.

**Impost = duty or requirement. In this case, he was required to pay.*

Novr 18th 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Walkinshaw appearing in publick for a 1st time rebuked and continued.)

This day appeared according to appointment in the publick place David Walkinshaw who being rebuked and exhorted was continued.

(Gemmill compears not, being stop'd by the officer at the minister's appointment for scandalously conversing with drunken and contentious company last Saturday's night whereof the minister acquaints the Session and his appointment approven. Gemmill ordered to be cited to Session 13th December next.)

This day also James Gemmill not having appeared in publick according to appointment the minister informs as the reason of it that he had caused the officer stop him from appearing in publick upon an information by some of the Elders of his having been unseasonably late with Drunken and Contentious company in a Change house* the Saturday evening before he was to have been absolved and that very day whereupon the minister had been dealing much with him towards his better disposition for what he was called, to which the Session judged good grounds of stopping his appearing in publick and appoints him to be cited to compear before the Session against the 13th December next.

**Change house = a pub or ale house (possibly where coach horses were changed).*

Dece.r 13th 1705

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Gemmill compears and confesses guilt for which and other scruples the session delay him recommending it to their several members to deal further with him.)*

**scruples = doubts/hesitation*

The which day James Gemmill being called compeared and being accused according to the information foresaid acknowledged the truth thereof but the Session through this new offence and there (sic) former scruples through his great unconcernedness for his sin thought fitt to delay him and recommend it to their severall members as they can have occasion to deal with him till they hear some better account of him if it may so please the Lord.

(Walkinshaw appears in publick for a 2nd time. Ordered from the pulpit to compear before Session. Seems serious in profession of his repentance. Is appointed to be absolved upon Sabbath January 6th.)

The which day also it is ordered to be marked that David Walkinshaw appeared in publick according to appointment for a second time and having been appointed by the minister from the pulpit is to compear before the Session this day. Compeared accordingly and seeming serious on professing repentance for his aforementioned sin he is appointed to appear in publick to make further profession of his repentance and to be absolved upon Sabbath the sixth of January next to come.

January 6th 1706

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Walkinshaw appears in publick a 3rd time professing repentance and is rebuked exhorted and absolved.)

This day conform to appointment appeared David Walkinshaw in the publick place for a third time who professing his repentance was rebuked exhorted and absolved.

January 13th 1706

This day the Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Howat delated for fornication. Ordered to be cited.)

The Session being informed that Janet Howat servitrix to Andrew Blair is with child by fornication do therefor appoint her to be cited in before them against this day eight dayes being the 20th instant.

January 13th 1706

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Howat compearing confesses guilt. Accuses Blair. He is ordered to be cited. She cited apud acta to 27th instant.)

This day Janet Howat called compeared confesses that she is with child by fornication and accuses the aforementioned Andrew Blair as the person guilty with her. The Session appoint the said Andrew Blair to be cited in before them against this day eight dayes being the 27th instant and cite the said Janet apud acta to the said dyet*.

**dyet = session of court*

January 27th 1706

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Blair compears thakes with the above accusation. Is rebuked exhorted and ordered to appear in publick next Sabbath. But Howat being sick delayed.)

This day Andrew Blair called compeared and acknowledges himself guilty as aforementioned with the said Janet Howat. The Session having rebuked and exhorted him to sincere repentance appoint him to appear in publick next Lord's day being the 3rd February next for a first time for profession thereof. But being informed that Janet Howat is fallen sick they delay her till they shall hear that she is recovered.

Feb.ry 3rd 1706

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Blair appears in publick a 1st time. Rebuked exhorted and continued.)

It is ordered to be marked that the aforementioned Andrew Blair appeared this day in publick for a first time for profession of repentance for his aforementioned sin and that being rebuked and exhorted he was continued.

Feb.ry 10th 1706

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Blair appears a 2nd time in public. Rebuked exhorted ordered to wait upon Session. Compears before Session who finding ground appoint his absolution.)

It is ordered to be marked that Andrew Blair appeared this day for a 2nd time to the end aforewritten and that being rebuked and exhorted he was ordered from the pulpit to wait upon the Session

afternoon. Being called therefore he compeared and the Session finding ground to proceed towards his absolution appoint him to appear next Lord's day being the 17th instant in order thereto.

(McMillain ordered to be cited to Session against Sabbath first 17th February.)

This day also the Session appoint Janet McMillain guilty of fornication with the aforementioned David Walkinshaw who had been formerly delayed in regard of her indisposition to be cited in before them against sabbath first, being the 17th February next.

Feb.ry 17th 1706

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Blairs absolution ordered to be marked.)

It is ordered to be marked that Andrew Blair appeared this day in publick for a 3rd time and that appearing serious in the profession of his he was rebuked exhorted and absolved.

(McMillain compears.

Is earnestly exhorted and appointed to appear in publick next Sabbath.)

This day also Janet McMillain called compeared.

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The session having earnestly exhorted her to unfaign'd* repentance for her above sin appoint her to appear in publick for profession thereof upon Sabbath next being the 24th instant.

**unfaign'd = not feigned/sincere*

Feb.ry 24th 1706

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(McMillain appears in publick for a 1st time. Is rebuked exhorted and continued.)

It is ordered to be marked that Janet McMillain appeared this day in publick for a 1st time for profession of repentance for her aforementioned sin and that being rebuked and exhorted she was continued.

March 3rd 1706

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(McMillain appears in publick for a 2nd time. Is ordered to wait on Session.

Compears before Session but not satisfying them is delayed a fournight and cited apud acta to 17th instant.)

It is ordered to be marked that Janet McMillain appeared this day for a 2nd time to the end aforesaid and that being rebuked and exhorted she was ordered from the pulpit to wait upon the Session afternoon.

Being called she compeared but after trial having given no suitable evidence of her fitness for absolution the Session delay her till this day fourtnight being the 17th of this instant and cite hr apud acta to that dyet.

March 17th 1706

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(McMillain compears before Session who finding ground appoint her to be absolved next Sabbath 24th instant.)

This day Janet McMillain called compeared and the Session finding ground now to proceed to her absolution appoint her to appear in publick next Lord's day being the 24th instant for a 3rd time and upon her giving satisfying expressions of her repentance then to be absolved.

March 17th 1706

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(McMillains absolution ordered to be marked.)

It is ordered to be marked that Janet McMillain appeared in publick this day for a 3rd time and that having appeared serious in the profession of her repentance she was rebuked exhorted and absolved.

April 21st 1706

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Hutchison delated for Drunkenness.

Witnesses Douglas King and Cowie

She and witnesses ordered to be cited to 28th instant.)

This day the Session are informed that Agnes Hutchison spouse to James Beg merchant in Cumnock was seen scandalously drunk in her own house some few dayes ago and that Robert Douglas merchant in Cumnock, John King dyster* there and John Cowie one of Captain Denholm's Dragoons for the time quartering in this place can witness against her in that affair. They therefore appoint the said Agnes together with the witnesses aforesaid to be cited in before them against this day eight days being the 28th of this instant.

**Dyster – a person who dyes clothes or other articles.*

April 28th 1706

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Hutchison compearing denyes. Witnesses compear.)

This day Agnes Hutchison called compeared and being interrogate concerning her above alleg'd scandall of drunkenness denyed the same. Witnesses therefore called.

(Douglass called. His deposition.)

Impr (*abbreviation for ??*) Robert Douglass who compearing aged (blank space) yeares or thereabouts, married, and being purged of malice and partial counsel deponed that having occasion upon business to go to the said Agnes's house he saw her rise from the fire side and stagger towards the bed uttering a number of words which he could not understand in regard of their being so imperfectly and unsensibly pronounced and that after her lying down in the bed she cried always Francy , Francy there being none in the house of that name at that time all which he judged to be the effects of drunkenness and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Sic Subte* *Robert Douglass*

*Sic Subte = Sic Subscrititure = signed

(King. His deposition.)

John King called compeared aged about 36 married who being purged of malice and partial counsel depons in the terms of the above Robert Douglass's deposition and moreover that he saw her lying half in half out of the bed being incapable of raising herself further into it and that he therefore judged her drunk and this is the truth as he shall answer to God sic Subte. *John King*

(Cowie. His deposition.)

John Cowie called compeared aged about 40 married purged of malice and partial counsel depons that he was but about an hour in the house and that he knew not whether she was drunk and this is the truth as he shall answer to God and declares he cannot write.

(The scandall proven. The Session resolve on rebuking her (unreadable - ??formally) and so dismissing her. She submits and is dismissed.)

The Session therefore (Agnes being put forth) finding the aforementioned scandal proven against her resolve to rebuke and dismiss her now upon her confessing and professing sorrow for the same and promising to be more tender and circumspect in time coming unto which the Session's resolution the said Agnes being called in again and submitting was accordingly rebuked and dismissed.

May 5th 1706 Ante meridiem

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Howat compears ultroneously and desires to be appointed to appear in publick this day which the Session grant.)

This day compeared ultroneously Janet Howat, guilty of fornication with the aforementioned Andrew Blair, who had been formerly delayed because of her indisposition and desired she might be appointed to appear this day in publick for a first time in order to the removing of her said scandal. The Session having rebuked and exhorted her to appear in the terms of her said desire.

May 12th 1706

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Howat appears in publick last Sabbath a 1st time and this a 2nd time. Is ordered to be cited to Sabbath next 19th instant.)

This day it is ordered to be marked that Janet Howat appeared in publick last Sabbath for a first time and this day for a 2nd for profession of repentance for her aforementioned sin and that being rebuked and exhorted both the said times she was from the pulpit ordered to wait upon the Sessions further appointments. The Session appoint her to be cited in before them against Sabbath next the 19th instant to be tried as to her fitness in order to absolution.

May 19th 1706

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Howat compears. Appears serious. Is appointed to be cited next Lord's day 26th instant.)

This day Janet Howat called compeared and seeming serious in the profession of her repentance. The Session appoint her to appear in publick next Lord's day the 26th instant for a 3rd time and upon her giving suitable expressions of her sorrow for her said sin before the Congregation there to be absolved.

May 26th 1706

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

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(Howat's absolution ordered to be marked.)

It is ordered to be marked that Janet Howat appeared in public for a 3rd time and that seeming serious in the profession of her repentance for her aforementioned sin she was rebuked exhorted and absolved.

August 25th 1706

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Gemmill ordered to be cited to Session against 29th instant.)

This day the Session appoint the aforementioned James Gemmil guilty of a relapse into fornication with the above Bessie Crawford and to be cited in before them against the 29th instant that they may see what further sense he hath yet attain'd of his said sin.

August 25th 1706

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Gemmill compears. Seems more serious than formerly. Is appointed to be absolved next sabbath September 1st.)

This day James Gemmil called compeared and seeming more serious in the sense of his sin. The Session appoint him to appear in public next Lord's day being the first of September next for a sixth

time and upon his giving suitable expressions of his sorrow for his said sin before the Congregation then to be absolved.

Septe.r 1st 1706

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Gemmil's absolution ordered to be marked.)

It is ordered to be marked that James Gemmil appeared in public this day for a sixth time and that seeming serious in the profession of his repentance he was rebuked exhorted and absolved.

Octo.r 20th 1706

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(The minister intimates appointment of Synod to Session. The tenor of the said appointment which is approved by the Session and ordered to be observed upon Saturday next 26th instant.)

Which day the minister made intimation to the Session of an appointment of the Synod enjoining the Severall Presbyteries within their bounds to order the minister and Elders of every parish within their respective districts to set apart and keep a day with all convenient haste of meeting for prayer to Almighty God that he would graciously be pleased to pardon the abounding sins of the land to avert his judgements thereby deserved to disappoint the designs of his Church's enemies and to overrule this important matter of the union betwixt the two nations now in agitation to such happy conclusions as may be most for his great name's glory and the good of his people. Therewith also joining thanks to our most gracious God for his wonderfully preserving the fruits of the ground notwithstanding his so awful frownings in the season. In obedience to which so highly reasonable appointment the Session resolve on Saturday next being the 26th instant for the end aforewritten.

Nov.r 24th 1706

Session mett after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Keeping of the said appointment ordered to be marked.)

It is ordered to be marked that the aforementioned appointment was observed upon the said 26th October last as was resolved.

(Woodrow delated for slandering Pollock, profaned eternal whore and thief, and for slandering the minister for entertaining a whore and a thief in his house. Woodrow and his wife ordered to be cited to Session on 5th Dec.r next.)

This day also the Session were informed by several of their number that John Woodrow and his wife Christian McRae scandalously slandered Martha Pollock servitrix to the minister by calling her an Eternal Whore and a Thief and that the said John did reproachfully say that the minister was a brave (man) who entertained both a whore and a thief in his house upon which delation the Session appoint the said John Woodrow and his said wife to be cited in before them against the 5th December next.

December 5th 1706

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Woodrow and MCrae compearing deny and declare they cannot prove the slanders alleged against them. Are notwithstanding informed to have persisted to utter them. Witnesses ordered to be cited to 29th instant.

Woodrow challenged for a testimonial gives an insolent answer. Minister ordered to apply to Presbytry for advice.

Woodrow and his wife cited apud acta.)

The which day the said John Woodrow and Christian McRae being called compeared and both of them denied all the foresaid alledgeances against them, expressly declaring that they could prove no such thing against the said Martha and that they had never said them whereupon severall members instancing clear evidence of their having said as is aforementioned alleged and of their persisting to say so though they now denied it judicially. The session appoint John Hodge in Corsehouses, John Martin in Cumnock, Agnes Stillie there, Jean Campbell there, Elisabeth Duncan there and Elisabeth McKirsey in Glengyron as witnesses in that affair to be cited in before them against the 29th of this instant.

And moreover the said John Woodrow having been often formerly inquired at for his testimonial and having answered that he would be as great a knave as they would have him to be he would sit down at the back of a dike and write one to himself, is now judicially called to account thereanent. He answered he had no testimonial bidding the Session in an imperious manner TAKE THAT FOR AN ANSWER, TAKE THAT FOR AN ANSWER upon which answer of his the minister is to apply to the Presbtry and parties cited apud acta to the Session on the said 29th instant.

December 5th 1706

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

*(Woodrow and McRae continue to deny ut supra. * Woodrow's cunning confession.)*

**ut supra = as above*

This day the aforementioned John Woodrow and Christian McRae being called compeared continued to denie ut supra, only the said John own'd that he said if the minister entertain'd both a whore and a thief in his house what was that to him but denies that he said it in the terms of the lybell.

*(Witnesses compear **imp.r.***

Hodge his deposition.)

Witnesses therefore called **impr**: John Hodge who compearing aged fourty or thereby unmarried and being purged of malice and partial parties present and nothing objecting depons that he heard John Woodrow say Marth Pollock was both a whore and a thief and that the minister entertained both a whore and a thief and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Subt – John Hodge

(Martin his deposition.)

John Martin called compeared aged fourty four years or thereby who being purged of malice and partial counsel depones negative and this is the truth as he shall answer to God and declares he cannot write.

(Campbel her deposition.)

Jean Campbel called compears aged fourty or thereby married who being purged of malice and partial counsel depones negative also save that she heard the aforementioned Christian McRae call Martha a limmer* and slut and this is the truth as she shall answer to God and declares she cannot write.

**limmer = a promiscuous woman/a prostitute*

(Stillie her deposition.)

Agnes Stillie called compeared aged about fourty unmarried who being purged of malice and partial counsel depons that she heard the said Christian McRae say that she wanted a gravat* and that she accused the said Martha Pollock as having taken it.

**gravat = a woollen scarf or cravat*

(Duncan being indisposed is excused.)

Elisabeth Duncan is said to be indisposed and therefore excused for... *(page damaged)*.

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(McKirsey because of her youth averse depon. Pass'd for the time.)

Elisabeth McKirsey called compeared aged about fifteen or sixteen years unmarried but being averse to depon because of her youth is pass'd for the time.

(Session informed that Lady Polquhairn and her daughters can give light in this matter and also Clide. Order a Committee to be held at Shankstown and witnesses to be cited thereto.)

The session being weel informed the Lady Polquhairn and her daughters Margaret and Sarah Chalmers and Marion Clide in Cumnock can give further light in this matter do therefore appoint a Committee of their number – viz the minister, George Campbel, John McLannoche, William Hodge, David Eckles and Alex Drummond, Elders, with the Clerk to meet at Shankstown the said lady's dwelling house upon the 31st instant to take the depositions of the said witnesses and to report which witnesses the Session order to be cited to the said dyet and summons the said parties apud acta thereto.

January 5th 1707

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Committee report.)

This day the above Committee report that according to appointment they ad met at the place and upon the day aforementioned and convened the aforementioned parties and witnesses before them and that impr:

(Polquhairn her deposition.)

The lady Polquhairn being called compeared aged about 60 purged of malice and partial counsel parties present and nothing objecting depons that she heard the aforementioned John Woodrow call the above Martha a whore but does not weel remember if he called her an eternal whore and that she also heard him call her a thief and that the aforementioned Christian McRae said that the

aforementioned gravat was found in the said Martha's chest and this is the truth as she shall answer to God. Sic Subte – Jean Ross.

(Chalmers her deposition.)

Margaret Chalmers called compeared aged 30 or thereby who being purged of malice and partial counsel depons that she heard both John Woodrow and his wife call the said Martha a thief and this is the truth as she shall answer to God. Sic Subt – Margaret Chalmers.

(Sar. Chalmers her deposition.)

Sarah Chalmers called compeared aged 24 or thereby who being purged of malice and partial counsel depons that she heard John Woodrow call the above Martha both a whore and a thief but as to his wife depons negative and this is the truth as she shall answer to God. Sic Subt – Sarah Chalmers.

(Clide her deposition.)

Marion Clide called compeared aged 30 or thereby who being purged of malice and partial counsel depons negative and this is the truth as she shall answer to God and declares that she cannot write.

(Libell of Woodrow and McRae found proven. Session delay their censure in regard of Presbytries advice to disoun them as paroshiners till they produce sufficient testimonials.)

(Mister Campbel to apply to the civil magistrates anent them and to delyver the presbytry's letter.)

From the aforementioned depositions mentioned in the above report and from former depositions to the like purpose afore narrated the session find it proven that the said John Woodrow called the said Martha both a whore and a thief and that the said Christian McRae called her a thief and judge them censurable as slanderers therefore, but forebear to condescend upon the particular censure or to execute the same in regard of the Presbytry's advice now reported by the minister being that the said John Woodrow and Christian McRae, spouses, should be henceforth ouned* *(should probably be disowned – see heading)* as paroshiners till they either produce sufficient testimonials or found caution so to do, advising also the Session to apply to the Civil Magistrate for that effect. The Session appoint the minister and George Campbel Elder to apply ut supra betwixt and the next Sederunt and at the same time to deliver the Presbytry's letter thereanent to the Bailie which the minister as bearer hath now in his custody.

**oun – to recognise or be associated with*

January 11th 1707

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Minister and Campbel report that Baillie had promised his assistance.)

This day the minister and George Campbel report that according to appointment they had applied to the Bailie to the end above written and delivered to him the presbytry's letter and that he had promised to do as he was desired.

(Woodrow offers a libel against Pollock which Session repell as not being concerned with him in regard of presbytry's advice.)

This day also compeared the aforementioned John Woodrow and gave in a libell against the aforementioned Marth Pollock as having acknowledged that a gravat of his was found in her chest

and he or his wife had laid it in upon some bad design and for saying that he offered her money on a certain Lord's day to continue in his service and not to go where she was engaged. But in regard of the Presbytries advice the Session judge that they are not further to meddle with him till he obey the same.

February 6th 1707

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Woodrow offers a testimonial, which being informal is rejected.)

This day compeared the aforementioned John Woodrow and offered a testimonial from the Kirk Session of Cannongate wherewith the Session were not satisfied it being only subt* by the Session Clerk of that paroch. The prebytry also before whom the informality was previously laid advising therefore to reject it.

*subt = subnoto = signed/undersigned

February 6th 1707

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Wilkie's answer to a letter of minister read. Bears Woodrow's testimonial to have been given by convenience of Session. Woodrow's libell is therefore allowed to be given in.)

This day the minister judicially produced and read a letter from Mr Wilkie one of the ministers of the Cannongate, in answer to one he had sent to him to know the truth of John Woodrow's testimonial bearing that the said testimonial was given by the convenience of their Session. Whereupon the Session were content to allow the said John access to prove his libell though they be very doubtful how to receive him as a member of their Congregation when Mr Wilkie expressly writes that he the said John had no testimonial from England when he came to his paroch and that the whole time he had been there he had lyen* in the Abbay as a person oppress'd with debt besides other reasons.

*lyen = lain/lay

March 2nd 1707

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Woodrow acquainted that Session would now judge in his libel. Compears and offers to... (page damaged). Pollock ordered to be cited. Woodrow cited apud acta.)

This day John Woodrow having been acquainted that the Session because of Mr Wilkie's letter would now judge in his libel compears and offers to prove the same upon which the Session appoint

Martha Pollock the partie accused to be cited before them against the 9th instant and cite the said John apud acta to the said diet.

(Pollock offers a libel against McRae. The contents of it. McRae ordered to be cited.)

This day also compeared the said Martha Pollock and offered and presented a libell to the Session against Christian McRae spouse to the said John Woodrow bearing that the said Christian McRae had in a furious manner attack'd her in the publick street when going about her minister's business by throwing of dirt and stones at her, threatening to be her death and calling her a **raited*** whore and a thief with many other vile expressions to the great disturbance of the neighbourhood all which the said Martha undertaking to prove. The Session appoint the said Christian McRae to be cited in before them to the aforementioned diet, the said Martha being already appointed to be cited thereto.

**raited or possibly vaited - unable to find a definition*

March 9th 1707

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Woodrow and Pollock compear. Pollock confesses a part of Woodrows libell for which she is judged censurable. The other two articles judged irrelevant and therefore no need of witnesses. Which the Sessions judgement with Pollock's censure for the article confess'd. Session refers to Presbytry's acquaint. Parties therewith.)

This day John Woodrow and Martha Pollock called compeared, the former adhering to his libell the latter denying save only her having said that the said John offered to bribe her on the Lord's day for which the Session judge her censurable because she owned that she could not prove it. As to the other two articles being that the said Martha had acknowledged that a gravat of his had been found in her chest and that he the said John or his wife had laid it there upon some bad design the Session judge the first of them irrelevant because an alleged extrajudicial acknowledgement of a Crime. Also the 2nd because it hath no being but on supposition of the former for which causes they found no need for adducing witnesses as to any of the articles of the aforementioned libell. And this their judgement they refer to the presbytry before whom it is to be laid by the minister. As also what should be the said Martha's censure for the article she confess'd and this their judgement and reference the Session intimated to the parties.

(Pollock compears and adheres. McRae denies. Pollock's libell judged relevant. Witnesses ordered to be cited to March 16th. Parties cited apud acta.)

This day also Martha Pollock adhering to her libell against Christian McRae, the said Christian being called compeared and denied all whereupon the Session judging the several articles of the said libel relevant appoint their officer to cite Elizabeth Duncan, spouse to James Campbel merchant in Cumnock, Jean Donald spouse to Alexander Drummond there, Janet Crawford spouse to Hugh Young there, James Johnston merchant there, William Blackwood wright there, John Fergusson Clerk there and Margaret Aitken there as witnesses in the said libel now named by the said Martha to compear before the Session upon the 16th of March next, the parties being cited apud acta to the said diet.

March 16th 1707

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Pollock yet adheres. McRae denies. Witnesses ordered to be called.)

This day Martha Pollock and Christian McRae called compeared, the former adhering the other denying ut supra. Witnesses therefore ordered to be called.

(Elizabeth Duncan refuses obstinately to depon.)

Elizabeth Duncan and Jean Donald called compeared but refuse to depon giving no other reason therefore but because they would not, being the said Christian's door neighbours.

(Crawford. Her deposition.)

Janet Crawford called compeared aged about 40 who being purg'd of malice and partial counsel parties present and nothing objecting depons that she heard Christian McRae say to the said Martha if I cannot get a mends* of thee I shall take it with my own hands if I should go to prison for it.

**mends – amends/reparation*

(Blackwood necessarily absent excused.)

It is informed that William Blackwood is not in the bounds upon necessary business who is therefore excused.

(Johnston delayed.)

James Johnston being one of the judicatory* is delayed till it appears his deponing be necessary.

**judicatory – member of the church judicial authority. A church Elder.*

(Fergusson compears not.)

John Fergusson, Clerk, called compeared not nor any excuse from him.

(Aitken reuses to depon in regard to her youth. Recusants and parties cited apud acta to 25th instant.)

Margaret Aitken called compeared but refuses to depon on pretence of her few years being about 15 as she said. The Session at this time resolve to take no other method with these recusants* but to cite them and the parties to the next Session being to be upon the 25th of this instant.

**recusant – a person who refuses to submit to authority or comply with a demand.*

(Woodrow and McRae revile the Session for injustice. McRae claps her hands and threatens Pollock. Some members appointed to complain to Civil magistrates against Woodrow and his wife.)

It is ordered to be marked that John Woodrow and Christian McRae among their other insolences did at this time in a most furious manner revile the Session as having no regard to justice and that the said Christian clap'd her hands and cried out when the witnesses were a deponing that the said Martha was a Judas and a slut and that she would do all to her over again that she had done and spit in her face the first time she met with her.

The Session appoint the minister, George Campbel and James Johnston to complain to the Civil magistrate anent the aforementioned insolences committed by the said John Woodrow and his wife against the Session.

March 25th 1707

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Woodrow before witnesses called appeals to the Presbytry. And the Session delay any further procedure.)

The which day parties being called compeared and John Woodrow was attending his wife did as he said in behalf of himself and of his wife when the witnesses were presently to be called make an appeal to the presbytry without giving any reasons and took instruments in the Session Clerk's hands upon which the Session though they were not yet coming to any sentence thought fit to delay any further procedure till the matter come before the presbytry.

April 27th 1707

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Alan applying for testimonial is delated for scandalous carriage with men and therefore refused one. She is ordered to be cited to May 4th next.)

This day application was made for a testimonial to Janet Alan in Cumnock but the Session being informed that she was notourly* guilty of theft and of high and scandalous carriage with men particularly with the dragoons who were lately quarter'd in this place refused to give her any till the said scandals were search'd into and removed and appont her to be cited in before them for that end against Sabbath next being the 4th of May ensuing.

**notourly = openly/as a matter of public knowledge/notoriously.*

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May 4th 1707

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Alan compearing confesses. Is rebuked and exhorted. Ordered to give publick satisfaction upon Sabbath 10th instant and there to be absolved.)

This day Janet Alan called compeared and owns herself guilty in the terms of the aforementioned information and professes herself sorry therefore the Session having earnestly exhorted and rebuked her appoint her to appear in publick upon Sabbath come eight days being the 18th instant and upon her giving suitable expressions of sorrow for her said scandalous behaviour then to be absolved.

(David Eccles chosen ...(unreadable) till next synod.)

This day also David Eckles is appointed to attend the presbytry with the minister till the next Synod.

May 25th 1707

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Marked that Alan appeared not in publick. Upon information that she hath removed from the paroch orders given to cite her when she returns.)

This day it is ordered to be marked that the aforementioned Janet Alan did not appear in publick according to appointment and the Session being informed that she hath now removed from this

place on purpose to shun discipline do therefore appoint her to be cited in before them whenever notice shall be given of her return.

(Woodrow offers a libel which is repell'd be reason of his former appeal. Woodrow takes instruments.)

This day also compares the aforementioned John Woodrow and offers a libel to the Session against Martha Pollock. The Session told him that by his appeal he had taken that matter before the Presbytry. He replied that this presently offered was something new. They answered that therefore it should not be received till the former were discussed whereupon the said John took instruments and protested that his offering of it might be marked which was accordingly done and an extract hereof ordered to be given him, he demanding the same in an orderly way.

June 1st 1707 Ante meridien

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(A new list of Elders condescended upon. Their Edict ordered to be serv'd this day. They to be ordained upon the 15th instant.)*

**edict = an official order or proclamation.*

This day the Session taking to their consideration the infrequency of their number and the necessity therefore of having the same augmented and after mature and serious deliberation being satisfied with the fitness for that effect of the persons afternamed viz: John Fergusson ?? in Cumnock, Robert Douglas merchant there, Daniel Sutherland merchant there, William Clerk in Hayholm, George Wilson in Clocklounie and Gilbert Eckles in Bridgend with whom they have already dealt and found inclined to join with them in the work of the Lord in this Congregation do therefore appoint their Edict to be publicly serv'd this day after forenoon's sermon and intimation to be made of their being to be ordain'd this day fourtnight being the fifteenth instant that all having objections against all or any of them may have opportunity of offering the same same betwixt and the said day.

June 1st 1707 Ante meridien

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Elders Edict serv'd. A meeting for prayer upon 12th instant appointed.)

This day it is ordered to be marked that the aforementioned persons their Edict was according to appointment served last Lord's day.

This day also ordered there be a meeting for prayer upon Thursday next being the 12th instant.

June 12th 1707

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Reference of the whole of Woodrow's affair to Presbytry and od a new libell offered by Pollock.)

This day after severals had prayed, among other things coming before them the Session considering the whole of John Woodrow's affair as it now stands and for several other reasons moving them, did like as they hereby do refer the same to the Presbytry in manner more fully, excluding also a new

libel offered by the aforementioned Martha Pollock against the said John Woodrow and appoint the minister to lay the said reference before the Presbytry at their next meeting.

June 15th 1707 Ante meridiem

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(No objections made against the Candidates. They ordered to be ordained this day.)

This day it is ordered to be marked that there having been no objections offered against any of the aforementioned persons, candidates for the Eldership since the serving of their Edict and the Session therefore appoint them to be ordain'd this day after forenoon's sermon excepting the aforementioned John Fergusson necessarily absent but content to submit to ordination whom they delay till his return.

June 26th 1707 Ante meridiem

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Marked that they were ordained.)

This day it is ordered to be marked that the aforementioned named candidates for the Eldership, save the last named, were according to appointment ordained die et tempore quibus supra*.

**Die et tempore quibus supra = on the date and time already shown above.*

(Session thinking on having the Sacrament of the Supper celebrate, here appoint a meeting for prayer upon the 28th instant.)

This day also the Session taking to their serious consideration the necessity of having the holy sacrament of the Lord's Supper at this season celebrated in this place appoint a meeting upon Saturday next being the 28th instant for prayer to God for light and direction in that so highly important work.

(Roger applying for a certificate of his wife's decease, is content to have it tho qualified with a narration of the scandals he had committed while parochiner here which is ordered to be given him.)

This day also compeared George Roger sometime indweller* in this place desiring a certificate of his behaviour and particularly of the death of his now deceased spouse whom about three years ago he had wilfully deserted. The Session told him they could give him one for his wife's decease but none for his behaviour in regard of several scandals he had committed during his abode here. He replied he was content with a certificate of his wife's decease though qualified with a narration of the said scandals. The Session appoint one to be given to him with the said qualification.

**indweller – a resident, but possibly someone who has recently arrived and not "of Cumnock"*

June 28th 1707

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Appointment for prayer observed. They agree upon Sabbath of July 20th of that month. Intimation thereof to be made to morrow.)

This day after several had prayed the Session condescended upon the persons whom after much serious deliberation they found freedom to admit unto the aforementioned sacred ordinance of the Lord's Supper and took a list of their names from the examination roll which they appoint to be kept in relentis and agree that the said holy ordinance be celebrated on the Sabbath

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of July next being the 20th of that moneth and ordered intimation hereof to be made upon Sabbath next being tomorrow the 29th instant.

July 27th 1707 – Ante meridiem

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Marked that Sacrament was celebrated.)

It is ordered to be marked that the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated on the day aforementioned agreed upon.

(Campbel compearing ultroneously accuses herself of fornication with Ingles. He is ordered to be cited. Campbel ordered to make publick profession of repentance tho' Ingles hath not ye(t) judiciously own'd his guilt because he offers not to deny it.)

Compeared also ultroneously Agnes Campbel late servitrix to the Countess of Dumfries and accused herself as guilty of fornication with Robert Inglis servitor to the said Countess. The Session appoint the said Robert to be cited in before them against Thursday next being the 31st instant. And in the meantime having rebuked and exhorted the said Agnes the at her earnest desire appoint her to appear this day in publick for profession of her repentance for her said sin for a 1st time tho the said Robert hath not yet acknowledged his guilt because they are informed by several of their number that he doth not offer to disown the same.

Eodem die – post meridiem* (* The same day, afternoon.)

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Campbel compears again. Produces a letter from the minister of the paroch which she brought forth the child giving account of her straits. Upon which Session appoint her to appear in publick upon this day for a 2nd time.

Marked Campbel appeared this day for a first time.)

Compeared now again the said Agnes Campbell and produced a letter from the Moderator of the Kirk Session at Edinburgh where she had brought forth her child, shewing her distress and necessitous circumstances and that she could not without great inconvenience and hazard both to herself and her child wait the time of the Session's ordinary appointments. The Session taking the aforementioned representation of her case into their serious consideration appoint her to appear in publick for a 2nd time to the end afore written upon Thursday next being the 31st instant.

It is ordered to be marked that the said Agnes Campbel appeared in publick this day for profession of her said sin for a first time and that being rebuked and exhorted she was continued.

July 31st 1707

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Marked that Campbel appeared this day in publick for a 2nd time and ordered wait upon Session after sermon. She compears before Session and is ordered to be absolved next Lord's day.)

It is ordered to be marked that the aforementioned Agnes Campbell appeared in publick to the end aforewritten for a 2nd time and that being rebuked and exhorted she was ordered from the pulpit to wait upon the Session after sermon wherefore.

Being called she accordingly compears now and the Session after triall finding ground to proceed towards her absolution appoint her to appear in publick next Lord's day being the 3rd August next for a 3rd time and upon her giving suitable expressions of her repentance then to be absolved.

(Inglis compearing confesses guilt being rebuked and exhorted and is appointed to appear in publick August 17th.)

This day also Robert Inglis called compeared and own'd himself guilty in the terms of the aforementioned accusation. The Session having seriously rebuked him for his said sin and exhorted him to sincere repentance therefore appoint him to appear in publick upon Sabbath com a fournight being the 17th of August next for a first time to make profession of his repentance before the Congregation.

August 17th 1707

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Campbels absolution ordered to be marked.)

It is ordered to be marked that the aforementioned Agnes Campbell made profession of her repentance for a 3rd time before the Congregation for her aforementioned sin upon Sabbath the 3rd past of this instant and that having given suitable expressions of her sorrow for the same she was rebuked exhorted and absolved.

(Inglis appears for a 1st time.)

It is also ordered to be marked that the aforementioned Robert Inglis appeared in public this day for a first time to the end aforewritten and that being rebuked and exhorted he was continued.

(Fergusson ordain'd Elder this day.)

It is further ordered to be marked that the aforementioned John Fergusson, who was appointed to be ordain'd with the lately heiled* Elders but delayed because of his necessary absence, received ordination this day.

**Heiled = hailed/called*

August 24th 1707

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Inglis appears for a second time. Ordered to wait on Session after sermons. He is ordered to be absolved.)

It is ordered to be merked that the aforementioned Robert Inglis appeared in publick this day for a 2nd time for profession of repentance for his said sin of fornication with the aforementioned Agnes

Campbel and that being rebuked and exhorted he was appointed to wait upon the Session after sermons wherefore.

Being called he compears now and the Session finding ground to proceed towards his absolution after trial of his fitness therefore appoint him to appear in publick next Lord's day being the 31st instant for a 3rd time and upon his giving satisfying expressions of his repentance for his said sin then to be absolved.

August 31st 1707

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Inglis absolution ordered to be marked.)

It is ordered to be marked that the aforementioned Robert Inglis appeared this day in publick for a 3rd time to the end aforewritten and that having given satisfying expressions of his sorrow for his aforementioned sin before the Congregation he was rebuked exhorted and absolved.

(Lennox delated for fornication.)

This day also the Session being informed that Agnes Lennox servitrix to George Gemmil in Burnside of Gleisnock is with child by fornication do therefore appoint her to be cited in before them against Sabbath next being the 21st instant.

September 7th 1707

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Lennox confesses and accuses Gemmil.)

This day the aforementioned Agnes Lennox called compeared and owns herself guilty to be with child by fornication to the aforementioned George Gemmil. The Session appoint the said George to be cited in before them against this day fourtnight being the 21st instant.

September 21st 1707

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Gemmil confesses. Gemmil ordered to appear in publick upon Sabbath 28th. Lennox ordered to appear the same day.)

This day George Gemmil called compeared and confesses himself to be guilty as aforementioned with the aforementioned Agnes Lennox. The Session appoint

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him to appear in publick upon Sabbath next being the 28th instant to make profession of his repentance for his said sin and orders the said Agnes to be cited to appear the said day also with him to that end.

October 16th 1707

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Gemmil and Lennox appear in publick 28th and 12th Oct for a 1st and 2nd time. He having relapsed continued. She ordered to compear before session next Sabbath.)

This day it is ordered to be marked that the above George Gemmill and Agnes Lennox appeared in publick according to appointment upon the 28th of September past for a first time and upon the 12th past of this instant for a second time and that being rebuked and exhorted the said George being guilty of a relapse was continued and the said Agnes ordered to wait upon the Session next Lord's day being the 19th instant to be tryed as to her fitness in order to absolution.

October 19th 1707

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Gemmil appears a 3rd time and continued. Lennox appointed to be absolved.)

It is ordered to be marked that the aforementioned George Gemmil appeared this day in publick for a 3rd time to the end aforewriten and that being rebuked and exhorted her was continued.

This day also Agnes Lennox called compeared and the Session after trial finding ground to proceed towards her absolution appoint her to appear in publick next Lord's day for making further profession of her repentance for her aforementioned sin and upon her giving suitable expressions of her sorrow therefore then to be absolved.

Nov 2nd 1707

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Gemmil appears a 4th time and continued. Lennox, her absolution ordered to be marked.)

It is ordered to be marked that the aforementioned George Gemmil appeared in publick last Lord's (day) being the 26th of October last to the end foresaid for a 4th time and that being rebuked and exhorted he was continued.

It is also ordered to be marked that the above Agnes Lennox appeared in publick the said 26th October last for a 3rd time and that having given suitable expressions if her sorrow for her above sin before the Congregation she was then absolved.

Nov 9th 1707

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Gemmil appears a 5th time in publick and ordered to wait upon Session after sermon. Session appoint him to be delayed and to converse with minister and Elders anent his case.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above George Gemmil appeared in publick this day for a 5th time to the end foresaid and that being rebuked and exhorted he was appointed from the pulpit to wait upon the Session after sermons to be tried as to his fitness in order to absolution wherefore.

Being called he compeared now but the Session after triall not finding ground to proceed towards his absolution delay him for some time and appoint him to take opportunity of conversing with the minister and such of the Elders as he can most conveniently meet with anent his case, who are to report.

(Hodge's accompts ordered to be examined but he ordered to continue treasurer for some time.)

This day also William Hodge, present Kirk treasurer desiring to be disburdened of that office made application to the Session for that effect. The Session appoint him to continue till they have further time to advise thereanent and in the meantime George Campbel and James Johnston two of their number with their Clerk to visit his accompts and the clerk in their name to discharge him of his intromissions* preceeding this date.

Intromission = possession or management of property.

(Gilbert Eckles chosen ruling Elder till next Synod.)

This day also Gilbert Eckles is appointed to attend the Presbytry with the minister as ruling Elder till the next Synod.

Nov 30th 1707

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Gemmil appears ultroneously and desires to be absolved. Elders and minister report and he gives more satisfaction than formerly and is appointed to be absolved upon the 7th December instant.)

This day compeared ultroneously the aforementioned George Gemmil desiring to be absolved from the scandal of his aforementioned sin. The Session having heard the minister and several of the Elders report that he had been conversing privately with them and given them further satisfaction anent his case and now after further trial finding ground to proceed towards his absolution appoint him to appear in publick next Lord's day being the 7th December instant for 6th time and upon his giving suitable expressions of his sorroe for his aforementioned sin then to be absolved.

December 7th 1707

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Gemmil's absolution ordered to be marked.)

Sit is ordered to be marked that the above George Gemmil appeared this day in publick for a 6th time to the end above said and that having given satisfying expressions of his repentance for his aforementioned sin he was rebuked exhorted and absolved.

April 23rd 1708

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(James Johnston chosen ruling Elder till next Synod.)

This day James Johnston is appointed to attend the minister to the presbytry as ruling Elder till the next Synod.

Oct 24th 1708

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(John McLennochen chosen as ruling Elder till next Synod.)

This day John McLennochen is appointed to attend the presbytry with the minister as ruling Elder till the next Session.

February 6th 1709

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Mcgeighan delated for fornication. Is ordered to be cited to 10th instant.)

This day the Session being informed that Marion Mcgeighen servitrix to James Beg, merchant in Cumnock, is with child by fornication and that she hath confessed the same to some of their number do therefore appoint her to be cited in before them (Sabbath day? Unreadable) next being the 10th instant.

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February 10th 1709

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Mcgeighen compearing confesses and accuses Fergusson. She is cited apud acta and he ordered to be cited to Sabbath next 13th instant.)

This day the above Marion Mcgeighen called compeared and confesses herself to be with child by fornication to James Fergusson, son to John Fergusson Clerk to the Regality Court* of Cumnock. The Session cite her apud acta to compear before them upon Sabbath next the 13th instant and order the said James to be cited to the said dyet.

**Regality Court = Similar to a modern-day High Court with jurisdiction over Baronies.*

February 13th 1709

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Fergusson compears confesses guilt. Mcgeighen to appear in publick next Sabbath. He delay's because of business.)

This day James Fergusson and Marion Mcgeighen called compeared and the said James owns himself to be guilty in the terms of the above accusation. The Session having rebuked and exhorted them appoint the said Marion to appear in publick next Lord's day being the 20th instant and for profession

of her repentance for her said sin But do delay the said James till the 13th of March because he says his business will not allow him to begin his publick appearance till then.

February 20th 1709

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Mcgeighen appears this day in public for a first time and continued.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above Marion Mcgeighen appeared in publick this day for a first time to the end above said and that being rebuked and exhorted. She was continued.

February 27th 1709

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Mcgeighen appears this day 2nd time to wait upon Session after sermons. She compears before Session and is appointed to be absolved next Lord's day

It is ordered to be marked that the above Marion Mcgeighen appeared in public this day for a 2nd time to the end above narrated and that being rebuked and exhorted she was from the pulpit ordered to attend the Session this day after sermons to be tried as to her fitness in order to absolution wherefore.

Being called she compears and after trial the Session finding ground to proceed towards her absolution appoint her to appear in publick next Lord's day being the 6th March next and upon her giving suitable expressions of her sorrow for her said sin, there to be absolved.

March 6th 1709

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Mcgeighen's absolution ordered to be marked.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above Marion Mcgeighan appeared this day in publick for a 3rd time to the end above written and that having given suitable expressions of her sorrow for her said sin. She was rebuked exhorted and absolved.

March 13th 1709

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Fergusson appears this day in publick a first time and is continued.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above James Fergusson appeared this day in publick professing repentance for his said sin of fornication with the above Marion Mcgeighan for a first time and that being rebuked an exhorted he was continued.

March 20th 1709

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Fergusson appears a 2nd time and is ordered to wait upon Session after sermon. He compares before Session and is appointed to be absolved next Lord's day.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above James Fergusson appeared this day in publick for a 2nd time to the end above mentioned and that being rebuked and exhorted he was from the pulpit ordered to wait upon the Session after the sermons wherefore.

Being called he compeared and the Session after trial finding ground to proceed towards his absolution appoint him to appear in publick next Lord's day being the 27th instant and upon his giving suitable expressions of his sorrow for his above sin before the Congregation then to be absolved.

March 20th 1709

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Fergusson's absolution ordered to be marked.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above James Fergusson appeared this day in publick for a 3rd time and that having given suitable expressions of his sorrow for his above sin. He was rebuked exhorted and absolved.

(The Session applied to for testimonial to Pollock which is refused till the presbytry signify that they have nothing to lay to her charge.)

This day also application was made to the Session for a testimonial to the above mentioned Martha Pollock. The Session refuse to grant her one till there be produced before them a declaration from the Presbytery bearing that they have nothing to lay to her charge with respect to any process formerly depending before them against her.

Aprile 10th 1709

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Declaration from the Presbytery that they have no process against Pollock and a testimonial ordered to be given her.)

This day there was judicially produced a Declaration from the Presbytery of Air (Ayr) subscribed by John Lockhart their Clerk of the date the 5th past of this instant bearing that there was no process depending before them against the above Martha Pollock wherefore the Session now order a testimonial to be given her.

May 22nd 1709

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Pearson delated for fornication. Ordered to be cited to Thursday next.)

This day the Session being informed that Jean Pearson daughter of William Pearson in Borlans is with child by fornication

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do therefore appoint her to be cited in before them against Thursday next being the 26th instant.

May 26th 1709 After prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Pearson compearing confesses. Accuses Wat who is ordered to be cited to Sabbath next. She is cited apud acta thereto.)

This day the above Jean Pearson called compeared and acknowledges herself to be guilty of fornication with James Wat. Servitor to the above William Pearson her father wherefore the Session appoint the said James Wat to be cited in before them against Sabbath next being the 29th instant and cite the said Jean apud acta to that day.

May 29th 1709

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Wat compearing confesses. They are both appointed to appear in publick next Lord's day.)

This day the above James Wat and Jean Pearson called compeared and the said James confesses himself to be guilty of the above sin with the said Jean. The Session having rebuked and exhorted them both appoint them to appear in publick next Lord's day to make profession of their repentance for their said sin.

June 5th 1709

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Wat and Pearson appear in publick a 1st time and Continued.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above James Wat and Jean Pearson appeared in publick this day for a first time to the end above written and that being rebuked and exhorted they were continued.

(Eckles chosen ruling Elder till next Synod.)

This day also David Eckles is appointed to attend the presbytery with the minister as ruling Elder till the next Synod.

June 5th 1709

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Wat and Pearson appear a 2nd time, ordered to wait on Session after Sermon. Wat and Pearson compear but by reason of new offences. Their absolution delayed.)

Sit is ordered to be marked that James Wat and Jean Pearson appeared in publick this day for a 2nd time to the end above said and that being rebuked and exhorted they were ordered to wait upon

the Session this day after sermons wherefore the said James and Jean being called compeared but the Session being informed that since they entered upon the profession of their repentance for their aforementioned sin before the Congregation they had given further offence by conversing secretly together last Lord's day afternoon in time of publick worship which both of them now judicially acknowledge rebuke them for their said untender and offensive behaviour and delay their absolution till they give better evidence of the sincerity of their repentance.

July 31st 1709

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Crawford a stranger delate for fornication, ordered to be cited to the 11th Aug.)

This day the Session being informed that one Janet Crawford lately come to this paroch for present in Dermalloch is with child by fornication do therefore appoint her to be cited in before them against Thursday come eight days being the 11th of August next.

August 11th 1709

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Crawford compearing accuses Marshall. Undertakes to submit to Kirk Session of Hamiltoun. Minister to transmit her confession to minister of Hamiltoun.)

This day the above Janet Crawford called compeared and confesses that about the beginning of December last she fell into fornication with Robert Marshall son to Bailie Marshall in Hamiltoun where she was then serving and that she is with child to the said Robert. The Session remit her to the Kirk Session of Hamiltoun where the offence was committed whereto she undertakes to repair and submit and appoint the minister with the first occasion to transmit her above Confession to the minister of Hamiltoun.

August 14th 1709

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Wat and Pearson to be cited to 21st instant.)

This day the Session appoint the above James Wat and Janet Pearson to be cited in before them against Sabbath next being the 21st instant.

August 14th 1709

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Wat and Pearson compearing are appointed to be absolved next Lord's day.)

This day the above James Wat and Jean Pearson called compeared and the Session after inquiry being informed of nothing scandalous in their behaviour since they were last rebuked and now after trial finding ground to proceed towards their absolution appoint them to appear in publick next

Lord's day being the 28th instant and upon their giving suitable expressions of their sorrow for their said sin of fornication with one another then to be absolved.

August 28th 1709

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Wat and Pearson's absolution marked.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above James Wat and Jean Pearson appeared in publick this day for a 3rd time for profession of repentance for their sin of fornication with one another and both of them having given suitable expressions of their sorrow therefore were rebuked, exhorted and absolved.

November 20th 1709

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Howat delated for fornication.)

This day the Session being informed that one Janet Howat in Over Gelt is with child by fornication appoint her to be cited in before them against the 18th of December next.

December 18th 1709

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Howat compearing accuses Hare. He is ordered to be cited. Howat cited apud acta.)

Janet Howat called compeared and confesses herself to be guilty of fornication with William Hare in Over Gelt. The Session appoint the said William to be cited in before them against Thursday next the 22nd instant

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and cite the said Janet apud acta to the said dyet.

December 22nd 1709

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Hare compearing confesses. Is appointed to appear in publick 25th instant. Howat delayed because informed to be sick.)

This day the above William Hare called compeared and confesses himself to be guilty of fornication with the above Janet Howat. The Session having rebuked and exhorted him appoint him to appear in publick next Lord's day being the 25th instant to make profession of his repentance for his said sin before the Congregation, but being informed that the said Janet is sick they delay her till they shall hear of her recovery.

December 25th 1709

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Hare appears in publick a 1st time. Continued.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above William Hare appeared in publick this day for a 1st time to the end above written and that being rebuked and exhorted he was continued.

January 8th 1710

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Hare appears in publick a 2nd time. Ordered to attend Session after Sermons. He compeares before Session but not satisfying is delayed and ordered to converse with minister and Elders.)

This day the above Wm Hare not having appeared in publick last Lord's day because we were uncertain of having sermon thereon it is ordered to be marked that he appeared in publick this fday for a 2nd time to the end foresaid and that being rebuked and exhorted he was from the pulpit ordered to wait upon the Session after sermons wherefore.

Being called he confesses but the Session after triall not being satisfied as to his fitness in order to absolution delay him for some time to take opportunity of conversing frequently with the minister and such of the elders as he shall have most convenient access unto anent his case.

January 15th 1710

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Weir separatist and follower of Mr Hepburn for some time. Desiring baptism to his child is delayed till the Pesbytery be acquainted anent his case, he having been guilty of unrighteous defrauding of his just creditors. He is cited apud acta to January 22nd.)

This day compeared ultroneously William Weir in Tarrigan who had formerly separated from our communion for a considerable time and having joined with Mr John Hepburn had a child baptised by him while under a sentence of deposition by the General Assembly of this Church, desiring baptism to a child of his which he had kept for a long time unbaptised. The Session considering not only the premisses but also that of late he had most unjustly sparfl* away his goods to the defrauding of many of his just creditors which he does not offer to disonn* appoint the minister to take the presbyteries advice anent his case and to report and cite him apud acta to next Session January 22nd.

**sparfle = an altered version of "sarpal" = to distribute/disperse goods*

**disonn = disown – to deny*

January 22nd 1710 – Ante Meridien

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Hare compears ultroneously and desires to be absolved.)

This day compeared ultroneously the above William Hare desiring to be absolved from the scandal of his above sin. The Session from the report of the minister and Elders with whom he was ordered

to converse anent his case and from the profession of his repentance now before themselves finding ground to proceed towards his absolution appoint him to appear in publick this day for a 3rd time and upon his giving suitable expression of his sorrow for his said sin then to be absolved.

(Weir compares, by advice of the presbytery is rebuked before the Session whereof intimation is ordered to be made to the Congregation.)

This day also the aforementioned William Weir called compeared. The Session having heard the minister's report from the presbytry anent his case being that he be rebuked before the Session and that intimation thereof be made to the Congregation before his being allowed access to hold up his child do accordingly rebuke him having confessed and professed sorrow for his above offences and appoint intimation hereof to be made ut supra.

Post Meridiem Eodem die. *(Afternoon on the same day.)*

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Absolution of Hare this day and his profession of repentance ordered to be marked.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above William Hare appeared this day in publick for a 3rd time and that being rebuked and exhorted and given suitable expressions of his sorrow for his said sin he was absolved.

(Intimation of Weir's rebuke ordered to be marked.)

It is also ordered to be marked that intimation according to appointment was made of William Weir's rebuke.

January 29th 1710

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Brown, another separatist and follower of Mr Hepburn, desiring baptism to his child is delated for having stolen a horse and emitted an oath thereanent. Therefore delayed till inquiry be made into that affair. Cited apud acta to February 5th.)

This day compeared ultroneously Patrick Brown in Mossbank desiring baptism to a child of his which he had kept unbaptised for the space of almost two years. The Session considering that he had formerly separated from our Communion and had a child baptised with Mr Hepburn while under the sentence of deposition by the General Assembly of this Church, As also that he, the said Patrick, have been conveyened before the Civil Magistrate of this place for stealing of a horse and that he had emitted an oath before him in that affair, delay further proceedure in this matter till they get a copy of the said oath and appoint two of their number to cause search into the Regalite Court Records for the same and cited the said Patrick apud acta to compear before them upon Sabbath next being the 5th of February ensuing.

February 5th 1710

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Brown compears. Confesses his having taken a horse and his having emitted an oath whereof he does not remember the tenor. Elders report that they could not find the said oath. The whole case to be laid before Presbytry.)

This day the above Patrick Brown called compeared and confesses that some few years ago he had taken a horse out of the broad wood of Tarringan belonging to the family of Dumfries which he says he thought they had put away as not regarding who should take it & further owns that he did emit an oath before the Bailie of the Regality of this place but pretended that he did not remember the tenor of it. The Elders also appointed to search the above Regality records for a copy of the said oath reporting that they had caused search (of) the same but that they could not fall upon the said copy in regard of its never having been registrated therein as appeared. The Session appoint this whole complex case to be laid before the Presbytery by the minister for advice, which he is to report.

March 5th 1710

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Session informed of Howat's recovery and that she is residing in New Cumnock, appoint that Session to be written to, to cause cite her to this against the 12th instant.)

This day the Session being informed that the above mentioned Janet Howat who was delayed in regard of her sickness is now recovered but that she is now residing in the paroch of New Cumnock appoint the Clerk to write to the Kirk Session of that place to cause cite her to compear before this Session against Sabbath next being the 12th instant.

March 12th 1710

Ante meridiem

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Howat compearing appointed to appear in publick this day.)

This day the above Janet Howat called compeared. The Session having rebuked and exhorted her appoint her to appear in publick this day for profession of her repentance for her above sin of fornication with the above William Hare.

Post Meridiem Eodem Die

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Howat appears a 1st time and is continued.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above Janet Howat appeared this day in publick to the end above writen and that being rebuked and exhorted she was continued.

ordered to be marked that the above Janet Howat appeared this day in publick for a 2nd time and that being rebuked and exhorted she was from the pulpit ordered to wait upon the Session after sermons wherefore. Being called she compeared but the session after trial not being satisfied as to

her fitness in order to absolution delay her for some time and appoint her to take the opportunity of conversing with such of the Elders as she could most conveniently meet with anent her case.

April 2nd 1710

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

Ante Meridiam

(Brown compearing professes sorrow for his offence. Minister reports Presbyteries advice anent his case and session appoint it to be observed.)

This day compeared ultroneously the above Patrick Brown professing himself sorry for his offences in the case of Mr Hepburn above narrated as also for his theft above confessed. The Session having heard the minister's report anent the presbyteries advice upon his case, being that he be publicly rebuked immediately before the presenting of his child and upon his profession of sorrow for his said offences that he be again received into the Communion of the Church, appoint him to be rebuked this day and received on the terms above presented.

Post Meridiam Eodem Die.

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Brown's rebuke. He professes repentance and is received into Communion.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above Patrick Brown was rebuked this day immediately before the presenting of his child and that having professed sorrow for his above offences he was exhorted to study a more tender and Christian behaviour for the future and received into Communion ut Supra.

May 21st 1710

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Clerk to write to New Cumnock to cause cite Howat to 28th instant.)

This day the Session appoint the Clerk to write to the Kirk Session of New Cumnock to cause cite the above Janet Howat who was delayed for the reasons above narrated to compear before this Session against this day eight days being the 28th instant.

May 28th 1710

Ante Meridiam.

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Howat compearing. Session find ground to appoint her absolution.)

This day the above Janet Howat called compeared. The Session from the report of the Elders with whom she had conversed and from the profession of her repentance now made before themselves

finding ground to proceed towards her absolution appoint her to appear in publick this day and upon her giving suitable expressions of her sorrow for her said sin before the Congregation then is to be absolved.

Post Meridiem Eodem Die.

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Howat appearing for a 3rd time. Is absolved.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above Janet Howat appeared in publick this day for a 3rd time and that having given satisfying expressions of her sorrow for her above sin she was rebuked exhorted and absolved.

June 18th 1710

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Celebration of the Sacrament to be upon 23rd July next. A meeting for prayer upon July 9th appointed.)

This day the celebration of the Lord's Supper in this place being design'd this Summer. The Session resolve upon the 4th Sabbath of July next being the 23rd of that month for that end and order intimation hereof to be made next Lord's day being the 25th instant and appoint a meeting for prayer upon the 9th of July next.

July 9th 1710

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Mark'd that intimation of the day of dispensing the Sacrament was made. Another meeting for prayer to be upon 14th instant.)

This day the Session having fulfilled the appointment of the preceeding sederunt ordered it to be marked that ontimation was made upon the 25th of June past of the day of the celebration of the Lord's Supper above designed, and appointed another meeting for prayer upon the 14th of this instant.

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July 14th 1710

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Communion Roll taken.)

This day the Session after several of their number had prayed took a list of the several persons within the paroch capable of being admitted to the Lord's Supper.

(Mr William Dalrymple chosen ruling Elder.)

This day also Mr William Dalrymple of Glenmuir is appointed to attend the presbytery with the minister till the next Synod.

October 22nd 1710

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Fergusson and Martin delated for irregular marriage. Ordered to be cited to Session against 29th instant.)

This day the Session being informed that James Fergusson, Clerk to the Regality Court of this place and Jean Martin, daughter to John Martin, Tailor in Cumnock do cohabit together as man and wife as pretending to be married persons do therefore appoint them to be cited in before them against Sabbath next being the 29th instant.

October 29th 1710

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Fergusson and Martin compear, own their irregular marriage, gave in testimonial thereof. Session delay judging in this affair till they get the witnesses convened.)

This day the above James Fergusson and Jean Martin called compeared and both of them own that they do cohabit ut Supra and that because they are married as they alledge and for documenting thereof judicially produced a testimonial of their said marriage allegedly written by Mr Samuel Mowat Curat* who as they say, married them, and subscribed by him, and Adam Stillie servitor to John Bowman, merchant in Glasgow and William Alan in Galstoun, alleg'd witnesses to their above marriage of the date Glasgow the 19th past of October instant. The Session delay in judging in this matter till they find opportunity of getting the said witnesses convened before them to attest the verity of the premisses*.

*Curat = Curate

*premisses = premises = previous statements or assertions

(Milligen delated for fornication. Ordered to be cited to Nov 5th.)

This day also the Session being informed that Janet Milligen, servitrix to Alan McRae in Whitehill is with child by fornication do therefore order her to be cited to compear before them against Sabbath next being the 5th of November ensuing.

November 5th 1710

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Milligen informed to be sick but to have confessed before Elders and accused Mitchel. Mitchel ordered to be cited to 12th instant.)

This day the Session being informed that the above Janet Milligen having fallen sick could not compear before them now but that before two or three of their number she had confessed herself to be with child by fornication to James Mitchel servitor to the Laird of Horsecleugh do therefore appoint the said James to be cited in before them against Sabbath next being the 12th instant but delay her till they shall hear of her recovery.

November 12th 1710

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Mitchel compearing confesses guilt and that this is a relapse to him.)

This day the above James Mitchel called compeared and acknowledges himself guilty of fornication with the above Janet Milligen and that he was guilty of the said sin formerly. The Session having rebuked and exhorted him appoint him to appear in publick next Lord's day being the 19th instant for profession of his repentance thereof.

December 3rd 1710

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Marked that Mitchel makes a publick profession of repentance for a 1st, 2nd and 3rd time.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above James Mitchel made public profession of his repentance for his above sin upon November 19th for a first time, the 26th of the said moneth for a 2nd time and this day for a 3rd time and that being rebuked and exhorted he was continued being guilty of a relapse as above mentioned.

December 28th 1710

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Marked that Mitchel appeared in publick for a 4th and 5th time.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above James Mitchel made publick profession of his repentance for his above sin upon the 10th past of this instant for a 4th time and upon the 24th past thereof for a 5th time and that being rebuked and exhorted he was from the pulpit the said 5th time ordered to wait the Session's further appointment.

January 7th 1710 (actually 1711)

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Stillie witness to Fergusson'sirregular marriage to be cited to 14th instant and parties also.)

This day the Session being informed that the abovementioned Adam Stillie one of the witnesses alleged to the above James Fergusson his irregular marriage is lately come to this place appoint him to be cited to compear before the against Sabbath next being the 14th instant to bear witness in the said affair and appoint the parties to be cited to the said dyet.

(Mitchel to be cited to 14th instant also.)

This day also the Session appoint the above James Mitchel to be cited in before them against the said 14th instant to be tried as to his fitness in order to absolution.

January 14th 1710 (actually 1711)

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Adam Stillie compears. Parties profane? his deposition.)

This day the above Adam Stillie called compeared, aged 20 or thereby, unmarried, parties present and nothing objecting, who being solemnly judicially sworn and purg'd of malice and partial counsel depons that he actually saw the said James Fergusson and Jean Martin married at Glasgow upon the 19th of October last by Mr Samuel Mowat Curat and this is the truth as he shall answer to God.

The Subscribitur – Adam Stillie.

The Session yet delay judging in this affair till they get William Alan the other witness in this affair convened before the and appoint the minister with his first conveniency to write to the Kirk Session of Galstoun where the said William resides for that effect.

(Mitchel compearing but not satisfying Session delayed and ordered to converse with Elders and minister.)

This day also the above James Mitchel called compeared but the Session not being satisfied as to his fitness in order to absolution do therefore delay him for some time and appoint him to converse frequently with the minister and such of the Elders as he can most conveniently meet with anent his case.

February 18th 1711

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Mitchel neglecting to converse privately with minister and Elders ordered to be cited to 25th instant.)

The Session having now for several weeks (delayed) the above James Mitchel his absolution for the reasons above narrated and finding from the report of the minister and Elders with whom he was appointed to converse anent his case that he had flighted the said appointment, order him to be cited in before them against Sabbath next being the 25th of this instant to deal further with him that way, seeing he altogether neglects other more private methods.

February 25th 1711

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Mitchel compearing appears more penitent than formerly. But Session willing to be further satisfied delay him yet. He is further to converse with the minister and Elders.)

This day the above James Mitchell called compeared who having been earnestly dealt with towards his being brought to a further sense of his sin appeared more penitent than formerly. But the Session willing yet to be further satisfied about him appoint him apud acta to compear before them against this day fourteen dayes being the 11th of March next before sermons resolving, if they find ground, to appoint him to be absolved that day and in the meantime renew their appointment of his conversing frequently with the minister and Elders anent his case.

(Informed that Alan is cited to the 11th instant. Fergusson and Martin ordered to be cited.)

This day also the minister informes the Session that he had written to the Kirk Session of Galstoun anent the above William Alan and that they had returned an execution of his having been cited to

compear before this against the said 11th of March next. The Session therefore appoint the parties viz: James Fergusson and Jean Martin to be cited to the said dyet.

March 11th 1711

Ante Meridiem

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Mitchel compears before Session who finding ground appoint him to be absolved this day.)

This day the above James Mitchel called compeared who seeming now more touch'd with a sense of his sin than he had ever done before and the minister and Elders with whom he had conversed since the last appointment reporting the like of him, the Session appoint him to appear in publick this day and upon his giving suitable expression of his sorrow for his above sin of fornication with the above Janet Milligen before the Congregation then to be absolved.

Post Meridiem Eodem Die

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Mitchels absolution ordered to be marked.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above James Mitchel appeared this day in publick for a 6th time being guilty of a relapse and having given suitable expressions of his sorrow for his said sin he was rebuked exhorted and absolved.

(Fergusson and Martin compear. Alan compears – His deposition.)

This day likewise James Fergusson and Janet Martin called compeared.

The above William Alan also being called compeared, aged about 20 or thereby, unmarried, who being solemnly judicially sworn, purged of malice and partial counsel depons that he saw the said James Fergusson and Jean Martin married by Mr Samuel Mowat Curat at Glasgow upon the 19th day of October last and that the above Adam Stillie was also present when they were married and this is the truth as he shall answer to God.

Sic Subscribitur. William Alan

The Session finding from the above depositions of the aforementioned Adam Stillie and the said William Alan that the said parties are married ut supra and they the said parties professing sorrow for their said offensive irregularitie and judicially promising to adhere to one another as married person. The Session for their said offence rebuke them and appoint intimation of the hail premises to be made to the Congregation next Lord's day being the 18th instant.

March 18th 1711

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Intimation made in Fergussons affair.)

It is ordered to be marked that intimation was made this day in James Fergusson's affair according to the above appointment.

(Milligen having recovered and removed to Ochiltree, that Session to be written to for causing cite her.)

This day also the Session being informed that Janet Milligen formerly delayed because of sickness is now recovered and that having removed out of this paroch she is residing with John Milligen in Dam in the paroch of Ochiltree appoint the Clerk to write to the Kirk Session of that paroch to cause cite her in before this against the 15th of April next.

April 15th 1711

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Execution of Milligen's citation return'd. Milligen compears before Session. Confesses guilt of a relapse, is appointed to appear in publick.)

This day the Clerk reports that he had written according to appointment to the Kirk Session of Ochiltree to cause cite the above Janet Milligen and that they had returned execution of her having been cited to this day.

The said Janet therefore being called compeared and acknowledged herself to be with child by fornication to the above James Mitchel and that this is a relapse to her. The Session having rebuked and exhorted her appoint her to appear in publick this day eight dayes being the 22nd instant for profession of repentance for her said sin.

(Stillie delated for fornication, ordered to be cited.)

This day also the Session being informed that Isabel Stillie, daughter to the deceased John Stillie in Whytehill is brought 'o bed of child by fornication do therefore appoint her to be cited in before them against the said 22nd instant.

April 22nd 1711

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Milligen's 1st appearance in publick ordered to be marked.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above Janet Milligen appeared this day in publick for a 1st time to the end abovewritten and being rebuked and exhorted she was continued.

(Stillie compears before Session. Cofesses guilt, accuses Kissock.)

This day also the above Isabell Stillie called compeared and owned herself guilty as above, accusing Samuel Kissock, son to William Kissock merchant in Cumnock as the father of her child. The Session being informed that

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the said Samuel hath lately been taken on to be a souldiar (soldier) and is now quartered at Berwick, appoint the minister to transmit an account of the above accusation to him by Janet Wilson mother to the ?said Samuel (*overwritten/unreadable*) who, it is informed, is to go there within a few dayes

requiring a written answer anent the said accusation seeing it is not probable that the Session will have opportunity of getting him convened before themselves for that effect and in the mean time having rebuked and exhorted the said Isabell they delay her till they shall obtain the said answer or be otherways satisfied anent the premisses.

April 29th 1711

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Milligen appears in publick a 2nd time and is continued.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above Janet Milligen appeared in publick this day for a 2nd time to the end abovewritten and that having been rebuked and exhorted she was continued.

(Sutherland chosen to attend presbytery.)

This day also Daniel Sutherland is appointed to attend the minister to the presbytery as ruling Elder till the next Synod.

May 6th 1711

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Milligen appears in publick a 3rd time and continued.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above Janet Milligen appeared this day in publick for a 3rd time to the end abovewritten and that having been rebuked and exhorted she was continued.

May 13th 1711

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Milligen appears in publick a 4th time and continued.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above Janet Milligen appeared this day in publick for a 4th time to the end above written being guilty as is above narrated of a relapse and that having been rebuked and exhorted she was continued.

(Kissocks answer containing confession of his guilt with Stillie. Stillie ordered to be cited.)

This day also was judicially produced and read a letter of answer from the above Samuel Kissock wherein he owns himself to have been guilty of fornication with the above Isabell Stillie in the terms of her above accusation wherefore the Session appoint her to be cited in before them against Sabbath next being the 20th instant.

May 20th 1711

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Milligen appears in publick a 5th time and is ordered from the pulpit to wait on Session after sermons.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above Janet Millgen appeared in publick this day for a 5th time for profession of repentance for her said sin of fornication with the above mentioned James Mitchel and that having been rebuked and exhorted she was from the pulpit ordered to wait upon the session after sermons.

(Stillie compears before Session and appointed to appear in publick next Lord's day.)

This day also compeared the above Isabel Stillie in obedience to the above citation who being rebuked and exhorted was appointed to appear in publick next Lord's day being the 27th instant to make profession of repentance for her said sin of fornication with the above Samuel Kissock.

(Milligen appears before Sesionwho finding ground appoint her to be absolved next Lord's day.)

The said Janet Milligen also being called compeared and the Session after trial finding ground to proceed towards her absolution appoint her to appear in publick next Lord's day being the 27th instant and upon her giving suitable expressions of her sorrow for her said sin before the Congregation then to be absolved.

May 27th 1711

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Milligens absolution is ordered to be marked.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above Janet Milligen appeared in publick this day for a 6th time to then end above written and that having given suitable expressions of her sorrow for her said sin before the Congregation she was rebuked, exhorted and absolved.

(Stillie appears in publick a 1st time and continued.)

It is also ordered to be marked that the above Isabell Stillie appeared this day in publick for a 1st time to the end above written and that having been rebuked and exhorted she was continued.

June 3rd 1711

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Stillie appears in publick a 2nd time and ordered from pulpit to wait on Session after Sermon.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above Isabell Stillie appeared in public for a 2nd time to the end above written and that that having been rebuked and exhorted she was from the pulpit ordered to wait upon the Session after sermons.

The said Isabell therefore being called compeared and the Session after trial finding ground to proceed towards her absolution appoint her to appear in publick next Lord's (day) being the 10th instant to the end above written and upon her giving suitable expressions of her sorrow for her above sin before the Congregation then to be absolved.

June 10th 1711

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Stillies absolution ordered to be marked.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above Isabell Stillie appeared this day in publick for a 3rd time for profession of her repentance for her above sin of fornication with the above Samuel Kissock and that having given suitable expressions of her repentance for her said sin she was rebuked exhorted and absolved.

June 17th 1711

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Communion Day resolved upon and ordered upon and ordered to be intimated and a meeting for prayer appointed.)

This day the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper being design'd this summer in this place the Session resolve upon the the 3rd Sabbath of July being the 15th day of that moneth for that end and order intimation hereof to be made next Lord's day being the 24th instant and appoint a meeting for prayer upon the 19th of this instant.

June 19th 1711

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Meeting for prayer fulfilled and intimation of Communion day ordered to be marked. Another meeting for prayer appointed.)

This day the Session having fulfilled the appointment of the preceeding sederunt ordered it to be marked that intimation of the of the day of the Celebration of the Lord's Supper above design'd was made upon the said 24th past of this instant and appointed another meeting for prayer upon the 6th of July next.

July 6th 1711

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Meeting for prayer (unreadable – page damaged) Communion roll taken.)

This day the Session after several of their number had prayed took a list of the several persons within the paroch capable of being admitted to the Lord's Supper.

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August 26th 1711

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Celebration of the Sacrament ordered to be marked.)

This day it is ordered to be marked that the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated in this place upon the above 15th day of July last as was above designed.

(Irregular marriage betwixt Mitchel and Napier delated and they ordered to be cited.)

This day also the Session being informed that the above James Mitchell* and Mary Napier Servitrix to the Laird of Horsecleugh co-habit together as married persons do therefore appoint them to be cited in before them against Sabbath next being the 2nd of September ensuing.

**this is the same James Mitchel who had the child in fornication with Janet Milligen!*

September 2nd 1711

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Mitchel and Napier compear before Session. Own their irregular marriage and give in testimonial thereof.)

This day the above James Mitchel and Mary Napier being called compeared and own that they do cohabit as above and that because they are married as they pretend, for documenting whereof they gave in a testimonial from one Mr Mushet, a Curat, who they say married them, which testimonial being read bears that they were married by the said Mushet upon the 13th day of August last without showing the place where, before witnesses John Buchanan and Agnes Jamison, persons undersign'd therein, whose names being written under the said testimonial are of the same hand with body of it. The Session considering not only the informality foresaid of the above testimonial but also that the said Mushet is a scandalous person put under the sentence of the greater excommunication by the General assembly of this church do therefore inhibit and discharge the said James Mitchel and Mary Napier on pretence of their above clandestine marriage to cohabit together as man and wife on pain of being censured as fornicators till they advise the above witnesses to give their depositions in this affair which they appoint them to do betwixt and the first of October next.

October 14th 1711

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Crighton and Howatson delated for antenuptial fornication and ordered to be cited to Session.)

This day the Session being informed that Mary Howatson Relict* of the decease'd John Herbert in Crosler is with child by fornication to Robert Crighton, servitor to the said Mary with whom she was proclaimed this day for a third time in order to marriage, appoint them both to be cited in before the Session against the 28th of this instant.

**Relict = widow*

October 28th 1711

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Crighton and Howatson compear before Session and confess guilt wit one another and are appointed to appear in publick.)

This day the above Robert Crighton and Mary Howatson called compeared and mutually acknowledged themselves to be guilty with one another in the terms of the above information. The Session having rebuked and exhorted them appoint them to appear in publick next lord's day for profession of their repentance for their said sin.

(Sutherland chosen to attend Persbytery with minister.)

This day also Daniel Sutherland is chosen to attend the presbytery with the minister as ruling Elder till the next Synod.

November 4th 1711

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Chrighon and Howatson compear in publick a 1st time.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above Robert Crighton and Mary Howatson appeared in publick this day for a first time to the end above writen and that having been rebuked and exhorted they were continued.

(McCowan delated guilty of fornication in Muirkirk. Ordered to be cited to Session.)

This day was produced a letter from the minister of Muirkirk desiring the Session to convene before them on Marion McCowan alleged guilty of fornication committed in the said paroch of Muirkirk who hath lately settled in this. The Session therefore appoint the said Marion to be cited in before them against Thursday next being the 8th instant.

November 8th 1711

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(McCowan compears before Session. Accuses Whytehaugh. Her confession ordered to be transmitted to Muirkirk.)

This day the above Marion McCowan called compeared and confesses herself to have been guilty of fornication while in the above paroch of Muirkirk and that she hath brought forth a child thereby to the Laird of Whytehaugh in the said paroch. The Session appoint the minister to transmit an account hereof to the said Kirk Session of Muirkirk that she may be conveyened before them for the removing of her scandall.

(Mitchel and Napier remove clandestinely out of the paroch and are ordered to be cited to Session if they return.)

This day the Session being informed that the above James Mitchel and Mary Napier have clandestinely removed from the family where they were serving in this paroch and that it is uncertain whither they are gone. The Session appoint them to be cited in before them whenever notice shall be given of their return.

November 11th 1711

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Crighton and Howatson appear in publick for a 2nd time – are ordered from the pulpit to attend Session after Sermons. They compear before Session who finding ground appoint them to be absolved.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above Robert Crighton and Mary Howatson appeared in publick this day for a 2nd time for profession of repentance for their above sin and that having been rebuked and exhorted they were from the pulpit ordered to wait upon the Session after Sermons wherefore.

Being called they compeared and the Session after trial finding ground to proceed towards their absolution appoint them to appear in publick next Lord's day to the end above written and upon their giving suitable expressions of their sorrow for their said sin then to be absolved.

November 18th 1711

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Chrichton and Howatson appearing in publick for a 3rd time are absolved.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above Robert Chrichton and Mary Howatson appeared in publick this day for a 3rd time to the end above written and that having given suitable expressions of their sorrow for their above sin they were rebuked exhorted and absolved.

(Bonds belonging to the poor informed to be in Logans hands or in the hands of his brother Hugh. Mcgeighen and Clerk appointed to call for them and to report.)

This day also the Session being informed that there are some bonds belonging to the poor of this place lying in the hands of the Laird of Logan

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or of Hugh Logan his brother and do therefore appoint James Mcgeighan and William Clerk two of their number to call for the said bonds and upon their receiving of them to grant receipt to the **howers*** and the said members to report their diligence against Thursday next being the 22nd instant.

**word uncertain.*

November 22nd 1711

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Above members report that above bonds are in Hugh Logans hands and that he refuses to give them up. The treasurer appointed to pursue for them.)

The above Elders appointed to call for the poor's bonds report that they are lying in the hands of the above Hugh Logan but that he refuses to give them up unless he be distressed, alledging that he cannot otherways be in safety to part with them. Wherefore the Session nominate and appoint Daniel Sutherland present Kirk Treasurer to compear in their name before the Baillie of the Regality of this place and pursue for recovery of the said bonds and upon his receiving of them to grant receipt of discharge thereof in such terms as the said Baillie shall appoint.

December 16th 1711

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Campbel delated for fornication and appointed to be cited.)

This day the Session being informed that Sarah Campbel daughter to the Laird of Glaisnock is with child by fornication appoint her to be cited in before them against tomorrow being the 17th instant.

December 17th 1711

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Campbel compearing confesses guilt and accuses Brown who is ordered to be cited. Campbel cited apud acta.)

This day the above Sarah Campbel called compeared and confesses herself to be with child by fornication to Thomas Brown, late servitor to George Campbel apothecary in Cumnock. The Session appoint the said Thomas to be cited in before them against Saturday next being the 22nd instant and cite the said Sarah apud acta to the said diet.

December 22nd 1711

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Brown compearing confesses – he and Campbel appointed to appear in publick.)

This day the above Thomas Brown called compeared and confesses himself to be guilty with the above Sarah Campbell in the terms of the above accusation. The said Sarah also being called and compearing. The Session having rebuked and exhorted them both appoint them to appear in publick tomorrow for profession of their repentance for their above sin.

December 30th 1711

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Brown and Campbel – their 1st and 2nd appearance in publick ordered to be marked. They are appointed from the pulpit to wait upon Session.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above Thomas Brown and Sarah Campbel made publick profession of their repentance for their above sin of fornication with one another upon Sabbath last being 23rd past of this instant for a 1st time and this day for a 2nd time and that having been rebuked and exhorted they were appointed from the pulpit to wait upon Session this afternoon wherefore.

(Brown and Campbel appearing before Session appointed to be absolved.)

The said Thomas Brown and Sarah Campbel being called compeared and the Session after trial finding ground to proceed towards their absolution appoint them to appear in publick next Lord's day being the 6th January next and upon their giving suitable expressions of their sorrow for their above sin before Congregation then to be absolved.

January 6th 1712

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Brown and Campbel – their absolution ordered to be marked.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above Thomas Brown and Sarah Campbel appeared in publick this day for a 3rd time to the end above written and that having given suitable expressions of their sorrow for their above sin they were rebuked exhorted and absolved.

January 6th 1712

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Inconveniency of a want of Elders in several quarters considered. McRae Mcartney Muir and Sloan condescended upon. Their Edict appointed to be served in order to ordination.)

This day the Session considering the great inconveniency of wanting Elders in several quarters of the Congregation and for removing thereof having, after mature deliberation and prayer to God for direction, been satisfied anent the fitness of the persons afternamed viz: Alan McRae, George Mcairtney in Whytehill, William Muir in Bouton, James Sloan in *(place name left blank)* and William McCowan in *(place name left blank)* for the Eldership and having several times formerly spoken with the said person for that effect and they having professed their willingness to accept the Session therefore by unanimous vote appoint the said persons to be ordained Elders upon the first Sabbath of April next being the 6th of that moneth and their Edict in order thereto to be served next Lord's day being the 23rd instant.

March 23rd 1712

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(The above named persons, the Edicts served, dyets appointed fro receiving and considering objections against them.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above persons design'd for the Eldership, their Edict was served this day and that intimation was made of the Session's being to meet next Sabbath afternoon and in the forenoon of the Sabbath following to receive and consider whatever objections may be offered against the intended ordination of any of the forenamed persons.

March 30th 1712

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(No objections offered against them.)

It is ordered to be marked that none compeared at this Sederunt to offer objections against the ordination of the above named persons.

April 6th 1712

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(The minister appointed to proceed towards their ordination.)

It is ordered to be marked that no objections were offered this Sederunt against any of the abovenamed persons design'd to be set apart this day (to) the Eldership therefore the minister is appointed to proceed

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towards their ordination this forenoon after sermon to be had for this purpose.

Aprile 20th 1712

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Their ordination ordered to be marked.)

This day it is ordered to be marked that the abovenamed persons were set apart for the Eldership upon the 6th day of Aprile.

June 29th 1712

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(The Celebration of the Sacrament design'd, the day condescended upon, a meeting for prayer appointed.)

This day the Celebration of the Lord's Supper being design'd this summer in this place, the Session resolve upon the last Sabbath of July next being the 27th of that month for that effect and appoint a meeting for prayer against Tuesday next, being the 1st of July ensuing.

July 1st 1712

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(The above appointment fulfilled. The day of Celebration ordered to be intimated. Another meeting for prayer appointed.)

This day the Session having fulfilled the appointment of the preceeding Sederunt appoint intimation to be made of the day above resolved upon for the Celebration of the Sacrament against Sabbath next being the 6th of this instant and another meeting for prayer upon the 15th of this moneth.

July 15th 1712

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Session meet again for prayer and make up a Communion roll.)

This day the Session after severals of their number had prayed ordered it to be marked that intimation was made upon the said 6th past of this instant of the Celebration of the Sacrament and took a list of the several person within the paroch capable of being admitted thereto.

August 3rd 1712

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Marked that the Sacrament was celebrated.)

This day it is ordered to be marked that the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated in this place on the said 27th July last as was above designed.

January 22nd 1713

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Mitchel delated for fornication, ordered to be cited.)

This day the Session being informed the Helen Mitchel servitrix to John Herbert in Gelt is with child by fornication do appoint her to be cited in before them against Sabbath next being the 25th instant.

January 25th 1713

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Mitchel compearing confesses. Accuses Herbert. The Clerk ordered to write to New Cumnock faor causing cite Harbert. Mitchel cited apud acta.)

The above Helen Mitchel being called compeared and confesses herself to be with child by fornication to John Herbert*, servitor to the above John Herbert in Gelt. The Session being informed that the said John Herbert is now removed to the paroch of New Cumnock appoint the Clerk to write to the Kirk Session there to cause cite him in before this against Sabbath next being the 1st of February ensuing and cite the said Helen apud acta to the said diet.

**John Herbert – This name is frequently written as John Harbert and it is unclear which is the correct spelling*

February 1st 1713

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Harbert compearing confesses and he and Mitchel appointed to appear in public.)

This day, the Session having received an execution of the above John Herbert's citation to this diet cause call him together with the above Helen Mitchel and he owns himself to be guilty with the said Helen in the terms of the above accusation. The Session having rebuked and exhorted them appoint them to appear in publick next Lord's day being the 8th of this instant for profession of their repentance.

February 8th 1713

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Harbert and Mitchel appear in public a first time.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above John Herbert and Helen Mitchel appeared in publick this day for a 1st time to the end above written and that having been rebuked an exhorted they were continued.

February 15th 1713

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Harbert and Mitchel appear in public a second time time ordered from the pulpit to wait on Session. They compear before Session and are delayed and appointed to converse with Minister and Elders.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above John Harbert and Helen Mitchel appeared in publick this day for a 2nd time and that having been rebuked and exhorted they were from the pulpit ordered to wait upon the Session this afternoon wherefore.

Being called they compeared but the Session after trial not finding ground to proceed towards their absolution delay them for some time and appoint them to converse with the minister and such of the Elders as they shall have most access to anent their case.

February 22nd 1713

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Harbert compears ultroneously and is appointed to be absolved.)

This day compeared ultroneously the above John Harbert desiring to be absolved from the scandal of his above sin. The minister and severals of the Elders reporting that in obedience to the above appointment he had been with them and had appeared more sensible of his sin than formerly. Therefore and upon his profession of repentance now before themselves the Session finding ground to proceed towards his absolution appoint him to appear in publick next Lord's day being the 1st of march ensuing to the end above written and upon hid giving satisfying expressions of his sorrow for his said sin then to be absolved.

February 15th 1713

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Harbert's absolution ordered to be marked. Mitchel informed to be sick delayed.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above John Harbert appeared this day in publick for a 3rd time for profession of repentance for his above sin of fornication with the above Helen Mitchel and that having given suitable expressions of his sorrow therefore he was rebuked exhorted and absolved.

This day also the Session being informed that the above Helen Mitchel is ... *(page damaged)* sick delay her till they hear of her recovery.

P 30.**March 8th 1713**

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Mortification of 50 merks by Watson's Relict which the Treasurer is appointed to receive and give receipt of to Simson her neece who is appointed and (an) Extract of this minute.)

This day the Session being informed that there was mortified* to the poor of this paroch the sum of fifty merks Scots by Mrs Janet Crighton relict to the deceased Mr John Watson, Episcopal minister at Auchinleck a little before her death to be pay'd by Sarah Simson her neece, do therefore appoint William Hodge present Kirk Treasurer to call for and receive the same and to grant valid receipt and discharge thereof to the said Sarah Simson together with an extract of this their minute thereanent subscribed by the moderator and Clerk which extract was accordingly subscribed in presence of the Session day and date foresaid and delivered to the Treasurer to the end above written.

**mortified = bequeathed for charitable purposes*

March 15th 1713

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(The above 50 merks received.)

This day it is ordered to be marked that the above 50 merks mortified by the above Mrs Janet Crighton was received from the above Sarah Simson and that discharge thereof with and Extract of the above minute of Sederunt thereanent was according to appointment given her.

March 29th 1713

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Mitchel dead.)

This day the Session are informed that the above Helen Mitchell who was guilty of fornication with the above John Herbert and delayed for the causes above narrated is dead.

(Mcirvail libels Wilson and Kissock. The lybel found relevant and witnesses and parties ordered to be cited. Mcirvail cited apud acta.)

This day also compeared George Mcirvail in Cumnock and gave in a supplication* to the Session in name of himself and his wife Mary Samson against Janet Wilson, spouse to William Kissock, merchant in Cumnock, and Jean Kissock her daughter bearing that the said Janet Wilson and Jean Kissock had called him, the said George, a proven thief and particularly that he had stolen corn and that he and his said spouse had lived too near George Kissock, son to the said Janet Wilson his barn whereby they had made up their pack since they came there. And further that the said Jean called the said Mary Samson a whore, a thief, a witch and witches get and therefore craving redress and for proving the above lyball he, the said George Mcirvail gave in the following list of witnesses, viz: Alan McRae in Whitehill, Alexander Stillie in Cumnock, John Wilson there, Hugh Thomson there, John Greg, servitor to John Gilchrist there, Agnes Stillie there, Jean Weir there, Jean Campbell there. The Session having read and considered the said lyball found the same relevant and appoint the said Janet Wilson and Jean Kissock, parties and the witnesses above written to be cited in before them against Sabbath next being the 6th of Aprile ensuing and cite the said George Mcirvail apud acta to the said dyet.

**supplication – a petition*

Aprile 6th 1713

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Mcirvail compearing craves his libel may be insisted upon but is delayed. Parties cited apud acta. Some members ordered to deal with them and report.)

This day the above George McErvail called compeared and desires that his above lybell may be insisted upon But the witnesses living in the place it was moved that their examination should be delayed till this day eight dayes upon some ground of expectation suggested that the parties being privately dealt with might perhaps confess and save the Session any further trouble about them wherefore the Session having called in the witnesses and parties intimated the said delay to them and cite them all apud acta to compear before them against this day eight dayes being the 13th instant and in the meant time appoint George Campbell, James Johnston and Daniel Sutherland, three of their number, to convey the said parties before them tomorrow and to use their utmost endeavours to bring them to a confession and to report.

(Wilson and Kissock libel Mcervail and Samson.)

This day also compeared the above Janet Wilson and Jean Kissock and gave in a supplication against the above George Mcirvail and Mary Samson his spouse bearing that the said George had called the said Janet Wilson a Drunken Slavery Fanny Bailie* and that both the said spouses had slandered the said Jean Kissock by saying that she had lyen with other men besides her own husband, the said George having further added that the said Jean Kissock had done so thrice in one night and further that the said Mary Samson had called the said Jean Kissock a Drunken Barrel and therefore craving redress all which the said Janet Wilson and Jean Kissock offered to prove by the witnesses underwritten – viz Alexander Drummond in Cumnock, John Greg servitor to John Gilchrist there, Agnes Thomson, spouse to John Brown there, Jean Campbel commonly called Shankstown Jean there, Jean Weir there, Hugh Thomson there and Marion Clide there. The Session having read and considered the said libell found the same relevant and cite the said Janet Wilson and Jean Kissock apud acta to the above 13th of this instant together also with the above George Mcirvail and Mary Samson the persons herby accused and appoint the witnesses above named in this libell to be cited in before them the said day, recommending t to the members above named in Mcirvails affair to use their endeavours ut supra in this affair also and to report.

**slavery – slevery – talks nonsense*

**fanny baillie – I can't find an exact definition, but we should bring it back as an insult!!*

Aprile 13th 1713

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Members report that Wilson and Kissock deny Mcirvails libel. And that Mcirvail and Samson confess some things. Mcervail and Samson crave insisting in their libel which Wilson and Kissock yet denie.)

This day the members above appointed to deal with the above lybellers report that they had conveyed the said persons before them but that the above Janet Wilson and Jean Kissock continued obstinately to deny all the articles of the lybell given in against them by the above George Mcirvail.

Also that the above George Mcirvail and Mary Samson denied all the lybell given in against them by the said Janet Wilson and Jean Kissock save that the said Mary owned that she said she could liken the said Jean to nothing but a Drunken Barrel and that she said if the said Jean would not let her

alone with her scolding she would cause her get the Cockstool* as she, the said Jean had gotten at Kilmarnock, but that Cockstool escaped her for Common Stool. And further that the said George owned that he called the above Janet Wilson Drunken Fanny Bailie.

**cockstool = pillory*

The above George Mcervail and Mary Samson being called compeared and further craved that their lybel might be insisted upon and Jean Kissock being called compeared and being interrogate upon the said libel continue8 to denie ut supra. Witnesses therefore ordered to be called.

(McRae compears.)

Alan McRae called compeared aged about 50 married who being solemnly judiciously sworn, purg'd of malice and partial counsel

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(McRae's deposition.)

depons that he saw the said Jean Kissock come to the door of her house and heard her say "Witches Get" and that he saw no other body that she could be speaking to but the said Mary Samson and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Sic subscribitur – Alan Mcrae.

(Stillie compears. His deposition.)

Alexander Stillie called, compeared aged about 60 or thereby unmarried who being solemnly judicially sworn and purg'd of malice and partial counsel depons that he heard Jean Kissock say that the said Mary Samson had nothing but what she had won by cheatry and falsehood and that they sate too nigh her brothers barn door and that made them so paughty* and this the truth as he shall answer to God and declares he cannot write.

**paughty = insolent, haughty*

(Wilson compears. His deposition)

John Wilson called compeared aged about 40 married who being solemnly judicially sworn, purg'd of malice and partial counsel depons that he the said Jean Kysock cried "Witches Get" but that he knew not whether she cri'd it to Mary Samson or her child and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Sic subcribitur – John Wilson.

(Wilson compears. His deposition.)

Hugh Thomson called compeared aged about 17 or 18 unmarried who being purg'd (of) malice and partial counsel and solemnly and judicially sworn and interrogate depons that he heard the said Janet Wilson call the said George Mcervail a thief and that he had stolen corn but as to the said Jean Kissock depons negative and this is the truth as he shall answer to God/ Sub Scribitur – Heugh Thomson.

(Greg compears. His deposition.)

John Greg called compears aged 20 or thereby unmarried who being solemnly judicially sworn, purged of malice and partial counsel depons as to the said Jean Kissock negative, but that he heard

the said Janet Wilson say to the said George Mcervail that he was not so paughty long ago when he stole corn and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Sub scribitur – John Greg.

(Stillie compears. Her deposition.)

Agnes Stillie called, compeared aged about 60 unmarried who being solemnly judicially sworn, purg'd of malice and partial counsel depons as to the said Jean Kissock negative but that she heard the said Janet Wilson call George Mcervail a Thief Loun* and that he stole corn long ago and this is the truth as she shall answer to God and declares that she cannot write.

**Loun = a low or worthless person*

(Weir compears. Her deposition.)

Jean Weir called compeared aged about 50 unmarried who being solemnly judicially sworn, purg'd of malice and partial counsel depons as to the said Jean Kissock negative but that she heard the said Janet Wilson say that the said George Mcervail was not so paughty long ago when he stole corn and this is the truth as she shall answer to God and declares that she cannot write.

(Campbel compears. Her deposition.)

Jean Campbel called compeared aged about 18 or 19 unmarried who being solemnly judicially sworn purg'd of malice and partial counsel depons that she heard Jean Kissock say that the said Mary Samson sate too nigh her brothers barn door with her wheel and that she further heard her call the said Mary a whore and thief, a witch and Witches Get and moreover that she heard the said Janet Wilson say that the said George Mcervail was not so paughty long ago when he stole corn and this is the truth as she shall answer to God and declares she cannot write.

(Wilson and Kysock crave insisting in their lybel.)

The above Janet Wilson and Jean Kysock crave likeways that their lybell against the above George Mcervail and Mary Samson may be now insisted upon and the said George and Mary being interrogate thereupon continue to yet to deny excepting what is above confessed wherefore the Session order the witnesses to be called.

(Drummond compears and depons.)

Alexander Drummond called compeared aged about fifty married who being solemnly judicially sworn, purg'd of malice and partial counsel depons negative and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Sub scribitur – Alexander Drummond.

(Greg compears and depons.)

John Greg called compeared aged twinty or thereby who being solemnly judicially sworn, purg'd of malice and partial counsel depons negative and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Sub scribitur – John Greg.

(Thomson compears. She depons.)

Agnes Thomson called compeared aged fifty or thereby, married who being solemnly judicially sworn, purg'd of malice and partial counsel depons negative and this is the truth as she shall answer to God and declares that she cannot write.

(Campbell compears and depons.)

Jean Campbell called compeared aged about eighteen or nineteen, unmarried who being solemnly judicially sworn, purg'd of malice and partial counsel depons negative and this is the truth as she shall answer to God and declares that she cannot write.

(Weir compears and depons.)

Jean Weir called compeared aged fifty or thereby, unmarried who being solemnly judicially sworn, purg'd of malice and partial counsel depons negative and this is the truth as she shall answer to God and declares that she cannot write.

(Thomson compears. He depons.)

Hugh Thomson called compeared aged about seventtten or eighteen and being solemnly judicially sworn, purg'd of malice and partial counsel depons negative and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Sub scribitur – Heugh Thomson.

(Clide compears and depons.)

Marion Clide called compeared who being solemnly judicially sworn, purged of malice and partial counsel aged about thirty depons negative and this is the truth as she shall answer to God and declares she cannot write.

(The Session sentence against the parties. Mcervail and Samson rebuked Sessionally which is ordered to be marked. Wilson and Kissock appointed to appear in publick.)

The Session having considered the above depositions upon the respective libels foresaid find it proven that the said Janet Wilson hath called the said George Mcervail a thief and particularly asserted that he had stolen corn and that the said Jean Kissock hath called the said Mary Samson a Witches Get and a Thief. As also that they the said Janet Wilson and Jean Kissock have succumbed in the probation of their lybell against the said George Mcervail and Mary Samson save what is above confessed, for the which articles confessed the Session rebuke the said George Mcervail and Mary Samson now and appoint this their rebuke to be intimated to the Congregation next Lord's day after forenoon's sermon. But in regard of the above Janet Wilson and Jean Kissock their multiplied heinous offences above narrated, the Session not only rebuke them now but also appoint them to appear in the publick place of repentance next Lord's day being the 20th instant

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There to be rebuked for their said offences and upon there confession and professing sorrow publickly for the same then to be dismissed.

May 3rd 1713

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Marked that Wilson appeared in publick and was dismissed. Kissock not appearing in publick ordered to be cited to Session.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above Janet Wilson appeared in publick according to appointment upon the said 20th of Aprile last and that having confessed and profess'd sorrow for her said offences she was rebuked, exhorted and dismissed.

This day also the Session appoint the above Jean Kissock not having appeared in publick to be cited in before them against Sabbath next, being the 10th instant.

May 10th 1713

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Kissock not compearing ordered to be cited pro secundo.)

This day the above Jean Kissock having been called compeared not, wherefore the Session order her to be cited pro 2ndo to compear before them against sabbath next being the 17th instant.

May 17th 1713

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Kissock not compearing ordered to be cited pro 3tio.)*

This day the above Jean Kissock having been called compeared not, wherefore the Session order her to be cited pro 3tio to compear before the session against Sabbath next being the 24th instant.

(Douglas chosen to attend the presbytery.)

This day also Robert Douglass is chosen to attend the Presbytery with the minister as Ruling Elder til the next Synod.

**3tio = tertio = for a third time.*

May 24th 1713

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Kissock not compearing, The minister is to lay her case before the presbytery and is to report.)

This day the above Jean Kissock having been called compeared not till the Session was risen. The Session appoint an extract of the process anent her to be laid before the Presbytery by the minister at their next meeting, who is appointed to report the presbyteries mind thereanent.

June 4th 1713

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(The Presbyteries advice is reported anent Kissock that she should be cited pro 4to.)*

This day the minister reports that he had laid the above extract of Jean Kissock's process before the Presbytery who advised that the Session cause cite her again before them seeing she had compeared upon the last citation tho after the Session was risen, and if she shall not compear and satisfy the Session upon this 4th citation that she be cited to compear before the next Presbytery, wherefore the Session appoint her to be cited in before them against Sabbath next being the 7th instant.

**pro 4to = pro quaterto = for a fourth time*

June 7th 1713

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Kissock compears but refuses to obey Sessions sentence. She is cited apud acta to Presbytery.)

This day, the above Jean Kissock called compeared but continuing yet contumacious* and refusing to obey the Sessions former sentence anent her. The Session by advice above written cite her apud acta to compear before the Presbytery at Air upon the 17th of this instant.

**contumacious – stubbornly and wilfully disobedient to authority.*

June 21st 1713

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Celebration of Sacrament design'd, the day condescended upon and ordered to be intimated...)

This day, The Celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper being intended this summer in this place resolve upon the 3^d Sabbath of July next for that effect and order intimation hereof to be made next Lord's day being the 28th instant.

July 5th 1713

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(...which is ordered to be marked and a meeting for prayer appointed.)

This day the Session having ordered it to be marked that intimation was made upon the said 28th July (June) last of the day above resolved upon for Celebration of the Lords Supper appoint a meeting for prayer upon Fryday next being the 10th of this instant.

July 10th 1713

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Meeting for prayer observed and a communion roll taken.)

This day the session after several of their number had pray'd took a list of the several persons within the paroch capable of being admitted to the Lord's Table.

August 30th 1713

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(The Celebration of the Sacrament ordered to be marked.)

It is ordered to be marked that the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated in this place upon the above 3rd Sabbath of July being the 19th of that moneth as was afore designed.

September 6th 1713

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Logan content to give of the poor's bonds without pursuit. Minister's clerk to receive them and grant receipt and extract of Session's minute.)

This day the Session are informed that the above Hugh Logan is content without process to give up the two bonds belonging to poor of this place lying in his hands, wherefore they appoint the minister and the clerk in their name upon delivery of the said two bonds to grant receipt thereof as also to give the said Hugh an extract of this their minute signed likewise by them if he shall demand the same.

September 13th 1713

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(The poor's bonds in Hugh Logan's hands produced and read in Session and the debtors with the sums and dates thereof recorded.)

This day the Minister and Clerk report that they had got up the above bonds from the above Hugh Logan and had according to appointment given him receipt thereof with an extract of the above minut, which bonds having been granted to Mr George Logan of that ilk, father to the said Hugh, as one of the Elders of the paroch of Cumnock. The one by Mr William Dalrymple therein design'd, second son to John, Viscount of Stair containing the sum of two hundred merks with penalty and annual rents dated the thirtieth day of October **?pasbye?*** and one years. The other granted by William Wilson, merchant in Cumnock containing the sum of one hundred and thirty three pounds, six shillings and eight penneys Scots money with annual cuts and penalty dated the twinty ninth day of May **?pasbye?** and two years were judicially produced and read and by appointment of the Session given in custody to

**pasbye – I don't believe that this is a word, but this is an approximation of it. I have seen it in several old documents, and believe it to be the date 1700 – possibly an abbreviation or Latin for something like "year of our lord 1700".*

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(Hodge treasurer gets the bonds a keeping. Some members appointed to deal with Mr William Dalrymple to take the hail money into his own hand and give security.)

William Hodge present Kirk treasurer. And further the Session willing to have the said sums principal and annual rents contained in the two bonds respective above writen accumulated and lodged in some secure hand, appoint the minister, Bailie Fergusson and George Campbel, three of their number to apply to the Right Honourable Master William Dalrymple of Glenmuir principal heretor* of this place that he would please to take the sums of money abovementioned into his own hand

and give security therefore, and the said members to report their diligence against the next Sederunt.

**Heretor – a landowner with a liability to contribute the upkeep of the church*

September 20th 1713

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(The above members report that Mr William is content that the Session take assignation to My Lord Chrichton's bond from Nimmo at ?? next containing seven hundred merks. The Session being satisfied with the above report order the debtors in the above bonds to have their money ready against martimess.)

The members appointed last sederunt to apply to the Right Honourable Mr William Dalrymple for securing the poor's money in his hand report that, after much pains used with him for that effect, he was at length prevailed upon to consent to the Session's taking assignation to a bond of seven hundred merks Scots, granted by the deceased Charles Lord Crichton to Mr Samuel Nimmo, late Episcopal minister at Coldingtoun which he, the said Mr William had promised to pay to the said Mr Samuel at the term of martimess* next and desired that the session might have the said sum of seven hundred merks in readiness against the said term. With which report and security the Session being unanimously satisfied ordered the members above written to advertise the above William Wilson to have the sums principall and annual rents contained in his bond above written in readiness against the said term, the said William having ordered what is contained in his bond to be advanced upon demand.

**mertimess = Martinmas = 11th November (St Martin is the patron saint of the poor, drunkards and beggars! Since 1918 it has become Armistice Day.) (From Historic UK - Martinmas is also a Scottish term day. The Scottish legal year is divided into four term and quarter days: Candlemas, Whitsunday, Lammas and Martinmas. On these days servants would be hired, rent would be due and contracts would begin or end. Traditionally therefore, Martinmas was also the time of hiring fairs, at which agricultural labourers and farm hands would seek employment.)*

September 27th 1713

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Wilson promises to have his money ready an Nimmo ordered to be written to.)

This day the members appointed to speak with the above William Wilson report that they had advertised him ut supra and that he had promised to have his money ready against the above term. Wherefore the Session appoint Bailie Fergusson to write to the above Mr Nimmo that he is to receive his money contained in the said Charles, Lord Chrichton his bond from the Session upon his granting assignation thereof to them and that against the term of mertimess abovewritten.

October 18th 1713

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Bailie reports that he had written Nimmo and that Nimmo is content to assign.)

This day, the Bailie reports that according to appointment he had written to the above Mr Nimmo who had returned answer that he was content to go into the Session's proposal and desired that the

Session might have his money in readiness against the term above written, the which letter of answer was judicially produced and read.

November 8th 1713

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Some members appointed to see the money principal and @ rents of the above bonds received, The treasurer ordered to advance what is wanting to make up the...

This day the Session appoint Bailie Fergusson, Daniel Sutherland and Gilbert Eckles, three of their number to see the money of the above two bonds principall and annual rents uplifted from the above Mr William Dalrymple and William Wilson to the poor of this place and order the treasurer to advance out of the Box what money shall be wanting to make up the above seven hundred merks, recommending it to the said members to take care with all possible hast(e) to transmit the same to the above Mr Samuel Nimmo in order to their obtaining the said deceas'd Charles Lord Chrichton, his bond above mentioned with the said Mr Nimmo his assignation thereto.

November 15th 1713

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(The above members report that the Treasurer had advanced 46 pounds 10 shillings and 4 pennys Scots to make up the above 700 merks.)

This day the members appointed to see the above money uplifted report that they had fulfilled the above appointment and that the sums principal and annual rents accumulated ammounting to the sum of four hundred and twinty pounds, three shillings Scots money. The Treasurer had advanced out of the box fourty six pounds, ten shillings, four penneys money foresaid for making up the above seven hundred merks which they had transmitted by the carrier according to appointment.

December 13th 1713

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Crighton's bond with Nimmo's assignation judicially produced and read & are both ordered to be registrated.)

This day was judicially produced and read the above deceas'd Charles Lord Crighton his bond of seven hundred merks made and granted to the said Mr Samuel Nimmo of the date **pasbye*** and (*blank space*) yeares with the said Mr Samuel Nimmo his assignation thereto of the date the twinty fifth day of November **pasbye** and thirteen yeares. The Session appoint the Treasurer to cause registrate the said Bond and assignation in the Legality Court books of Cumnock for conservation.

**This is the same word that I believe represents the year 1700.*

December 24th 1713

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Reported that the above bond and assignation are registrate.)

This day the Treasurer reports that according to appointment he had caused registrate the above Bond and Assignment and produced Extracts thereof which were judicially read and again lodged in his hands.

(Ten pounds Scots ordered to be given for old and new acts of assembly.)

This day also in obedience to an act of the Synod the Session appoint the treasurer to give ten pounds Scots to the minister for buying the old and new acts of the Assembly.

June 13th 1714

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Acts of Assembly produced and committed to the Clerk's custody.)

This day the minister produced in Session the above Acts of the Assembly old and new. The Session appoint them to be given to the Clerk in custody which was accordingly done.

September 5th 1714

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Gibson delated for fornication. Is ordered to be cited to Session.)

This day the Session being informed that Agnes Gibson servitrix to William Wilson in Cumnock is with child by fornication do therefore order her to be cited in before them against Sabbath next, being the 12th instant.

September 12th 1714

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Gibson compearing owns herself guilty and accuses Martin. Martin ordered to be cited.)

This day the above Agnes Gibson called compeared and confesses herself to be with child by fornication and accuses Henry Martin Tailzeour* in Cumnock

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as the person guilty with her, wherefore the Session order the said Henry Martin to be cited in before them against Sabbath next being the 19th instant.

**Tailzeour – Tailor. The z written in the word is an Old Scots/English letter known as a “yogh” and which looks a bit like a number 3 in print. It is pronounced as a Y and was often replaced in printing with a Z, causing names previously pronounced as Mingys and McKinye to morph into Menzies and McKenzie.*

September 19th 1714

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Martin compearing denies guilt. He is cited apud acta and Gibson ordered to be cited.)

This day the above Henry Martin called compeared who being interrogate upon the above Accusation made against him by the above Agnes Gibson denied the same and professed that he was altogether free of having any carnal dealings with her. The Session cite him apud acta to compear before them against Sabbath next being the 26th instant and order the cite Agnes Gibson to the cited to the said dyet.

(Samson and Chalmers delated for Clandestine marriage. No evidence having been given of Chalmers her first husbands death, Session look upon them as living in Adulterous whoredom and therefore cite them (to) presbytery.)

This day also the Session being informed that Adam Samson weaver in Cumnock and Margaret Chalmers alleg'd relict of the alledg'd deceased George Simson sometime weaver in Haugh who some yeares ago went abroad a Souldiar are now Clandestinely married and live together as man and wife. And there being no evidences given of the said George Simsons death the Session could look upon them no otherwayes than as living together in Adulterous Whoredom and therefore appoint them to be cited before the presbytery at Air against the 6th of October next.

September 26th 1714

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Martin and Gibson confronted. She continues to accuse and he continues to deny. Gibson offers some presumptions of his guilt with her.)

This day the above Henry Martin and Agnes Gibson being called compeared. The Session having Confronted them the said Agnes continued to accuse and the said Henry to deny. She alleged for presumption of his guilt that one day when he was in bed with her David Jameson then servitor to the above William Wilson her master came and took away his, the said Henries, shoes from before his bedside in one room but at the same time saw him, the said Henry in bed with her in another room and that the said William Wilson's wife took him out of the bed from beside her at another time, all which the said Henry denies. She further alleges that upon the last Thursday or Fryday of May last about five of the clock in the morning he followed her from Greenbraehead to the Hamper Bank when she was going to Culton to see her sister and got her with child there. Henry owns his having gone along with her to the said place upon the said day at seven of the clock but denies the guilt alleged. She further alleges that he was found sitting his alone with her in the open field near Culton and that he was guilty with her there also and further that he went with her from Mauchline Fair to her good brothers house at Cultoun at another time and abode with her there all night and a considerable time the next day at which time he was guilty with her likewayes. He owns his having been with her at both these times and places but denies the guilts alleged. The parties being removed.

(Information against Wilson drop'd which the Session thinks deserves notice.)

The Session are informed that in July last upon the fair day in this place James Wilson son to William Wilson merchant in Cumnock came to the minister and told him that the said Agnes was come to the toun and had owned that she was with child and that some laid the blame of it upon the said James and therefore desired that the minister would call a Session and receive her confession for that he the said James had been with her that morning and that she was ready to accuse another man which information the Session think deserves notice.

(Martin offers to prove that Wilson had desired Gibson to father her child upon him. And further that Gibson said she should never father her child upon Martin. Both parties pretending to have other things to offer against one another are delayed and cited apud acta.)

Both parties being called in again, the said Henry offers to prove by Bessie Stillie spouse to James Donald in Cumnock and Mary and Penelope Donald her daughters that the said James Wilson desired the said Agnes not to father her child upon him but upon the said Henry Martin and that she should never want all her days. He offers further to prove by Katrin Dalrymple relict of the deceas'd Henry Tennant in Cumnock, Agnes Jameson there and Susanna McQuean there that the said Agnes Gibson said before them that if ever she were with child she should never father it upon him. Lastly both the said parties alleging that they have other things yet to offer. The Session delay firther considering of this affair til their next meeting upon the 3rd of October next and cite the said parties apud acta to the said dyet and order them to have in readings what they have to say against that time.

(The Presbytery appoints Session to take the witnesses declarations around Simson's death. Samson ordered to be cited.)

This day also the minister informs that the presbytery had appointed the Session to take the declarations of the witnesses anent George Simson's death, to be given in to them by the above Adam Samson. The Session therefore order the said Adam Samson to be cited in before them against the said third of October next.

October 3rd 1714

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Martin and Gibson again confronted, accuse and denie ut supra. Yet delayed and cited apud acta to 10th instant.)

This day the above Agnes Gibson and Henry Martin called compeared and being again confronted they continue yet to accuse and deny ut supra but offered nothing further to the Session in this affair. The Session willing yet further to deal with them delay them till this day eight dayes being the 10th instant and cite them apud acta to that dyet.

(Samson condescends upon witnesses for proving Simsons death. Ministers of Sorn and Mauchline ordered to be written to for causing cite them.)

This day also the above Adam Samson called compeared and gave in as witnesses anent the above George Simson's death: Hugh Patrick in Gilmscroft and Alexander Leech in Mauchlin. The Session appoint the Clerk to write to the Kirk Sessions of Mauchlin and Sorn where the said witnesses reside to cause cite them in before this session against this day eight dayes being the 10th instant and cite the said Adam apud acta to the said dyet.

October 10th 1714

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Martin and Gibson again confronted and accuse and deny ut supra are delayed 20 dayes. Cited apud acta. Their affair to be laid before the Presbytery.)

This day the above Henry Martin and Agnes Gibson called compeared and being again confronted they yet continue to accuse and deny ut supra. The Session yet delay them to this day twinty dayes

being the 31st instant and cite them apud acta to the said dyet and in the meantime appoint the minister to lay their whole affair before the presbytery for advice at their next meeting.

(Clerk reports his having written to Mauchlin and Sorn. Execution received of Patricks citation. Patricks declaration anent Simsons death.)

This day also the Clerk reports that according to appointment he had written to the above Kirk Sessions of Sorn and Mauchlin for

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causing cite the said Hugh Patrick and Alexander Leech witnesses anent the above George Simsons death, and the Session having received an execution of the said Hugh his citation caused call him, who compearing and being interrogate in the said matter declared that he knew one George Simson abroad who told him he was a weaver and lived once in Haugh, that he did not himself see the said George die but that he heard from some of his comerads that he died in an hospital but that he never heard him say anything about his having a wife or not, that it is about three yeares ago since he heard of his death and that he was a tall man, broun hair'd which several of the session knew to be true.

(No account of Leeches citation. The Clerk ordered to write again to the minister of Mauchlin to cause cite him to Nov 18th. Samson cited apud act to that dyet.)

The Session having received no account of Alexander Leeches citation to this diet appoint the Clerk to write again the Kirk Session of Mauchlin to cause cite him in before this Session against the 18th of November next and cite the above Adam Samson, who having been called compeared and was present at the said Hugh Patrick, his declaration above written, apud acta to the same dyet.

October 31st 1714

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(The Presbytery appoint the Session to proceed in Gibsons affair as they shall think fit. The Session being informed that Gibson is brought to bed sist process.)*

This day the minister reports that he had according to appointment laid the above Henry Martin and Agnes Gibsons case before the presbytery who had committed the same to the Session again to judge therein and call witnesses thereanent as they shall find ground. But the Session being informed that the said Agnes is brought to bed of her child sist process till they shall hear of her recovery.

**sist – to stay or stop process*

November 18th 1714

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Gibson and Martin ordered to be cited against next session.)

This day the Session being informed that the above Agnes Gibson is now recovered appoint her and the said Henry Martin to be cited in before them against Sabbath next, being the 21st instant.

(Martin compares ultroneously, adds Drummond to the list of his witnesses whom Session admit but delay to cite him to Sabbath next.)

This day also compared ultroneously the said Henry Martin and desired that Charles Drummond merchant traveller in Cumnock might be added to the list of witnesses upon his whole lybell which the Session order to be done but delay, causing cite him till Sabbath next that they further hear the parties whom they have now caused cite to that day.

(Samson compares but no execution of Leeches citation being produced. The Clerk ordered again to write to Mauchlin to (sic) 28th instant. Samson cited apud acta.)

This day also the above Adam Samson called compared but the Session having received no execution of the above Alexander Leech his citation to their diet from Mauchlin tho the Clerk reports that he had according to appointment written to the Kirk Session there appoint the Clerk to write again to the said Kirk Session to cause cite him in before this against Sabbath come eight dayes being the 28th instant and cite the said Adam apud acta to the said dyet.

November 21st 1714

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Martin denies as formerly. He offers further to prove that Gibson owned her having wrongously accused him and that she had now accused Wilson. He propones some interrogatures to be put to Drummond when upon oath. Witnesses on both sides and Gibson ordered to be cited to 25th instant.)

This day the above Henry Martin and Agnes Gibson being called, compared only the said Henry who continues to denie as formerly and offers further to prove by John Rankin and Isabell Stillie in Cumnock and Ann More spouse to Charles Wilson there that the said Agnes Gibson had lately before witnesses owned that she had wrongously accused him, the said Henry, and that she had now accused the above mentioned James Wilson as the father of her child. He further craved that when the above Charles Drummond is upon oath he be interrogate whither or not when he the said Charles was going to some fair in Air the said James Wilson desired him to call for the said Agnes Gibson and ask her if she was with child and what answer the said Charles got from her. The Session appoint the hent fore named witnesses in this affair, both these given in by the said Agnes Gibson for proving the presumptions offered by her against the said Henry, viz: the above David Jamison and Sarah Campbell and these given in by the said Henry for proving the presumptions of the said Agnes, her guilt with the said James Wilson, viz: the above Bessie Stillie, Mary and Penelope Donalds, Katrin Dalrymple, Agnes Jamison, Susanna McQuean, Charles Drummond, John Rankin, Isabell Stillie and Ann More together with the said Agnes Gibson to be cited in before them against Thursday next being the 25th instant and cite the said Henry apud acta to the said dyet appointing the said James Wilson also to be cited thereto.

November 25th 1714

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Martin and Gibson compare. She retracts her former accusation against Martin. She owns several things alleged by Martin.

Wilson compares. He owns guilt with her at several times but refuses the child to be his. He owns that Gibson accused him to Drummond as her child's father. He accuses Gibson as having said she was guilty with Martin upon the 29th May last.

Gibson interrogate denies Wilson's accusation. Adds besides the times confessed she accuses Wilson as having been guilty with her on two other times. Wilson denies Gibsons last accusation.)

This day the above Henry Martin and Agnes Gibson called compeared and the said Agnes being interrogate why she did not compear last Lord's Day in obedience to the former citation answered that she was ashamed to compear in regards of her having accused another than the true father of her child. She now judicially retracts her former accusation of the said Henry Martin solemnly declaring that he was never guilty with her. She further owns her having said that if ever she was with child she should never father it upon the said Henry. As also judicially accuses the above James Wilson as the father of her child who she says offered to bribe her if she would accuse the said Henry as the father of it, which takes off the necessity of calling any of the above named witnesses save the above David Jamieson , Sarah Campbell and Charles Drummond.

(Wilson denies Gibson's last accusation. Gibson adheres to her alledgeances. She says Drummond was conserous to Wilson's guilt with her on the latter end of January last.)

The said James Wilson therefore called and compeared and being interrogate anent his guilt in the foresaid accusation he owns that upon the 7th of Aprile last and a little before mertimass 1713 he was guilty with her but denies that the child is his. He likewayes owns that he desired the above Charles Drummond when going to some fair in Air call to enquire at her if she was with child and that the said Charles reported the said Agnes, her answer, being that she was with child and that to the said James. He says further that when he and the said Agnes were together he ask'd her if ever she had been guilty with the above Henry Martin and that she replied she had been guilty with him the said Henry on 29th of May last.

But the said Agnes Gibson being interrogate anent what she is now accused of by the said James Wilson denies that ever she said anything to him of her being guilty with the said Henry Martin for that she never was guilty with him and further accuses the said James Wilson as having been guilty with her not only at the times

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above confess'd but also at the latter end of January and beginning of March last adding that she supposed neither he nor she could tell how often they had been guilty together.

Wherefore the said James Wilson being interrogate anent what he is now accused of by the said Agnes Gibson denies his having been guilty with her at the times now by her alleged but owns that he said to the above Charles Drummond that he had been guilty with her in March last and that he said this on purpose to make her child come nearer the said Henry Martins time but that what he said to the said Charles was not true and that he was not guilty with her only at the times by himself above confesse'd. Being further interrogate if he had offered to bribe the said Agnes to father her child upon the said Henry Martin he confesses that he said to her in the house of James Donald in Cumnock that if that child came to his the said James's time she should never want if she would give it to the said Henry.

The said Agnes adheres to her above alledgeances against the said James and denies his ever having spoken to any thing to her anent the time of the child but that he desired her simpliciter* with promise of hire ut supra to father it upon the said Henry. She further alledges that the above Charles Drummond as having been in the next room was conserous* to the said James his having been guilty with her on the said latter end of January last and declares that she has no further presumptions to offer against him.

**simpliciter = unconditionally, in a simple manner*

**conserous = Latin "concerus" = fellow/involved with*

(The Session judging that Drummonds deposition might be of use order him to be called. Drummond compears. His deposition.)

Parties being removed the Session began to think that the said Charles Drummond though but a single witness might give further light into this point and taking his oath perhaps be a mean of eliciting a fuller confession from the said James Wilson parties therefore being called in again.

Charles Drummond called compeared aged himself twinty six or thereby, unmarried, who being solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate, purg'd of malice and partial counsel, parties present and nothing objecting depons that either upon the latter end of January or beginning of February last he went with the said James Wilson to his fathers house and that he the said James left him and went been to the mudroom where he heard the said James and Agnes Gibson conversing together and that he the said Charles followed to the bed end of the room where they were and heard them in bed together and the said James told him since that he had to do with her in March last and this is the truth as she sha answer to God. Subscribitur – Charles Drummond.

(Wilson now owns his guilt with Gibson at the time deponed by Drummond. The Session consider Gibsons presumptions against Martin. Martin compearing.)

The said James Wilson now owns that at the time deponed upon by the above Charles Drummond he was in the above room with the said Agnes Gibson her alone at the bedstock but does not mind that he was in bed with her.

Parties being again removed the Session begin to consider the presumptions above offered by Agnes Gibson against Henry Martin and they both being called in again compeared and the said Henry continues to deny it ut supra.

Wherefore the said David Jamison being called compeared aged twinty or thereby, unmarried, who being solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate purged of malice and partial counsel, parties present and nothing objecting. Depons that he saw one whom he supposed to be the said Henry Martin in bed with the said Agnes Gibson but is not positive whither in naked bed or not and the he went and took away the said Henry's shoes from before the bed of another room where the said Henry had been lying and that afterwards the said Agnes came to him the said David and sought the said shoes from him and that he having ask'd her how she came to have the said Henry in bed with her she made him no distinct answer but did not deny it and declares that, as he thinks this was about the beginning of seed time last and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Subscribitur David Jamieson.

(Gibson owns the truth of Jamison's deposition.)

It is ordered to be marked that the said Agnes Gibson owns the truth of this deposition but that she was naked and the said Henry had on his clothes.

(The Session Demurre about calling Campbel and delay further consideration of this affair till Decr 5th. They cite Wilson, Martin and Gibson apud acta.)

As to the calling of the above Sarah Campbel the other witness in this point, the Session demurre because of her interest, she being mother to the above James Wilson, the other person accused by the said Agnes Gibson and delay any further consideration of this whole complex affair till Sabbath come eight dayes being the 5th of December next and cite the said James Wilson, Henry Martin and Agnes Gibson apud acta to that diet.

November 28th 1714

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Leech compares, his declaration anent Simson's death. The presbytery to be advised anent Henry martins censure and declarations anent Simsons death.)

This day the session having received execution of the above Alexander Leech his citation to this day caused call him and the above Adam Samson and both of them compearing. The said Alexander Leach being interrogate if he knew any thing anent the death of the above named George Samson Declared that he was acquainted with him at home And that the said George and he having been in two different regiments abroad. Both regiments happened to be quartered at lisle at one and the same time about six yeares ago at which time he heard from some of the said George his intimate comerads that he had died in an Hospital.

The Session considering that the Presbytery is to fall on this week appoint the minister to take their advice anent Henry Martins censure as also to lay before them the above declarations anent the above George Simsons death and to report.

(Sloan chosen to attend Presbytery till next Synod)

This day also james Sloan is appointed to attend the minister to the presbytery as ruling Elder till the next Synod.

December 5th 1714

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Wilson appointed to appear in publick on the 12th instant.)

This day the above James Wilson cited compeared who being exhorted to lay his above sin with all the aggravations thereof seriously to ?repent (*page damaged*) was appointed to appear in publick next Lord's day being the 12th instant to make profession of his sorrow therefore.

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(The Presbytery advise Martin to be admonished and dismissed. Martin admonished and dismissed, whereof intimation ordered to be made.)

This day also the minister reports the presbyteries advice anent the above Henry Martins case being that there having been no scandal made out against him he should be dismissed with a session admonition for his too frequent and unnecessary conversing with the above Agnes Gibson. The said henry therefore being called compeared and was accordingly admonished to a more tender and circumspect behaviour in time coming and so dismissed and intimation hereof ordered to be made next Lord's (day) being the 12th instant.

(Gibson called but not compearing. Ordered to be cited to Thursday next.)

This day also the said Agnes Gibson being called compeared not, nor was there any excuse offered for her. The Session appoint her to be cited in before them against Thursday next, being the 9th instant.

(Presbytery satisfied anent Samson's death. Samson and Chalmers ordered to be cited to give evidence of their marriage.)

As to the above Adam Samson's case, the minister reports that the Presbytery are from the above declarations of the above Hugh Patrick and Alexander Leech satisfied anent the death of the above George Simson wherefore the Session appoint the above Adam Samson and Margaret Chalmers to be cited before them against this day fourteen dayes being the 19th instant to give evidence of their above clandestine marriage.

December 9th 1714

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Gibson not to be found in the parish, ordered to be cited whenever she returns.)

This day the officer reports that he had been in quest of the above Agnes Gibson but that he could not hear of her being in any part of the paroch. The Session order her to be cited in before them whenever notice shall be given of her return.

(Eckles Treasurer demitting, Johnston to succeed to him and Eckles his accompts ordered to be visited.)*

This day also, Gilbert Eckles present Kirk treasurer having applied to the Session for being overburdened of that office, the Session vote James Johnston to succeed him in that office and appoint George Campbell the said James Johnston and the Session Clerk to visit and examine the said Gilbert his accompts betwixt (now) and Sabbath come eight dayes and to discharge the said Gilbert in their name of his intromissions* with the poor money if they shall find ground and to report.

**demitting = to formally resign*

**intromission = the act of dealing with affairs or property belonging to another*

December 12th 1714

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Wilson makes publick profession of his repentance a 1st time)

It is ordered to be marked that the above James Wilson appeared in publick this day for a first time for profession of repentance for his above sin of fornication with the above Agnes Gibson and that having been rebuked and exhorted he was continued.

(Intimation made of Martin's admonition.)

It is also ordered to be marked that intimation was this day made of the above Henry Martin, his admonition.

December 19th 1714

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Wilson appears in public a 2nd time and ordered to wait the Session's further appointments. The Session order him to be cited to 26th instant.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above James Wilson appeared this day for a 2nd time to the end above written and that having been rebuked and exhorted he was from the pulpit ordered to wait upon the Session's further appointments wherefore the Session appoint him to be cited to compare before them upon Sabbath next being the 26th instant.

(Samson and Chalmers compearing give in a testificat of their marriage Subt by Curat Mushet* with witnesses only named and the Session reject it on account Mushet's scandals and informalities. And appoint Samson to procure the witnesses judicial acknowledgement of their having seen them married and to bring certifcat thereof.*

It is recommended to the minister to write to the minister of Cumbernauld for convening the said certificate.)

This day also the above Alan Samson and Margaret Chalmers called compeared and being required to give evidence of their pretended marriage they gave in a testificat subscribed by one Mushet the Curat who, they say married them dated May 21st 1714 having two persons Robert Petticrue and Isabel Blair as witnesses only named but neither design'd nor subscribing and without any account of the place where it had been written. The Session refuse to sustain the said testificat as an evidence of their marriage because of the scandalous circumstances of the said Mushet above narrated in another case of this kind and for the informalities foresaid and therefore require the said Adam to go with all possible hast(e) to Cumbernauld, the place where he says they were married and get the said witnesses conveened either before the Kirk Session of that place or at least before three or four Elders and to bring a certificate subscribed by the minister and Clerk of the said Kirk Session or the said Elders bearing that they heard the said witnesses own that they were present with and saw the said Adam and Margaret joined in marriage by the said Mushet and in the mean time the Session recommend it to the minister as he shall have occasion to write to the minister of Cumbernauld foar causing cite the said witnesses before his Session to the end foresaid and to return Certificat ut supra and the minister is to report.

**Testificat = Testificate = a document of evidence*

**Curat Mushet (possibly Muffet, but that doesn't look right) = he has appeared in a case in May 1711 in similar circumstances!*

December 26th 1714

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Wilson appointed to be absolved next Lord's Day.)

This day James Wilson called compeared and the Session after trial finding ground to proceed towards his absolution appoint him to appear in publick next Lord's Day and upon his giving satisfying expressions of his sorrow for his said sin before the Congregation then to be absolved.

January 2nd 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Wilson's absolution.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above James Wilson appeared this day in public for a 3rd time to the end above written and that having given suitable expressions of his sorrow for his said sin before the Congregation he was rebuked exhorted and absolved.

(Dalziel reported to be with child or to have parted with one. Some members appointed to (unreadable) to that matter.)

Thursday also the Session being informed that there is a flagrant report going through the Country of Sarah Dalziel servitrix to James Howat in Glaisnock her either being with child or having lately parted with one appoint Alan McRae and George Wilson two of their number to acquaint the said Sarah to come to Cumnock some day this week to George Campbel Chirurgeon* there, whom being also a member of the Session they appoint to call to himself two or three skill'd women in the town in order to search out the truth of the matter and to report.

*Chirurgeon = an archaic word for surgeon.

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January 23rd 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Report anent Dalziel informed to be groundless.)

This day the above George Campbell reports that the above Sarah Dalziel had been with him and that having fulfilled his appointment anent her he had found the above report that had gone against her altogether groundless.

(Howat lybels Gavin Dalziel. Witnesses condescended upon. The tenor of his lybel.)

This day also compeared the above James Howat and preferred a supplication to the Session wherein he accuses Gavin Dalziel, son to the deceased Robert Dalziel on Burn of Knocktirrow as having raised a slanderous report against him, the said James with the above Sarah Dalziel in positively asserting before George Wilson in Clockcounie, William Sloan in Garlaff and William and John McLannachan's, sons to John McLannachan in Knocktirrow that the said Sarah should lately have parted with child and that the said James was the father of it and therefore desiring redress. The Session told him that this being a slander of Adultery belonged according to the acts of Assembly in that behalf made to the Presbytery only in the first instance and therefore declined themselves judges therein but appoint the minister to lay it before the presbytery and to report.

February 6th 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Declaration of scandalous behaviour betixt Drummond and McKie. They are ordered to be cited to Sabbath next.)

This day the Session being informed that John Drummond and Bettie McKie, two old persons in Cumnock had been scandalously struggling with one another upon Thursday last in the said Bettie's house with the door bolted upon them at an unreasonable time of the night, the said Bettie calling frequently to the said John to let her up and that James Campbell and his wife Marion Hamilton and Sarah Crichton their servitrix next neighbours to them can witness in this affair do therefore appoint

the said John Drummond and Bettie McKai to be cited in before them against Sabbath next being the 13th instant.

February 13th 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Presbytery and minister examination of witnesses in Howats affair to the Session. Howat compeared and judiciously craves his lybel be insisted upon and of another witness thereon. Session of Auchinleck to be written to for causing cite Dalziel and other witnesses ordered to be cited to 20th instant except William and John McLennochan. Howat cited apud acta.)

This day the minister reports that the Presbytery had remitted the examination of the witnesses in James Howat's affair to the Session if he shall insist.

This day also compeared ultroneously the said James Howat and craved that his above lybel against the above Gavin Dalziel might be insisted upon and further added to the list of his witnesses on the said Lybell George Pearson in Bent of Glaisnock. The Session appoint the Clerk to write to the Minister of Auchinleck to cause cite in before them the above George Dalziel who hath lately removed to that paroch against Sabbath first being the 20th instant and appoint their officer to cite the said George Pearson with the hail other witnesses in that affair to the said dyet excepting the above William and John McLennochan whom the Session repell because of their propinquity* to the said James Howat they being his brethren in law and cite the said James apud acta to the said dyet.

**propinquity – closeness in relationship*

(Several of the Elders inform against Howat.)

This day also several of the Elders inform that they had heard this scandalous story about the said James Howat and Sarah Dalziel and of their having frequently kept company together in Cumnock and other publick places, staying till it was late and rideing home together at unreasonable hours which the parties themselves when challenge's by some of them did not offer to refuse and that this they supposed had given people ground to suspect them and occasioned the above report. The Session upon this information judge them worthy of a private rebuke and appoint Alan Mcrae and George Wilson, two of their number, to administer the same to each of them separately and upon their submitting thereto to dismiss them and report against this day eight dayes being the 20th instant.

(Drummond and McKie compearing denie. Witnesses in that affair ordered to be cited against Thursday next. Parties to be cited.)

This day also the above John Drummond and Bettie McKie called compeared and both of them denie themselves to be guilty of the things above lybelled only that the said Bettie owns that at the time lybelled the said John laid once hands on her but that when she cried cease and be quiet sir he went away and further that he came oft in formerly to her and fiddled and fumbled with her but that whenever she fell a skirling* he made off with himself. The Session appoint the above named witnesses in this affair to be cited before them against Thursday next, being 17th instant and cite the parties apud acta to the said dyet.

**skirling = screaming or shrieking*

February 17th 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Dummond and McKie yet deny. Witnesses called, Campbell compears and depons.)

This day the above John Drummond and Bettie McKie called compeared and both of them continuing to denie ut supra the session proceed to call the witnesses therefore.

The above James Campbell called compeared aged about fifty married, who being solemnly judiciously sworn and interrogate, purged of malice and partial counsel parties present and nothing objecting depons that at the time in the place above lybelled he heard the said Bettie McKie with a low voice say to the said John Drummond, "Let me up now John, Let me up now John", and that immediately thereafter when the said James challenged them both for their said unseemly carriage the said John Drummond owned that he had the said Bettie upon the floor. The said James further declares that the occasion of his going to hearken was that Charles Rowat a lodger of his heard a noise betwixt the said John Drummond and Bettie McKie from the other side of the wall of the said Bettie's house with which he was offended and therefore called the family to go and hearken and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Subscribitur – James Campbell

(Hamilton compears and depons.)

Marion Hamilton called compeared aged about thirty married when being solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate, purg'd of malice and partiall counsel, parties present and nothing objecting depons that she went with her servant Sarah Crighton to the said Bettie Mckie's door which she found bolted and then she went afterward about to the back

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where her husband was hearkening and heard the said Bettie McKie saying softly to the said John Drummond, "Let me up now John, let me up now John" and that she heard them struggling together. The occasion of her going to hearken being the same with the said James Campbell's above narrated and this is the truth as she shall answer to God and declares that she cannot write.

(Crighton compears. Her deposition.)

Sarah Crighton called compeared aged about seventeen unmarried who being solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate purged of malice and partial counsel parties present and nothing objecting depons that when the above Charles Rowat who was lying bed at the other side of the wall of Bettie McKie's house called to the family to go hearken, she went to the back window of the said Betties house and heard the said Bettie say softly "I'll not" and that to her judgement the said Drummond (had) her upon the floor and that after that she heard neither him nor her speak and that she ran in and told her master's mistress who likeways went out and hearkened, that she does not know whether the door was bolted or not for that she did not return till after her master had called to the and the struggle was over, that her master gave the said Bettie some sharp words for their misbehaviour but that she made no reply and that she heard Drummond since confess that he had got her down upon the floor and this is the truth as she shall answer to God and declares she cannot write.

(Dummond owns the truth of the above depositions. Session delay condescending on their censure till Sabbath next and cite parties apud acta.)

It is ordered to be marked that the said John Drummond now owns the truth of the above depositions.

The Session delay condescending upon their censure till Sabbath next that they have a fuller meeting and cite the parties apud acta to the said dyet.

February 20th 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Howat and Dalziel compear. Dalziel denies the libel. Witnesses ordered to be called. Wilson compears and depons.)

This day he above James Howat called compeared and further desires that his lybell may be insisted upon. The Session having received execution of the above Gavin Dalziel his citation to this diet also cause call him who accordingly compears and denies the said lybell. Witnesses therefor ordered to be called.

Imprimis* George Wilson called compeared, aged forty, married, who being solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate purg'd of malice and partial counsel parties present and nothing objecting depons that on a flagrant report of the above Sarah Dalziel her being with child and having parted with one he asked the said Gavin Dalziel who had been lately serving the said James Howat if he had heard anything of that story or how it went. And that the said Gavin answered that he had heard it the Thursday before in Charles Duncan('s) family in Cumnock and several other places in the town and he heard it should be to him without naming anybody but so as the said George thought he meant the above James Howat and this is the truth as he shall answer to God.

Subscribatur Georg Wilson.

(Sloan compears and depons.)

William Sloan compears, aged about fourty, unmarried who being solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate, purged of malice and partial counsel parties present and nothing objecting depons that the said Gavin asserted in his hearing that there was a fowl mark about Glaisnock and that the lass had something in her cap to the good man as he heard and this is the truth as he shall answer to God.

Subscribatur Willam Slon.

(Pearson compears and depons.)

George Pearson called compeared, aged about thirty one, married, who being solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate, purg'd of malice and partial counsel, parties present and nothing objecting depons that the said Gavin asked him if he had heard anything of that chatter that was about Glaisnock, that the said George replied "Indeed no, what is it?" and the said Gavin answered that it was said to him that Sarah Dalziel in Glaisnock had parted with child to James Howat and this is the truth as he shall answer to God.

Subscribitur Georg Pearson.

(The above depositions ordered to be remitted to the Presbytery and Howat and Dalziel cited apud acta to the Presbytery..)

The Session appoint the above depositions to be remitted to the presbytery and in the meant time cite the said James Howat and Gavin Dalziel to compear before the Presbytry at Air upon the 9th March next. This day also the members appointed to rebuke the above James Howat and Sarah Dalziel for the reasons above mentioned report that they had fulfilled the said appointment but the parties spurned at their rebuke though they did not deny their keeping company as above. The Session delay to cause cite them in before them yet but appoint this particular circumstance to be laid before the presbytery with the above depositions by the minister, who is to report.

(Drummond and McKie ordered to appear in publick.)

This day also the above John Drummond and Bettie McKie being called compeared the Session appoint them to appear this day fourteen dayes being the 6th March next in the publick place of repentance there to be rebuked for their above scandalous

behaviour and then to be continued ir dismissed as the Session shall find ground.

**Imprimis – in the first place/to begin with*

March 6th 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Neither Drummond nor MKie appear in publick. Their hail affair to be laid before the presbytery.)

It is ordered here marked that neither the above John Drummond nor Bettie McKie appeared in publick this day though perempory* (*sic*) appointed as above. The Session appoint the hail process anent there to be laid before the presbytery by the minister who is to report

**peremptory = insisting on obedience/not open to appeal*

March 20th 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Presbytery advise the Session to inquire narrowly into the several pieces of Howat and Dalziel's misbehaviour. These are particularly considered upon.)

This day anent the affair betwixt the above James Howat and Sarah Dalziel. The minister reports that the Presbytery advise the Session to make narrow enquiry into the several pieces of their uncircumspect behaviour. These are informed to be 1mo* that he having put on her gown they ran after one another and wrestled together at the putting out of the fulzie* in Aprile or May last.

Item - That they wrestled lightly together at the peat moss in Summer last.

Item – That in harvest last at shearing he and she retired from the rest and that she sat down betwixt his feet and ate bite about of an apple.

Item – That notwithstanding the offence taken in the country by their above keeping company together

1mo – primo - firstly

(Witnesses named. Howat and Dalziel ordered to be cited to Session against Sabbath next.)

and riding home their alones for which the Session had found ground to appoint them to be rebuked privately as above, he had gone along with her to her sister's wedding and hors'd her home again.

Item – That notwithstanding the premises he had hors'd her to Cumnock upon Thursday last being the 17th instant.

And that the several points abovewritten can be witnessed by the persons underwritten – John Meggat, servitor to the said James Howat, John McTurk in overGlaisnock, the above Gavin Dalziel, Janet Anderson in Glaisnock and Marion Donald, spouse to John Crawford in Netherthird. The Session appoint the said James Howat and Sarah Dalziel to be cited in before them against Sabbath next being the 27th instant.

**fulzie = fulzie-can = a pail containing excrement, refuse or slops*

(Presbytery judges Drummond and McKie scandalous persons and for their continuacy, deferring to be put under the lesser excommunication which the Session does appoint intimation thereof to be made.)

This day also as to the above John Drummond and Bettie McKie affair the minister reports from the Presbytry that they judged them to be scandalous persons and censurable as fornicators and that therefore and for their continuacy (sic) in not appearing in publick though peremptorly appointed as above they ought to be put under the sentence of the Lesser excommunication as persons unworthy of sealing ordinances The Session therefore do by these presents put the said John Drummond and Bettie McKie under the said sentence and appoint the minister to make intimation thereof to the Congregation next Lord's Day being the 27th instant.

March 27th 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Howat interrogate anent the several pieces of scandalous behaviour alleged betwixt him and Dalziel. Confesses several of them and denies others.

Minister of Auchinleck to be writen to for causing cite Dalziel and the witnesses to be cited to the said diet.)

This day the above James Howat called compeared and being interrogate upon the several articles above libelled against him and the said Sarah Dalziel. He owns that he hors'd her the said Sarah home under dead of night there being none in company with them, viz from the two fairs in Cumnock last, from Mauchline fair and from Muirdike only in coming from Dalmellington fair. And that, since the above stories went about them, he hors'd her from her sister's wedding but that then there were some others in company with them. He further owns his having wrestled with her and others also, both before and since his marriage but that he never did so in an unseemly manner or with an evil design. It being also suggested that when she, the said Sarah, was indisposed at which time she was bruted* as having parted with child he, the said James should have gone to her bedside and having lyen in over her laid the clothes upon her, being interrogate thereanent he denies it. He likewise denies that ever he put on her gown but owns that he hors'd her from home last Thursday a part of the way to the town. He also denies the article about eating the apple.

The said Sarah also being called compeared and having been interrogate upon the said article owns her having come home with the said James Howat from the places and in manner above confess'd by the said James. She says she does not remember his ever his ever having wrestled with her at any time not that she ever sat down betwixt his feet and ate apples as above, or that he ever put on her gown or lay in over her in the bed as is above alleged.

The Session cite both parties apud acta to compear before them against Sabbath next being the 3rd of April ensuing and appoint the Clerk to write to the minister of Auchinleck to cause the above named Gavin Dalziel to be cited to the said diet and order the officer to cite the other witnesses within the paroch against the said day also.

**bruted – was the subject of gossip/suggested*

(Intimation of Dummond and McKie's case made.)

It is ordered to be marked that intimation was made this day according to appointment of the above John Drummond and Betty McKie their having been put under the sentence of the lesser excommunication for the reasons abovementioned.

Aprile 3rd 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Howat and Dalziel compear. Witnesses ordered to be cited.)

McTurk compears. He depons.)

This day the above James Howat and Sara Dalziel called compeared wherefore witnesses in their affair ordered to be called.

Imprimus John McTurk called compeared, near sixtie, married who being solemnly sworn and interrogate, purge'd of malice and partial counsel parties present and nothing objecting depos that bearland time*, last year, going by the land foot where the above James Howat's plough was tilling he saw the said James having a womans gown upon him and wrestling with a woman but knows not whether it was the said Sarah Dalziel or not and this is the truth as he shall answer to God.

Subscribitur John McTurk.

**bearland (bear or bere = barley) = barley fields/barleyland*

**bearland time = preparing the barley fields*

(Dalziel compears. Howat objecting against him. Oath delayed.)

Minister to lay Howat's objections before the ppty for advice. Dalziel cited apud acta to session against Sabbath next.)

Gavin Dalziel also, upon upon information of his having been cited to this diet, called compeared but the said James Howat having objected against the said Gavin as being piqu'd at him because he the said James would not fee him at Mertinamss last. As also because, as the alleg'd he has a ground to

believe that the said Gavin was the raiser and propater of the above scandalous reports against him. The Session delay taking his oath now but appoint the minister to lay the above objections before the Presbytery which is to fall in betwixt and this day eight dayes for advice and to report, and in the meantime cite the said Gavin apud acta to compear before the Session upon Sabbath next, being the 10th instant.

(Anderson compears. She depons.)

Janet Anderson called, compeared aged about thirty three, unmarried who being solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate, purg'd of malice and partial counsel, parties present and nothing objecting depons that she hath several times seen the said James Howat and Sarah Dalziel wrestling together but saw them never unseemly their alones and this is the truth as she shall answer to God and declares that she cannot write.

(Donald excused and cited to Sabbath next.)

Marion Donald having sent excuse which the Session sustain'd is ordered to be cited to Sabbath next, the 10th instant.

(Meggat not compearing ordered to be cited to Sabbath next.)

John Meggat called but not compearing nor any excuse having been offered for him ordered to be cited to Sabbath next also and parties cited apud acta to the said dyet.

Aprile 10th 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Howat and Dalziel compear. Witnesses called.)

This day the above James Howat and Sara Dalziel called compeared wherefore the remanent* witnesses in their affair ordered to be called.

**remanent - remaining*

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(Donald compears. She depons.)

Marion Donald called compeared aged about twinty five or twinty six years, married, who being solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate, purg'd of malice and partial counsel parties present and nothing objecting depons negative and declares she cannot write.

(Presbytery judge the objections against Dalziel irrelevant and Session t take his oath. Dalziel called, compears. He depons.)

The minister reports from the Presbytery that they judged the objections made last sederunt by the said James Howat against the said Gavin Dalziel irrelevant and that the Session notwithstanding thereof might proceed to take his oath.

Wherefore the said Gavin called compeared, aged about twinty three yeares unmarried, who being solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate, purg'd of malice and partial counsel, parties present and now yielding depons that he has seen the said James Howat and Sarah Dalziel wrestling together and particularly so far as his memory serves him that he saw them wrestling together at the time depon'd upon by the above John McTurk and several times in harvest last and in the barn, but never

in an unseemly manner. And that at harvest last the retired at some little distance from the rest but that he does not know whether they were eating apples or not or if she was sitting between his feet and further that during the said Sarah, her above trouble, he saw the said Howat go to her bedside and happ* the clothes upon her, his wife Jean McLenochan and the said John Meggat his servant being present but that he did not see him lye in over her in the bed and this is the truth as he shall answer to God.

Subscribitur Gaivin Dalziel

**happ – to heap/cover*

(Meggat not compearing ordered to be cited pro 3tio. Parties cited apud acta to 17th instant.)

John Meggat called compeared not, or was there any excuse offered for him. He is ordered to be cited pro 3tio* to this day eight days 17th instant and parties cited apud acta to the said dyet.

**Pro 3tio = pro tertio = for a third time.*

Aprile 17th 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Howat and Dalziel compear not. Meggat compears not.

Howats process to be laid before the Presbytery, and also Meggats not compearing although thrice called.)

This day the above James Howat and Sara Dalziel called compeared not and no excuse offered for them.

Also the above John Meggat called but did not compear nor was there any excuse offered for him.

The Session appoint the hail abovementioned process in this affair betwixt the above James Howat and Sarah Dalziel to be remitted to the presbytery as also this particular circumstance of the above Meggat, his not compearing although cited for a 3rd time to be laid before them by the minister at their next meeting.

(Samson ordered to be cited to the 24th instant.)

This day also the above Adam Samson having never yet produced evidence of his above marriage and the minister that according to appointment he had written to the minister of Cumbernauld thereanent but had received no return. The session order the said Adam to be cited in before them against Sabbath next being the 24th instant.

(Drummond compears and supplicates to be released from lesser excommunication.)

This day also compeared ultroneously the above John Drummond desiring to be released from the sentence of the lesser excommunication past against him, professing sorrow for his above scandal and contumacy, and readiness to obey the Sessions former sentence anent him. The session appoint the minister also to lay this his desire before the presbytery at their said next meeting and to report.

Aprile 24th 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Session appoint a meeting tomorrow for getting Howat and Dalziels cited peremptorly (sic) to presbytery and Howat and Dalziel ordered to be cited to session against tomorrow for that effect.)

This day the session considering that in the process at the instance of the above James Howat against the above Gavin Dalziel and likewayes in the process against the said James Howat and Sarah Dalziel none of the said parties are yet cited to the Presbytery. As also that some of them are to remove out of the paroch against the term of WhytSunday next Do therefore for preventing further trouble with them and for bringing this matter to a more speedy conclusion appoint another meeting to morrow at one of the clock afternoon in order to their judicially citing the said parties to the next Presbytery being to be upon Weddensday first, the 27th instant and for that effect appoint the Clerk to write to the minister of Auchinleck to cause cite the said Gavin Dalziel to the said dyet and order the said James Howat and Sarah Dalziel thereto.

(Samson peremptorly appointed to procure the above required evidence of his marriage betwixt and 15th May and cited apud acta to that dyet.)

This day also the above Adam Samson called compeared and owns that he had yet neglected the above appointment anent him. The Session rebuke him for his negligence and appoint him peremptorily to procure and produce the evidence of his said marriage above desired betwixt and WhytSunday first and for that effect cite him apud acta to compear before them against the 15th day of May next.

Aprile 25th 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Howat and Dalziel cited apud acta to the presbytery.)

This day the above James Howat, Gavin and Sarah Dalziel being called compeared. The Session cite each of them apud acta to compear before the presbytery at Air upon Wedensday next being the 27th instant.

(Ferguson chosen to attend the pbtty til next Synod.)

This day also John Ferguson is voted to attend the Presbytery with the minister as ruling Elder till the next Synod.

May 1st 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(The Presbytery advise to absolve Gavin Dalziel.)

The above process at the instance of the above James Howat against the above Gavin Dalziel having been laid before the Presbytery as the only competent judges in the first instance in slanders of Adultery and thereafter by them remitted to the Session for examining the and taking the

depositions of the witnesses to be adduced by the said James Howat in that affair, which depositions the Session having accordingly taken and remitted to the Presbytery. The Presbytery after seeing and considering the same found that the said continuance is not proven against the said Gavin and that therefore he ought to be absolved therefrom which they expressly advised the Session to do as is as is to be seen from an extract of their minut thereanent subscribed by their Clerk, dated Aprile 27th 1715, produced and judicially read before the Session and (unreadable) in the process. The Session therefore by advice and for the reasons forsaid

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(The Session absolve Dalziel and appoint extracts hereof to be given him.)

And by these presents do absolve the said Gavin from the said continuance and hail process following and appoint extracts hereof to be given him, he having this day applied therefore.

May 15th 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Samson called but not compearing. Ordered to be cited to Session against 22nd instant.)

The above Adam Samson having been peremptorily appointed upon the 24th Aprile last to produce evidence of his above marriage betwixt and this date and having been cited apud acta to this diet for that effect, the Session cause call him but he not compearing nor any excuse offered for him. They order him to be cited in before them against this day eight dayes being the 22nd instant.

(Murray and Hutchison make voluntary confession of their guilt at fornication with one another and are appointed to appear at publick.)

This day also William Murray and Jean Hutchinson servants to Hugh Logan in Barlamnochen compearing ultoneously made volintar judicial confession of their having been guilty of fornication with one another. The Session having rebuked and exhorted them appoint them to appear in publick next Lord's Day for profession of their repentance therefore.

May 22nd 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Samson not compearing. The minr. is to lay their case before the presbytery.)

The Session having several times formerly convened the above Adam Samson and Margaret Chalmers pretended spouses before them and required them to give evidence of their marriage which notwithstanding they always neglected to do did particularly of late convene the said pretended spouses before them and peremptorily appointed them to satisfy the Session thereanent betwixt and WhytSunday last. But they having not compeared at the said term to the effect abovementioned nor yet now though orderly cited and called the Session appoint the minister to lay their case before the presbytery at their next meeting and to report.

(Murray and Hutchison make publick profession of repentance for a 1st time.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above William Murray and Jean Hutchison appeared in publick this day for a first time to the end abovewritten and that having been rebuked and exhorted they were continued.

May 29th 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(The Presbytery having rebuked Howat and Dalziel appoint session to rebuke them also cite them to the session apud acta for that effect. The Session rebuke them. Dalziel submits, is absolved, but Howat for contemptuous behaviour to Session delayed. Intimation ordered to be made.)

This day the minister acquaints the Session that the Presbytery having rebuked the above James Howat and Sarah Dalziel for their rideing frequently their alones in highroads under cloke of night and for their frequent and unseemly wrestling together had appointed the Session to rebuke them therefore likeways and upon their submitting to absolve them and to order intimation of the hail premisses to be made to the Congregation. And that to the effect foresaid the presbytery had cited the said parties apud acta to compear this day before the Session, wherefore the Session having called them did rebuke them both for the causes foresaid and absolved the said Sarah because she submitted, but delay to absolve the said James in regard of his insolent and contemptuous behaviour at the time the rebuke was ministered to him and appoint intimation ut supra to be made of this whole minut next Lord's Day being the 5th of June next.

(Presbytery appoint Drummond upon ordering Session's sentence to be relaxed. Drummond appointed to appear in publick next Lord's day.)

The minister also reports that the Presbytery had appointed the above John Drummond to be absolved from the Lesser Excommunication upon obeying the Sessions sentence abovewritten anent him. And the said John having ultroneously compleared this day and desired to be rebuked therefrom was appointed to appear in publick next Lords Day in order thereto.

(Samsons case not got before the pbtie.)

The minister reports further that the Presbytery were so full of other business that he could not get in Samsons case.

(Murray and Hutchison appear a 2nd time in publick. Murray and Hutchison appear ultroneously before Session and desire to be absolved. They are appointed to appear in publick next Lord's day for absolution.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above William Murray and Jean Hutchison appeared in publick this day for a 2nd time and that having been rebuked and exhorted they were continued.

This day also compeared ultroneously the said William Murray and Jean Hutchison and desired that the Session would appoint them to appear in publick next Lords Day in order to absolution. The Session after trial finding ground to proceed towards the same appoint them to appear in publick next Lords Day being the 5th of June next and upon their giving suitable expressions of their sorrow for their said sin then to be absolved.

June 5th 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Intimation of Howat and Dalziels rebuke made. Howat ordered to be cited to Session against Sabbath next.)

It is ordered to be marked that intimation of the above rebukes administered to the above James Howat and Sarah Dalziel was made this day in manner above proscribed.

This day also the Session having considered the insolence and contempt offered to them last Sederunt by the above James Howat order him to be cited in before them against this day eight dayes being the 12th instant.

(Drummond appears in publick but refuses to submit to rebuke. He is ordered to be cited.)

This day also it is ordered to be marked that the above John Drummond appeared this day in publick according to appointment but that he insolently refused to submit to the above rebuke in the terms it was administered to him though expressly founded upon the lybell above proven against him. The Session also appoint him to be cited to the said dyet.

(Murray and Hutchison absolved.)

It is further ordered to be marked that the above William Murray and Jean Hutchison appeared in publick this day for a 3rd time for profession of their repentance for their above sin of fornication with one another and that having given suitable expression of their sorrow therefore they were rebuked exhorted and absolved.

June 15th 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Howat compears.)

This day the above James Howat called compeared and professes himself

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(Howat professes himself sorry for insolent behaviour to Session and submitting to rebuke was absolved and intimation ordered to be made.)

sorry for his above insolent and contemptuous behaviour before the Session. The Session rebuke him therefore and for his former offences above narrated whereto he now submitting was absolved and intimation ordered to be made to the Congregation next Lords day being the 19th instant.

(Drummond compearing professes himself sorry for his insolence and contempt. Desires to be allowed to appear in publick in order to his being relaxed which the Session refuse but appoint the same to be laid before the Pbty.)

This day also the above John Drummond called compeared and professed himself sorry for his above insolence and desired that the Session would allow him to profess his sorrow therefore and for his above offences before the Congregation in order to his being relaxed from the above sentence of the Lesser excommunication which the Session refuse to do till he shew a deeper sense of his sin

and folly, but in the meantime appoint the minister to represent the premisses to the Presbytery at their next meeting and to report.

June 19th 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Intimation made of Howat's rebuke and absolution.)

It is ordered to be marked that intimation was this day made of the above James Howat's rebuke and absolution according to the above appointment.

(Appointment anent Samson renewed.)

This day also the appointment anent Samson's case was renewed.

July 24th 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Presbytery order Samson's marriage testimonial to be laid before them, which Session appoint to be done.)

This day the minister reports anent the above Adam Samson's case that the Presbytery had ordered the above testimonial he gave in of his marriage to be laid before them at their next meeting. The Session appoint the same to be given to the minister for that effect.

(Scandalous behaviour betwixt Good and Campbell. The particular civil instances thereof condescended upon.)

This day also the Session being informed of a scandalous behaviour betwixt John Good Tailzeour* and Jean Campbell in Cumnock, Viz that some few dayes ago about eleven or twelve of the clock at night, they were conversing together in the said John's Chamber without light and having the door bolted upon them and that when two of the Elder having got information hereof had gone to the said door with a light and knocked a considerable time the said Jean came at length with nothing upon her as they thought but a loose gown and opened unto them but denied that there was any in the room with her, though a little after when the said Elders threatened to search the said room the said John came naked and confused out of a hid corner of the room upon which delation* the Session order them to be cited in before them against Thursday next being the 28th instant.

**Tailzeour – Tailor - See the previous explanation re the letter yogh!*

**delation – an accusation or charge brought by an informer.*

July 28th 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Good and Campbell compearing confess. Session judge them censurable as fornicators but order Pbty to be advised thereanent.)

This day the above John Good and Jean Campbell called compeared and both of them own the truth of the above delation anent them and further that the said Jean made the bed and stayed in the room till the said John went to it and thereafter she sat down upon the bedside till the Elders knock'd at the door but that she had on all her cloaths. Parties being removed the Session judge

their case so scandalous as to its circumstances that they deserve to be censured as fornicators but appoint the minister to apply to the Presbytery for advice thereanent, all which parties being call'd in again was intimated.

August 28th 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Presbytery of the same mind with Session anent Good and Campbell who are ordered to be cited to Thursday next.)

This day the minister reports anent the above John Goods case and that the Presbytery were of the same mind with the Session thereanent, wherefore the Session appoint the said John Good and Jean Campbell to be cited in before them against Thursday next, being the first of September ensuing.

(Morton delated for fornication, ordered to be cited.)

This day also the session being informed that Jean Morton servitrix to Hugh Logan in **Barlannochen** is with child by fornication do therefore appoint her to be cited in before them against the said first of September next.

September 1st 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Good and Campbell compearing ordered to appear in publick)

This day the above John Good called compeared and also the above Jean Campbell. The Session appoint them to appear in publick next Lords Day being the 4th instant to make profession of their repentance for their above scandalous behaviour.

(Morton compearing accuses Harbert & and he being at harvest some distance from the place is delayed.)

This day also the above Jean Morton called compeared and confesses herself to be guilty of fornication and that she is thereby with child to James Harbert, late servitor to the above Hugh Logan. The Session being being informed that the said James Harbert is now engaged in the harvest work at a considerable distance from this place do therefor delay citeing of him till they shall hear of his return to this place.

September 4th 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Harbert compears ultroneously and confesses guilt and is delayed.)

This day the above James Harbert compears ultroneously and confesses his guilt of fornication with the above Jean Morton in the terms of the above accusation. The Session at his desire delay to appoint them to appear in publick till he return from his harvest.

(Good and Campbell appear not in publick. Their case ordered to be laid before the Presbytery.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above John Good and Jean Campbell did not appear in publick this day as they were appointed. The Session appoint the minister to lay their case before the Presbytery at their next meeting and to report.

September 18th 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Presbytery order Good and Campbell to be cited before them which the Session appoint officer to do.

This day the minister reports anent the above John Good's case that the Presbytery had ordered him and the said Jean Campbell to be cited before them at their next meeting at Air. The Session appoint the

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officer to cite them to the Presbytery and the minister is afterwards to inform him of the time of their next meeting.

October 2nd 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Herbert and Morton ordered to be cited to Sabbath next.)

This day the Session being informed that the above James Herbert is now returned from his harvest appoint him and the said Jean Morton to be cited in before them against Sabbath next being the 9th instant.

October 23rd 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Herbert and Morton appear a 1st time and are continued.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above James Harbert and Jean Morton appeared this day in publick for a first time to the end above written and that having been rebuked and exhorted they were continued.

October 2nd 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Herbert and Morton appear in public a 2nd time. Ordered to wait ion session after sermons. They are appointed to be absolved next Sabbath.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above James Harbert and Jean Morton appeared in publick for a second time to the end above written and that having been rebuked and exhorted they were from the pulpit ordered to wait upon the Session after sermons. Wherefore the said James and Jean being

now called compeared and the Session after trial finding ground to proceed towards their absolution appoint them to appear in publick next Lord's day being the 30th instant to the end abovewriten and upon their giving suitable expressions of their sorrow for their said sin before the Congregation then to be absolved.

October 30th 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Herbert and Morton absolved.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above James Harbert and Jean Morton appeared in publick for a third time to the end above writen and that having given suitable expressions of their sorrow for their above sin of fornication with one another before the congregation they were rebuked exhorted and absolved.

December 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Templeton and Gibson delated for fornication and ordered to be cited to Sabbath next.)

This day the Session being informed that John Templeton and Bessie Gibson in Bordland Mains who have now enlisted themselves for proclamation in order to marriage are guilty of fornication with one another. The Session appoint them both to be cited in before them against Sabbath next being the 11th instant.

December 11th 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Templeton and Gibson compearing confess and are appointed to appear in publick.)

This day the above John Templeton and Bessie Gibson called compeared and both of them judicially confessed their guilt of fornication with one another. The Session having rebuked and exhorted them appoint them to appear in publick next Lord's day being the 18th instant for profession of their repentance for their said sin.

(Hanna delated for fornication, ordered to be cited to Thursday first.)

This day also the Session being informed that Helen Hanna servitrix to Andrew McLennochen in Garlaff is with child by fornication do therefore appoint her to be cited in before them against Thursday first being the 15th instant.

December 15th 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Hanna compears and confesses guilt and accuses McLennochen who is ordered to be cited to Sabbath next.)

This day the above Helen Hanna called compeared and confesses that she is guilty of fornication and accuses the said Andrew McLennochen as the only person guilty with her. The Session appoint the said Andrew McLennochen to be cited in before them against Sabbath next being the 18th instant.

December 18th 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Templeton and Gibson appear in publick and are continued.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above John Templeton and Bessie Gibson appeared in publick this day for a first time to the end above written and that having been rebuked and exhorted they were continued.

(McLennochen compears and confesses guilt. He is appointed to appear in publick & Hanna appointed to to be cited to appear with him next Sabbath.)

This day also the above Andrew McLennochen called compeared and owns himself to be guilty with the above Helen Hanna in the terms of the above accusation. The Session appoint him to appear in publick next Lord's day being the 25th instant for profession of his repentance for his said sib and appoint the said Helen Hanna to be cited to appear the said day with him to that effect also.

December 25th 1715

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Templeton and Gibson appear in publick a 2nd time and ordered to wait upon Session after Sermon. The compear before Session and are appointed to be absolved next Lord's day.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above John Templeton and Bessie Gibson appeared in publick this day for a second time to the end above written and that having been rebuked and exhorted they were from the pulpit ordered to wait upon the Session ths day after sermons wherefore being called now they compear and the Session after trial finding ground to proceed towards their absolution appoint them to appear in publick next Lord's day being the first of January ensueing **pasbye*** and sixteen years and upon their giving suitable expressions of their sorrow for their said sin of fornication with one another then to be absolved.

**I have seen this word many times – I can't decipher it but it is a representation of the year 1700.*

(McLennochen and Hanna appear in publick a 1st time and are continued.)

It is also ordered to be marked that the above Andrew McLennachen and Helen Hanna appear in publick this day for a first time and that having been rebuked and exhorted they were continued.

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January 1st 1716

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Templeton and Gibson absolved.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above John Templeton and Bessie Gibson appeared this day in publick for a 3rd time to the end above written and that having given suitable expressions of their sorrow for their above sin before the congregation they were absolved.

(McLennochan and Hanna appear in publick a 2nd time and ordered to avail upon Session after sermons. They compear before Session and are appointed to be absolved next Lords day.)

It is also ordered to be marked that the above Andrew McLennochan and Helen Hanna appeared this day in publick for a second time to the end above written and that having been rebuked and exhorted they were from the pulpit ordered to wait upon the Session after sermons.

Wherefor being called now, they compeared and the Session after trial finding ground to proceed towards their absolution appoint them to appear in publick next Lords day being the 8th instant and upon their giving suitable expressions of their sorrow for their above sin of fornication with one another before the Congregation then to be absolved.

January 8th 1716

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(McLennochan and Hanna absolved.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above Andrew McLennochan and Helen Hanna appeared in publick this day for a third time to the end above written and that having given suitable expressions of their sorrow for their above sin before the congregation they were rebuked exhorted and absolved.

February 12th 1716

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Presbytery advise Session to admit Samson's testimonial as evidence of his marriage and to censure him as others in that case. But in regard of aggravating circumstances to be put under the lessor excommunication article the Session go into and order parties to be cited.)

This day the minister reports from the Presbytery that he had lain the above Adam Samson and Margaret Chalmers their marriage testimonial before them and that they had advised the Session to rest upon the said testimonial as evidence of the said persons their above irregular marriage and to censure them as other persons in the like circumstances. But that in regard of the several aggravating circumstances of their said case such as their having been guilty of antenuptial fornication with one another and their marrying ut supra before evidences given of the said Margaret Chalmers her first husband's death they ought to be put under the lesser excommunication. The Session having heard and considered the above report order the said parties to be cited in before them against this day fourteen dayes being the 26th instant to the effect foresaid.

February 26th 1716

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Samson and Chalmers compear amd being acquaint with Presbyteries advice are put under the lesser excommunication whereof intimation ordered to be made.)

This day the above Adam Samson and Margaret Chalmers called, compeared. The Session acquaint them that by the Presbyteries advice they are to be put under the sentence of the lessor excommunication and accordingly now put them under the same and order intimation hereof to be made to the Congregation next Lords Day being the 4th of March next.

March 11th 1716

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Intimation of Samson sentence made.)

It is ordered to be marked that intimation was made upon the 4th past of this instant of the above sentence of the lesser excommunication past (sic) against the above Adam Samson and Margaret Samson for the reasosn above narrated.

(Dalrymple and Anderson delated for antenuptial fornication, ordered to be cited.)

This day also the Session being informed that George Dalrymple and Janet Anderson in Glaisnock are guilty of antenuptial fornication do therefore appoint them to be cited in before them against this day fourteen dayes being the 25th instant.

March 25th 1716

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Dalrymple and Anderson compear and confess guilt NS Dalrymple owns his to be a relapse. They are appointed to appear in publick next Lords day.)

This day the above George Dalrymple and Janet Anderson called compeared and own themselves guilty of antenuptial fornication with one another and further the said George confesses that this is a relapse to him having been guilty of fornication in the paroch of Ochiltree for which he had been given satisfaction to the people of that Congregation. The Session having rebuked and exhorted them appoint them to appear in publick next Lord's day being the first of April next for profession of their repentance for their said sin.

Aprile 1st 1716

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Dalrymple and Anderson appear in publick for a 1st time and continued.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above George Dalrymple and Janet Anderson appeared in publick this day for a first time to the end above written and that having been rebuked and exhorted they were continued.

Aprile 8th 1716

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Dalrymple and Anderson appear in publick a 2nd time, he is continued and she ordered to wait on Session after sermon. Anderson compears before Session and is appointed to be absolved next Lords day.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above George Dalrymple and Janet Anderson appeared in publick this day for a second time to the end above written and that having been rebuked and exhorted the said George was for the reason above mentioned continued but the said Janet was ordered from the pulpit to wait upon the Session after sermons.

Wherefore being now called she compears and the Session after trial finding ground to proceed towards her absolution appoint her to appear in publick next Lords Day being the 15th instant and upon her giving suitable expressions of her sorrow for her above sin then to be absolved.

(Presbytry remit Good and Campbell to obey Session's sentence. Session order them to be cited to Sabbath next.)

This day also the minister reports that the Presbytry had remitted

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the above John Good and Jean Campbell to the Session and had ordered them to give obedience to the Session's above sentence anent them. The Session order them to be cited in before them against Sabbath next being the 15th instant.

Aprile 15th 1716

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Dalrymple and Anderson appear in publick a third time. He is continued she absolved.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above George Dalrymple and Janet Anderson appeared in publick this day for a third time to the end above written and that the said George for the reasons foresaid was continued. But the said Janet having given suitable expressions of her sorrow for her above sin with the said George before the Congregation was rebuked exhorted and absolved.

(Good and Campbell compear. They are appointed to appear in publick next Lords day.)

This day also the above John Good and Jean Campbell called compeared and professed themselves sorry for their above scandalous conversation together and for disobeying the Session's above sentence therefore pronounced against them. The Session having rebuked them for their said offences appoint them to appear in publick next Lord's day being the 22nd instant to make profession of their repentances for the same.

Aprile 22nd 1716

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Dalrymple appears in publick a fourth time and is continued.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above George Dalrymple appeared in publick this day for a fourth time for profession of his repentance for his relapse into fornication above mentioned and that having been rebuked and exhorted he was continued.

(Good and Campbell appear in publick a 1st time and continued.)

It is also ordered to be marked that that above John Good and Jean Campbell appeared in publick for a first time to the end above written and that having been rebuked and exhorted they were continued.

(Eckles chosen to attend the Presbytery with till net Synod.)

This day also David Eckles is appointed to attend the Presbytery as ruling Elder with the minister till the next Synod.

Aprile 29th 1716

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Dalrymple this (unreadable) appears in publick a 5th time and is ordered to wait on session after sermons. Dalrymple compears and is appointed to be absolved.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above George Dalrymple appeared in publick this day for a fift time and that having been rebuked and exhorted he was from the pulpit ordered to wait upon Session after Sermons.

Wherefore being now called he compeared and the Session after trial finding ground to proceed towards his absolution appoint him to appear in publick next Lords day being the 6th of May next and upon his giving suitable expressions of his sorrow for his above sin then to be absolved.

(Good and Campbell appear in publick a 2nd time and ordered to wait upon Session after Sermons. They compear before Session but are delayed.)

It is also ordered to be marked that the above John Good and Jean Campbell appeared in publick this day for a 2nd time to the end above written and that having been rebuked and exhorted they were from the pulpit ordered to wait upon Session after Sermons.

Wherefore being now called they compear but the Session after trial not being satisfied as to their fitness for absolution delay them for some time.

May 6th 1716

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Dalrymple appeared in publick a 6th time and is absolved.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above George Dalrymple appeared in publick this day for a sixth time to the end above written and that having given suitable expressions of his sorrow for his above sin before the Congregation he was rebuked exhorted and absolved.

June 7th 1716

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Good and Campbell apply to Session to be absolved. Session finding ground appoint them to be absolved.)

This day compeared ultroneously the above John Good and Jean Campbell and desired that the Session would appoint them to appear in publick in order to absolution. The Session finding them now more sensible of their above offences appoint them to appear in publick upon Sabbath come eight dayes being the 17th instant and upon their giving suitable expressions of their sorrow for their above scandalous conversation then to be absolved.

June 24th 1716

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Good and Campbell appear in publick a 3rd time and are absolved.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above John Good and Jean Campbell appeared in publick upon Sabbath last the 17th of this instant to the end above written and that having given suitable expressions of their sorrow for their above sin they were rebuked exhorted and absolved.

(Samson and Chalmers supplied to be relaxed from the lessor excommunication and Session appoint them to appear in publick next Lords Day in order thereto.)

This day also compeared ultroneously the above Margaret Chalmers and Adam Samson and supplicated the Session to release them from the sentence of the Lessor Excommunication pass'd against them for the causes above narrated. The Session after trial finding them now more sensible of their above sin with the aggravations thereof abovementioned appoint them to appear in publick next Lords Day being the first of July next for profession of their repentance for the same in order to their being relaxed from the said sentence.

July 1st 1716

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Samson and Chalmers appear in publick a 1st time and continued.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above Adam Samson and Margaret Chalmers appeared this day in publick for a first time to the end above written and that having been rebuked and exhorted they were continued.

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July 8th 1716

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

(Samson and Chalmers appear in public a 2nd time and ordered to wait upon Session after sermons.)

It is ordered to be marked that the above Adam Samson and Margaret Chalmers appeared in public this day for a second time to the end above written and that having been rebuked and exhorted they were ordered to wait upon the Session after sermons next Lords Day being the 15th instant.

(Large paragraph which appears to describe some sort of audit by the presbytery. The writing and language is in archaic Scottish and I keep going back to try and fully decipher it.)

Air 16th September 1700 (Pasbye?!) & eighteen year.

The Presbytry having heard the remarks made by the brethren appointed to witness this register of old Cumnock Sessions, which they did from page fifty, the 16 of November 1704 to page ninety one, July 8th 1716, & the minister answer to them, they dispeot that the names of the Elders are not insert to know if there was a sufficient number to judge in affairs, which is want all through it. And at pages 59 +60 depositions of witnesses are not signed by the Moderator even when the deponent cannot sign + page 33 paragraph 2nd a person censured for fornication ??before the man ??? and is judicially sisted before them to own or refuse, & she is absolved from the scandall on a **week**day before the Congregation. This is not approbra* as it stands in the register but having heard the Ministers reasons & the ??? thereof the presbytry judged **they did much take it off**. And there being nothing further objected against the actings of the said Session the clerk was ordered to attest it accordingly which is testified by me.*

Th Lockhart, Cl presb. (Thomas Lockhart, Clerk of the Presbytery)

*sisted – cited/summoned before the Session

**approbra – approved/correct procedure

**** It appears that from this point on, there has been a new Clerk or scribe for the Session, although there is no formal announcement of it. ****

Cumnock July 15th 1716

**** This entry refers to unrest in the church with regards to a neighbouring parish minister assisting in Cumnock, and Cumnock's minister Mr Steel assisting in the parish of a minister who had taken the Oath of Abjuration. This 1712 oath required that ministers swear to accept that the sovereign of the newly joined Scotland and England should belong to the Church of England. This obviously caused issues in the Scottish church, and despite threats of fines and dismissal many Scottish ministers (including Cumnock's Mr Steel) refused to take the oath. As a result of the dispute about the Oath, there had been no Sacrement of the Lord's Supper dispensed in Cumnock for a few years, and details below appear to be Mr Steel's attempt to resolve the issue by explaining both his and the Church position on the matter.*

The paragraph below is in faint ink and difficult to read, and words in red are my best guess. Towards the bottom of the page it is virtually unreadable.

Which day after serious conference at this and several former meetings anent giving the Sacrament of the Lords Supper in that place Whereto the Elders had been urging their minister and that he would have none of these ministers with him who had taken the oath of abjuration,*** the minister desired that it might be marked by the Clerk that **despite** the endeavours he had been able to use both publicly and privately these three or four yeares bygone to bring the Elders to concur with him towards the giving of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper without making distinctions among ministers according to the earnest recommendations both of their own Synod and of several Assemblies of the Church, the far greater part of them continued obstinately to refuse tho' when it was earnestly desired of them and often, they could never condescend* on anything in the oath either as ground of Separation or as sinful tho in general they persisted in alledging it to be so and that it would **then able** many of the Congregation But most of **them** still insisted on the practice of neighbouring ministers in their complying with their people to exclude these ministers who had taken the oath (albeit he often told them that these neighbouring ministers and others had declared themselves of the same light with him in **these** matters and that both he and they had engaged themselves by their vote in Synods and Assemblies to use their utmost endeavours to make their people sensible that the oath was no ground of separation, And that he looked on this carriage in his Elders as contumacy both to their engagements to be orderly and subject to the judicatures of the Church as Elders and their engagement to be subject to his ministries as members of his Congregation in their thus refusing to receive **the** Solemn ordinance from him or to concurr with him towards the dispensing of it according to the **priority** of principles and acts of the Assembly of this Church.

And as he had this to Complain of in the representative of the Congregation the Great Plurality* of his Eldership so a considerable number of his people, about ten or twelve heads of families besides others as he is informed, had left off hearing him at Candlemass last who had formerly been his **???** for no other pretence so far as he can understand, but because he went and assisted one of these ministers in dispensing the Sacrament and they having observed none of the neighbouring ministers to do so and this notwithstanding Mr Steel had from the very first been very **solemn** and earnest with his Session and Congregation by intimating both the act of Synod and first act of Assembly **thereanent** to them and otherways to make them sensible that the oath was no ground of Separation long after which Mr Steel's Congregation continued very **insisted** in any had much satisfaction with what he had done tho some were uneasie and these notwithstanding..... this practiceall which he told his Elders..... to one principall part of his.....refused to him.....

**condescend – specify*

**plurality - majority*

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any other pretext of offence against him but only what hath been above said wherein he hath the testimony of his own Conscience, he is persuaded, weel founded both on scripture and reason. As he had been at great pains on many occasions to shew* them and also the unanimous testimony and

authority of several Assemblies of the Church of Scotland, was what he could not weel bear and that the presbytery of Air, to whom as a **Judicature of Christ** from whom he had received his ministry, he had engaged to faithfulness in dispensing Gospel ordinancy in this place and they as to their subjecting to and receiving of them (*unreadable*) the most proper to be applied onto that they might judge betwixt him and his session and people in this matter in what way to them may seem most ?? and ?. Whereas the Session agreed and Clerk William McCowan one of their number to go along with the minister and lay this affair with minister and Elders above joint earnest desire before the presbytry at their next meeting at Air upon the eighteenth day of this month and to obtain the presbyteries report in write.

This day also the above Adam Samson and Margaret Chalmers called compeared and the Session after trial finding ground to proceed to the said Adam's absolution order him to appear in publick next Lords day for a third time and upon his giving satisfying expressions of his sorrow for his above sin then to be absolved. But as to the said Margaret Chalmers finding that she had been guilty of fornication with George Simson now deceased her former husband in the paroch of Mauchline and satisfied for the same there which she confesses appoint her to continue her publick appearance accordingly to order of the church anent relapses.

Cumnock July 22nd 1716

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

Ordered to be marked that the above Adam Samson and Margaret Chalmers appeared in publick this day a third time for profession of repentance for their above sin of fornication and that the said Adam having given satisfying expressions of his sorrow for his sin was rebuked exhorted and absolved and that the said Margaret being guilty of a relapse as above was continued.

Cumnock July 29th 1716

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

Informed that the above Margaret Chalmer is lying wherefore the Session excuse her not appearing in publick this day and order her to be cited whenever it shall be found that she is fully recovered.

Cumnock October 15th 1716

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

Ordered to be marked that Daniel Sutherland is appointed to attend the presbytery with the minister as ruling elder.

Cumnock July 22nd 1716

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

Ordered to be marked that the above Adam Samson and Margaret Chalmers appeared in publick this day a third time for profession of repentance for their above sin of fornication and that the said Adam having given satisfying expressions of his sorrow for his sin was rebuked exhorted and absolved and that the said Margaret being guilty of a relapse as above was continued.

Cumnock July 29th 1716

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

Informed that the above Margaret Chalmers is lying* wherefore the Session excuse her not appearing in publick this day and order her to be cited whenever it shall be found that she is fully recovered.

**Lying – probably lying in, having had her baby*

Cumnock Oct 15th 1716

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

Ordered to be marked that Daniel Sutherland is appointed to attend the presbytery with the minister as ruling elder.

Cumnock May 19th 1717

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

This day the Session being informed that the above Margaret Chalmers is now perfectly recovered order her to be cited in before them against Sabbath next being the 26th instant.

Cumnock May 26th 1717

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

The which day the above Margaret Chalmers called compeared and being further rebuked and exhorted for her above sin is ordered to appear in publick next Lords day being the 2nd of June next for a fourth time to make further profession of her repentance for her above sin of relapse into fornication.

Cumnock June 9th 1717

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

Which day ordered to be marked that the above Margaret Chalmers appeared in publick last Lord's day being the 2nd of June instant for a fourth time and this fore noon for a fifth time to the end above written and exhorted both the said times. She was from the pulpit appointed to attend the Session after sermons this day. Wherefore being called she compeared and the Session finding ground to proceed towards her absolution appoint her to appear in publick next Lord's day being the

16th instant for a 6th time and upon her giving suitable expressions of her (sorrow) for her said sin then to be absolved.

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Cumnock June 16th 1717

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

Ordered to be marked that the above Margaret Chalmers appeared in publick this day for a sixth time to the end above written and that having given satisfying expressions of her sorrow for her said sin she was rebuked, exhorted and absolved.

Cumnock July 14th 1717

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

This informed that William Aird and Jean Thompson in this town converse frequently together under cloud of night in dark rooms and particularly that they were found by some persons who had left them together their alone late of night lying sleeping together naked next morning with their arms clasped about one anothers necks and that she the said Jean having been rebuked by some of her neighbours for such a scandalous behaviour with the said William Aird replied that she had done nothing but what she would do over again for that she was his married wife, therefore appoint them to be cited in before them against Sabbath next being the 21st instant.

Cumnock July 21st 1717

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

This day the above William Aird and Jean Thompson called compeared and both of them deny the lybell.

The Session order the witnesses in this affair namely Marion McCowan spouse to John Thomson in Cumnock, John Rankin and Isabell Stillie his spouse, and David Murdoch there, Jean Wallace, sevitrax to the Lady Polquhairn there, Margaret and Mary Samsons there to be cited in before them against this day twenty dayes being the eleventh of August next and the Clerk to write to the Kirk Session of Dalmellington to cause cite one William Smith there alleged another witness in this affair to the said dyet and cite the parties apud acta thereto.

Cumnock August 11th 1717

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

This day it is further informed against the above William Aird and Jean Thomson that they were found together yesternight about twelve o'clock in the said William Aird's house with the doors bolted upon them and wanting light by the above Isabell Stillie, Mary Samson and Marion McCowan

who its informed heard them as they thought in the very act of uncleanness together and thereupon called some of the Elders who found them in the house and further that she the said Jean Thomson being put forth returned immediately after the Elders were gone and abode with the above William Aird all night.

This day also the above William Aird and Jean Thomson called compeared and being interrogate upon the first lybell both of them continue to deny ut supra.

As to the second lybell they both own that they were together in a dark room but that it was when the said William was receiving clean linnen from the said Jean which he had given her to wash.

The officer having neglected to cite the witnesses to this dyet the Session order him to cite both these upon the first and second lybells in before them against this way come a fourthnight* being the 29th August and cite the parties apud acta to the said dyet.

**Fourthnight – this is just a random spelling of fortnight, and doesn't meant in four nights. The word derives from old English "Fourteen night".*

Cumnock August 29th 1717

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

This day the above William Aird and Jean Thomson called compeared but continued to deny ut supra. Wherefor witnesses called compeared and William Aird objects against three of them, viz Isabell Stillie, Mary and Margaret Samsons as having **??envy** at him and the evidences he advances against the said Isabell Stillie are that while she and the said Jean Thomson were quarrelling together and in one another's hair at Cumnock fair last he redd*** them and therefore thinks that she was ever since aquarrel at him.

**** redd – to sort out/clear up. Can be used in terms of resolving an issue, clearing land or (still commonly used in Cumnock) to tidy – "redd-up"*

The evidences he offers against the said Mary and Margaret Samson are that both of them called him an adulterous dog and whoremaster raskal and that he and they have not spoken together since the Draff races*** and that they there reproach'd him before James Muir in Cumnock and Barbara Gordon his spouse, John ??? and Bessie Thomson there John Thomson and Marion McCowan spouses there. Margaret Gordon, spouse to John Wilson there and Janet Stillie servitrix to Hugh Wallace merchant there.

Jean Thomson objects against the said Isabell Stillie as having envy at her and her evidences are that having gone to the house of John Rankin the said Isabell has been

**** Draff races – "Draff" is the leftover grain used in fermenting, which was used as animal feed. I have searched on-line and have found mention of a draff race in Cumnock in 1817, which was a local horse race where the first prize was a bridle and the prize for the last horse was a "peck of draff". (See "Journal Through the Counties of Berwick, Roxburgh, Selkirk, Dumfries, Ayr, Lanarkshire, East, West and Mid Lothians in the Year 1817" by WG Haddington)*

to redd her brother John Thomson and the said John Rankin and David Moodie who were fighting together. The said Isabell being present pulled her back by the hair and causing torn her the said Jean's peenie said "Is the common whore coming here to redd" and threatened her with the wash tongs but says she has no witnesses to prove it.

Parties and witnesses being put forth the Session order the minister to advise with the Presbytery anent the objections offered against Mary and Margaret Samson but repell the objections advanced against the above Isabell Stillie as irrelevant and parties and witnesses being called in again. They cite the parties and the said Mary and Margaret Samson apud acta to compear before the session against Sabbath next, being the first of September ensuing.

The remaining witnesses called compeared William Smith in Dalmellington, an execution of his citation to this dyet being produced and read, aged twenty nine, married; John Rankin aged twenty five, married (Marion McCowan, aged twenty nine) David Murdoch, aged twenty one, married; Isabell Stillie, aged twenty six married who being all of them solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate, purged of malice and partial counsel, parties present and nothing objecting.

The said William Smith depons negative and this is the truth as he shall answer to God.

Sub. William Smith.

John Rankin depons that on the Fridays night after the last May fair in this place he and the above David Murdoch suspecting the above William Aird and Jean Thomson because of the bad reports that had past about them went to the said William's window and heard two lalling*** together in a dark room, whom by their voices they judged to be the said William Aird and Jean Thomson and they thought they were unseemly together by the flesing (flexing?) of some bed or chairs and by their breathing which they heard the both because the upper leafe of the window was open. And further that upon the hendmost ++ fair day in July last the deponent saw through a hole of the loft of his house being immediately above the said William Aird's house the said William and Jean Thomson drink a pint of ale together beside two of his children and that afterwards he saw the said William take the said Jean upon his knee and that within a little they went out together at the back door and then he saw no more of them and knows no more in that matter and that is the truth as he shall answer to God. Sub. ER

**** lalling – this appears to be an old word for "babbling" or for unintelligible speech, which I can see on-line usually referring to a child's chatter*

++ hendmost – the last. Most often seen on-line as Hendmost Day (ie Judgement Day) but I've also seen "then hendmost horse of the pair" on the plough.

Marion McCowan deponed that about the time of the last draff race she and one William Hunter in Dalmellington who had been in William Aird's house all night and who came out to the deponent and said he wondered what was become of William Aird for that he could not find in the house and yet found the door locked, went in together and found the said William Aird and Jean Thomson lying in a bed sleeping with their cloathes on and in one another's arms beside of his children and that the deponent had left them the night before in the said William (unreadable) the said William Aird's

house the night immediately before at eleven o'clock. And further she depons ????? heard them conversing together in dark rooms their alones to her knowledge And her having told the said Jean that it was no credit for her to converse with the said William Aird at unseasonable times, the said Jean replied disdainfully she had done nothing but what she would do over again. And further that upon the tenth of August last at about eleven o'clock at night being Saturday she heard the barr of William Aird's door drawn and the door open and that because of the general opinion that people had about them the deponent looked out her window being opposite to the said William's door and saw the door and somebody go in but could not know who it was and saw the said William close the door with nothing on him but his shirt and heard him bolt it again and that the deponent having gone to her bed the above Isabell Stillie came then less than half an hour thereafter and called to her that the said William Aird and Jean Thomson were together and that the deponent went along with the said Isabell to the said William Airds's window and heard his whispering together in the dark room whom they judged by their voices to be the said William Aird and Jean Thomson and this is the truth as she shall answer to God and declares she cannot write and desyres the Moderator to subscribe for her.

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Isabell Stillie depons that she knew nothing about the above parties till Saturday was a fifteen dayes about twelve o'clock at night at which time upon suspicion she observed at the said William Aird's window and heard him and Jean Thomson tattling together, knowing them by their voices. And that she was sensible they were in bed together making a ... and a noise and that while the deponent listened there first the above Marion McCowan then the above Mary Samson and afterward Jean Campbell, servitrix to Robert Douglas, merchant in Cumnock, came and listened with her and that after several of the elders were called and did come ?? The said William fleeing out and the deponent went into the house and found the said Jean Thomson whom she held till two of the elders came (unreadable) and saw her go out and that the room was dark and nobody with them and this is the truth as she shall answer to God.

Subsc. Isabell Stillie

David Murdoch depons that some time in summer last he was present with John Rankin at window of the said William Aird's house heard some whispering in the room and something like a bed or a chair flexing? But that being about ten of the clock at night and the room dark and some of the windows open he knew not who they were and that he knows no more of the matter and this is the truth as he shall answer to God.

Subsc David Murdoch.

Jean Wallace servitrix to the Lady Polquhairn called but not compearing ordered to be cited pro secundo before the Session against Sabbath next being the first of September next.

The Session delay further consideration of this affair till after meeting and till the objections against the other witnesses be discussed and the remaining witness Jean Wallace be examined.

Cumnock Sepr 1st 1717

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

This day the said William Aird and Jean Thomson called compeared and continue to deny ut Supra . Wherefore the above Jean Wallace called compeared aged about twenty who being solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate and purged of malice and partial conduct, parties present and nothing objecting depons that in or about the 2nd of June last about ten a clock at night coming by a window of William Aird's house upon reports she had heard about William Aird and Jean Thomson she looked in at the said window and heard the said William and Jean Thomson together with a little child of his and heard the said Jean Thomson say to the said William, "If ye have such a kindness for me as ye pretend, ye had better marry me as love this was an uncleanness." To which he replied, "What is it thow callast an uncleanness. I know not what it is", repeating these words several times and that she replied there were many ways of uncleanness. And that afterwards the deponent heard the said William say "Go to your bed" but know not whether it was to her the said Jean Thomson or to the young child and that the said Jean Thomson said "rise go to your bed as I have done many a time before you." And that a little after she saw both of them rise from the fireside and go benn to the chamber and that the deponent went to the end window of the said chamber and heard a little whispering which the deponent supposed was betwixt the said William and Jean and that the above Margaret Samson the deponent anent came to her and said she would go tell the Elders... her sister Mary Samson coming up also bade ... for that such behaviour had been many a time seen betwixt them and this is the truth as she shall answer to God and declares that she cannot write and desires the moderator to sign for her.

The Session appoints the minister to lay the hail above depositions together with the above objections offered against the two above witnesses in this affair before the presbytery... in this week... for advice and also... the Clerk... magistrate... and to report and in the meantime... discharges them to converse together during... of this process which the said Wm Aird (*unreadable paragraph*)

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contemptuously refused to do, and cite them apud acta to compear before the Session against this day eight days being the 8th instant.

Cumnock Sepr 8th 1717

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

This day the minister reports anent William Aird and Jean Thomson's case, the presbyteries advice are that tho there be as much proven against them as renders them guilty and liable to publick censure yet that the probation* may be the fuller that the Session ... need to take the depositions of the other witnesses and that the objections offered by Aird against the above Mary and Margaret Samson are irrelevant because he is not only under a formal claim of being guilty that way but also under process in order to the greater excommunication for a scandal of adultery by the Synod of Glasgow. Wherefore parties being called and compearing the same was intimated to them and they cited apud acta to compear before the Session upon Sabbath first being the fifteenth instant and the said Mary and Margaret Samson ordered to be cited to the said dyet.

It being informed that the above William Hunter whom the above Marion McCowan depons to have been present with her when the said parties were found in bed together is now residing in the paroch of Straitown. The Session appoint the Clerk to write to the minister of Straitown to cause cite him in before them against this day fourthnight being the twenty second instant.

**probation – old usage of the word, meaning “proof”*

Cumnock Septr 15th 1717

Session met after ,prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

This day the above William Aird and Jean Thomson called compeared and both of them continue to deny ut Supra.

Wherefore the above Mary Samson called compeared, aged about 40, married, who being solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate, purged of malice and partial counsel, parties present and nothing further objecting depons that some time in ... last to her remembrances the deponent knew the said parties together in the said William Aird's house about twelve o'clock at night without light and the door bolted upon them and that upon the sabbath night before the draff race last the said Jean Thomson having been engaged to work with the deponent about that time for some dayes. She saw the said Jean Thomson go in... to the said William Aird's house and... when the deponent had gone in quest of her... several places of the town to get her to return to her work... the people she enquired at about... her to go and seek her in William Aird's ... upon the said draff race about twelve... going into the said William's house and finding the door of a certain room **thereafter shutt** upon..... they were together. She thought..... found them their alones in bed without either fire or candle, the said William having his cloathes on but knows not whether her cloathes were on or not. And further that about Lambings last about elven or twelve at night the above Marion McCowan came and knocked at the deponents door and called to her to come out for that the ... and her ... right then together.... And that she went along with the said Marion and Isabell Stillie another deponent in this affair, to the said William Aird's window and heard the bed going like...and the said Jean Thomson... very loud and that she knew it was he and she from their voices for that she heard them speak and that after the said William had come out and the said Jean was found in the house and being brought fourth she saw... and go in again together and shut the door behind them and knows no more of the matter and that this is the truth as she shall answer to God and declares she cannot and desires the moderator to subscribe for her.

It being informed that Margaret Samson is **refusing** ... to be home for some time the Session... her not compearing and order her to be cited in before them against this day twenty dayes being the 6th of October (unreadable)

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Cumnock Septr 22nd 1717

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

This day the Clerk reporting that he had written to the minister of Straitown to cause cite the above William Hunter before this Session against this day but had received answer that he was parochener in Carsfairn. Is appointed to write to the minister of that place to cause cite him in before this Session against this day three weeks, being the twinty seventh of October

Cumnock Oct 6th 1717

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

This day the above William Aird and Jean Thomson called compeared and continue to deny ut supra wherefore the above Margaret Samson called compeared aged about thirty, unmarried, who being solemnly, judicially sworn and interrogate, purged of malice and partial counsel, parties present and nothing further objecting depons that in February last she heard the said William Aird and Jean Thomson together their alones about four o'clock in the morning, knowing it to be them from their voices there being none also in the house save children sleeping. That she has known them frequently together in dark rooms their alones and sometimes a whole night from ten at night till fair daylight and particularly on the draff race last and this is the truth as she shall answer to God and declares she cannot write and desires the moderator to subscribe for her.

Cumnock Oct 27th 1717

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

This day the Clerk reports that he had written according to appointment to the minister of Carsfairn and there being an execution of the said William Hunter's citation to the third of November next produced and read. The Session order the above William Aird and Jean Thomson the parties to be cited to the said dyet.

This day also informed that Agnes Jamieson in Cumnock and Bessie Stillie, servitrix to James Campbell merchant in Cumnock are with child by fornication. The Session order both of them to be cited to the said dyet.

Cumnock Novmbr 3rd 1717

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

This day the above William aird and Jean Thomson called compeared but continue to deny ut supra. Wherefore the above William Hunter called, compeared, aged about forty, unmarried, who being solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate, purged of malice and partial counsel, parties present and nothing objecting depones that he... libelled the said William Aird ... been his bed fellow did not...

with... night at all but that the deponent ... from his sleep saw the said William Aird... at his bed stock with the said Jean Thomson in his arms. And that notwithstanding the above Marion McCowan and the deponent found him lying in another bed with his cloathes on but knows not if there was anybody with him or not and this is the truth as he shall answer to God.

Subscr. William Hunter

The session appoint the minister to advise with the Presbytery at their next meeting anent the William Aird and Jean Thomson's censure and to report.

This day also Agnes Jamieson called compared and confessed herself guilty of fornication and that she is with child thereby to Henry Martin*, Tailor in Cumnock. The Session cite her apud acta to compear before them against Sabbath first, being the ?? of Nov instant and order the said Henry to be cited to the said dyet.

**Henry Martin, tailor – this is the second time he has been accused of fathering a child by an unmarried mother, the first being in September 1714 by Agnes Gibson. After a lengthy process, Agnes Gibson admitted that she had falsely accused Martin and stated that the real father was James Wilson...*

The above Bessie Stillie also called, compeared and confessed herself guilty in the terms of the above intimation and that she is with child by fornication by James Wilson in this place. The session cite her also apud acta to the above dyet and order the said James Wilson to be cited thereto.

Cumnock Novmbr 10th 1717

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

This day the above Henry Martin and Agnes Jamieson called compeared and the said Henry owns himself guilty of fornication with her and both of them being rebuked and exhorted were ordered to appear together in publick next Lords day being the 17th instant for profession of repentance for their said sin. The said Agnes having also confessed that this a relapse to her.

This day also the above James Wilson called but compeared not nor was any excuse offered for him. The Session delay calling her at this time but order her to be cited in before them against this day fourthnight being the 24th instant and the said James Wilson to be cited pro secundo to the said dyet.

Cumnock Novmbr 24th 1717

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

It is ordered to be marked that the above Henry Martin and Agnes Jamieson appeared in publick last Lords day being the 17th past for a first time and this day for a second for profession of repentance for their sin of fornication and that being rebuked and exhorted both these times the said Agnes being guilty of a relapse was continued ad the said Henry was ordered from the pulpit to attend the Session this day after sermons.

Wherefore the said Henry being called compeared but the session not being satisfied as to his fitness in order to absolution delay him for some time and appoint him to converse with the minister and Elders as he shall have opportunity anent his case in order to his being brought to a further sight and sense of his sin.

This day also the above James Wilson called but compeared not nor was any excuse offered for him. The Session yet delay calling the above Bessie Stilie but order to be cited in before them against Sabbath come eight dayes being the 8th of December ensuing and the said James to be cited pro tertio to the said dyet.

Cumnock December 8th 1717

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

It is ordered to be marked that the above Agnes Jamieson appeared in publick to the end above written last Sabbath for a 3^d and this day for a 4th time and that having been rebuked and exhorted both these times was continued.

This day also the above James Wilson and Bessie Stillie called compeared and the said James confessed himself guilty with her in the terms of her ?intimation. They are ordered to appear in publick next Lord's day, being the 15th instant for profession of their sorrow for their said sin after a serious rebuke... on now administered to them... (unreadable)

The above Henry Martin not having spoken with the minister and Elders as he was appointed yet delayed.

Cumnock December 15th 1717

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

It is ordered to be marked that the above Agnes Jamieson appeared in publick this day for a 5th time to the end above written and that having been rebuked and exhorted she was ordered from the pulpit to attend the Session this day after sermons. Wherefore being called she compeared and the Session after trial finding ground to proceed towards her absolution appoint her to appear in publick next Lord's day being the twenty second instant and upon her giving satisfying expressions of her sorrow for her said sin then to be absolved.

It is also ordered to be marked that the above Bessie Stillie appeared this day in publick for a first time for profession of repentance for her sin of fornication with the above James Wilson and that having been rebuked and exhorted she was continued.

James Wilson not appearing this day is excused because of the tempestuousness of the weather.

Henry Martin yet delayed for the reason above written.

Cumnock December 22nd 1717

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

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It is ordered to be marked that the above Agnes Jamieson having appeared in publick this day for a 6th time of profession of repentance for her above relapse into fornication with the above Henry Martin and given satisfying expression of her sorrow therefore was rebuked exhorted and absolved.

This day also the above James Wilson and Bessie Stillie not having appeared in publick are ordered to be cited before the Session against this day eight dayes being the 29th instant.

Cumnock December 29th 1717

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

This day the above Bessie Stillie called compeared and ... that she was so indisposed last Lord's day that she could not appear in publick which excuse she ... The Session now appoint her to appear next Lord's day being the 5th of January next 1718.

This day also the above James Wilson called compeared and declares that by reason of the badness of the weather he could not get the Sessions former appointment obeyed and craved further that, because of the shortness of the day and uncertainty of the season a happening frequently he could not make his round and return home in one day, the session would delay him for some time since, till the day grow longer which excuse and petition the Session accepted and delay him till the 9th of March next upon which day they appoint him to appear in publick for profession of repentance for his sin.

Cumnock January 5th 1718

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

It is ordered to be marked that the above Bessie Stillie appeared in publick this day for a 2nd time and that being rebuked and exhorted she was from the pulpit ordered to wait upon Session this day after sermons.

Wherefore being called she compeared but the Session after trial not being satisfied as to her fitness for absolution cite her apud acta to compear before them on this day eight dayes being the 12th instant and in the mean time to take the opportunity of conversing with the minister and Elders anent her case.

Cumnock January 12th 1718

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

This day the above Bessie Stillie called compeared and several members informing that she had been with them and that she appeared more serious and sensible of her sin than formerly whereupon and upon her present profession of sorrow therefore the Session finding ground to proceed towards her absolution appoint her to appear in publick next Lord's day being the 19th instant and upon her giving satisfying expressions of repentance then to be absolved.

This day also the Session order Henry Martin to be cited in before them against the said ??dyet.

Cumnock January 19th 1718

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

It is ordered to be marked that the above Bessie Stillie having appeared in publick this day for a 3rd time for profession of repentance for her sin of fornication with the above James Wilson and given satisfying expressions of her sorrow therefore was rebuked exhorted and absolved.

This day also the above Henry Martin called compeared and the Session after trial and upon information of his having appeared more sensible of his sin before several members in private finding ground to proceed towards his absolution appoint him to appear in publick next Lord's day and upon his giving satisfactory expressions of his sorrow for his above sin then to be absolved.

This day also the minister reports the presbyteries advice anent William Aird and Jean Thomson that they are again inhibited from secret converse together. The Session order them to be cited in before them against Thursday first being the 23rd instant that the ??above may be intimated to them.

Cumnock January 23rd 1718

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

This day the above William Aird and Jean Thomson called compeared and were by advice of the Presbytery ... inhibited as above.

Cumnock January 26th 1718

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

It is ordered to be marked that the above Henry Martin having appeared this day in publick for a third time for expression of repentance for his sin of fornication with the above Agnes Jamieson and given satisfying expressions of his sorrow therefore was rebuked exhorted and absolved.

Cumnock March 23rd 1718

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

It is ordered to be marked that the above James Wilson ... upon the ninth of March past for a first and there being no sermon here last Sabbath this day for a second time appeared in publick for profession of repentance of his sin of fornication with the above Bessie Stillie ?but the Session in regard of another fornication he was guilty of at Glasgow which is yet unpurged could not proceed towards his absolution till he produces an extract of his absolution from the former scandal from the Kirk Session of that paroch and order him extracts of this present process if he apply therefore and the minister to advise with the presbytery anent his case.

This day also informed that Sarah Wallace servitrix in Garralland is with child by fornication. The Session order her to be cited in before them against this day eight dayes being the 30th instant.

Cumnock March 30th 1718

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

This day the above Sarah Wallace called compeared and owns herself guilty of fornication and that she was with child to Hugh Douglas younger of Garralland. The Session orders the said Hugh Douglas to be cited in before them against this day eight dayes being the 6th Aprile next and cite the said Sarah Wallace apud acta to the said dyet.

Cumnock Aprile 6th 1718

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

This day the above Hugh Douglas and Sarah Wallace called compeared and the said Hugh confesses himself guilty of fornication with the said Sarah. The Session having rebuked and exhorted them appoint the said Sarah to appear in Publick next Lord's day being the 13th instant but in regard the said Hugh because of the un certainty of his being at home through bussiness which, he says, he has abroad, desires his publick appearances to be delayed the session forbear him for some time.

Cumnock Aprile 13th 1718

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

It is ordered to be marked that the above Sarah Wallace appeared this day in publick for a first time for profession of repentance for her sin of fornication with the above Hugh Douglas and that having been rebuked and exhorted she was continued.

Cumnock Aprile 27th 1718

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

It is ordered to be marked that the above Sarah Wallace there being no sermon here last Sabbath appeared this day in publick for a 2nd time to the end above written and that having been rebuked and exhorted she was ordered from the pulpit to attend the Session this day after sermons.

Wherefore being called she comeared and the Session having ground after trial to proceed towards her absolution appoint her to appear in publick next Lord's day being the 4th of May next and upon her giving satisfying expressions of her sorrow for her above sin the to be absolved.

This day also James Mcgeighan is appointed to attend the presbytery with the minister as ruling Elder till next Synod.

This day also informed that Mary Campbell in Cumnock is with child by fornication. The Session appoint the minister and Bailie Ferguson to converse with her and to report.

This day also informed that the above William Aird and Jean Thomson yet keep company together notwithstanding the former inhibitions. The Session appoint the minister to advise with the presbytery to fall in this paroch anent them and to report against next Sederunt.

Cumnock May 4th 1718

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

It is ordered to be marked that the above Sarah Wallace

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appeared this day in publick for a 3rd time to the end above written and that having given satisfying expressions of her sorrow for her said sin she was rebuked exhorted an absolved.

This day also as to the above William Aird and Jean Thomson's case the minister reports that the presbytery advise to put them under the lesser excommunication upon the probation already led against themand that the Session further inquire into their carriage since they were last inhibited to converse together. The Session appoint the town Elders to inquire and to report against this day eight dayes being the eleventh instant and order the parties to be cited in before them against the said dyet.

Cumnock May 11th 1718

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

This day several of the town Elders appointed to inquire into William Aird and Jean Thomson's carriage since they were last inhibited informed that they have been frequently guilty of scandalous converse together since the said time particularly in harvest last and for verifying the same gave in the list of witnesses underwritten: John Thomson and Marion McCowan in Cumnock, spouses, Mary Samson spouse to George Mclrvail, John Rankin and Isabelle Stillie there, spouses, Jean Campbell

spouse to John Good Tailleour there, James Muir there, Elizabeth Bryan there, John Good barber there.

This day also the above William Aird and Jean Thomson compeared only the said William who confesses that he has been frequently drunken with the said Jean since the time of the above written but that the people but the people of the houses where they drank were always present with them. Therefore cite the said William apud acta to compear before them against this day eight dayes being the 18th instant and order the said Jean Thomson and witnesses above named to be cited to the said dyet.

This day also the minister reports as to Mary Campbell that he and the above Bailie Ferguson had conversed with her and that she had confessed herself guilty of fornication. The Session on account of ??... delay citing her for some time.

This day also a Testimonial* appointed Bessie Aird.

**Testimonial – a document or statement attesting to the character or qualifications of an individual or as a guarantee or proof of something*

There has been a change of Clerk or scribe here and the writing now includes more old-style words and characters including the use of “y” for what is now “th” (eg “ye” meaning “the”) and “qh” for what is now “wh” (eg “qhch” for “which”), plus a number of other abbreviations – I have written the word in full for ease of reading and given definitions of new words where they appear.

Cumnock May 15th 1718

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

This day a Testimonial ordered for Jannet Stillie for five years preceeding this date.

This day also William Aird and Jean Thomson called compeared only the said Jean who owns that she has been severall times in Aird’s company since they were inhibited but that she dunst not tell last time she was before the Session for fear that they had been angry which is appointed to be marked, witnesses ordered to be called.

John Thomson called compeared aged twenty nine married, who being solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate, purged of malice and partial counsel depons that he has seen the said William Aird and Jean Thomson often together, both in other peoples house and in Aird’s own house and no body with them, if it was not a little infant and yet he has seen her sitting on his bed stock and that this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Subts John Thomson.

Marion McCowan called compeared aged about twenty eight married who being solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate purged of malice and partial counsel. Depons that she has often since said inhibition seen them the said William Aird and Jean Thomson together and that sometimes when

the said Marrion had gone into Aird's house the said Jean ran away and hid herself and that about six weeks ago at about ten a clock at night the said Marion, John Good barber being present, saw them lying in bed together with their cloaths on, and that when she quarrelled them therefore, both of them were angry at her for so doing and that another night about twenty days ago she went into Aird's house between twelve and one Saturdays night to stir some ale she had working there and saw the said Jean run in behind a chair Aird was sitting upon to hide herself there being none with them save a little infant. And that having asked the said Jean next day where she had Lyon (lain) that night she replied that she had Lyon in the said Marion's yard and that upon Tuesday last she heard the said Jean call Aird her own Good-man*, which the said Jean now owns before the Session but says it was in her daffing* and the deponent declares she knows no more of this affair and this is the truth as she shall answer to God and declare she cannot write and desires the Moderator to sign for her.

**Goodman – husband*

**daffing – foolish talk, joking*

Mary Samson aged about fourtie married who being solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate purg'd of malice and partial counsel depons that since the said Aird and Thomson were inhibited she has heard her say that Aird was her husband, and his house hers; and that he has them go frequently out and in together and sat and drink together but that she knows nothing of their staying or lying together at night but by common report, only that she has frequently seen her the said Jean in Aird's house at ten, eleven or twelve of the clock at night and that she has seen her come out of Aird's house about rising time and this the truth as she shall answer to God and declares that she cannot write and desires the Moderator to subscribe for her.

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John Rankin aged about twenty four married who being solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate, purg'd of malice and partial counsel, depons that he has known the said Aird and Thomson frequently together both day and night since harvest last and that one night particularly , as he was passing by Aird's back door, he saw the said Aird and Thomson in Aird's bed together and that after he went upstairs John Good and Marion McCowan came in upon them and pulled them out of the bed and that another night when the said Aird and Thomson were scolding together, he heard the Jean Thomson say that she had given him, the said Aird money which she would not have given her brother, and that he heard him reply, that he had given her the thing that her brother could not give her, but cannot be positive whither he heard him express it in viler words, that he has heard them sometimes cast out and him call her a whore and she him whore master and that the deponents house being the immediate next storey above Airds, he has frequently heard the said Thomson hoasting* there in the night time, and this is the truth as he shall answer to God and subt by the following mark – ER.

**hoasting – possibly coughing, in this context*

Isabel Stillie aged about thirty six married, who being solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate purg'd of malice and partial counsel depons that living in the room above Aird's house she has frequently known them the said Aird and Thomson together there alones, and several times heard

them in bed together and that since the time of their inhibition above mentioned particularly at one time about a month ago having heard her husband say that the said Aird and Thomson were in bed together she went down and found her lying in the bed beyond Aird and that she saw Aird naked because he sat up in the bed , but whither the said Thomson was naked or not cannot be positive because she was covered ?? up with bed cloths and had a napkine about her head, that she has heard her call Aird's house her own husband's house, that he has sometime heard her call her whore and her call him whore master, that she heard her say to him that God would curse him for what he had done to her, that he needed not buy coals for winter, he knew of his winter quarters for hell would be is portion. That when the said she had given him money which she would not have given to her brother, he replied that he had given her the thing that none of her brethren could give her, naming it in the vilest manner; and further that she knew her lye five days and five night in Aird's bed and he healing drinks and making broath for her as if she had been a woman lying in child-bed and this is the truth as she shall answer to God. Sic Subt Isabel Stillie.

Jean Campbell aged twenty four married who having been solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate purg'd of malice and partial counsel depons that about six weeks ago about ten a clock of the day she found the said Jean Thomson lying in Aird's house in a bed foragainst the fire and nobody with her. That she cannot be positive if she was naked but that the bed clothes were upon her and her gown above all and that having asked her what she was doing there she replied it was none of her business and this is the truth as she shall answer to God and declares she cannot write and desires the Moderator to scribe for her.

James Muir aged about thirty unmarried who being solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate purg'd of malice and partial counsel depons that he has frequently seen them drinking together in the deponant's own house and her frequently going out and in to William Aird's house and that he has some times heard her miscalling and cursing Aird and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Sic subt – James Muir

Elspeth Bryan aged about thirty six unmarried who being solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate purg'd of malice and partial counsel depons that she has seen Aird and Thomson drinking together since the said inhibition and that she has seen Thomson in Aird's house and that she knows no more in this affair having but lately come to that neighbourhood and this is the truth as she shall answer to God and declares that she cannot write and desire the Moderator to subs for her.

John Good aged about twenty six married who being solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate, purg'd of malice and partial council depons that he has known the said Aird and Thomson keep company together these three months past and that they are seldome sundary* and that she often resorts to Airds house and that Jean having had her bed for ordinary these several years in the deponents house he has known her severall nights of late not come in to her bed and that when the deponent ask'd where she had got her bed these nights she reply'd in the yard. And that one night about six weeks ago the deponent and the above Marion McCowan found the above William Aird and Jean Thomson lying together in Aird's bed about ten of eleven a clock at night with their cloathes on and that the deponent pulled her out of the bed and that both the said Aird and

Thomson were angry at them for so doing and that he hath heard them say to one another My Dear and that Aird hath severall nights come to the deponents house, where the said Jean was gone to bed and some times went ben to her bed, and that when the deponent put him away, he was very angry with him and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Sic Subt – John Good.

**sundry – separate/apart/distinct (now used as in “sundry items” or “torn asunder”)*

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The Session cite the said Jean Thomson apud acta to compear before them against this day eight days being the twenty fifth instant and order the said William Aird to be cited to the said dyet.

Cumnock May 25th 1718

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

The which day Testimonial ordered for Mary McCowan discharged to be given her in regard that it was informed she had left Mrs Lawries service with whom she was ?good and hired with another,

This day also William Aird and Jean Thomson call'd but compeared only the said Jean, who now confesses herself guilty of a tract of uncleanness with the said William, according to the presumptions given against her and says she is with child to him. The Session order the said Aird to be cited to compear before them against this day eight days being the first of June next and cite the said Jean apud acta to the said dyet.

This day also Mary Campbell ordered to be cited to Session against the above dyet also.

Cumnock June 1st 1718

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

The which day William Aird and Jean Thomson call'd compear'd and Aird being interrogate upon Thomsons judicial confession admitted last Lord's day gave shifting answers and some times seem'd to own it and some times to deny it, but confess'd in that general that he was guilty of fornication with her and that if she was with child he should not deny it. The Session do by advice foresaid upon the probation formerly laid against them, put both of them under the sentence of the lesser Excommunication declaring them incapable of several ordinances* and order their sentence to be intimated to the Congregation next Lords day, and cite the said parties abud acta to compear before the Presbytery at their next meeting whereof the Minister is timeously* to acquaint them and to carry ane extract of this last process before the presbytery.

**ordinance – good behaviour*

**timeously – promptly/expeditiously or early*

This day also Mary Campbel call'd compeared and confess'd herself guilty of fornication and that she is with child to my Lord Chrichton*. The Session appoint the Minister and John Ferguson to acquaint his Lordship privately with the above accusation and order a Committee of their number to meet at what ever time or place betwixt and this day eight days , his Lordship being acquainted as above shall choose of the members of the said committee to be the Minister the said John Ferguson with any other two of the Elders and the Clerk to receive his Lordships confession with power to them in case of confession to order the said Mary to be cited to appear in publick next Lords day.

**Lord Crichton – from the date and his youth, commented on below, this appears to be William Dalrymple-Crichton, 5th Earl of Dumfries, owner of the Lochnorris/Lefnoreis estate where Dumfries House was built in the 1750s. According to Wikipedia, he was born in 1699 (making him 19 or so during this incident), inherited the estate in 1714 and died in 1769 without a male heir. It would appear that he did not marry Mary Campbell. There are no Campbell or Crichton births recorded in Cumnock in 1718-1719 and so there is no record of the baby.*

Note the leniency towards "My Lord's" said sin compared with Mary's or other lesser born men!

This day also Samuel Paterson ordered a Testimonial, as also George Tennent which was afterwards stopt in regard we are inform'd that he professes to be of another Communion.

Cumnock June 8th 1718

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

Ordered to be marked that Intimation was made this day of the sentence of the lesser Excommunication past last Lords day against Aird and Thomson.

This day also the Committee appointed to meet on my Lord Chrichtons affair said that they had met according to appointment and that his Lordship having compeared before them and confess'd him self guilty of fornication with the said Mary Campbel. They had ordered the said Mary to be cited to appear in publick this day for profession of repentance for her said sin.

Ordered to be mark'd that the Mary Campbel did appear this day in publick for the first time to the end foresaid and that being rebuked and exhorted was continued.

My Lord Chrichton having by the Minister apply'd to the Session for being admitted to appear in publick next Lord's day being the fifteenth instant and that he might be absolved upon one days appearance from the scandal thereof, and further that the said Marys appearance in publick might be delay'd for that day, and the Minister informing that he had appeared serious and sensible of his sin before him. The Session in regard of his youth, ready submission to discipline and other circumstances went unanimously into the said proposal in all the particulars above narrated and ordered the Minister to acquaint his Lord ship therewith, and appointed intimation to be given to Mary Campbel not to appear in publick till this day fortnight being the twenty second instant.

Cumnock June 15th 1718

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

Ordered to be mark'd that William Lord Crichton having appeared in publick this day to the end above written and showed himself serious in the profession of his repentance for his said sin was rebuked exhorted and absolved.

Cumnock June 29th 1718

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

Ordered to be marke'd that Mary Campbel appeared in publick las Lord's day for a second time to the end above writen and was ordered from the pulpit to attend this dyet of the Session. Wherefore being called she compeared and after tryal finding ground to proceed towards her absolution appointed her to appear in publick this forenoon for a third time and

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Upon her giving satisfying expressions of her sorrow for her said sin to be absolved.

Post Meridiem Eod die*

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

**Post Meridiem Eod die – (Latin) Afternoon that day*

Minister reports that having laid Aird and Thomsons case before the presbytery they judged it proper to delay further procedure against him till they shall hear of the Presbytery of Dumbartons censure against him who they were informed by advice of the Synod were proceeding to put him under the sentence of the greater Excommunication.

Ordered to be mark'd that Mary Campbel having appeared in publick this forenoon for a third time and given satisfying expressions of her sorrow for her said sin was rebuked exhorted and absolved.

Hugh Douglas younger of Garralland having apply'd to be admitted to appear in publick for profession of repentance for his sin of fornication with the above Sarah Wallace. The Session appoint him to appear in public for the said end upon Sabbath come eight days being the thirteenth instant.

Cumnock July 13th 1718

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

It is ordered to be marked that the above Hugh Douglas appeared in publick this day for a first time to the end above written and that being rebuked and exhorted he was continued.

This day also a Testimonial for Jean Cairns from her infancie till martinmass one thousand seven hundred & seventeen for most part produced before Session and judicially read.

Cumnock July 20th 1718

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

Ordered to be marked that Heugh Douglas appeared this day in publick for a second time to the end above written and that having been rebuked and exhorted, he was ordered from the pulpit after sermons to attend the Session. Wherefore being call'd compeared and the Session after tryal finding ground to proceed towards his absolution ordered him to appear in publick against this day fortnight being the third of August next and upon his giving suitable expressions of his sorrow for his said sin then to be absolved.

This day also the Session having the Celebration of the Sacrament of the Lords Supper in view appoint a meeting for prayer tomorrow the twenty first instant in order to them advising upon a convenient day for that purpose.

Cumnock July 21st 1718

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

This day the Session after several of their number had prayed did unanimously condescend upon the third Sabbath of August, being the seventeenth of that month for celebrating the Sacrament of the Lords Supper in this place and appoint intimation thereof to be made upon Sabbath first being the twenty seventh instant.

Cumnock August 3rd 1718

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

Ordered to be marked that Intimation was made last Lords day according to appointment of the day condescended upon for celebrating the Lords Supper.

Ordered also to be marked the above Hugh Douglass having appeared in publick this day for a third time and given satisfying expressions of his sorrow for his above sin was rebuked exhorted and absolved.

This day also a meeting for prayer and consorting the Communion Roll appointed to be upon Friday next being the eighth instant.

Cumnock August 8th 1718

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

Ordered to be marked that the above meeting for prayer and consorting the Communion Roll was this day observed and a Communion Roll judicially consorted accordingly, which is kept in relentis.

Cumnock August 24th 1718

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

Order to be marked that the Sacrament of the Lords Supper was Celebrated upon the seventeenth past of this month as was above designed.

Cumnock October 12th 1718

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

This day Baillie Fergusson was appointed to attend the Presbytery as ruling elder with the Minister till the next Synod.

Cumnock January 24th 1719

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

This day Daniel Sutherland chosen ruling Elder to attend the Presbytry with the Minister till the next Synod.

Cumnock Feby 15th 1719

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

This day informed that John Wilson in Skerrington, James Howat in Glesnock and John Meggat in Hill are guilty of habitual drinking whole nights in ale houses and particularly that about a fournight ago they sat and drank a whole night in Burnswelltrees. The Session ordered them to be cited in before them against Sabbath first being the twenty second instant.

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This day the above John Wilson call'd compeared and confesses himself guilty of drinking two nights in Cumnock in the house of James Muir and another whole night in Burnswelltrees, that the above Howat and Meggat were with him all the time in Burnswelltrees but they went away from him in Muirs before he went to bed having lodged there all night.

James Howat call'd compeared confesses he has stayed several times too late in Cumnock, yet he has sime times stayed whole nights on Thursdays and that he was in Burnswelltrees with the above John Wilson but appeared disingenuous saying he minded not or how oft he had been drinking too late or whole nights in Cumnock.

John Meggat call'd compeared not, nor was any excuse offered for him. The Session appoint the Clerk to write to the Minister of Ochiltree where it is said he now is, to cause cite him in before them against this day fournight being the eight of March next and in the meantime order the above Wilson and Howat to be immediately rebuked before them, which was accordingly done and their rebuke to be intimated to the Congregation next Lords day being the eight of March next.

March 8th 1719

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

It's ordered to be marked that Wilson and Howats rebuke was intimated last Lords day according to appointment.

Testimonial ordered for Jannet Jamison from her infancie to this date.

This day also execution of Meggats citation from Ochiltree. Being produced, Meggat called compeared and answered contemptuously saying he had others to answer to but confessed that he has been severall times overtaken with drink and that about the beginning of January he tippled a whole night partly in town and Burnswelltrees till breakfast time next day, as also two whole nights at another time in this town and that he has often been guilty of scandalous fighting. Therefore and in regard of his professing a more than ordinary strictness in withdrawing from ordinances himself and keeping his children from that protect, from the benefit of baptism till they were of a considerable age which the Session reckon a hainous aggravation of his scandalous drunkenness and fighting. They order him now to be rebuked before them which was accordingly done and intimation thereof to be made to the Congregation next Lords day being the fifteenth instant.

This day also James Allen ordered to be cited in before the Session against this day eight days for marrying with Mr Hepburn after one days proclamation and procuring a Clandestine Testimonial for that and under the hands of some persons in the town.

Cumnock March 15th 1719

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

Ordered to be marked intimation of Meggates rebuke was this day made according to appointment.

This day also James Allan called compeared and owned his being married as above but denyed that he had applied to any for a Testimonial and that he had gotten any, tho a litle after he said he had desired it of some and gave ill names to the Elders and being informed that application had been made by or in the name of the said Allan for the above Testimonial William Gemmel in Greenbraehead, James Stillie in Cumnock, George McGavin there and Hugh Brown son to John Brown officer there, order them to be cited in before them against sabbath first being the twenty second instant , and cite the said Allan apud act to that dyet.

Cumnock March 22nd 1719

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

This day James Allan called compeared and owns again that he did desire some to subcrive* a Testimonial to his being once proclaimed but would not own that he had gotten any and being ordered to remove a litle he went off contemptuously, telling the Session he would never come before them again and the he would cause cite them before the Justices of the peace.

**subscribe – to sign or put one’s name to*

The above persons cited in this affair being called compeared but the Session after examining them find all of them deny, save what is above owned by Allan, dysmiss them for the time. The Session also in regard that he is none of their Communion but a follower of Mr Hepburn delay further procedure against him but appoint intimation to be made of his scandalous behaviour and of the state of his affair to the Congregation.

Cumnock March 29th 1719

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

Ordered to be marked that that intimation of Allans affair was made this day according to appointment.

Ordered also to be marked that this day by the Sessions appointment fifty marks Scots of the poors money was lent to Old Boreland and his son **Caur**.

Cumnock Aprile 5th 1719

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

This day compear’d ultroneously Elizabeth Wallace servitrix to the Lady Dalegles and confest her self guilty of fornication with William Hamilton Servitor to the said Lady. The Session having rebuked and exhorted her, cite her apud act to compear before them against this day eight days being the twelfth instant and order the said William to be cited before them to the said dyet.

Cumnock Aprile 12th 1719

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

Elizabeth Wallace call’d compeared and persists in accusing the above William Hamilton as the only person guilty with her.

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William Hamilton call’d compeared and confesses himself guilty in the terms of the Lybel. The Session appoint both of them to appear in the publick place for professing repentance for their above sin against this day fourtnight being the twenty sixth instant.

Cumnock Aprile 26th 1719

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

The Session order the said William Hamilton and Elizabeth Wallace not having appeared this day as they had been appointed to be cited to appear before the Congregation to the and foresaid next Lords day being the third of May next.

This day also George Wilson ordered to attend the Presbytery as ruling Elder with the Minister till next Synod.

Cumnock May 10th 1719

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

This day ordered to be marked that Elizabeth Wallace having appeared in publick last Lords day being the third of this instant for a first and this day for a second time for profession of repentance for her said sin was rebuked and exhorted and from the pulpit ordered to attend the Session after sermons this day. Therefore being called she compeared and the Session finding ground to proceed towards her absolution appointed her in order thereto to appear next Lords day being the seventeenth instant and upon her giving satisfying expressions of her sorrow for her said sin then to be absolved.

This day also the Session in regard to the said William Hamilton has not appeared in publick according to appointment neither this nor last Lords day, appoint him to be cited in before them against this day eight days being the seventeenth instant.

Cumnock May 10th 1719

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

Ordered to be marked that Elizabeth Wallace having appeared in publick this day for a third time to the end abovewritten, and given satifying expressions of her repentance for her said sin was rebuked exhorted and absolved.

This day William Hamilton called compeared and the Session not being satisfied with what he offered for his not appearing in publick according to former appointment as being frivolous, rebuke him for said disobedience and appoint him to appear in publick this day fourtnight being the thirty first instant to the end abovewritten and also to be rebuked for his said obstinacy.

Cumnock May 31st 1719

Session met after prayer. Sederunt minister and Elders.

Mr John Steel Minister, John Fergusson, George Campbell, James Johnston, William Clerk, James Mcgechan, George McCartney, James Sloan, Robert Douglas, Daniel Sutherland, William Hodge, Allan Mcrae – Being the whole of the Eldership except William Dalrymple of Glenmuir, Gilbert Eckles and George Wilson.

Ordered to be marked that the above William Hamilton appeared in publick this day to the end above written got a first time and rebuked, exhorted and continued.

The Session book with the Presbyterys remarks thereupon being now returned. The Session appoint the name of the place and of the minister and elders to be marked at this and hail of their following sederunts.

Cumnock May 10th 1719

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, George Campbell, James Johnston, Robert Douglas, William Hodge, George Wilson, James Sloan, Daniel Sutherland, Gilbert Eckles Elders.

Ordered to be marked that that William Hamilton having appeared in publick this day for a second time for profession of repentance for his said sin with the above Elizabeth Wallace was rebuked exhorted and ordered from the pulpit to attend the Session this day after sermons wherefore being called he compeared and the Session finding ground to proceed towards his absolution appoint him in order thereto to appear in publick next Lords day being the fourteen instant and upon his giving satisfying expressions of his sorrow for his said sin then to be absolved.

Cumnock June 14th 1719

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel, Minister, James Johnston, Robert Douglas, William Hodge, James Sloan, James Mcgechan Elders.

It is ordered to be marked that William Hamilton having appeared in public this day being a third time and given satisfying expressions of his sorrow for his said sin was rebuked, exhorted and absolved.

This day also the Session having in view the Celebration of the Sacrament of the lords Supper in this place, condescend upon the third Sabbath of July being the nineteenth of that month for what effect & order Intimation hereof to be made next Lords day.

Cumnock June 21st 1719

Session met after prayer.

Sed. Minster Mr John Steel: John Fergusson, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, William Hodge, James Mcgechan, George McCartney, James Sloan Elders

Ordered to be marked that the above day designated for Celebration of the Sacrament of the Lords Supper in this place was intimated and the Session appoint a meeting for prayer against Wednesday come eight days being the eight of July next for making up the Communion.

Cumnock July 8th 1719

Session met after prayer.

Sed. Minster Mr John Steel: John Fergusson, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, William Hodge, James Mcgechan, George McCartney, James Sloan, David Eckles & William Clerk Elders.

The Session did judicially consort a roll of such as were to be admitted to the said Ordinance which is kept in relentis.

Cumnock July 26th 1719

Session met after prayer.

Sed. Minster Mr John Steel: John Fergusson, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, William Hodge, James Mcgechan, William Clerk, David Eckles, George McCartney & James Sloan Elders.

Ordered to be marked that the Sacrament of the Lords supper was celebrated in this place upon Sabbath last the nineteenth of this month

Cumnock October 4th 1719

Session met after prayer.

Sed. Minster Mr John Steel, George Campbell, John Fergusson, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, William Hodge, George Wilson, David Eckles Elders.

This day informed that Jean Wallace is with child by fornication, as also that James Millyken and Agnes Johnston spouses have been guilty of the said sin before marriage. The Session order them to be cited in before them against Sabbath next being the eleventh instant.

Cumnock October 11th 1719

Session met after prayer.

Sed. Minster Mr John Steel, George Campbell, John Fergusson, Robert Douglass, John Sloan, Daniel Sutherland, James Mcgechan, William Clerk, George McCartney Elders.

Jean Wallace called compeared confessed herself guilty of fornication after much serious dealing with her and that she is with child to John Mitchel in Cumnock. The Session having rebuked and exhorted her cite her apud acta to compeare before them upon Sabath next being the eighteenth instant, and order the said John matchet to be cited to the next dyet.

James Millyken and Agnes Johnston called compeared and own themselves guilty with one another in the terms of the above information. They being rebuked and exhorted are ordered to appear in publick next Lords day being the eighteenth instant to make profession of repentance for their said sin.

Cumnock October 4th 1719

Session met after prayer.

Sed. Minster Mr John Steel, George Campbell, John Fergusson, John Sloan, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglass, William Hodge, George Wilson, David Eckles Elders.

Ordered to be marked that James Millyken and Agnes Johnston appeared in public this day for a first time and being rebuked and exhorted were continued.

Jean Wallace called compeared and persists to accuse as above therefore John Mitchel called compeared owens himself to be guilty with her, but refuses to take with her child unless it comes to his time*. The Session having rebuked and exhorted them order the said Jean Wallace to appear in publick this day fournight being the first of November next, but delays the said John Mitchel for some time in regard he says he is to be absent about necessary business.

**comes to his time - ie within 9 months of the time he was intimate with her.*

This day also Daniel Sutherland ordered to attend the Presbytery with the minister till next Synod.

Cumnock October 25th 1719

Session met after prayer.

Sed. Minster Mr John Steel, George Campbell, John Fergusson, James Johnston, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglass, William Hodge, George Wilson, David Eckles Elders.

Ordered to be marked that James Millyken and Agnes Johnston appeared this day in publick for a second time and that being rebuked and exhorted they were appointed from the pulpit to wait upon the Session after sermons, wherefore being called and compeared & the Session finding ground to

proceed towards their absolution appoint them to appear in publick in order thereto against Sabbath first, being the first of November next and upon their giving satisfying expressions of their repentance then to be absolved.

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Cumnock Nov 1st 1719

Session met after prayer.

Sed. Minster Mr John Steel, George Campbell, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, Gilbert Eckles, William Hodge Elders.

Ordered to be marked that James Millyken and Agnes Johnston appeared in publick this day for a third time and given suitable expression of their sorrow for their said sin were rebuked, exhorted and absolved.

Ordered also to be marked that Jean Wallace having appeared in publick for profession of Repentance for her sin of fornication with John Mitchel was rebuked, exhorted and continued.

Cumnock November 8th 1719

Session met after prayer.

Sed. Minster Mr John Steel, George Campbell, John Sloan, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglass, William Hodge, William Clerk, George McCartney Elders.

Ordered to be marked that Jean Wallace appeared this day in publick for a second time and that being rebuked and exhorted she was ordered to attend the Sessions further orders. The Session appoint her to wait upon them against this day fourthnight being the twenty second instant.

Cumnock November 22nd 1719

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Master John Steel minister, George Campbell, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, William Hodge, Gilbert Eckles, James Sloan, George McCartney Elders.

This day Jean Wallace called compeared but the Session not being satisfied with her fitness in order to absolution delay her and order her to converse with the minister and Elders anent her case and cite her apud acta to compear before them against Thursday next being the twenty sixth instant.

This day also, Testimonial ordered for William Dalrymple in Lifenorris, and Margaret Parkhill his wife.

Testimonial ordered for Mary Campbel.

Cumnock November 22nd 1719

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, George Campbell, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, James Sloan, Alan Mcrae, George McCartney Elders.

This day Jean Wallace called compeared, the Session now being satisfied with her order her to appear in publick next Lords day for a third time and upon her giving satisfying expressions of her sorrow for her said sin then to be absolved.

Cumnock November 29th 1719

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Master John Steel minister, George Campbell, James Johnston, Daniel Sutherland, William Hodge, George Wilson, James Sloan Elders.

Ordered to be marked that Jean Wallace having appeared in publick this day for a third time and given satisfying expressions of her sorrow for her said sin was rebuked, exhorted and absolved.

Cumnock December 13th 1719

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Master John Steel minister, George Campbell, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, James Mcgechan, George Wilson, Alan Mcrae, William Hodge Gilbert Eckles Elders.

Ordered to be marked that John Mitchel being allowed upon application compeared last Lords day the sixth past for a first and this day for a second time, was rebuked exhorted and from the pulpit ordered to wait upon the Session this day after sermons. Wherefore compearing and the Session finding ground to proceed towards his absolution order him to appear in publick next Lords day being the twentyeth instant and upon his giving satisfying expressions of his sorrow for his said sin then to be absolved.

Cumnock December 27th 1719

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Master John Steel minister, George Campbell, John Fergusson, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, Gilbert Eckles, David Eckles, William Hodge, James Sloan, Alan Mcrae, James Mcgechan Elders.

Ordered to be marked that John Mitchel having appeared this day in public a third time and giving satisfying expressions of his sorrow for his said sin was rebuked, exhorted and absolved.

Cumnock Aprile 17th 1720

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Master John Steel minister, and the hail members of the above Sederunt.

This day Alan Mcrae ordered to attend the Presbytery with the minister as ruling Elder till next Synod.

Cumnock July 3rd 1720

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Master John Steel minister, George Campbell, John Fergusson, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, Gilbert Eckles, William Hodge, James Sloan, Alan McRae, James Mcgechan Elders.

This day the Session after mature deliberation purposing the Celebrating of the Sacrament of the Lords Supper in this place

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condescended upon the seventh of August next as the properest time for that effect, and order intimation hereof to be made to the Congregation next Lords day being the tenth instant.

Cumnock July 3rd 1720

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Master John Steel minister, George Campbell, John Fergusson, James Johnston, Daniel Sutherland, William Hodge, David Eckles, Alan McRae Elders.

Ordered to be marked that Intimation according to appointment was made this day to the Congregation of the above day where on the Sacrament of the Lords Supper is to be celebrated in this place and the Session also appoint a meeting for prayer and consorting the Communion Roll in order thereto upon Friday come a fournight being the twenty ninth instant.

Cumnock July 29th1720

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Master John Steel minister, and the whole Elders of the preceeding Sederunt.

Ordered to be marked that the above meeting for prayer and consorting the Communion Roll was observed and that the Session did judicially consort a Roll of such people as were to be admitted to the Ordinance which is kept in relentis.

Cumnock August 14th 1720

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Master John Steel minister, George Campbell, John Fergusson, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, William Hodge, Gilbert Eckles, David Eckles Alan McRae Elders.

This day ordered to be marked that the holy Sacrament of the Lords Supper was celebrated last Lords day being the seventh past according to appointment.

Cumnock October 14th 1720

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Master John Steel minister, and the whole Elders of the above Sederunt.

This day James Sloan ordered to attend the Presbytery with the minister as ruling Elder till the next Synod.

Cumnock March 5th 1721

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Master John Steel minister, George Campbell, John Fergusson, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, James Sloan, James Mcgechan, George McCartney, William Hodge, David Eckles Elders. Only William Clerk absent.

This day the Session being informed that the Presbytery of Air at their late meeting had recommended to the several Sessions within their Bounds to give their minds upon a late Overture that nothing should be concluded Sessionally without the consent of the Minister and plurality of the Elders at least where the Minister is to put the sentence in Execution and to report at the next meeting of the Presbytery. They are unanimously of opinion that the plurality of the Elders should be decisive without depending on the Ministers consent and this overture to be rejected as an Innovation and contrary in their humble opinion to the established Government if this ?? and the obligations they stand under to support it and appoint James Sloan ruling Elder to lay this before them at their next meeting as the Sessions mind.

Cumnock Aprile 2nd 1721

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Master John Steel minister, John Fergusson, Daniel Sutherland, James Johnston, William Hodge, Robert Douglass, James Sloan, David Eckles, George McCartney Elders.

This day George McCartney chosen to attend the Synod with the Minister next week.

Testimonial appointed to be given to Hugh Black preceeding Whitsunday one thousand seven hundred and ten.

Cumnock Aprile 9th 1721

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Master John Steel minister, George Campbell, John Fergusson, Daniel Sutherland, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, William Hodge, James Sloan, David Eckles, George McCartney Elders.

This day informed against Quintin McAdam in Muirkirk parish, was guilty two or three days last week of scandalous drunkenness and of profaning the Lords day about the end of harvest last. Witness Daniel Sutherland, John Wilson, Hugh Harbert. The Clerk appointed to write to the minister of Muirkirk to cause cite him before us against this day fourtnight being the twenty third day of this instant and the witnesses to be cited to the said dyet.

This day a Testimonial ordered for John Murray and his wife.

Cumnock Aprile 23rd 1721

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Master John Steel minister, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, David Eckles, James Sloan, William Hodge, George McCartney Elders.

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Quintin McAdam called compeared and being interrogate upon the above lybell denys being drunk at this time and moreover that he has never drunk in Cumnock, but that he could have gone about his business, and as to the other part of the lybel, denys it. Witnesses for his drunkenness Hugh Harbert, John Wilson, Daniel Sutherland, James Johnston, James Wilson, Aexander Campbel, Alexander Drummond. Witnesses for profaning the Lords day John McTurk, Hugh Black, George Laing and Alexander Vallance.

As for the sin of drunkenness he confesses he has ground to mourn for it every day, the Session names the Witnesses upon the respective articles of the lybel to him. They cite him apud acta to compear before them against this day eight days being the thirty instant and acquaint him about the nature of a peremptory citation. He went off and insolently said he would not compear before them again. The witnesses upon both articles ordered to be cited to the said dyet.

Cumnock Aprile 30th 1721

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Master John Steel minister, James Johnston, Daniel Sutherland Robert Douglass, William Hodge, James Mcgechan, David Eckles, James Sloan Elders.

Quintin McAdam called but compeared not.

The articles he is accused of are scandalous drunkenness for two or three days and profaning the Lords day in going thereon to the house of John McTurk and professing to him he was broke an offering the said John mcTurk some small thing providing he would remit to him some considerable debt he was owing him.

Witnesses called compeared Alexander Wallance (sic) aged about 56 married, John McTurk aged about sixty married, Hugh Black aged above fourtie married, George Laing aged about twenty nine married and al of them being solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate, purged of malice and partial counsel the said Alexander Vallance depons that about the time Lybelled in the night time he thinks upon the morning of the Lords day when the cocks were crowing her heard the above Quintin McAdam say to John mcTurk that he was broke and flying to hide himself and that he would have John McTurk to whom he was debtor to take something for payment of that debt, and that the said John refused his money because it was the lords day and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. And further that he heard the said Quintin upon the Monday thereafter repeat the same expressions to the said John McTurk in presence of William Gemmel and Agnes McNaight in Greenbraehead, spouses. Sic Subts - Alexr Valance

Hugh Black depons that at the time lybelled in his own house he heard the said Quintine say that he was broke and was flying to hide himself and that his goods to the value of one thousand marks Scots were taken from him, the said Hugh's wife only being present and that he heard him again the same day in the house of John mcTurk repeat the same expressions to the said John in presence of George Laing and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Sic Subts – Hugh Black

George Laing depons that at the time lybelled he heard the above Quentin McAdam in the house of John McTurk in in presenes of Hugh Black owen the above expressions then the said Hugh repeated them as having heard them from Quintin before viz that he was broke and all his Geir taken from him and that he was flying to hide himself and that he would have the above John McTurk get something before he went off and afterwords heard the above mentioned Quintin tell the said story to himself and that he would have John McTurk get ane old beast he was riding upon and that he answered him that it was not fit to do anything of that kind upon the Lords day. And this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Sic Subt – George Laing.

The Session understanding that no other witnesses had been present with John McTurk when Quintin McAdam spoke to him on that head forbear to examine him.

Upon the article of his scandalous drunkenness witnesses called compeared Alexander Campbel aged about twenty four unmarried, Hugh Harbert aged about fourty two married, James Wilson aged twenty seven married, John Wilson aged about fifty eight married who being all of them solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate purged of malice and partial counsel.

John Wilson depons that at the time lybelled he saw the said Quintin and that he was really drunk as he thought, for he could not gang ?? speak well, and he heard he had fallen from his beast by the entry to the Church yard but heard him not complain that he was hurt, but that his cloaths were filed* and that Hugh harbert and the deponent carried him by the ucksters** to the said Hughs house and laid him in a bed there, and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Sic Subt – John Wilson.

*filed – made unclean, filthy or dirty

**ucksters – oxters, armpits

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Hugh Harbert depons that at the time lybelled he saw the above Quintin McAdam mount his horse in the Churchyard and that he thought him the worse of drink because he could not leap well on and that not having a saddle girth he fell, as he heard, before he went out of the churchyard and that he and the above John Wilson carried him each by ane uckster to the said Hugh house and laid him in a bed there about the twighlight where he lay above the cloths till next morning and that he could not speak a sensible word that night and that he heard him complaining next morning that he had got a hurt in the top of his shoulder and one of his arms was hurt with his fall and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Sic Subt – Hugh Harbert

James Wilson depons that he has seen the said Quintin frequently drunk at other times but at the time lybelled he could not say he was drunk tho he saw him both uopon the Munday and the Wednesday but that he understood he had been in the Town all that time and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Sic Subts – James Wilson

Alexander Campbe; depons that at the time lybelled he thought he was the worse for drink but that he had seen him drunker and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Sic Subts – Alexander Campbel

Alexander Drummond depons that at the time lybelled upon the Munday he looked ??for-like and came into his shop and therehe said sevrall oaths and would not go out till he got Brandy and that a litle after he saw John Wilson and Hugh Harbert half carrying him at each uckster and that he heard he had fallen from his beast immediatly after he leaped on having wanted a sadle Girth and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Sic Subts – Alexander Drummond

The session finding the above lybell proven as to both articles judge the said Quintin ought to be rebuked publickly before the Congregation in the ordinary time and place and appoint the Clerk to write to Muirkirk Session to cause cite him to appear in order thereto upon this day fourtnight being the fourteenth of May ensuing.

Cumnock May 14th 1721

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Master John Steel minister, James Fergusson Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, William Hodge, James Sloan, George McCartney Elders.

This day Quintin McAdam having desired to speak with the Sessio. The Session allowed him to come in and he having declared that he had nothing to say to them if they had nothing to say to him. They removed him a little till they should consider of his case and agreeing that he should be called in and peremptorily* appointed to appear in publick in the ordinary place and time next Lords day. He was accordingly called in and the same intimated to him with certification that he was to expect no more citations. The minister took occasion ere he removed to ask him if he had attended divine worship any where this day. He in a contemptuous manner answered not and that he never designed to do it, repeating it often.

**peremptory – demanding obedience*

Testimonial ordered for Sarah Murray

Also for Agnes Jamison.

Cumnock May 28th 1721

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, James Mcgechan, George McCartney, James Sloan, William Hodge Elders.

This day Session considering that Quintin McAdam did not appear in publick last Lords day the peremptorily cited thereto appoint the whole process to be laid before the Presbytery at their next meeting and an extract of the process to be sent with the minister.

Session ordered Testimonial for Agnes Mcrae from Martinmass one thousand seven hundred and twenty to Whitsunday one thousand seven hundred and twenty one.

Also one for Christian Mooddie

Also Testimonial for Elizabeth Wallace for five years preceeding Candlemass last.

Also Jannet Simson from her infancie till about two year ago.

Cumnock June 12th 1721

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, and hail Elders of the preceeding Sederunt.

Ordered to be marked that the above Quentin having applied to be admitted to appear in publick this day for profession of repentance for his above offence did accordingly appear and that being rebuked and exhorted was absolved.

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Cumnock June 12th 1721

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, John Fergusson, James Johnston, William Hodge, James Mcgechan, James Sloan, Robert Douglas, David Eckles Elders.

Thomas Key called compeared and appointed to go to New Milns and to bring from that Session an account at what his affair stuck there and in the meantime to provide as a sponsor for procuring the ordinance of baptism to his child.

Cumnock October 8th 1721

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, and hail Elders.

This day John Fergusson us appointed to attend the Presbytery with the minister till next Synod.

Cumnock January 2nd 1722

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, William Hodge, George McCartnay, James Sloan and Daniel Sutherland Elders.

This day the Session considering the infrequency of their number severalls, namely Mathew Paterson, Andrew McCowan, John McClennachan, Alan Mcrae, George Wilson, Gilbert Eckles and George Campbel being removed by death and some having wilfully withdrawn namely William Muir and William McCowan by which means several quarters of the parish want Elders do therefore appoint a meeting for prayer against Tuesday next being the twenty sixth instant to think upon such persons as may be fit to be chosen for supplying the above vacancies.

Cumnock January 28th 1722

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, John Fergusson, Daniel Sutherland, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, James Sloan, David Eckles, William Hodge Elders.

This day appointed to be marked that the above dyet for prayer was observed and that the persons after named were condescended upon as qualified for piety and knowledge to be received into Eldership viz Hugh McCowan in Penny-fodach-miln. William Dalrymple in Hill of Lifnorris, William Hamilton in Tarringan, William Sloan in Millioch, George Laing in Over Glesnock, George Murdoch in Glesnock, James Wilson in Waird, Andrew Caldow in Whitehill, Andrew McClonachan in Garlaff,

George Muir in Boilston, Andrew Hodge in Griarston, Hugh Gibson in Darnmalloch with all and each of whom the minister and the Elders as they have occasion are appointed to deal if it please the Lord they may be prevailed with to accept at least of the office of Deacons which are entirely wanting in this congregation.

Cumnock February 25th 1722

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, William Hodge, James Mcgechan, James Sloan, George McCartnay Elders.

It is appointed that the Presbyterys advice be taken anent James Howat at their next meeting after the Synod.

This day the minister appointed again to deal with the above designed persons to be Elders, and such as should be found inclinable* to invite them to come in and commune with the Session this day eight days before sermons being the fourth of March next in order to their edicts** being served.

**inclinable – inclined/willing*

***edict – a formal proclamation/announcement*

Cumnock March 4th 1722

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, and hail Elders of the preceeding Sederunt.

This day the Minister reports that he had dealt with the above persons designed for the Eldership but had found all of them inflexible save the above James Wilson, George Murdoch and Andrew Hodge. The Session appoint their Edict to be served this day and if no objections offerred against them betwixt and this day fournight being the 18th instant to ordain them the said day.

Cumnock March 11th 1722

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, John Fergusson, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, James Sloan, William Hodge Elders.

This day

Thomas Key Gardiner to Boreland living with a woman with whom he has given no ordinance of his marriage ordered to be cited against this day eight days being the eighteen instant.

Cumnock March 11th 1722

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, John Fergusson, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, William Hodge, George McCartney, Daniel Sutherland, James Sloan Elders.

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No objection given in against the said George Murdoch, James Wilson and Andrew Hodge, therefore the Session appoint them to be ordained after forenoons sermon.

Cumnock Eod: die* post merid.

**Eod die – eodem die (Latin) – the same day, pm.*

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, John Fergusson, Robert Douglass, James Johnston, William Hodge, George McCartney, George Murdoch, James Wilson, Daniel Sutherland, Andrew Hodge.

Ordered to be marked that the above George Murdoch, James Wilson and Andrew Hodge were ordained this day and received the right hand of fellowship.

This day also Thomas Key called compeared and acknowledges he is married irregularly but does not mind the mans name that married him but says it's in the Testament of his marriage which he says he gave in to the Session of New Milns who kept it and would not give it him again till they acquainted the Presbytery with it because they alleged it was forged. The Session that he might have further time to procure the said Testament which he says he will get, cite him apud acta for that effect against this day fournight being the first of Aprile next, and appoint Ann Forrester his pretended wife to be cited to the said dyet.

Cumnock March 25th 1722

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, James Johnston, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglass, William Hodge, James Sloan, James Wilson, George Murdoch & Andrew Hodge Elders.

This day Session's informed that John Harbert and Agnes Stillie have profaned the last Lords day by sitting and drinking on the House of David Murdoch being a change house* the whole afternoons sermon and the Issabel Wilson spouse to the said David entertained them. Its appointed the said John Harbert, Agnes Stillie and Issabel Wilson to be cited in before them against this day eight days being the first of April next, and James Anderson, Elizabeth Mcervail and Jannet Leemon to the said dyet as witnesses.

The said John Harbert and Agnes Stillie are to be charged for sitting and drinking together whole nights in the Change Houses at other times.

Cumnock Aprile 1st 1722

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, William Hodge, James Mcgechan, James Sloan, George Murdoch, George McCartney, Andrew Hodge Elders.

Which Thomas Key and Ann Forrester called compeared. He says he was at new Milns but that the minister being at some distance, from him he could not get an answer, but brought a line from the Session showing that he had been at New Milns in order to have kmet with the minister. The Session yet delay them to this day fourtnight being the fifteenth instant in order to his yet having time to go to New Milns, and cite them both to that dyet.

Issabel Wilson called compeared and acknowledges the Lybell and professes herself sorry for it and that she shall never do the like again.

John Harbet called compeared confesses the Lybell and professes ut supra but says he neither called on Agnes Stillie nor desired it to be done. He confesses further he was in company drinking with her two several nights, one in her house and another in Hugh Harberts a good part of the latter part of both nights but that there were still company with them besides, and owens it to be wrong and professes himself sorry for it.

Agnes Stillie called compeared and confesses as to the first conformis Harberto* but that Isabel Wilson waved on her as to the other two nights also.

The session being informed that David Murdoch was with them both the last two nights and that Bessie Stillie, sister to the said Agnes was them the last of these two nights, as also Hugh Herbert and his wife for being with them the first of the last two nights appoint them to be cited in before them against this day eight days being the eight instant and cite the said Harbert, Agnes Stillie and Isabel Wilson apud acta to the said dyet.

**conformis Harberto – (Latin) according to Harbert*

Cumnock Aprile 8th 1722

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, James Johnston, Daniel Sutherland, James Mcgechan, William Hodge, William Clerk, James Sloan, James Wilson, Andrew Hodge, George Murdoch Elders.

Testimonial appointed for Elspeth Crichton and for James McKie and his wife Christian Hutchison

David Murdoch called compeared and owens his sitting

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Up too late drinking in Agnes Stillie's chamber with the persons abovewritten. He confesses besides that he very earnestly desired the above Agnes Stillie, taking her by the sleeve to go to the house of the said Hugh Harbert at the above lybelled and that he sat till it was about day.

Bessie Stille called compeared and owens that the above persons did come to her chamber when it was past time of night and sate (sat) too long.

Hugh Harbert called compeared and confesses that it was about twelve hours at even before the above persons came to his house and that they stay'd as above.

Jannet McCron called compeared and confesses conformis prioribus. The Session find that Agnes Stillie, John Harbert and Issabel Wilson have been guilty of profaning the Lords day, besides that the said Harbert and Stillie have been guilty of unseasonable drinking as above and that Hugh Harbert, David Murdoch, Jannet McCron and Bessie Stillie have been guilty of unseasonable tippling only, order the first three to be rebuked Sessionally and their rebuke to be intimated next Lords Day to the Congregation and the last four to be rebuked Sessionally and dismiss. Which all of them being called in, was done accordingly with certification if they shall relapse into the said offences a again they will be more publickly censured.

Cumnock Aprile 15th 1722

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, William Hodge, James Mcgechan, James Sloan, David Eckles, James Wilson, Andrew Hodge, George Murdoch Elders.

This day Thomas Key and Ann Forrester called compeared not and the minister informing that he had received a letter from the Minister of New Mills with two testimonials, one from Dalry bearing his being dismiss'd after some scandal, another bearing his being married by one Mr Henry all which were produced and read before the Session and laid into the process. They delay to do any further in this affair till they advise with the Presbytery, which the minister is appointed to do at their next meeting.

It is ordered to be marked that Intimation was made of Harbert, Stillie and Wilsons rebuke this day according to appointment.

Informed that the above Harbert and Stillie did Sabath last after sermons go into the House of Agnes Porteous and there sat and drank together till it was far in the night. The Session order them both to be cited in before them against this day eight days.

James Sloan appointed to attend the Presbytery with the minister as ruling Elder till next Synod.

Testimonials appointed for Agnes McGee and Elizabeth Stillie.

Cumnock Aprile 22nd 1722

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, John Fergusson, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, William Hodge, Robert Douglass, James Sloan, George McCartney, Jame Wilson, Andrew Hodge, George Murdoch Elders.

John Harbert called but compeared not nor any excuse for him.

Agnes Stillie compeared and owens her having been in the House of the above Agnes Porteous at the time lybelled but that she knew not that Harbert was there before she went thither and that she went off about nine of the clock, having stay'd about one hour there, and seen some ?chappons of ale drunk, and that she left him and Robert Hadda there. The Session delay summonding them till they hear the said Hadda is come home who is said to be absent at the time.

Cumnock Aprile 29th 1722

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, William Hodge, Robert Douglass, William Clerk, James Mcgechan, James Sloan, George McCartney, Andrew Hodge, George Murdoch Elders.

The minister reports from the Presbytery that they order Thomas Key and Ann Forrester to be cited in before them against the last day of May next which is ordered to be done.

As to James Howat, they appoint the Session to deal with him towards a confession and if they cannot prevail to cause cite him to the Presbytery against the said dyet.

Informed that Harbert and Stillie have sitten up and drunken together all Thursdays night last in the House of the above Donald Murdoch with Robert Chrichton in Crosler, John Harbert in Broomhill. The Session appoint them to be cited against this day eight days being the sixt of May next.

They appoint Hadda and Porteous to be cited when ever Hadda come home, to the said sixt of May.

Cumnock May 6th 1722

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, John Fergusson, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, William Hodge, Robert Douglass, James Sloan, James Mcgechan, David Eckles, Andrew Hodge, George Murdoch, James Wilson Elders

The above Robert Crichton and John Harbert in Broomhill called compeared who having confest and profest sorrow for their above offence were rebuked, exhorted and dismiss'd.

The other John Harbert above mentioned called compeared and declares he could not compear last dyet because he was sick, he owens his having drunken with the above Agnes Stillie in the House and at the time lybelled but that he knew nothing of her till she came in and that he stayed in the said house till day light going and went home that night to his mother's house that the said Agnes went off some litle time before him and that he saw no more of her that night. And as to the last article owens that he did sit late in the above David Murdochs and that the said Agnes Stillie was there.

The said Agnes Stillie also called compeared and owens the last article also.

Agnes Porteous called compeared who for her entertaining the above harbert and Stillie at such a time in such circumstances was rebuked admonished and dismiss'd.

The Session, parties being put out appoint the above Harbert abd Stillie to be rebuked in the publick place, of repentance for their misbehaviour abovementioned and because they take their said carriage to be contemptuous, and upon Sabath the twenty seventh instant, which parties being called in again was intimated to them.

This day also the Session appoint the above James Howat to be cited in before them against the said day.

David Murdoch called compeared and owens that the above persons were in his house at the time lybelled but that he several times desired them to go away and that when he could not get them away he left them and went to his bed about twelve o'clock at night, and that he desired his wife to come with him to the Session just now but that she said she would not come for that she know not. Wherefore the Session order the above Issabel Wilson to be cited in before them against the above twenty seventh instant and cite the said David apud acta to that dyet.

Cumnock May 27th 1722

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, John Fergusson, James Johnston, David Eckles, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, William Hodge, James Mcgechan, James Sloan, George McCartney, Andrew Hodge Elders.

The above David Murdoch called compeared and some members informing that he did actually desire the above people to go away and that when they would not go, he went to be a litle after the ?Drum*. The Session judging this ane alleviation of his fault rebuke and dismiss him with ane exhortation.

Issabel Wilson's citation having been neglected, the Session order her to be cited in before them against this day eight days being the third of June next.

James Howat called but not compearing ordered to be cited to the Presbytery at Stair upon Wednesday next.

The Session appoint the Prebytery to be advised anent Harbert and Stillies case and Minister to report.

Cumnock June 3^d 1722

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister and hail Elder of the immediately preceeding Sederunt.

This day anent the case of Thomas Key and Ann Forrester the minister reports that the Presbytery order them to appear at least three days in publick for their living so long together without giving evidence of their marriage and from the publick place of repentance to adhere to one another as married persons. The Session in order thereto order them to be cited in before them against Thursday next being the eighteenth instant.

The Minister reports further that the Presbytery orders Howat to convers with the neighbouring Ministers.

This day also the above Issabel Wilson called compeared and confesses the Lybell but alleges she could not help it and being challenged as to her carriage formerly, reply'd that there was as litle ill done in her house as in any in Cumnock for which as being a manifest untruth she was sharply rebuked and removed (until?) the Session should further deliberate her answer.

The Session appoint her to be further rebuked before them and this their rebuke to be intimated to the Congregation, wherefore being called in she was further rebuked and acquainted with the said appointed Intimation thereof and didmiss'd with ane exhortation.

Cumnock June 8th 1722

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, James Johnston, Daniel Sutherland, James Mcgechan George Murdoch, Elders.

This day the above Thomas Key and Ann Forrester called, compeared. She is appointed to procure a certificate of her being a free and unmarried person at the time she ran away with the said Key and Sabbath come eight days being the seventh instant.

Cumnock June 8th 1722

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, William Hodge, James Mcgechan, William Clerk, James Sloan, George Murdoch, James Wilson Elders.

This day the above Thomas Key and Ann Forrester called but not compearing. They judge them contemuous (contemptuous) and appoint their case to be laid before the Presbytery.

This day also ordered to be marke that intimation was made of the above Issabel Wilsons rebuke according to appointment.

This day also recommendation is ordered to be given in favour of Jannet Leemon and Henry Martin for procuring the Prebyterys for charity.

Cumnock July 1st 1722

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, and hail members of the above Sederunt.

This day the minister produced and read a letter from the minister and Session of Daily concerning the above Ann Forrester, which letter the Session sustain'd as evidence of her being a free and unmarried person at the time she ran away with the above Thomas Key and therefore appoint both them to be cited in before them against Sabath come a founight being the fifteenth instant in the forenoon in order to the Sessions then appointing them to appear in publick for removing their scandal.

Cumnock July 15th 1722

Ante Meridien

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, John Fergusson, James Johnston, William Hodge, Robert Douglass, Andrew Hodge Elders.

Which day the above Thomas Key and Ann Forrester called compeared and professing themselves sorry for the offence they had given by their irregularity were rebuked therefore exhorted and appointed to appear this day in publick in order to remove their said offence.

Cumnock July 22nd 1722

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, John Fergusson, James Johnston, Robet Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, William Hodge, James Mcgechan, William Clerk, James Sloan, George McCartnay, George Murdoch, David Eckles, Andrew Hodge, James Wilson Elders.

Ordered to be marked that the above Thomas Key and Ann Forrester appeared to the end above written upon Sabbath last the fifteenth instant for a first and this day for a second time.

The Session delay their tryal in order to absolution till their Communion occasion, which is to be the fifth of August ensuing, be over and order them to be cited in before them against the twelfth of August next for that purpose.

This day also the Session appoint a meeting for prayer and consorting the Communion Rate upon Friday next being the twenty seventh instant.

Cumnock July 29th 1722

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, and hail Elders of the immediately preceding Sederunt.

Ordered to be marked that the above meeting for prayer and consorting a Communion Roll was observed and that the Session did the judicially consort a Roll of such persons as were to be admitted to the ordinance which is to be kept in relentis.

Cumnock July 22nd 1722

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, John Fergusson, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, William Hodge, James Mcgechan, William Clerk, David Eckles, James Sloan, James Wilson, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge Elders.

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Ordered to be marked that the holy Communion was celebrated last Lords day the fifth instant in this place.

This day also the above Thomas Key and Ann Forrester called compeared and the Session after tryal finding ground to proceed towards their absolution appoint them to appear in publick this day to the end above written and upon their giving satisfying expressions of their sorrow for their above offence then to be absolved.

Cumnock Eo: die Pos: merid. (Cumnock, the same day, afternoon)

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, and hail Elders of the above Sederunt.

It is ordered to be marked, appeared this day in publick for a third time, for professing of repentance for their above offence, Thomas Key and Ann Forrester, and that having appeared serious and adhered to one another as married persons they were rebuked, exhorted and absolved.

Cumnock January 10th 1723

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, William Hodge, James Mcgechan, William Clerk, George McCartney, James Sloan, George Murdoch, Elders.

This day informed Penelope Tennant daughter to Henry Tennant in Cumnock, deceased, is with child by fornication. The Session order her to be cited in before them against Sabath next being the seventeenth instant.

Cumnock January 17th 1723

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, William Hodge, James Mcgechan, George McCartney, James Sloan, James Wilson, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge Elders.

Which day the above Penelope Tennent called compeared and confesses herself guilty of fornication and that she is with child to Charles Wilson, Gardener at Lifenorris. The Session order him to be cited in before them against Sabbath next the twenty fourth instant and cite her apud acta to the said dyet.

Cumnock January 24th 1723

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister and hail members of the immediately preceeding sederunt.

This day the above Charles Wilson owns himself guilty in the terms of the above accusation.

The Session appoint both of them to appear in publick next Lords day being the thirty first instant for profession of repentance for their above sin, it being a relapse to the said Charles. But the said Charles declaring he had necessary business that would oblige him to be abroad for some time the Session delay him till the twenty first of February next, against which day they order him to appear.

Cumnock January 31st 1723

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, William Clerk, George McCartney, James Sloan, George Murdoch Elders.

Ordered to be marked that the above Penelope Tennent appeared this day in publick to the end abovementioned for a second time and that being rebuked and exhorted she was from the pulpit ordered to wait upon the Session this day after sermons. Wherefore being called she compeared and the Session after tryal finding ground to proceed towards her absolution appoint her to appear in publick next Lords day for profection if repentance for her above sin and upon her giving satisfying expressions of her sorrow therefor then to be absolved.

Cumnock February 21st 1723

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister & hail Elders of the last Sederunt.

Ordered to be marked that the above Penelope Tennent appeared in publick last Lords day for a third time and that having given satisfying expressions of her sorrow for her above sin was rebuked exhorted and absolved.

Ordered also be marked that the above Charles Wilson appeared in publick this day for a first time for profession of repentance for this said sin of fornication with the above Penelope Tennent with the above aggravation and being rebuked and exhorted was continued.

Cumnock March 17th 1723

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, James Johnston, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglass, James Mcgechan, James Sloan, Wiliam Hodge, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge Elders.

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Ordered to be marked that the above Charles Wilson appeared in publick to the end above written upon the twenty eight of Febry last for a second, the third past of this instant for a third , the tenth past for a fourth and this day for a fifth time and that having bee rebuked and exhorted these hail set times he was this day from the pulpit ordered to attend the Session after sermons. Wherefore being called he compear'd and the Session after tryal finding ground to proceed towards his absolution appoint him to appear in publick next Lords day being the twenty fourth instant and upon his giving satisfying expressions of his sorrow for his above sin of fornication with the above Penelope Tennant with the aggravation thereof, then to be absolved.

Cumnock March 24th 1723

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister & hail Elder of the last Sederunt.

Ordered to be marked that the above Charles Wilson having appeared this day for a sixth time in publick to the end above written and given satisfying expressions as above was rebuked exhorted and absolved.

Cumnock October 17th 1723

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, James Johnston, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglass, William Hodge, William Clerk, James Mcgechan, James Sloan, George McCartney, James Wilson, Andrew Hodge, George Murdoch Elders.

This day compeared ultroneously Agnes Ritchmond and confest her self guilty of fornication, and she is with child thereby to James Mcervail in Cumnock. She was rebuked exhorted and cited apud acta to appear before the Session Sabath next, the twentieth instant, and he ordered to be cited to the said dyet.

This day also, the minister reports that the Presbytery advise to take Cowan* and his wife's satisfaction for their scandal here and to send ane extract thereof to Glasgow where they had committed the scandal to be intimated to the people there.

**No previous mention of Cowan or a scandal in Glasgow, but there has been a gap in the Session records from March to October 1723.*

Cumnock October 20th 1723

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, James Fergusson, James Johnston, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglass, William Hodge, William Clerk, James Mcgechan, James Sloan, William Hodge, James Wilson, Andrew Hodge, George Murdoch Elders.

Which day Agnes Wilson called compeared and adhered to her former accusation wherefore James Mcervail called compeared and denys the lybell not withstanding prof (proof), Agnes Ritchmond continued to accuse and condescended upon the Syth* fair night in this place as the particular time whereon he was guilty with her.

The Session after long and serious dealing with him towards confession without any effect cite him apud acta to this day eight days being the twenty seventh instant and in the meantime appoint Elders as the shall have access to deal with him privately towards the end above said.

**Sith fair – Scythe Fair – This seems to be particular to Cumnock and was possible a pre-harvest fair or festival. It his mentioned in the Dictionary of Scots Language dating from 1899 but appears from this to be much older.*

Cumnock October 29th 1723

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, William Hodge, James Mcgechan, James Sloan, George Murdoch, George McCartnay, Andrew Hodge, James Wilson Elders.

This day James Mcervail called compeared but denys ut supra. The Session dealy him as also the citing the said Ritchmond till they advise with the presbytery which is to fall in this week, which they appoint the minister to do and report.

This day also James Wilson is appointed as ruling Elder to attend the Presbytery with the minister till next Synod.

Cumnock February 9th 1724

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, William Hodge, James Sloan, James Wilson, Andrew Hodge and Capt John Campbel Elders.

This day informed thar Mary Templeton a former parochiner who has lately returned to this parish is with child by fornication. The Session order her to be cited in before them against this day eight days being the sixteenth instant.

Cumnock February 16th 1724

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, William Hodge, James Sloan, James Wilson, Capt Campbel Elders.

This day Mary Templeton called compeared and owens herself guilty in the terms of the above information and accuse John Harvey senior in Stepends in the parish of Auchinleck as the person guilty with her.

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The Session appoint the clerk to send information hereof to the Session of Auchinleck.

Cumnock 8th March 1724

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, George Murdoch, George McCartney, James Sloan Elders.

This day reported that the Session of Auchinleck was write to as Templetons case.

This day also informed that John Rankine in Donaldson harbours ane John Stillie a boy about sixteen years of age, and Jean Heron a midd aged woman in his house, and allows them to ly in bed together, order the said John Rankine and the parties to be cited in before them against this day eight days being the fifteenth instant.

Cumnock 15th March 1724

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, John Fergusson, Capt John Campbel, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, William Hodge, James Wilson, Andrew Hodge Elders.

The which day John Rankine called compeared and owens the Lybell and himself heartily sorry therefore, but that he had ???neverheeded them in regard they had lyon together since the said John Stillie had been spained*, and undertakes that neither he nor she together nor separately shall over ly in his house another night.

*Spained** - according to the DSL, this is a variant of "speaned", meaning "weaned" but this doesn't seem to make much sense in this context unless John Stillie had been with the woman since he was a baby...

Jean Heron called compeared, owens his having lyon in bed with her all the last winter.

John Stillie called compears, denys but faintly. The Session after putting them both out a litle with John Rankine, having called all three in again in order to confront them, they the said parties could not deny what the said John had declared against them. The Session discharge them of all such offensive cohabiting together, under the severest certification and so dismiss them pro tempore.

Cumnock March 28th 1724

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, John Fergusson, James Johnston, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglass, James Wilson, James Sloan, Andrew Hodge Elders.

This day James Mcervail formally accused by the above Agnes Ritchmond as guilty of fornication with her having now as is informed privately confest the same, ordered to be cited before the Session against this day eight days being the fifth of Aprile next.

Cumnock Aprile 5th 1724

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, Capt John Campbel, John Fergusson, James Johnston, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglass, James Mcgechan, James Wilson, George Murdoch, James Sloan, George McCartney Elders.

This day James Mcervail called compeared and now judicially confesses himself guilty of the above sin of fornication with the said Agnes Ritchmond. The Session appoint him to appear in publick next Lords day for being the 12th instant for profession of repentance for his said sin and appoint the session of Sorn to be written to for causing cite the above Ritchmond before this Session against the said day.

Cumnock Aprile 26th 1724

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, Capt John Campbel, John Fergusson, James Johnston, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglass, James Mcgechan, James Wilson, Andre Hodge, James Mcgechan, George Murdoch, James Sloan Elders.

This day order to be marked that James Mcervail appeared in publick for profession of repentance for his above sin of fornication with the above Agnes Ritchmond, April twelfth for a first time and this day for a second time, there being no sermon here last Lords day and that being rebued and exhorted he was from the pulpit ordered to attend the Session after sermons. Wherefore being called compeared and the Session after tryal finding ground to proceed towards his absolution appoint him to appear in public next Lords day being the third of May next and upon his giving satisfying expressions of his sorrow for his above sin before the Congregation, then to be absolved.

Cumnock May 3rd 1724

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, Capt John Campbel, John Fergusson, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, James Mcgechan, James Sloan, William Clerk, Andrew Hodge, George Murdoch, James Wilson Elders.

Ordered to be marked that James Mcervail having appeared in publick this forenoon for a third time for profession of repentance for his said sin of fornication with the above Agnes Ritchmond and given satifying expressions of his repentance of his sorrow was rebuked, exhorted and absolved.

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This day also informed against William Murdoch in Skerrington Miln and Jannet King in Wake Miln of Logan. 1mo* that about two years ago they were seen in bed together in John McGavines in Townend. 2do* that in March or Aprile last, she the said Jannet came to the said Williams house upon the Sabath at eight a clock at night where they had some conversation together. 3tio* that in Aprile last upon a Munday they went together to Hugh Blacks a country ale house at Toaglim and stayed together there a part of two days if not more. 4to* that from thence they went to William Gemmels in Greenbraehead and James Kissocks in Cumnock and stayed in in one or other of these two houses til the Friday thereafter. 5to* that he and she upon the said Friday went to her father Robert Kings house, where its said they stayed frequently together for about these twelve months bygone. 6to* that before that, they haunted frequently together in Widow Wilsons in this town.

Witnesses names, upon the first article Robert Souter in Cumnock, the above John McGavin there and John Johnston in Ochiltree. Upon the second, John Goudie, Marion Porter and William Porter the said William Murdoch's servants, and Mary Porter in Craigens. Upon the third, Hugh and James Black in Teaglim and Margaret Howat the said Hughs wife. Upon the fourth, William Murdochs servants, the above William Gemmel and Agnes McNaight his spouse, The above James Kissock and Sarah Campbel his spouse and Margaret Aird, their servant. Upon the fifth Robert King and his son William, with Jannet Kissock the said Robert's wife. Upon the sixth Sarah, William Wilsons relict, Charles Wilson her son, Thomas Hair in Cumnock and Jannet Murdoch his spouse.

The Session order the parties to be cited in before them against Sabath next being the tenth instant.

Cumnock May 10th 1724

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, Capt John Campbel, John Fergusson, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, James Sloan, James Wilson, Andrew Hodge, George Murdoch Elders.

This day William Murdoch called compeared and as to the first and second articles answers negative. As to the third owens that he came to Teaglim at twelve a clock of the day and stayed there all that day & all that night without going to bed. The Said Jannet being in company with him but that they were not ther alones, and minds not what time he went away upon the Tuesday. As to the fourth, that they came from Teaglim to Greenbraehead, another Change house and stay'd there without going to bed till Wednesday morning, but there were always several other people in company with them, but refuses his having stayed in either of these change houses from the Wednesday morning till the Thursday As to the first that James Kissock and he went to her fathers house upon the Friday but found not her there, but that she came home a litle after and that he has been severall times there and stayed there several nights but there were always company or strangers in the house with them. As to the sixth that he has been several times in Widow Wilsons when she was servant there, but that he never drunk with her but when she filled ale to him as she did to other folk.

Jannet King called compeared and denys the first and second article. As to the third article that having business at Auchencorse, she spake at Teaglim in the going and comming, but that she stayed at Auchencorse all night. As to the fourth article confesses that she came with William Murdoch in his way from Taiglim from a litle beyond Clocklaunie to Greenbraehead & stayed there with him all night and did not go to bed till he was away. As to the fifth article confeses that upon the Friday lybelled William Murdoch came to her father's house, and that she was sent for, and further that he the said William has been several times at her fathers house within these twelve months but that he did not keep company with her, and that she never knew him come thither on her account. As to the sixt article answers that she was never with him the said William Murdoch in Widow Wilsons or anywhere else her alone but that she has been several times in company with him with others.

Parties being put forth, and the Session after mature deliberation finding, besides the articles deny'd, several things in other articles not confest and relevant to be proven order the hail abovenamed witnesses belonging to the first three articles to be summoned in before them against this day eight days being the seventeenth instant. And these upon the last three articles to be cited in before them against the Sabath thereafter being the twenty-fourth instant, which, parties being called in was intimated to them, and the hail list of these above witnesses names ?? (*page damaged*) before them that they might have opportunity of objecting

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And further the Session required the above parties to forbear keeping company together hence forth during the dependence of this process and cite them apud acta to the dyet abovewritten and

order the Clerk to write to the Session of Ochiltree to cause cite the above John Johnston to the dyet respective above written.

Cumnock May 17th 1724

Session met after prayer.

Ant: merid.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, William Hodge, Andrew Hodge, James Wilson, George McCartney Elders.

Compeated ultroneously Agnes Ritchmond having been under a long fit of sickness and desiring to be admitted to make publick profession of repentance for her sin of fornication with James Mcervail. The Session having rebuked and exhorted her order her to appear for that in the ordinary place this forenoon.

Cumnock Eod: die - post mer

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, Capt John Campbel, John Fergusson, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, William Clerk, David Eckles, James Mcgechan, James Sloan, James Wilson, Andrew Hodge, George Murdoch, George McCartney Elders.

Ordered to be marked that the above Agns Ritchmond appeared in publick this day for a first time to the end above writ and being rebuked and exhorted was continued.

William Murdoch called compeared and confesses his having conversed with Jennet King in her fathers and in James Kissocks particularly last Lords day at supper notwithstanding their having been advised by the Session to the contrair last sederunt.

Jannet King called compeared and owens the same but neither can give any reason for doing so.

Robert Souter called compeared, who being solemnly judicially sworn, aged about forty, married, who being to be purged, owens upon oath that he could not purge himself of malice and ill will at William Murdoch.

John Mcgavin called compeared now ordered to be cited against this day eight days being the twenty fourth instant.

Second article, John Goudie called compeared aged past twenty unmarried who being solemnly judicially sworn, purged of malice and partial counsel depons as to this article negative and as to the fourth depons he does not remember whither William Murdoch came home to his house the Friday libelled or not and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Sic Subst – John Goudie

Marion porter called compeared, aged fourty, unmarried who being solemnly judicially sworn purged of malice and partial counsel depons that at the time lybelled she saw William Murdoch and Jannet King together sometime both in the house and out of the house and as to the fourth article that she cannot remember and declared she cannot write and desire the Moderator to do it for her, and this is the truth as she shall answer to God, and being asked if they did any violence to her, replied that she could not say but they did.

William Porter called compeare but dismiss'd because not of a habile* age to depon being under sixteen.

**habile – Latin, habilis meaning “handy” or “properly qualified”*

Mary Porter called compeared aged about sixty four, married who being solemnly judicially sworn, purged of malice and partial counsel depons negative as to the second article but that she was informed that Jannet King and had been there that night and this is the truth as she shall answer to God and declares she cannot write and desire the Moderator may do it for her.

Hugh Black called compeared aged above sixty, married who being solemnly judicially sworn, purged of malice and partial counsel depons that William Murdoch and Jannet King came to his house upon Munday or Tuesday after twelve a clock and stayed there that whole night without going to bed and next day till about twelve a clock and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Sic subt - Hugh Black

Margaret Howat called compeared not but excused in regard she has a young child and cannot come, ordered to be cited against the next Sabath.

James Black called but compeared not, ordered to be cited to the next Sabath. Parties being cited apud acta to that dyet.

Cumnock May 17th 1724

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, John Fergusson, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, William Hodge, James Sloan, James Wilson, Andrew Hodge, George Murdoch Elders.

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Ordered to be marked that the above Agnes Ritchmond having appeared this day in publick a second time for profession of repentance for her sin of fornication with James Mcervail was rebuked exhorted, and appointed from the pulpit to attend the Sessions further appointments after sermons this day. Wherefore being called she compeared and the Session finding ground to proceed towards her absolution appoint her in order thereto to appear in publick next Lords day and upon her giving suitable expressions of her sorrow for her said sin then to be absolved.

William Murdoch and Jannet King called compeared and owen they have been in company together once in her fathers and today in James Kissocks but that other company were with them.

John Mcgavin called compeared. Jannet King objects against him as having accused and pursued her for stealing blankets from him which objection the Session repelled in regard John Mcgavin pursued her publickly before the civil magistrate and took his ventor* of that penalty or punishment should be inflicted upon him therefore.

**ventor/ventour – to risk property/possessions (or life) in a cause or purpose. This appears to be suggesting that as McGavin has already had his day in court re the alleged stolen goods, this should not affect the validity of his evidence here and if he is found to be prejudiced then he would be punished.*

Wherefore being aged twenty eight married solemnly sworn and interrogate purged of malice and partial counsel depons that about the time lybelled he with Robert Souter mason in this town and John Johnston dyster in Ochiltree went ben to the room above the deponents fire and found the said William Murdoch and Jannet King in bed together none being in the room with them when they went ben, and that they had not been long together for ought he knows, that he did not observe them in any unseemly posture and that neither of them was naked for ought he knows. And this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Sic Subst – John Mcgain.

Margaret Howet called compeared not, ordered to be cited against Sabath next the thirty first instant for the third time.

James Black called compeared aged about eighteen unmarried who being solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate purged of malice and partial counsel depons that at the time lybelled they stayed in his father's house the place lybelled part of two days and that they sat up together all night and that there was company with them sometimes and sometimes not, but that those of the family were with them when the deponent was present but that he was not always with them himself and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Sic Subts – James Black

William Gemmel called compeared aged about forty, married who being solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate, purged of malice and partial counsel depons that he remembers they have been several times in his house, but does not remember as to the time lybelled but that it was within this twelve months and particularly in plough time last and continued good whiles of the day and good

whiles of the night but that they were never alone when he was with them and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Sic Subts – William Gemmel

Agnes McNaught called but not compearing ordered to be cited to the next dyet.

James Kissock and Sarah Campbel spouses called compeared, he aged about twenty seven, she about thirty or thirty one who being both of them solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate, purged of malice and partial counsel. He the said James depons that at the time lybelled they were not together in his house, that another time he saw them together in Greenbraehead, and that at the time lybelled William Murdoch and the deponent went together to the said Jannet Kings fathers house and that she came to them before the said William and the deponent came away and this is the truth as he shal answer to God. Sic Subst – James Kissock

Sarah Campbell, Mrs Kissock depons that about the time lybelled the said William Murdoch and Jannet King were all night together in the deponents house and that he went to his bed as also did the said Jannet go to bed, with the deponent for ?? woman and that she saw nothing unseemly betwixt them and this is the truth as she shall answer to God and declares that she cannot write but desires the Moderator to do it for her.

Margaret Aird called compeared says that she does not know her age but that several members of the Session knows that a younger brother of hers is sixteen years of age, unmarried, refuses to depon.

Robert King, aged above fourtie married and William King his son aged above sixteen unmarried called compeared, both of them being solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate, purged of malice and partial counsel depons the said Robert King that about the time lybelled , William Murdoch came to his house house but that it was upon civil business and that his daughter Jannet was ?not (*page damaged*) in the house and that he has been frequently in his house

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but that he never asked for the said Jannet King more that any other in the familie and that he has known them sometimes talk together there alones and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Sic Subst – Robert King

William King depons that he was not at home at the particular time lybelled being at service but that he has seen William Murdoch frequently within this twelve months in his fathers house when his sister Jannet was there but that he never saw them there alones if it had not been a word at the door or the like of that, and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Sic subst – William King

The Session not having time to over take the rest of the witnesses order them to be cited to the above dyet, and cite the parties apud acta to the said dyet.

Cumnock May 31st 1724

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister and whole Elders save John Fergusson and William Clerk.

William Murdoch and Jannet King being called compeared.

There being no execution of John Johnstons citation produced, the Session of Ochiltree is ordered to be written to again.

The above Margaret Howat called compeared aged about fourty married but refused absolutely to depon and her behaviour being very insolent is ordered to be laid before the presbytery.

Agnes Mcnaight called compeared aged about sixty married who being solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate purged of malice and partial counsel depons that the last spring the said William Murdoch and Jannet King were a part of severall days and nights in her house but never lay down in a bed there and that so far as she knows they were not there alons if it was not when she was filling a chappon of ale* and this is the truth as she shall answer to God and declares that she cannot write but desires the moderator to do it for her.

**chappon/chappon of ale – a unit of measurement referring to half a pint. The word according to the Dictionary of the Scottish language is actually chopin/choppin/schopin.*

Sarah Campbel William Wilsons relict called compeared aged sixty six who being solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate purged of malice and partial counsel depons that while Jannet King was servant in her house the said William Murdock was frequently there and many times both before and since but that she never knew them drink a chappon of ale there alone and that this is the truth as she shall answer to God and declare she cannot write but desires the moderator to do it for her.

Charles Wilson called compeared aged about fourtie married who being solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate, purged of malice and partial counsel depons that he has seen the said William Murdoch and Jannet King some times in his mother's house and his own but never knew them stay all night together and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Sic Subts – Charles Wilson.

Thomas Hair called compeared aged about 30, married who being solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate purged of malice and partial counsel depons that he has frequently drunken with them the said William Murdoch and Jannet King with other company in the above Widow Wilsons house but never knew that they stayed there alone all night together and that he saw the said William

Murdoch kiss the said Jannet King in the deponents house at the on pitting* of two suit of cloths on her, and the deponent desired William so to do, and saw nobody else do it, and this is the truth as he shall answer to God and declares he cannot write, but desires the Moderator to do it for him.

**On pitting – on-putting, or fitting of clothing (may also be used in the context of loading goods onto a cart etc). This suggests that Thomas Hair might have been a tailor, and that possibly William Murdoch was buying Jannet King some clothing.*

Jannet Murdoch called compeared aged about thirty, married, who being solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate purged of malice and partial counsel depons that she has seen them the said William Murdoch and Jannet King together in some houses and once in her own at eleven a clock at night where they stayed till five in the morning and that Thomas Hair her husband and Mary Hair his sister were in company wit them all that time and that she saw them another time in her house at the on pitting of the above cloths, but was gone ane errand when they were put on and this is the truth as she shall answer to God and declares she cannot write and desires the Moderator to do it for her.

Parties cited apud acta against this day month being the twenty eight of June next, and the above John Johnston to be cited as above against the said dyet.

Cumnock June 21st 1724

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, Captain John Campbel, John Fergusson, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, William Hodge, George Murdoch, James Sloan, Andrew Hodge, James Wilson, James Mcgechan Elders.

This day Testimonial appointed for Mr Robert Trotter schoolmaster and his wife and children.

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Cumnock June 28th 1724

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, John Fergusson, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, William Hodge, David Eckles, James Mcgechan, James Sloan, James Wilson, Andrew Hodge Elders.

This da William Murdoch and Jannet King called compeared and deny ut supra.

John Johnson called compeared aged about twenty three married who being solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate purged of malice and partial counsel parties present and nothing objecting depons negative. Sic subts John Johnston

The Session being destitute of a Clerk by Mr Rob, Trotters removing from this place to Dumfries, they have unanimously agreed to invite Mr James Wilson, Chaplain to Coll Dalrymple and who now succeeds Mr Trotter as schoolmaster, to be the Clerk and in order to his officiating and being instated in the said office. They appoint William Hodge to desire Mr Wilson to meet with the Session on Thursday next.

The minister reporting that the presbytery had ordered the recusant witnesses in this affair to be cited in before them. The Session delay coming to any judgment anent the same till this be done.

Cumnock July 2nd 1724

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, John Fergusson, James Johnston, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, William Hodge, James Sloan Elders.

Mr Wilson present according to the Sessions invitation accepted of the office of Session Clerk and engages himself to fidelity in exercising thereof and was accordingly received and entered thereto.

Cumnock June 28th 1724

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, and hail Elders except Captain John Campbel.

The minister reports that Robert Souter and Margaret having both acknowledged their fault before the Presbytery, that the Presbytery ordered them to be called anew as witnesses in the above affair and Mrs Kissock to be examined upon some points that had been omitted. Accordingly the Session order the officer to cite them all three to compear before them next Lords dayafter sermons, together with the above William Murdoch and Jannet King.

Cumnock August 30th 1724

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, and hail Elders except John Ferguson, David Eckles and William Clerk.

Mrs Kissock having been cited, called compeared and depons that the night above mentioned William Murdoch lay in a different bed from that in which her servant and Jannet King lay and that

another night about that time the deponent left the said William Murdoch and Jannet King together at her fireside, and found them there in the morning having left her husband with them at night, but did not find him with them in the morning and she had ordered no bed for them that night she having expected them to have gone both home and this is the truth as she shall answer to God, and seeing she cannot write desires the Moderator to do it for her.

Margaret Aird aged eighteen or nineteen years unmarried who being solemnly judicially sworn and interrogate purged of malice and partial counsel depons that another night about that time William Murdoch and Jannet King were in the house of James Kissock her master all night, and that after her master and mistress were gone to their beds, and Jannet King had lyen down with the deponent, the said William Murdoch came and lay down in the same bed with them, but that all their cloths were on, and that after he lay down they both rose and left the bed and this is the truth as she shall answer to God and seeing she cannot write desires the Moderator to do it for her.

Robert Souter, aged about fourtie married, who being solemnly judicially sworn purged of malice and partial counsel depons that at the time lybelled he did see the said William Murdoch & Jannet King in bed together in John McGains in Town and that he saw none in the room with them, and that their cloathes were on and also that he saw them in no unseemly posture. And this is the truth as he shall answer to God.. Sic Subs Robert Souter.

The said William Murdoch went off with contemptuous language and said he saw no ill in what he had done, either in sitting or lying with her since he had a fansie for her.

Cumnock September 13th 1724

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, John Fergusson, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, James Sloan, George Murdoch, George McCartney, David Eckles, James Mcgechan, James Wilson Elders.

The Session having now considered the hail proof of William Murdoch and Janet Kings affair, and having advised the Presbytery upon it, do according to the Presbyteries advice appoint them both to appear in publick one Lords day to be rebuked for their offensive carriage, and to remain for some time thereafter unabsolved for the further tryal of their behaviour and appoints them to be cited to compear before the Session next Lords day that they may judicially order them to fulfil the said sentence on such a day as the Session shall then think convenient.

Cumnock September 20th 1724

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, Capt John Campbel, William Hodge, James Wilson, Robert Douglass, James Mcgechan, Andrew Hodge, George Murdoch, James Sloan Elders.

The above William Murdoch is appointed to appear in publick this day fourtnight in the ordinary time and place to be rebuked according to the above sentence. She having been called and not compeared is appointed to be cited pro secundo to compear before the Session this day fourtnight.

Cumnock October 4th 1724

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, and hail Elders except John Fergusson.

The above William Murdoch having disobeyed the Sessions peremptory citation to him, to appear in publick this day according to the appointment. The Session doth again remit this affair to the Presbytery for advice.

The above Jannet King having been citing pro secundo to appear before the Session this day, being called compeared and was accordingly appointed to appear in publick this day eight days in the ordinary place and time to be rebuked according to the above sentence.

The Session having appointed one of their number to ask a Testimonial of one Mr Millan a dancing master lately come to this place. Its reported that he replys he hath none not hath ever been of use to get any nor to asked for any. The Session agree that the presbyterys advice to be hereupon asked also.

Cumnock October 4th 1724

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, and hail Elders of the Session.

According to the Presbyterys advice this day reported by the Minister, the Session appointed the said William Murdoch ro be cited before the Presbytery at their next meeting at Air upon the (*date left blank*) to answer for his above contumacy.

This day the above Jannet King not having compeared according to the above peremptory appointment, the Session appoint her also to be cited before the Presbytery the said day, her case being the very same.

This day also according to the Presbyterys advice reported by the Minister, the Session appoint their officer to cite the above Mr Millan to compear before them, next Lord's day, as also one William Ramsay a musician he having given the above answer as to his testimonial.

Cumnock October 19th 1724

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, and hail Elders except John Fergusson and David Eckles.

This day the above Mr Millan and William Ramsay having been called both compeared and declared that they had no testimonials, upon which the Session certified them, that if they should not produce satisfying Testimonials from the Kirk Session where they had last resided, the Session would according to the Presbyterys advice apply to the civil magistrate to have them removed, against this day fourtnight.

Cumnock October 25th 1724

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, John Fergusson, Capt John Campbel, George McCartney, Andrew Hodge, James Sloan, Robert Douglass, George Murdoch Elders.

The Sessions Kirk officer being removed by death, they agree to ?appoint (page damaged) James Wood, Indweller in this town in the Office and

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desire Robert Douglass to tell him to wait upon the Session next Lords day that they may speak to him thereanent.

This day the members appointed to examine William Hodge the Kirk treasurer his accompts report that they were full and equal and Robert Douglas is chosen Kirk Treasurer in the ?room of the said William Hodge and the Clerk appointed to discharge him of his intromission* (rest of the sentence illegible).

*intromission – the management of someone else's property

This day Robert Douglass is chosen ruling Elder to continue till next Synod.

Cumnock 1st November 1724

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, William Hodge, George Murdoch, James Mcgechan, James Sloan, George McCartney, James Wilson Elders.

The above Mr Millan and William Ramsay having been both called this day to produce their Testimonials as they were appointed by the Session, none of them compeared, upon which according to the Sessions above resolution the minister is to apply to the civil magistrate for having them removed.

Cumnock November 19th 1724

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, William Hodge, Robert Douglass, Andrew Hodge, James Wilson Elders.

This day compeared ultroneously Agnes Murdoch who lately lived in Borelands Smiddy, and confessed herself guilty of fornication and that she is with child thereby to William Crichton in Mickle* ?Lows (possibly Mid Lowes?) in the parish of new Cumnock, during her abode in the said Smeddy.

The Clerk is appointed to write to the minister & Session of new Cumnock, that they may cause cite him to to appear before our Session against Sabath come eight days and she is cited apud acta to the said dyet.

*Mickle – aka Meikle/Muckle – in farming terms, this is the larger of two farms made out of one larger one

Cumnock November 22nd 1724

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, John Fergusson, James Sloan, Wiliiam Hodge, James Wilson, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglass Elders.

This day Margaret Howat was by the Presbyterys advice rebuked by the Session for her refusing to depon as a witness in a process of a scandal against the above William Murdoch and Jannet King, as also for her carrying insolently towards the Session, to which rebuke she subjected, and this her rebuke is also byt the presbyterys advice to be intimated to the Congregation, but she not to be further insisted with for her oath, the proof being compleat without her and sentence already past in that process.

Cumnock November 29th 1724

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, John Fergusson, Capt John Campbel, Robert Douglass, James Wilson, Daniel Sutherland, James Sloan, William Hodge, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge, James Mcgehan Elders.

This day compeared again Agnes Murdoch and adhered in her accusation of the said William Crichton, but he not compearing when called, tho an execution of his summoned had been produced from New Cumnock. The Clerk is again appointed to write to the said Session of New Cumnock, to cause cite him for a second time.

Ordered to be marked that the above Margaret Howats rebuke was intimated according to appointment.

Cumnock November 29th 1724

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, John Fergusson, Robert Douglass, George Murdoch, Daniel Sutherland, Capt John Campbel Elders.

The Session being this day informed that Agnes Murdoch is brought to her bed, and not able to attend, forbear calling her, and order the above William Crichton to be called, who having compeared acknowledged his sin, was rebuked and appointed to appear in publick next lords day in the ordinary time and place.

Cumnock December 13th 1724

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister Robert Douglass, James Wilson, Daniel Sutherland, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge, James Mcgehan Elders.

Ordered to be marked that the above William Crichton appeared in publick this day for a first time to make profession of repentance for his said sin of fornication with the above Agnes Murdoch and being rebuked and exhorted was continued.

From this point it appears that the writer has changed – it's now possibly James Wilson, who was appointed Clerk back in June, although there is nothing in the record that mentions this.

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Cumnock December 20th 1724

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, Daniel Sutherland, James Sloan, John Fergusson, James Mcgehan, Capt John Campbel, George McKairtney, Andrew Hodge Elders.

This day appeared the above William Crighton for a 2nd time in publicke, to make profession of repentance for his above sin of fornication with Agnes Murdoch & being rebuked and exhorted was appointed from the pulpit to wait on the Session after sermons, for their further appointment to him. Who being called compeared, but the Session not having sufficient evidence either of his knowledge or repentance appoint him to wait upon the minister and some of the Elders according as he can have access, & them to report before they proceed towards his absolution and he is appointed to attend the session next Lords day.

Cumnock December 29th 1724

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, Capt John Campbel, Daniel Sutherland, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge Elders.

This day William Crighton called but not compearing which the Session impute* wholely to the badness of the wether, they agree to delay his absolution yet for some time. The minister and Elders who had conversed with him reporting that they were not yet satisfied with him either to his knowledge or repentance as above.

**impute - to attribute to*

This day also the Session being credibly informed that Elizabeth Moodie spouse to George Patrick had in harvest last sitten down upon her knees publicly before the Gate

of William Logan of that ilk and prayed for Gods curse upon him, the Session do therefore order her to be cited in before them against next Lords day.

Cumnock January 3rd 1725

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, William Hodge, George Murdoch, James Sloan, James Mcgehan, George McKairtney Elders.

This day the above Elizabeth Moodie called compeared ancknowledged that she did sit down upon her knees and prayed for Gods Curse upon the said Mr William Logan & his ill win gears*. Therefore the Session unanimously agree to refer this matter to the Presbytery for advice.

*ill win gears – ill-gotten gains/possessions

Cumnock March 7th 1724

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt: ut supra.

The above William Murdoch after several citations having compeared before the Presbytery & having been rebuked by them and certified of further censure if he should not submit thereupon he professed to be sensible of his fault and engaged to submit to censure, & said that his wife would do so likewise, which being reported to the Session this day they accordingly order both him & his wife to be cited against next Lord's day that they might be appointed of how to full fill the above sentence.

Cumnock March 19th 1725

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt: ut supra.

Compeared William Murdoch and Jannet King and were appointed to obey the above sentence next Lords day.

Cumnock March 28th 1725

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, John Fergusson, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, William Hodge, George Murdoch, James Sloan, Andrew Hodge Elders.

This day William Murdoch & Jannet King appeared in publick last Lords day and were rebuked according to appointment but their absolution delayed till further proof were taken of their behaviour.

Cumnock April 18th 1725

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt minister and hail Elders except Captain Campbell, David Eckles and William Hodge.

This day the Session unanimously admitted Mr William Mcmyne to be precentor* and Session Clerk & took him engaged to the Duties of his office having seen sufficient Testimonials from him.

**precentor - in the Scottish Reformed Church: The person appointed to lead the congregational singing. The post was commonly held jointly with those of reader, schoolmaster or under-schoolmaster and session clerk.*

Likewise the Session ordered a testimonial to be given to Elizabeth Stillie from her infancy till May last and one to Mr Lennox and her daughter Magdalene since the time they came here to reside.

Cumnock April 24th 1725

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, Capt John Campbell, Daniel Sutherland, James Sloan, James Wilson, George Murdoch, Robert Douglass Elders.

This day the Session being informed that Agnes Mccron had scandalised William Crawford carrier appoint her to be cited to compear before them the next Lords day.

Also a Testimonial was ordered to be given to Hendry (no further name).

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Cumnock May 2nd 1725

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt minister and hail Elders except Captain Campbell, David Eckles and William Clerk.

This day Agnes Mccron being called compeared and denying that she was guilty of the scandal alleged against her against William Crawford for which she was cited, therefor the Session for proving of the said scandal against her ordered witnesses to be cited (viz) Elizabeth Moodie, David Moodie, James Campbell, Marion Hamilton, George Patrick.

Likewise a testimonial was ordered to be given to Ann Hair from her youth.

Likewise this day George McKairtney was appointed to attend the Presbitry with the minister till next synod.

Cumnock May 2nd 1725

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, John Fergusson, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, James Sloan, George McKairtney, Andrew Hodge and James Mcgechan Elders.

This day compeared Agnes Mccron and being asked if she was guilty of the above scandal she said before the Session that she was not the first that had said it, but that there were many more that had said than her, and presently after the accusation against her from the Lybell was sed in her hearing, and upon that the Session thought fit to dismiss the witnesses, and likewise the Session unanimously agreed that the Presbytry should be advised about her.

Likewise this day Testimonials were ordered to be given to Hugh Murdoch for three years preceeding this date and to Isobell Lennox, to James Hyslop, his wife & son & also to Mary Reid.

Cumnock June 6th 1725

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, and Elders of the preceeding Sederunt.

Tis day the minister reports that having taken advice of the Presbytry concerning Agnes Mccron, they unanimously order her to be rebuked before the Session and that her rebuke should be intimate to the Congregation, and that the Session order the said Agnes to be cited to compear before them against next Lords day after publick worship.

Cumnock May 2nd 1725

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, Capt. John Campbell, John Fergusson, Daniel Sutherland, Andrew Hodge, Robert Douglass, George Murdoch and James Sloan Elders.

This day the above Agnes Mccron being called compeared and refused to own what she had formerly confessed before the Session by denying that she had done any fault against the above William Crawford., therefor the Session agree that the Presbytry be advised anent her affair at their next meeting.

Likewise the said day the Session having heard of nothing in William Murdoch or his wife's behaviour since their publick appearance agree that the presbytry be advised with, whither in case they shall satisfy the Session the Session may absolve them and intimate their absolution without bringing them before the Congregation again.

Cumnock July 7th 1725

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, John Fergusson, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, George Murdoch, George McKairtney, William Clerk Elders.

This day the Presbitry having advised that the above Agnes Mcron should be put under the sentence of the Lesser Excommunication, the Session ordered that the said Agnes should be cited to attend the Session next Lords day after divine worship.

Cumnock July 11th 1725

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, John Fergusson, Robert Douglass, James Mcgechan, George McKairtney Elders.

The said day the above Agnes Mccron being called compeared and continued obstinate, but because of the infrequency of the Session to see if what they had now said to her might tend to her conviction the delay to pass any sentence against her till next Lords day and cite her apud acta to compear.

Cumnock July 18th 1725

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, John Wilson, James Sloan, George McKairtney, Andrew Hodge and George Murdoch Elders.

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This day William Murdoch above mentioned apply'd to the Session professing his sense of sorrow for his offence with the above Jannet King now his wife before their marriage desiring he might be absolved, upon which the Session having heard of nothing offensive in his carriage since his above appearing before the Congregation, agree to absolve him which they did and hereby do, and ordere the same to be intimate to the Congregation the next lords day having had the Prebitrys advice to do so.

Likewise this day compeared Agnes Mccron and continuing obstinate, the Session yet incline to delay her till the next Lords day, and order her to be cited apud acta to compear before them att that time.

Likewise the minister reports that the above Elizabeth Moodie having disobeyed the citation before the prebitry the third time the Presbitry have ordered the Session to put her under the sentence of the lesser Excommunication with certification that if she continue impertinent she is to be proceeded against unto the Greater, for her above scandal and contumacy and the same to be intimated to the Congregation in order whereto the Session appoint her to be cited before them against the next Lords day.

Cumnock July 25th 1725

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, John Fergusson, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, George McKairtney, Capt Campbell, James Mcgechan Elders.

This day the above Elizabeth Moodie voluntarily offered to submit herself to the Session for her above scandal against the above Mr William Logan and was accordingly appointed to appear and be rebuked before the Congregation the same day, and to continue unabsolved till she should give proof of her after behaviour.

Eodem Die in the evening.

Session met after prayer. Sederunt as above.

This day the above Agnes Mccron being called and not compearing, the Session after long delay and taking much pains upon her and having the presbitrys advice thereto (page damaged) nomini contradicente* put her under the sentence (page damaged) Lesser Excommunication for her above scandalous expressions against the above William Crawford, and contumacious refsing to acknowledge an(y) fault therein under which she is to continue until she be sensible of her fault, and they order the same to be intimate to the Congregation next Lords Day.

*Nomini contradicente – the best translation from Latin I can see for this is “contradicting the name”. The page is damaged and so the word immediately before is missing, but it might mean something like the more modern “taking the lord’s name in vain”.

Cumnock August 1st 1725

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister and Elders ut supra.

This day the Sentence of the lesser Excommunication against Agnes Mccron was intimated to the Congregation according to appointment.

Cumnock September 5th 1725

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, Capt Campbell, Daniel Sutherland, William Clerk, George McKairtney, Andrew Hodge, George Murdoch, James Wilson Elders.

This day Jean Douglass ultroneously compeared before the Session and Acknowledged herself to be with child in fornication and accused William Fergusson as the father of it and the Session appoints the officer to cite the said William and her to compear before them this day fourthnight, the minister being necessarily to be absent the next Lords day.

Cumnock September 19th 1725

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, Capt Campbell, Daniel Sutherland, George Murdoch, James Wilson, Andrew Hodge, James Wilson, James Mcgechan Elders.

This day William Fergusson being called compeared and acknowledged that he was guilty of the sin of fornication with the above Jean Douglass and was appointed by the Session to enter upon his appearance in publick for his said sin the said day, as was also the said Jean Douglass having compeared the said day according to appointment.

Cumnock September 19th 1725

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister & Elders as above.

This day the above William Fergusson compeared in publick for his above sin and being rebuked and exhorted was ordered from the pulpit to continue his appearance.

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Cumnock September 26th 1725

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, Capt Campbell, Daniel Sutherland, George McKairtney, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge, James Sloan Elders.

This day the above William Fergusson for a second time in publick to make publick profession of repentance for his above sin and being rebuked & exhorted for the same was appointed to wait upon the Session after sermons. The said William being called before the Session compeared and they after having conversed with him anent his fitness to be absolved, agree that upon his giving suitable evidence of his repentance the next Lords Day he should be absolved from his above scandal and appoint accordingly.

Cumnock October 3rd 1725

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, and whole Elders except John Fergusson, Robert Douglass and David Eckles.

This day the above William Fergusson appeared in publick for a third time to make publick profession of repentance for his above sin and being rebuked & exhorted for the same was absolved from his said scandal according to appointment.

Cumnock October 27th 1725

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, Capt Campbell, Daniel Sutherland, George Murdoch, James Wilson, Andrew Hodge, James Mcgechan Elders.

This day the above Jean Douglass appeared in public for a first time to make publick profession of repentance for her above sin of fornication with William Fergusson and being rebuked and exhorted was appointed to continue her appearance.

This day the Session being informed of James Mcervail had accepted himself of being guilty of fornication with Jannet Reed, the appoint both of them to be cited before the Session against the next Lords Day.

Likewise this day the Session having commenc'd anent the dispensing of the Sacrament of the Lords Supper, and for their for then ripening anent it the appoint to meet next Lords day in the morning.

Cumnock October 27th 1725

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt minister and whole Elders as above.

This morning the Session unanimously agree that Sacrament of the Lords Supper be dispensed in this place (*page damaged*) fourtnight being the 14th of November.

And appoint that all their number should meet upon Thursday for prayer & making up of the Communion Roll.

Cumnock Eodem Die in the evening.

Sedurent met after prayer.

Sederunt minister and Elders ut supra.

This day the above Jean Douglass appeared in publick a second time to make public profession of repentance for her above sin of fornication and being rebuked & exhorted was appointed to wait upon the Session. And being called compeared and the Session being satisfied with what tokens of repentance she gave appoint that upon her giving suitable evidences of her sorrow for her said sin the next Lords day she should be absolved from her above scandal & appoint accordingly.

This day the above James Mcervail and Jannet Reed being called & not compearing tho they were both cited, the Session appoint them to be cited for a second time to compear before them the next Lords day after publick worship.

Cumnock November 2nd 1725

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt minister and whole Elders for making up the Communion Roll and did accordingly.

This day the above Jean Douglass having appeared a third time in publick and having given suitable evidences of repentance for her said sin being rebuked and exhorted was absolved from her above scandal according to appointment.

This day the above James Mcervail being called compeared and owned before the session that he had been once guilty of fornication with the above Jannet Reed and the said Jannet being also called & compearing positively refused the said guilt, therefor they were both ordered to compear before the Session this day fourtnight after publick worship.

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This day likewise being credibly informed of the said Jannet her being guilty of several instances of petty theft with which they now charge her, and she denying cite her and order witnesses to be cited against the 25th instant.

Cumnock November 21st 1725

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, Capt Campbell, John Fergusson, Daniel Sutherland, James Wilson, George Murdoch, George McKairtney, James Sloan & William Clerk Elders.

This day the above James Mcervail and Jannet Reed being confronted before the Session the said James adheres to his former confession, but the above Jannet still denying, the Session thinks fit to refer to the advice of the Presbitry.

Cumnock November 25th 1725

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister and whole Elders ut supra.

This day the above Jannet Reed being called and not compearing the Session thinks fitt to proceed to examine the witnesses as follows.

Compeared Agnes Aiken aged 19 and unmarried being solemnly sworn and purged of malice and partial counsel and being interrogate depones, that about midsummer last the above Jannet Reed came into the Clerks house where the deponent & Elizabeth Hair were working, their Master and Mistress not being within, & the said Jannet went to a press & took out a bottle of brandie the key being standing in the press door, and would have each of the said persons to take a glass of brandie and she took another to herself, and then went to a chest and took out bread and would have each of them to take a piece of the bread & took a piece to herself and when they refused she bad(e) the devils??? light upon their senseless snouts for if she were in this house she would make a hand like ?? and likewise before harvest last she asked the deponent to give her a riddle full of coals to wash George Mcervails cloaths and her own which the deponent refused to give and this is the truth as she shall answer to God and declares she cannot write and desires the Clerk to do it for her.

Sic subscribitor John Steel.

Compeared likewise Elizabeth Hair aged about 24, unmarried, being solemnly sworn & purged of malice and partiall counsel and being interrogate depons that in August last as she remembers where she was twilling* somewhat her alone in the Clerks barn the said Jannet Reed came in two or three mornings and drew ale & drank at her own hand each morning without the knowledge or consent of the Mr or Mrs of the house and that another day soon after that she came into the house when the deponent and Agnes Aitken were by themselves and did as above narrated in the former deposition and this is the truth as she shall answer to God and declaring she cannot write desires the clerk may do it for her.

Sic Subscribitor - John Steel (minister) William McMyrie (Session Clerk)

**twilling – weaving cloth/making twill.*

Compeared likewise Marion Brown aged about 20 unmarried and being solemnly sworn and purged of malice and partiall counsel & being interrogate depons that in the last Spring the deponent saw the above Jannet Reed carry away a whean* of the Clerks peats & another day a when of his coals without his or his wifes knowledge and that another day about Lambas last the deponent with Jannet Cadow and the said Jannet Reed being spinning & carding together by themselves in a room of the Clerks Jannet Reed went out and going into the Clerks barn where his ale stood she drew a chappain of ale & set it in at a window where they were working and when Jannet Cadow challenged her for so doing she said she could play two like that and the said Jannet drank her self and would have them them to drink, when they said they had no need of it and this is the truth as she shall answer to God and declaring she cannot write desires the clerk may do it for her.

Sic Subscribiture John Steel, minister. William McMyrie, Session Clerk.

**when/whean – an amount of something/several*

***Lambas – Lammas or Lammas Day, a Harvest festival usually around 1st of August, signifying the first harvest of wheat or corn*

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Margaret Donald being called compeared aged about 20 years & unmarried being solemnly sworn & purged of malice & partiall counsel & being interrogate depons that since Candlemass last she has seen the above Jannet Reed several times takeing away two or three of the Clerks peats, and this is the truth as she shall answer to God and declaring she cannot wryte desires the clerk may do it for her. Sic Subscribitur John Steel, minister. William McMyrie, Session Clerk.

Cumnock November 28th 1725

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, Robert Douglass, James Wilson, George Murdoch, George McKairtney, James Sloan, James Mcgehan & Andrew Hodge Elders.

This day compeared Jannet Caldow aged about 20 years unmarried and being solemnly sworn & purged of malice and partiall counsel being interrogate deopones, that as she thinks in August last she (viz the deponent) and marrion Brown with the said Jannet Reed having been working together in a room of the Clerks. Jannet Reed went from them and went into the Clerks barn where his ale stood and drew a chapain of ale and set it in at a window of the room where she the deponent and Marrion Brown were working which the deponent saw her do out of the said window and the said Jannet Reed came in & drank it & caused them to to drink with her and this is the truth as she shall answer to God and declaring she cannot wryte desires the Clerk may do it for her.

Sub scribitur - John Steel, minister. William Mcmyrie, Session Clerk.

Cumnock December 5th 1725

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, John Fergusson, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, James Wilson and George Murdoch Elders.

This day the above Jannet Reed being called & not compearing was ordered to be cited against Thursday for a second time.

Cumnock December 9th 1725

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, and Elders as above together with Andrew Hodge.

This day the above Jannet Reed being called compeared and the depositions of the witnesses being read over within her hearing and the Session upon the account of the fewness of their number did not think fit to pass any sentence against her but referred it till the next Lords Day and cite her apud acta to compear then.

Cumnock November 21st 1725

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, and whole Elders except William Clerk and James Mcgeghan.

This day the above Jannet reid being called & not compearing and her citation being peremptory and no excuse from her, the Session proceeds and having found several acts of petty theft proven against her and that she had been cursing some of the persons that found fault with her therefor, they agree that she be publickly rebuked before the Congregation and continue unabsolved till she give proof of her after behaviour and the Session notwithstanding her contumacy agree that she be cited to compear before them the next Lords Day to have her sentence and the time of her compearance intimated to her judicially, and for her contumacy to the Sessions peremptory appointment.

Cumnock December 26th 1725

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglass, George Murdoch, James Wilson, James Sloan & Andrew Hodge Elders.

This day the above Jannet Reid being called compeared and was appointed by the Session to compear before the Congregation the next Lords day in the ordinary time and place to be rebuked for her above scandal which sentence she received in a contemptuous way.

Cumnock January 2nd 1726

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, George Murdoch and George McKairtney Elders.

This day the above Jannet Reid not compearing in publick notwithstanding the Session's peremptory appointment to her (page damaged) the session think fit that her case be laid before the presbytery at their next meeting by the minister and Elder appointed to attend.

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Cumnock February 6th 1726

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, Bailie Fergusson, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglass, George Murdoch, James Sloan & James Mcgehan Elders.

This day a Testimonial was ordered be given to John Vallance & one to John Stillie.

Cumnock February 13th 1726

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, James Wilson, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge Elders.

This day the minister reports that the Presbitry advise that the above James Mcervail is to be publicly censured as a slanderer of himself & the above Jannet Reid with uncleanness and that he shall appear so many days as the Session shall see most for edification.

Also reports that the above Jannet Reid for her theft and contumacy is to be put under the sentence of the Lesser Excommunication in executing of both which advices the Session appoint both the saids persons to be cited to compear before them the next Lords day.

Cumnock February 20th 1726

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, Bailie Fergusson, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglass, George Murdoch, James Wilson, Andrew Hodge & George McKairtney Elders.

This day the above James Mcervail being called compeared & according to the Presbitrys advice the Session appoints him to appear in publick in the ordinary place next Lords day for his above scandal and to be rebuked and continued.

Likewise the above Jannet Reid being called compeared and declared herself ready to submit to the Session's appointment for her above scandal, but the Sessions some circumstances falling instead delay her appearance till afterwards.

Cumnock February 27th 1726

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, Robert Douglass, Daniel Sutherland, George Murdoch, James Sloan & James Mcgehan Elders.

This day the above James Mcervail not appearing in publick according to appointment the minister is desired to advice with the Presbitry att their meeting what they shall think proper to be done anent him.

Cumnock March 6th 1726

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister and whole Elders ut supra.

This day the session appoint the above Jannet Reid to be cited to compear before them the next Lords day.

Cumnock March 13th 1726

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Capt Campbell, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglas, George Murdoch, George McKairtney and Andrew Hodge, Elders.

This day the minister reports that the Presbytry's advice anent James Mcervail is that he is to be put under the sentence of the Lesser Excommunication for his above scandel & contumacy to the Sessions appointment.

Likewise this day the above Jannet Reid being called compeared and the Session appoint her to appear before the Congregation the next Lords day in the ordinary time and place and to be rebuked for her above scandal and that she is to remain unabsolved till she give proof of her repentance by her behaviour.

Likewise the Session appoint the above James Mcervail to be cited in before them the next Lords day.

Cumnock March 20th 1726

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Robert Douglas, Daniel Sutherland, George Murdoch, James Wilson, Andrew Hodge, James Sloan, James Mcgechan, Elders

This day the above Jannet Reed appeared in publick to make profession of repentance for her above scandell and being rebuked and exhorted was continued unabsolved for some time till she give further proof of her repentance by her after behaviour.

Likewise this day the above James Mcervaiill being called compeared and by reason of his contumacy the Session with the advice of the presbitry proceed to put him under the sentence of the Lesser Excommunication and they appoint the same to be intimated to the Congregation the next Lords day.

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Cumnock March 27th 1726

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Capt Campbell, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglas, James Wilson, George Murdoch, George McKairtney, Elders.

This day the minister by the appointment both of the Presbitry & Session intimated the sentence of the Lesser Excommunication against the above James Mcervaiill for his above scandell aggravated by obstinacy to the Sessions appointment.

This day also the Session being informed that besides the unsuitable behaviour the Congregation saw in the above Jannet Reid when she got her publick rebuke that she ased (said) some imprecating* expressions such as sorrow let her never do more or the like if ever she repented for what she had done, and therefore the Session appoint her to be cited before them against them this day fourthnight with the following witnesses, viz George and William McGavin, William Hutchison, John Halbertson & Hugh Hutchison.

**imprecating – cursing/invoking evil against someone*

This day the Session being informed that Elizabeth Stillie with Jean Aitken stayed in from Sermon one Lords day about a month ago and in time of Divine Worship & ?? & sent for wine and cider and drank it therefor the Session appoint the said two persons to be cited to compear before them this day fourth night after sermons.

Cumnock April 3rd 1726

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Capt Campbell, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglas, George Murdoch, James Sloan & Andrew Hodge, Elders.

This day the Session being informed that Margaret Aird was found lying in bed with on(e) Mr Milland, Dancing master, they appoint her to be cited to compear before them the next Lords day and also James Kissock and Sarah Campbell as witnesses thereanent.

Cumnock April 10th 1726

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Capt Campbell, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglas, James Wilson, George Murdoch, James Sloan & James Mcgechan, Elders.

This day the above Jannet Reed being called compeared and acknowledged that when she was receiving her publick rebuke she said that when the minister was desiring her to ?? for sin she wished that God might help her to ?? for her other sins, but she said **fynd** be in her mind where it was on to ?? repent for what she was brought there for and likewise says that she muttered some other expressions in the time of her appearance and even when before the Session ?? she said once and again that she would not ?? for it yet, therefore the Session think fit to lay her case before the Presbitry for advice att their meeting. (*page difficult to read*)

This day also the above Elizabeth Stillie being called compeared and judicially confessed that she was guilty of breaking the Sabbath day by drinking wine cider and ale with Penelope Stillie & Jean Aitkine in the time of Divine Worship.

Likewise the above Jean Aitkin being called compeared and confessed the same in that the above Elizabeth Stillie did with respect of the Sabbath day and it being **recognized** that there were some others in company which they conceal the Session think fitt to delay it with respect to the said Elizabeth Stillie till they be further informed about it but dismiss Jean Aitkine with a Sessional rebuke because of her youth she being but about 12 or 13 years of age.

Likewise this the day the above Margaret Aird being called compeared and being challenged for her above scandell she absolutely refused it and the witnesses that were cited for proving the same not compearing they are appointed to be cite before the session the next Lords day pro secundo and the said Margaret Aird is cited apud acta to be present then.

Cumnock April 17th 1726

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Baillie Fergusson, Robert Douglas, Daniel Sutherland, George Murdoch, James Sloan & Andrew Hodge, Elders.

This day the above Margaret Aird being called compeared and again denyed what was ?? to her charge.

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Therefore James Kissock being called compeared, a married person aged about 30 years and being solemnly sworn and purged of malice and partiall council being interrogate depones that when the above Mr Milland was in this town the deponent and his wife being gone to bed in one room and the above Margaret Aird (then their servant) being gone to her bed in another, the deponent hearing a whispering in the other room where the said Margaret lay. He rose and went to the room to know the matter and hearing somebody talking with her, whither in the bed with her or not he cannot be positive there being no light in the room, and he returning and telling his wife she came along with him and found the said Mr Milland sitting upon Margaret's bed stock, who both the deponent and his wife knew to be him by his voice and that his wife dismissed him with sharp words, and that he heard (as he thought) the said Margaret makeing some resistance and desiring somebody to be gone before he knew who it was and this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Sic Subscribitur:

John Steel, minister, William Mcmurie, Clerk, James Kissock.

The above Margaret being present judicially acknowledged every thing contained in the above oath and there being only another witness which the Session believed would concur they did not think fitt to adduce the one, but they delay the said Margaret with an admonition (and rebuked her that she did not call for help when any man came in att that time of night) till such time as they might take further advice there anent.

Cumnock June 19th 1726

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Robert Douglas, Daniel Sutherland, George Murdoch, James Wilson, William Clerk and George McKairtney, Elders.

This day compeared Agnes Murdoch in publick for a first time, who some time ago had acknowledged herself guilty of fornication with William Creighton and thereafter was taken out of the bounds to a ?? till this day. She came and offered to subject herself to discipline and being rebuked and exhorted got her above scandill was continued.

Cumnock June 26th 1726

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Baillie Fergusson, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglas, George Murdoch, James Sloan & Andrew Hodge, Elders.

This day the above Agnes Murdoch compeared in publick for a second time to make profession of repentance for above sin and being rebuked & exhorted was desired to wait upon the Session after sermons and being called compeared and the Session being satisfied with her when before them appoint her to appear in publick next Lords day in order to her absolution.

Likewise this day Jannet King applied to the Session to be absolved from her above scandal of offensive carriage with William Murdoch now her husband before their marriage and the Session upon the expressions there made of the sense of her sin before them absolve her and appoint the same to be intimated to the Congregation the next Lords day.

Likewise this day the minister reports that the presbitry advice to put the above Jannet Reid under the sentence of the Lesser Excommunication for her above offensive carriage & expressions before the Congregation when she was called to make repentance for petty theft proven against her. In order thereto the Session appoint her to be cited to compear before them next Lords day after sermon.

The minister also reports that the presbitry's advice anent Elizabeth Stillie is that she be rebuked before the Congregation and remain unabsolved till she give proof of her after behaviour, therefor the Session appoint her to be cited to compear before them next Lords day.

Cumnock July 3rd 1726

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Minister and Elders as above.

This day the above Agnes Murdoch appeared for a third time in publick to make further expression of repentance for her above sin and being rebuked & exhorted was absolved from her said scandal.

Likewise this day by advice of the presbitry the above Jannet Reid was laid under the sentence of the Lesser Excommunication for her contemptuous behaviour when she was receiving her publick rebuke for her above scandell.

This day the above Elizabeth Stillie being called compeared and was appointed to appear publickly before the Congregation in the ordinary time and place next Lords day to be rebuked for her above scandell.

Likewise this day Elizabeth Donald was ordered to be cited to compear before the Session the next Lords day for her being guilty of sevarll acts of uncleanness.

Cumnock July 10th 1726

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Baillie Fergusson, Robert Douglas, Daniel Sutherland, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge & James Sloan, Elders.

This day the above Elizabeth Stillie appeared in publick to make publick profession of repentance for her above scandell and being rebuked an exhorted was continued unabsolved till she give proof of her repentance by her after behaviour.

Likewise the Lesser Sentence of Excommunication against Jannet Reid was initiated to the Congregation according to appointment.

Likewise this day the Session agree that for ought that occurs to the at present the time for dispensing the Sacrament of the Lords Supper here will be this day 5 weeks and desire the same may be intimated to the Congregation next Lords day.

Cumnock July 17th 1726

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister and Elders ut supra.

Intimation made from the presbitry that the Scacrament of the Lords Supper is to be dispensed here the 14th of August next, and desire that they may be minded to call Jannet Reid after her ??

Cumnock September 25th 1726

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Bailie Fergusson, Robert Douglas, Daniel Sutherland, George Murdoch, James Wilson, William Clerk, Elders.

This day the Session being informed of the indecent behaviour by George Mcervail & Jannet Reed appoint that they be cited to compear before the Session next Lords day after publick worship.

Cumnock October 2nd 1726

Session mett after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Robert Douglas, Daniel Sutherland, James Sloan and George Murdoch, Elders.

This day the above George Mcervail and Jannet Read being called compeared and being asked of the truth of the scandell alleged against them and both of them denying the Session thinks fit to delay the affair till the Session be more frequent and rebuke them for not observing the Sessions appointment to them to absent one anothers company and likewise discharge the of keeping company alone together afterwards.

The Session are likewise informed that after much pains they have been att to get the above ?? Gemmil* removed att length she hath made a moonlight flitting**.

**the first name has been abbreviated, poss Margaret? and there is no previous mention of the Session attempting to remove a female from the parish and so it appears that previous discussion of this case was not recorded.*

***Flitting – moving house*

Cumnock October 9th 1726

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Baillie Fergussoon, Robert Douglas, Daniel Sutherland, James Mcgechan, George McKairtney, James Sloan Elders.

This day the Session agree that witnesses be examined anent the affair of the above George Mcervail & Jannet Reid and appoint both the parties and witnesses to be cited against next Lords day viz for witnesses John Creighton, Thomas Hair, Jannet Murdoch, John Thomson, Marion McCowan, John Good and Bessie Thomson.

Cumnock October 16th 1726

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Robert Douglas, Daniel Sutherland, George Murdoch, James Mcgechan, James Sloan & James Wilson Elders.

This day the above George Mcervaiill & Jannet Reid being called compeared and being interrogate further anent the truth of their scandell the said Jannet judicially confessed that she was guilty of uncleanness with the said George and says that if she was with child she will give it to no other but to the above George, and the above George having judicially confessed guilt likewise with the said Jannet says if she be with child if the child come to his time he will not refuse it. Therefore both parties being confronted and having judicially confessed the above witnesses are dismissed.

Cumnock October 23rd 1726

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Baillie Fergussoon, Robert Douglas, James Wilson, George Murdoch, Daniel Sutherland, George McKairtney, James Sloan Elders.

This day the above George Mcervaiill & Jannet Reid being called compeared and adhering both to their former confession they are appointed to appear in publick next Lords day in the ordinary time and place.

Likewise Session being informed that (after the above Elizabeth Donald was desired to repair to the place where she had been guilty of fornication to get herself purged from the same) yet she remains in the place unpurged they the Session think fitt to advice the presbitry anent her att their meeting next.

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Cumnock October 23rd 1726

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Baillie Fergusson, Robert Douglas, Daniel Sutherland, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge, George McKairtney, Elders.

This day according to appointment the above George Mcervaiill and Jannet Reid appeared in publick for the first time to make profession of repentance for their above offence and being rebuked and exhorted were appointed from the pulpit to continue their appearance.

Likewise testimonials here appointed to John Patrick and his family & to George Mure.

Cumnock November 6th 1726

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister and whole elders as above except Andrew Hodge.

This day the above George Mcervail & Jannet Reed appeared in publick for a second time to make publick profession of repentance for their above sin and being rebuked and exhorted the said George was ordered from the pulpit to wait upon the Session after sermon for their further appointment to him and the said Jannet was appointed to continue her appearance.

Cumnock December 28th 1726

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, James Mcgechan and George Murdoch, Elders.

The last day the Session met it was omitted to be marked (which is now ordered to be done) that then Elizabeth Stillie apply'd to the Session to be absolved from her scandell of the profanation of the Lords day for which she had been publickly rebuked and upon hearing of what expressions she gave for her sorrow for the same the Session further exhort and absolve her from her said scandell and order the same to be intimate to the Congregation next Lords day.

Cumnock January 1st 1727

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglas, James Sloan, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge, Elders.

This day the above Elizabeth Stillie's absolution was intimated to the Congregation according to appointment.

Cumnock January 15th 1727

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglas, George Murdoch, James Wilson and James Sloan, Elders.

This day James Sloan was appointed to attend the presbitry till the Synod.

Likewise the Session being informed of some misbehaviour in William Mirrie (viz) of his beating of Andrew Johnstoun a boy, they appoint him to be cited to compear before them next Lords day.

Cumnock January 22nd 1727

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Bailie Fergusson, Robert Douglas, George McKairtney, Daniel Sutherland, Andrew Hodge, James Sloan, Elders.

This day the minister having advised the presbitry anent George Mcervail and Jannet Reids affair reports that the presbitry delayed the said George till afterwards and appointed the said Jannet to be cited before them att their next meeting att Air, the time of which as yet not being known because the next presbitry is to be elsewhere for the ordination of a minister.

This day also the above William Mirrie being called compeared and being charged with beating of Andrew Johnston a boy he acknowledged that he beat him with the foot & hang (?hand) and being asked what thought he had of it, he said he had very good thoughts of it, so the Session think fit to delay him att this time and cite to compear before them next Lords day.

Cumnock January 29th 1727

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglas, George Murdoch, James Wilson, Andrew Hodge, Elders.

This day the above William Mirrie being called compeared, and being asked what he thought now of his barbarous beating of the boy, he contemptuously said he had and he had done so, but exprest no sense of grief for it, and the Session being now informed of his having been drunk since last Lords day, delay his censure till they examine into that, also and peremptorily cite hime to compeare before them next Lords day which he insolently said he would not obey.

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Cumnock February 5th 1727

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglas, George Murdoch, James Mcgechan, William Clerk, George McKairtney, Elders.

This day the above William Mirrie being called compeared and having expressed a sense of his sin for beating of Andrew Johnstoun and also of his being sometimes of drunkenness and having undertaken to amend, the Session thinks fit to give him a Sessional rebuke, which they do, and appoint the same to be intimate to the Congregation.

Cumnock February 12th 1727

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Robert Douglas, James Sloan, George Murdoch, James Wilson, James Mcgechan, Elders.

This day the rebuke given to the above William Mirrie by the Session was intimated according to appointment.

Cumnock March 5th 1727

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, and Elders ut supra.

This day the Session appoint that the above Jannet Reid be cited to compear before the presbitry (by their appointment) att Air upon the eight of March being the day of their meeting*.

*(*Ayr Presbytery 8th March 1727 – Page 299. Reid. "Janet Reid in Cumnock guilty of a relapse in fornication and contumacy to discipline is to be cited to the presbytery after the Synod.)*

Cumnock March 19th 1727

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Robert Douglas, Daniel Sutherland, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge, James Mcgechan, Elders.

This day the minister reports that the presbitry have appointed the above Jannet Reid to be cited for a second time to compear before the att Air at their next meeting after the Synod she not having obeyed her former citation*.

Cumnock April 10th 1727

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Baillie Fergusson, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglas, James Sloan, George Murdoch, James Mcgechan, Andrew Hodge, Elders.

This day the minister reports that the presbitry give it as their opinion having had advice from the Committee of ?? att the Synod that the above James Mcervail having given no evidence of himself with the above Jannet Reid but having been censured as a slanderer before his said father fell guilty with her that the sons said slander should not hinder the fathers absolution, but upon reports of their not forbearing one another's company, which it gives offence viz the said George and the said Jannet , the Session think fit to delay his absolution till afterwards and appoint the said Jannet to be cited to compear before them next Lords day.

Cumnock April 23rd 1727

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglas, James Sloan, George Murdoch, James Wilson, Andrew Hodge, Elders.

This day the above Jannet Reid being called compeared and was peremptorily cited by the Session to compear before the presbitry att Air upon Wednesday next being 26th instant*.

Likewise James Wilson was appointed to attend the presbitry till the Synod.

*(*Ayr Presbytery 6th April 1727 – P303 – “Janet Reid forsaid being cited called compeared and was rebuked for her contumacy to the Session of Old Cumnock: she acknowledged her wrong in doing so, & promised to subject to censure, where upon she was dismissed.”)*

Cumnock April 30th 1727

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt minister and hail Elders ut supra.

This day the minister reports that Jannet Reid having compeared before the presbitry according to her citation, showed herself willing to subject herself to the Session, but in regard the minister is going to the Assembly the Session delay calling of her to appear in publick for some time.

Cumnock April 23rd 1727

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Baillie Fergusson, Robert Douglas, James Sloan, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge, Elders.

This day the above Jannet Reid is appointed to appear before the Congregation at the ordinary time and place next Lords day to make publick

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Profession of her repentance for her said sin of fornication with the above George Mcervail, and there being a report that the above persons, contrary to appointment, frequent one anothers company offensively, the Session appoint both of them to be cited before them next Lords day.

Cumnock May 20th 1727

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Baillie Fergusson, Robert Douglas, James Sloan, George Murdoch, James Wilson, Elders.

This day excuse being made for the above George Mcervail for his not compearing in regard he is att Glasgow therefore the Session appoint him pro secundo to be cited to compear next Lords day.

Likewise this day the above Jannet Reid appeared in publick for a third time to make publick profession of repentance for her said sin, and being rebuked and exhorted, was continued, as also she being called compeared and owns that she had stay'd some time in the said George his house and pretends she has nowhere else to go to, the Session rebuke her and discharge her from doing the like any more but refers any other sentence till they hear him (viz) the said George.

Cumnock June 9th 1727

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Daniel Sutherland, George Murdoch, James Mcgechan, James Wilson, James Sloan, George McKairtney, Elders.

This day the above Jannet Reid appeared in publick a fourth time to make profession of repentance for her said sin and being rebuked and exhorted was continued.

This day also the above George Mcervail and Jannet Reid being called compeared and the said George being asked anent the truth of his and the said Jannets being together, after they were expressly discharged, he confesses that it was true and the reason he gives is, that he can not get the child disposed of till the said Jannet had given full satisfaction for her said scandal, therefor the Session now discharge them of any such practise in time coming and refer their case to the presbitry for advice.

Cumnock June 11th 1727

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Daniel Sutherland, James Sloan, George Murdoch, George McKairtney, James Mcgechan, Andrew Hodge, Elders.

This day the above Jannet Reid not having appeared in publick according to appointment the Session think fitt (to) take advice of the presbitry anent her att their next meeting.

Cumnock June 25th 1727

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglas, George Murdoch, James Mcgechan, Elders.

This day the officer was ordered to cite the above Jannet Reid to compear before the Congregation the next Lords day for a fifth time to make publick profession of repentance for her above scandell.

Cumnock July 2nd 1727

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Minister and Elders ut supra.

This day the above Jannet Reid appeared in publick for a fifth time to make profession of repentance for her said scandall and being rebuked and exhorted was continued unabsolved for some time.

Likeewise the Session unanimously agree that the Sacrament of the Lords Supper, God willing, will be dispensed in this place this day 20 days being the 23rd instant.

Also this day compeared Isobell Campbell ultroneously and own'd herself guilty of fornication & accuses John Dunbar, son to George Dunbar in Auchingibbert as the father of the child, therefor the Session appoint the said John to be cited to compear before them the next Lords day and cite the said Isobell apud acta to compear then.

Cumnock July 9th 1727

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Robert Douglas, George Murdoch, James Mcgechan, James Wilson, Andrew Hodge, Elders.

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This day the above John Dunbar and Isobell Campbell being called compeared and being confronted the said Isobell adheres to her former confession in accusing the said John, and he being asked refuses the charge, but the said Isobell condescending upon the time (viz) one day about 20 days before New Year day last, she says that he the said John conveyed her a good piece of way, but says he conveyed her no further than his fathers will, and the said Isobell says that Jannet Howat, the said John's stepmother and James Howat her brother can witness that the said John went with her and stayed a considerable ti,e about an hour before his return but the Session delay proceeding any further at this time in regard of the Sacrament of the Lords Supper in this place.

This day likewise the Session condescend upon Thursday next for their meeting for prayer and conserting* of the Communion Roll.

**conserting – planning or arranging by mutual agreement.*

Cumnock July 29th 1727

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Daniel Sutherland, George Murdoch, Robert Douglas, James Mcgechan, James Sloan, Andrew Hodge, Elders.

This day the Session not thinking fitt for some circumstances to call the witnesses in the former minutes di cite the above persons themselves to compear next Lords day before them that they may deal with the said John in order to confession.

This day likewise, the Session being informed that William Mirrie about a fourth night ago by some means got into a house of the Toun early one morning and got into the bed where the servant maid lay and frightened her and disturbed the family there for the Session appoint him to be cited to compear before them next Lords day.

Likewise the Session being informed that the above George Mcervail & Jannet Reid having keep'd up unsuitable conversation together after they were strictly discharged for so doing, the Session think proper that the presbitry be advised anent them if they shall think fitt that the said George be put under the Lesser Excommunication, as the said Jannet is already. And if they continue after that to frequent one and others company, that the ordinary steps be taken towards putting them both under the greater sentence.

Cumnock August 6th 1727

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Baillie Fergusson, Daniel Sutherland and Robert Douglas, Elders.

This day the above William Mirrie being called and not compearing the Session appoint him to be cited to compear before the, against this day fourth night pro secundo.

This day the above John Dunbar and Isobell (Campbell) being called compeared and the said Isobell adhering to her former accusation, but the said John persisting to deny the Session appoint the above witnesses viz Jannet and James Howat to compear before them this day fourthnight together with the saids parties.

Cumnock August 20th 1727

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, and hail Elders except Baillie Fergusson and David Eckles.

This day John Dunbar and Isobell Campbell having been cited according to appointment were called & compeared. She adhered to her accusation and he to his denyal whereupon James and Jannet Howat having been cited according to appointment as witnesses of his having gone (viz the said John out of his father's house with her when it was dark and stayed about an hour). The Session having some doubt about the relevancy or weight of the presumption agree to forbear takeing the witness oaths, and think fit to call them, to hear what information they could give anent it, they being accordingly called compeared Jannet Howat & declared that they went out together att then time

condescended upon but that she could not tell how long he stayed, whither it was an hour or half an hour or how long.

James Howat compeared and declairs that the said John Dunbar went out with the said Jannet Campbell att the time alleged and that he thought he stayed not out an hour, and knows not whither it would have been half an hour or not, and that when he returned he said he had been conveying Isobell Campbell. The Session delay the affair till the Presbitery meet & and be advised, and the woman has delivered.

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Cumnock September 3rd 1727

Session met after prayer. Sedurant Mr John Steel, minister, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglas, James Mcgechan and Andrew Hodge, Elders.

This day William Mirrie having been cited being called compeared not, his further citation delayed by reason of the Clerks absence, and his having forgot to leave the minutes, but this day afterwards ultroneously compeared and said he was out of the parish when he should have compeared, but now he was come to see what they had to say to him, and talked very approbriously* to the Session, and seem'd both by his speech and staggering to be drunk. He confesses that he went into the private family the morning lybelled and that he had not been in bed that night, and when asked where he had been he said his father had ??carried him out, and when told what by that excuse he had confessed himself many times guilty of being too late out, he replied insolently "what of all that, what off all that", but denys that he was drunk or that he went into the servant maid's bed, and said it was the night after the fair. Besides this confession his appearing now on the Lords day to be drunk with his uncommon insolence to the Session and his having been censured lately before for being often drunk by his own confession and it being credibly informed that it can be easily proven the he was drunk att the time lybell'd and his being a person of a very scandalous life and bad character the Session are of the mind he aught to be put under the Lesser Excommunication and order the presbitry to be advised here anent, as also anent Mcervaiill and Reid and Mirries expressions before the Session that he would show them a ??suck and his refusing to remove till the officer was called to throght* him out are to be minded among other evidences of his drunkenness att that time.

**approbriously = opprobriously - scandalous/insulting*

**throght – thought/throucht – to throw.*

Cumnock September 10th 1727

Session met after prayer.

Session met after prayer. Sedurant Mr John Steel, minister, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglas, George Murdoch, James Sloan, & George McKairtney, Elders.

This day the minister reports that anent the affair of John Dunbar the presbitry advise that the witnesses both are not to be taken in regard they thought they will amount to little but the Session being not informed the woman hath brought forth the child answerably to the time libelled appoint them both to be cited to compear before them against this day fourth night in order to deal with him for his conviction.

Likewise reported by the minister that the Presbitry advise that the above William Mirrie should be publicly rebuked and put under the sentence of the Lesser Excommunication till he give proof of his repentance.

Also reports anent the above George Mcervail and Jannet Reid the presbytry advise that he should be put under the sentence of the Lesser Excommunication and that the both should be cited to compear before the presbitry att their next meeting att Air that they may be proceeded against towards the greater sentence, to which advices the Session agree and order William Mirrie and the above George and Jannet to compear before them next Lords day.

Cumnock September 17th 1727

Session met after prayer.

Session met after prayer. Sedurant Mr John Steel, minister, Baillie Fergusson, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglas, George Murdoch, James Wilson & James Sloan, Elders.

This day the above William Mirrie being called compeared and according to the advice of the presbitry and the former opinion of the Session he was put under the Lesser sentence of Excommunication for his above scandal and they appointt the same to be intimated to the Congregation next Lords day and he is appointed to appear in publick next Lords day to be further rebuked and that he is to ly under the said sentence till he give proof of his repentance.

Likewise this day the above George Mcervail being called compeared a& according to the advice of the presbitry was put under the Lesser Sentence of Excommunication and the same is appointed to be intimated to the Congregation next Lords day, and also the above Jannet Reid having been cited being called compeared and they both, viz the said George and her, were cited to compear before the presbitry at their next meeting att Air being the first step of procedure that shall in order to the greater sentence and this step of diligence of the Session to be intimated to the Congregation next Lords day.

Likewise the Session being informed that William Blackwood, William Skirring and John King having sitten up on a whole night in a tavern drinking they are appointed to be cited to compear before the Session against next after sermons.

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Cumnock September 24th 1727

Session met after prayer.

Session met after prayer. Sedurant Mr John Steel, minister, Baillie Fergusson, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglas, James Sloan & George and James Mcgechan, Elders.

This day according to appointment were intimated the Sentences of the Lesser Excommunication past against William Mirrie and George Mcervail.

Likewise the above John Dunbar and Isobell Campbell being called and the said John not compearing he is appointed to be cited to compear before the Session next Lords day, and the said Isobell compearing adheres to her former accusation.

Also this day the above William Blackwood having sent a reasonable excuse to the Session for his not compearing the Session appoints him to be cited to compear this day eight days.

The above William Skirring and John King being called compeared and acknowledged that they did sitt up all night in a tavern drinking but were not drunk, and in regard they profess sense at their fault and promise amendment they are discharged with a Sessional rebuke.

Cumnock October 5th 1727

Session met after prayer.

Session met after prayer. Sedurant Mr John Steel, minister, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglas, James Wilson, Andrew Hodge and George Murdoch, Elders.

This day the above John Dunbar and Isobell Campbell being called compeared and being confronted the said Isobell adheres as formerly and the said John adheres to his denyell therefor the Session think fit to lay their case before the presbitry for advice.

Likewise the above William Blackwood not having been cited in regard he was not in the parish is ordered to be cited to compear before the Session next Lords day.

Cumnock October 8th 1727

Session met after prayer.

Session met after prayer. Sedurant Mr John Steel, minister, Baillie Fergusson, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglas, Andrew Hodge, Elders.

This day the above Wiliam Blackwood being called compeared and having own'd his fault and declared the sense he has of it, and being cautioned against the like in time coming was rebuked and dismissed.

Likewise the above John Dunbar and Isobell Campbell were appointed to be cited to compear before the Session next Lords day.

Cumnock October 15th 1727

Session met after prayer.

Session met after prayer. Sedurant Mr John Steel, minister, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglas, George Murdoch, James Sloan, James Mcgechan & Andrew Hodge, Elders.

This day the above John Dunbar and Isobell Campbell being called compeared and the said John continuing to deny, the Session do summond them both to compear before the presbitry att their next meeting att Air.

This day likewise James Wilson is continued Elder to attend the Presbitry till the Synod.

Cumnock October 29th 1727

Session met after prayer.

Session met after prayer. Sedurant Mr John Steel, minister, Andrew Hodge, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglas, James Sloan & George Murdoch, Elders.

This day the above named persons viz George Mcervail & Jannet Reid, John Dunbar and Isobell Campbell having been cited to compear before the Presbitry are now delayed for some time in regard of the Minister's going to the Commission.

Likewise the Session being informed that Marion Palmer had been guilty of scolding Mrs Hume in this town and of giving her abominable names the Session appoint her to be cited to compear before them next Lords day.

Cumnock November 5th 1727

Session met after prayer.

Session met after prayer. Sedurant Mr John Steel, minister, Baillie Fergusson, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglas, George Murdoch, James Mcgechan and George McKairtney Elders.

This day the above Marion Palmer being called compeared and being asked if it was true that had been alleged against her she said it was and ?? has felt sorry for the offence, therefore the Session think fitt to dismiss her with a Sessional rebuke.

(It appears that there may have been a complaint or some form of audit of the Old Cumnock Session records, as there is an entry from the Presbytry squeezed into the bottom of the page on dated three years later. After this entry, the Session register continues, but with a change of clerk.)

Air 8th September 1730.

The Presbytry having heard the remarks of the brethren appointed to ... this register of the Session of Old Cumnock which they did from page ninety one dated the 15th of July 1716

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to page 194 at the end of Sederunt 5th of October 1727 and having heard their remarks and the Minister his ansyrs to them and the Moderator having asked if any brother had anything to object against the actings of the Session and nothing having appeared the clerk was ordered to attest this register accordingly.

Signed Tho. Lockhart cc Presbytry.

Cumnock November 26th 1727

Session met after prayer.

Session met after prayer. Sedurant Mr John Steel, minister, Baillie Fergusson, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglas, James Sloan & George McCartney, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge and James Wilson, Elders.

This day Mr William Rae was received as Session Clerk in the usual form.

Cumnock November 26th 1727

Session met after prayer.

Session met after prayer. Sedurant Mr John Steel, minister, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglas, James Wilson, George Murdoch, James Sloan, Andrew Hodge and James Mcgeachin, Elders.

John Dunbar, Isobel Campbell, George McKervail and Jannet Reid are ordered to be cited to compear before the next Presbyterie.

Cumnock December 17th 1727

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson.

It being reported that Mary Johnstone is with child in uncleanness wherefor the Session appoint her to be cited to their next meeting.

Cumnock December 30th 1727

Session met after prayer.

Session met after prayer. Sedurant Mr John Steel, minister, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglas, James Wilson, Andrew Hodge and George Murdoch, Elders.

Mary Johnstone being cited, compeared and owned herself with child in fornication to Mr William Mcmine and he compearing ultroneously owned the same. After which, they were both rebucked for this their sin and exhorted to repentance and be rebucked the next Lords day.

Cumnock January 7th 1728

Session met after prayer.

Session met after prayer.

Sedurant Mr John Steel, minister, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglas, James Wilson, George Murdoch, James Sloan and Andrew Hodge, Elders.

Mr William McMine and Mary Johnsrone appeared this day in publick according to appointment and were rebucked, exhorted to Repentance and continued.

John Dunbar, Isobell Campbell, George Mackervail and Jannet Reid who could not answer the last citation to the Presbyterie by reason of the storm are ordered to be cited to compear before the next meeting of the Session.

Cumnock January 21st 1728

Session met after prayer.

All members present except Baillie Fergusson.

George Makervail & Jannet Reid, as also John Dunbar and Isobel Campbell being cited compeared, were exhorted to confess their sin and cited to the next Presbyterie at Air upon Wednesday next.

Mr William McMine and Mary Johnstone made their second appearance in publick this day were rebucked, and appointed to wait on the Session in the afternoon which appointment they observed and seeming penitent, were ordered upon their giving further evidence of their repentance in publick to be absolved next Lords day.

Cumnock January 28th 1728

Session met after prayer.

Session met after prayer. Sedurant Mr John Steel, minister, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglas, Andrew Hodge and George Murdoch, Elders.

Mr William McMine and Mary Johnston appeared this day a third time in publick, were rebucked and upon giving further publick testimony of their repentance absolved.

The minister reports that the Presbytrie ordered George Makervail and Jannet Reid to receive the first admonition in order to the Sentence if the greater Excommunication, and which was accordingly given them this day after sermon and they cited to appear before the presbyterie to meet at Air upon the last Wednesday of February next.

Cumnock February 25th 1728

Session met after prayer.

All members present except Baillie Fergusson and James Mcgeachin.

The Minister reports from the Presbyterie that John Dunbar not having compeared in compliance to the peremptory Citation of the Presbyterie is appointed to be cited from the Pulpit.

As also the Minister reports that George Makervail and Jannet Reid are according to order to be publickly admonished for a second time in order to the executing the sentence of the greater Excommunication against them.

Cumnock April 14th 1728

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, Baillie Fergusson, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglas, and Andrew Hodge, Elders.

George Makervail and Jannet Reid had the Second Admonition in order to the sentence of the greater Excommunication given them upon the 31st March last.

James Sloan is appointed Elder to attend the Presbyterie for the next ensuing half year.

Cumnock June 9th 1728

Session met after prayer.

All members present except Baillie Fergusson and James Mcgeachin.

This day Agnes McCrone desired to speak with the Session anent her being relaxed from the Sentence of the Lesser Excommunication for her slandering of William Crawford and her obstinacy therein. The Session were no wayes satisfied with her behaviour and do not think that she is yet fit to be absolved and appoints the Minister and Elder to attend the Presbyterie and inform them there anent at their next meeting.

Cumnock June 23rd 1728

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglas, Andrew Hodge and James Sloan, Elders.

This day again Agnes McCrone applied to the Session and owned herself sensible of her sin in what she had said against William Crawford and that she was truly sorry for it, and resolves to be cautious against any such thing in time coming: and entreated she might be relaxed from the Sentence of the lesser Excommunication that she had lyen a considerable time under for her obstinacy

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in refusing to make this acknowledgement before now*, whereof the Minister and Elder is to informe the Prebyterie and get their direction anent her.

**Agnes Mccron was "convicted" of this matter in 1718.*

Cumnock July 14th 1728

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel minister, Daniel Sutherland, Robert Douglas, Andrew Hodge and James Mcgeachin and George Mccartney, Elders.

This day Agnes Mccrone having applied to the Session a third time craving to be relaxed from the Sentence of the lesser Excommunication and absolve, & repeated her former acknowledgement and Profession of Repentance: whereupon the Session having had the Presbyteries advice and allowance thereto did and herby do relax and absolve the said Agnes Mccrone and order the same to be publicly intimated from the Pulpit together with her acknowledgement and profession of repentance.

Cumnock July 28th 1728

Session met after prayer.

Members all present.

This day it is unanimously agreed upon that the Sacrament of the Lords Supper shall, God willing, be dispensed in this Parish this day twenty days, being the 18th day of August next.

Cumnock August 11th 1728

Session met after prayer.

All members present except James Sloan and George McCartney.

The Session appoint Friday next for prayer and concerting of the communion roll.

Cumnock September 1st 1728

Session met after prayer.

Members all present.

The Session met according to appointment upon the foresaid day for prayer and concerting the Communion Roll.

Cumnock September 22nd 1728

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and James Mcgeachin.

This day James Mcgil and Sarah Wallace his wife complained to the Session that Jannet Paterson had called the said James Mcgil a thief and a robber upon Munday last & Sarah Wallace informes against the said Jannet Paterson that she cursed both her own and the said Sarah Wallaces husband, praying that the devil might break both their necks, and that her own husband might never be seen again, till the day of judgement. And that the said Jannet and her husband were fighting & having violent hands on one another last Lords day and offers witnesses to the first Article viz Jannet Wilson, Agnes Anderson, Elizabeth Young and Elizabeth William, Mary and Jean Aikins, Upon which complaint and Information the Session order Jannet Paterson and her husband John Pedin and the whole witnesses to be cited against the next Lords day and cite James Mcgil and his wife Sarah Wallace to that diet.

Cumnock September 29th 1728

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and James Mcgeachin.

James Mcgil & Sarah Wallace being cited compered and insisted on their complaint. Jannet Paterson having been cite compered & denyed that she had called James Mcgil either thief or robber.

The witnesses viz Jannet Wilson, Elizabeth Aickin & Elizabeth Young being cited compered.

Jannet Wilson, aged about 50 years being solemnly sworn and purged of malice and partial counsel depones, that she heard James Mcgil accuse Janet Paterson of calling him a robber and heard Jannet reply that it looked likest like it, when he (meaning the said Mcgil) and John Peddin had gone into her house and broken her chest and she knew nothing they were seeking but to get out her wages to pay John Pedins dinner which James Mcgil and his wife had given him on the Sabbath day, which is all she knows in the matter as she shall answer to God and because she cannot write desires the Clerk to subscribe for her.

John Steel, Moderator. William Rae.

Elizabeth Aiken aged about fifty two years being solemnly sworn and purged of malice and partial counsel depones that on Wednesday was eight days she did not hear Janner Paterson call James Mcgil either thief or robber. But being further interrogate if she heard Jannet Patterson accuse her own Goodman and James Mcgill by saying the Devil brake their necks, depones that she did not hear her utter these expressions to her remembrance, but hear her say they had broke her chest to get out her wages, but Devil be in them, if they had gotten it yet. Being further interrogate if she hear Jannet Paterson pray that her own Goodman might never be seen till the Day of Judgement, depones negative. Being likeways interrogate, if on the preceeding Lords day she had seen John Pedin and his wife lay violent hands on one another, depones that the time lybelled she heard a great noise in John Pedin's and she and her daughter Jean went ben and saw him holding her by the hands , and thinks she saw her lifting her feet to strike him but cannot be positive as to this. This is the truth as she shall andswer to God and because she cannot write desires the Clerk to Subscribe for her.

John Steel, Moderator. William Rae.

Elizabeth Young aged about twenty being solemnly sworn and purged of malice and partial council depones the same thing with Jannet Wilson and that this is the truth as she shall answer to God, and because she cannot write desires the Clerk to subscribe for her.

John Steel , Moderator William Rae

After Elizabeth Aikins deposition, Jannet Paterson acknowledges she was threatening her Goodman with violence and that she had an old shoe to throw at him and that he her by the shacklebones, which her husband says is the truth and all that can be proven.

Jannet Paterson owns what Elizabeth Aiken depones that as to the Devil's breaking their necks and there being no other witness offered the Session see it not needfull to examine her. And there being only one witness offered as to her praying that her husband might never be seen till the Day of Judgement the Session think fit to forbear examining of that witness also, nor does the Session see any need of examining that only one witness as to her offering violence to her Goodman. And upon the proof made against her by witnesses and her own confession of calummating* Jame Mcgil, cursing him and her husband, and offering violence to her own Goodman as above, the Session appoint her to be rebucked before the Congregation the next Lords Day and after that, Trial to be taken of her Behaviour for some time before she be absolved, which was intimate to her and at which she behaved herself very insolently.

*calummating = using calumny - slandering

Cumnock October 6th 1728

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and James Mcgeachin.

Jannet Paterson appeared not this day in publick according to appointment which behaviour of hers the Session refer to the Presbyterie at their next meeting.

Cumnock October 19th 1728

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and James Mcgeachin.

The minister reports that the Presbyterie has ordered Jannet Paterson to be cited to compear before them at their next meeting at Air, accordingly the Session appoint her

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to be cited to compear before them in order to be cited to compear before the Presbytrie.

This day William Mcgeachin and Agnes Paterson appeared ultroneously before the Session and acknowledged their guilt of fornication with one another, upon which they were rebuked and exhorted to repentance and appointed to appear in publick the next Lords day to be rebuked before the Congregation.

Robert Douglas is this appointed Elder for attending the Presbyterie for the next ensuing half year.

Cumnock November 3rd 1728

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and James Mcgeachin.

Janet Paterson being cited compeared not. She is appointed to be cited pro secundo against this day eight days, to compear before the Session.

William McGeachin and Agnes Paterson appeared in publick according to appointment this day eight days were rebuked and exhorted to Repentance & continued, and compearing likewise this day were further rebuked and exhorted to repentance and having been advertised to wait on the Session in the afternoon they waited, but not being found fit yet in the Session's opinion to be absolved they were both appointed to converse privately with the Minister and some of the Elders for the improvement of their knowledge, this they were to do betwixt & the next Lords day and then to wait upon the Session again.

Cumnock November 10th 1728

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and James Mcgeachin.

Jannet Paterson being cited compeared and is cited to compear before the Presbyterie at their next meeting.

William Mcgeachin and Agnes Paterson conversed with the Minister and Elders according to the Sessions appointment and having now answered several questions put to them more satisfyingly than formerly and professing a sense of, and sorrow for their sin and scandal the Session agree to their being absolved next Lords day upon their giving further publick testimony of their repentance then before the Congregation.

The Minister informes that by an order from the Presbyterie he hath caused cite before the Session William Logan, son to James Logan in Castle of New Cumnock and Agnes Mcaddam daughter to Quintin Mcaddam of Craigengillan who pretend to be married without showing sufficient evidence of their being so, and that the Prebyterie have ordered the Session to rebucke and peremptorily discharge them of cohabiting together till they produce better evidence of their being married, and to cite them before the next Presbyterie unless they do so.

William Logan and Agnes Mcaddam being cited by the appointment of the Presbyterie to this diet and being called, William compeared and was rebucked & discharged of cohabiting with the said Agnes Mccaddam till he produced evidence of the truth of his being married.

Agnes Mccaddam not compearing is appointed to be cited for a second time against Thursday next.

Cumnock November 14th 1728

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel, Mininster, Alexander Drummond, James Sloan, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge and George McCartney, Elders.

Agnes Mccaddam being cited compeared and was rebucked & discharged of cohabiting with the above William Logan as he was formerly of cohabiting with her till they produce evidence of the truth of their pretended marriage. They are both cited apud acta to compear before the next Presbyterie at Air upon the eighteenth day of December next unless they produce a sufficient Testimonial of their being married betwixt and that time.

Mr Logan carried very insolently, and said he would not be at the pains to forbear cohabiting with his wife for the Prebyterie's interdiction* and that he could decline the authority of the Church when he pleased, which is to be reported to the Presbyterie.

**interdiction – to forbid something*

Cumnock November 17th 1728

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and James Mcgeachin.

This day William Logan and Agnes Mccaddam applied to the Session to have two persons examined who they allege to have been witnesses to their marriage, which the Session were willing to do by a precognition*. He insisted to have it done upon the witnesses oath for decision, which the Session did not incline to, doubting if their commission warranted them, upon which Mr Logan renewed his insolent behaviour and told us that he did not value us and that he could decline the authority of the church when he pleased, and said, he set us at a defiance: upon which the Session unanimously refused to meddle more in his affair till they reported his behaviour and what they had already done to the Presbyterie, upon which he protested and took instrumnets tha the Session refused to take the witnesses oaths. They are both anew peremptorily cited to compear before the Presbyterie upon Wednesday come a twenty days.

**precognition – a preliminary examination of witnesses*

Cumnock December 8th 1728

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except James Mcgeachin and Andrew Hodge.

This day there is an Extract produced before the Session of Hugh Mccowan in this Parish, his having confessed his guilt and scandal of fornication with Elspet McCal in New Cumnock, they were living together in this parish when guilty. She having been guilty of adultery before is cited to compear before the Presbyterie at their next meeting. And the Session appoint him to be cited to appear before them next Lords day.

Cumnock December 15th 1728

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except James Mcgeachin and Andrew Hodge.

Hugh Mccowan being cited compeared, and after he was rebucked and exhorted to repentance was appointed to appear in publick to be rebucked next Lords day.

Cumnock December 29th 1728

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except James Mcgeachin and James Sloan.

Hugh Mccowan appeared in publick this day eight days was rebucked and continued, and appearing likewise this day was further rebucked and exhorted to repentance and advertised to wait on the session in the afternoon which appointment he observed, and being further rebucked and exhorted and some questions that were put to him he answered pretty well, whereupon the Session agreed to his absolution the next Lords day upon his giving evidence of his repentance in publick.

This day Baillie Fergusson represented to the Session that Collonel Dalrymple had appointed him to pay up fifteen years annual rent of seven hundred merks principal contained in Charles, Lord Chrichton's Bond to Mr Samuel Nimmo and assigned by Mr Nimmo to the Kirk Session for the behoof of the poor upon his getting a sufficient discharge thereof, being from Martinmass, one thousand seven hundred and thirteen to Martinmass, one thousand seven hundred and twenty eight years.

The session authorizes and appoints the Minister and Daniel Sutherland, Kirk Treasurer

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to grant and subscribe in their name a Discharge of the above annual rent and to receive and lodge the money in Daniel Sutherland's hand as Treasurer.

Cumnock January 19th 1729

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except James Mcgeachin and George McCartney.

Hugh Mccowan appeared in publick according to appointment upon the 5th instant & was rebuked and absolved.

The Minister and Daniel Sutherland reported to the Session that according to the Session's appointment they had granted to Baillie Fergusson as Factor to Collonel Dalrymple a Discharge of fifteen years annual rent of seven hundred merks contained in the deceast Lord Crichton's Bond whereto the Session acquired Right by Assignation from Mr Nimmo having paid the said seven hundred merks to him for the said Assignation for the behoof of the Poor. The annual rent commensing from Martimess One thousand seven hundred and thirteen to Martinmess One

thousand seven hundred and twenty eight years and that the money extending to three hundred and fifty pounds Scots was received by, and lodged in the hands of Daniel Sutherland, Kirk Treasurer.

Cumnock April 6th 1729

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson.

This day Jean Paterson compeared ultroneously and owned herself with child in Adultery to Robert Forsayeth to this Session against the twentyeth Day of this present month of April.

Cumnock April 20th 1729

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson.

This day the Session received an Execution from the Session of Muirkirk of Robert Foresayeth, his being legally cited to this diet, whereupon he was called and not compearing, the Session of Muirkirk is ordered to be wrote to for a second time to cause cite the above Foresayeth to this Session.

Alexander Drummond is chosen Elder to attend the Presbyterie the next ensuing half year.

This day the Session being informed that James Mitchel and his wife Marion Palmer was barbarously beating one another last week. The Session order them both to be cited to the next meeting of the Session.

Cumnock April 27th 1729

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Andrew Hodge.

Robert Forsayeth having been abroad when the above citation came to his house he compeared not last Lords Day but compearing this day ultroneously he confessed himself guilty of Adultery with the

above Jean Paterson upon which he was rebucked and exhorted to repentance, he was peremptorily cited to compear before the Presbyterie at Air upon the last Wednesday of May next.

The Session appoint Jean Paterson to be cited before them in order to their citing her peremptorily likewise to compear before the Presbyterie the same Diet.

James Mitchel and Marion Palmer being cited compeared not, the Session appoint them to be cited pro 2ndo to the next meeting of the Session May 11th.

This day a Bill was given in to the Session by Baillie Fergusson accepted by Mr Allan Logan of that ilk payable to the Minister and Kirk Session for five hundred and fifty merks Scots; the cause of the granting whereof is for five hundred merks Scots left in legacy to the Poor of this Parish by the late Laird of Logan and for two years annual rent of the same. And therefore the Session now appoint a Receipt to be granted to the said Mr Allan Logan of the said Bill till the samen* be paid, and to have a receipt and discharge of the above Legacy.

**samen – the same*

Cumnock May 11th 1729

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except James mcgeachin.

James Mitchel being cited compeared and denyed that he and his wife Marion Palmer had been beating one another. Marion Palmer being cited compeared not, the Session appoint her to be cited for a third time against this day eight days and he is likewise cited to compear the same Diet.

Jean Paterson being cited compeared and is peremptorily cited to compear before the Presbyterie the last Wednesday of this instant at Air.

This day the Session agree to lend the three hundred and fifty pounds Scots of Annual rent above mentioned of pors money which was lodged in the hands of Daniel Sutherland, Treasurer, to John Cochrane of Waterside with William Taylor his tenant as Cautioner bearing Annual rent from Whitsunday now ensuing and the bond lodged in the hands of the said Daniel Sutherland, Treasurer.

Elizabeth Makervail and Katherine Lang are appointed to be cited to the next meeting of the Session as witnesses in the case of James Mitchel and Marion Palmer.

Cumnock May 18th 1729

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and James Mcgeachin.

Marion Palmer being cited compeared and says she only held her husband where he offered to fell her with the tongs and with a stick.

The above sum of three hundred and fifty pounds Scots is lent and the bond lodged in the hands of Daniel Sutherland according to the minuting of the above sederunt.

Elizabeth Makervail being cited, aged about thirty four years, married and being solemnly sworn and purged of malic and partial counsel depones the time libelled about eleven of the clock Saturdays night she heard James Mitchel crying for help, she is not positive whether he cryed murder or not and when she went in to their house she saw Marion Palmer and the said James her husband in the bed, and heard him crying that his head was hurt, and calling his wife a wid* bitch, and saw him get out of the bed and offered to strike her first with a stick and then with the tongs but was hindered, and when his wife went out and down the stair he threw a grape* after her which hit her on the back but did not hurt her, and that this is the truth as she shall answer to got and declares she cannot write and desires the Clerk to subscribe for her.

John Steel, Minister William Rae.

**wid – (a variant of wuid) mad, insane, in a state of hysteria. In the case of an animal, it might mean rabid or out of control.*

**grape – this is not likely to be a fruit, but a spelling variant of graip – a three pronged fork used in farming, similar to a modern garden fork.*

Katherine Lang being cited compeared aged about thirty three years, married and being solemnly sworn and purged of malice and partial counsel depones idem with the former witness and that this is the truth as she shall answer to God, declares she cannot write and desires the Clerk to subscribe for her.

John Steel, Minister William Rae.

The Session delays the said James's censure till they see his behaviour before them the next Lord's day ad he is cited to that day as before.

Cumnock May 25th 1729

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel, minister, Robert Douglass, Alexander Drummond, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge and James Mcgeachin, Elders.

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James Mitchel being cited compeared and declared himself heartily grieved for his outbreking and resolved to guard against the like in time coming upon which he was sharply rebucked and exhorted to be watchfull in time coming with certification of further censure if it should be found otherwise.

Cumnock June 22nd 1729

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and Robert Douglas.

The Session appoint a committee to revise Daniel Sutherland his accompts and report to their next meeting upon the twenty day of July next.

Cumnock July 20th 1729

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except James Mcgeachin and George McCartney.

This day the Committee appointed to revise Daniel Sutherland Lirk Treasurer his accompts made their report which was approven and the State marked in the Book of Collections and Debursments and Mr William Rae Session Clerk is appointed Treasurer.

The Session order Jean Paterson to be cited to compear before them this day fourteen days.

Cumnock August 3^d 1729

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and James Sloan.

Jean Paterson being cited compeared & was rebucked for her sin and scandal of adultery woth Robert Foresayeth in Muirkirk Parish, exhorted to repentance and appointed to appear with sackcloth in publick the next Lords day. **

**Baby Mary Forsaith, natural daughter to Robert Forsaith and Jean Paterson was baptised in Old Cumnock on 10th July 1729. OPR 610/1021*

Ayr Presbytery records on 28/05/1729 show that it was Robert Forsayeth who was married (and Muirkirk records show that he had a son Alexander in Muirkirk in 1725, although his wife's name was not recorded). Jean Paterson was unmarried – however, as a result of her relationship with Robert Forsayeth, she was required to present herself in public wearing sackcloth and be rebuked on at least ten occasions! What seems to have made this case more serious than others is not recorded - but as well as her multiple appearances in Cumnock, Jean had to present to the Presbytery at least twice and after seven rebukes the Session even sought advice as to how long they should continue. The Presbytery put the matter back in the hands of the Session, and even then they made her present at least two more times.

Robert Forsayeth was eventually referred back to the Cumnock Session – he was not dealt with until May 1733, a full four years later.

Cumnock August 10th 1729

Session met after prayer.

Presentibus ut Supre. (Persons present as before.)

Jean Paterson this day appeared in publick with sackcloth upon her, was rebuked and exhorted to repentance for her above sin and scandal of adultery with Robert Forsayeth and continued.

Cumnock September 7th 1729

Session met after prayer.

Presentibus ut Supre. (Persons present as before.)

This day it is designed, God willing, that the Sacrament of the Lords Supper be dispensed in this place upon the fifth day of October next and that the meeting for prayer be upon the 26th instant.

Jean Paterson appeared in publick according to appointment upon the 17th and twenty eight days of August last and was rebuked and exhorted to repentance and having appeared likewise this day on publick was further rebuked and continued.

Cumnock September 26th 1729

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John steel Minister, Alexander Drummond, Robert Douglas, James Mcgeachin, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge and George McCartney, Elders and concerted the Communion Roll as follows.

(There is no following list.)

Cumnock November 2nd 1729

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John steel Minister, Robert Douglas, Alexander Drummond, Andrew Hodge and George McCartney, Elders.

Jean Paterson appeared in publick September the fourteenth, twenty second and twenty ninth and was rebucked for her said sin and scandal , and exhorted to repentance.

George McCartney is appointed Elder to attend the Presbyterie for the next ensuing half year.

Cumnock December 7th 1729

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin and George McCartney.

The Session appoint Jean Paterson to be cited to their next meeting upon the 14th instant.

Cumnock December 14th 1729

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and James Mcgeachin.

Jean Paterson being cited compeared and having appeared serios and answered several questions pretty satisfyingly the Session refer her case to the next presbyterie for advice as to what time further it shall be thought proper she shall appear in publick besides the seven Lords days she has already appeared.

Cumnock April 12th 1730

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Baillie Fergusson, Robert Douglas, Alexander Drummond, George Murdoch and Andrew Hodge, Elders.

The Session having been informed about Candlemess last anent Mrs Logan in the Town of Cumnock a married person who hath not cohabited with her husband for about these twelve months last, so far as hath been observed by their neighbour, and as both he and she have constantly owned and given out themselves. That there was a flagrant report in the place and neighbourhood of her being with child, and likewise of her having been observed to keep offensive conversation with William Cowan, late gauger* in Cumnock as also of her letting blood in her ancles, drinking of herbs and using other medicines. Upon which the Session without entering it into their minutes, being an affair so delicate, desired some of their number to acquaint Mrs Logan herewith and with a necessity there seemed to be on account of the flagrancy of her conversing with skill'd women anent her pregnancy for her vindication if she was innocent and named four women in the place for that purpose. Mrs Logan having gone to Edinburgh just about the time when this report became flagrant the Session desired some of their number to speak to a friend of hers to write to to her of the expediency of her returning home as soon as conveniently she could upon the above account, which being done, when after some weeks she accordingly returned. The members of the Session who were desired as above acquainted her with the case and with the women with whom it was thought fit she should converse, wherewith she complied, and the women not being positive at that time as to her being with child or not; she confidently denying, and owning withal that her husband had not been with her. They inclined to let six or eight weeks pass, and said that upon conversing with her then they could be more positive. After the elapsing of so many weeks the report and suspicion still continuing the Session were informed that she was going away to Edinburgh again; Upon which they again desired some of their number to acquaint her with the fitness of her conversing again with the women which at this time when these members went to her, she refused to do, they being instant with her finding some of her cloths a packing for Edinburgh with a carrier, that she would either converse with the women or go along with them to the Minister to deal with her conscience. She at length yielded to go with them to the Minister where after positive denying of it she at length owned her being with child and said it was to her own husband, making some excuses for her having denied, and having disowned all cohabitation with her husband for above twelve months. The Minister and two Elders to whom now she had given this account informing the Session. They now upon the day foresaid find ground to enter this affair into their minutes and appoint a committee first to converse with some who were alleged to know most of her offensive carriage with the above gauger, and after that especially if they should find ground from the said persons to meet with Mrs Logan her self and to deal with her towards a confession, the Committee's ??(page damaged) being increased and not diminished by the precognition. The meet with

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Mrs Logan and dealt with her conscience towards a confession, but she persisted in denying guilt, and asserting now that she was with child to her own husband, though she owned that about the beginning of Harvest last one night at ten of the clock the above gauger came in to her room when she was alone and struggled with her to throw her into the bed, but said that she resisted him and that they were never both in bed at once, as she expressed herself, and that she was not guilty with him, and that she was not with child till sometime after that.

Cumnock April 19th 1730

Session met after prayer.

Members all present.

This day the Committee reported as above, all which being a scandal that the Session cannot well proceed further in wherefore they appoint the Minister as soon as he shall be able and the Elder who is to attend the Presbyterie with him to lay it before the Presbyterie.

Andrew Hodge is appointed to wait on the Presbyterie as Elder during the next half year.

Cumnock May 4th 1730

Session met after prayer.

Members all present

The Minister after his long indisposition reported this day to the Session that the Presbyterie wrote to him that after conversing with the above Jean Paterson anent her repentance the remit the time of absolving her to the Session upon which the Session order her to compear before them next Lords day that they may be riper to consider her case.

The Session are informed this day that James Mitchel, flesher in Cumnock was opening flaying and taking the intrails out of a veal the last Lords day in the morning. And therefor they appoint him to be cited to compear before the, the next Lords day.

Cumnock May 11th 1730

Session met after prayer.

Members all present

Jean Paterson being cited compeared and being gravely spoke to appeared serious and affected. Therefore the Session thought it proper that she should appear one more day in publick before she was absolved, and appoints the next Lords day for that end and also appoint her to wait upon the Session that said day.

James Mitchel being cited compeared and owned that he took down the veal and laid it on the stool and opened it so far as was necessary to get the draught out of it for one of his children that was not

well as he alledges and that he did nothing further having taken the tripes out of it on the Saturdays night. The Session looking upon even what he acknowledged and knowing nothing of his children's indisposition, but by his own pretext as a very untender & offensive practice and rebucked him for the same, he having likewise owned his sense of his fault, and that he was sorry for it; but delays doing anything further because of the flagrancy till the next Lord's day.

Cumnock May 17th 1730

Session met after prayer.

Members all present

Jean Paterson appeared this day in publick and was rebucked and exhorted to repentance, and waiting on the Session in the afternoon was appointed to appear in publick next Lord's day for an eighth time and be absolved.

This day the Session resuming the consideration of James Mitchel's case and not finding that any other proof could be made than his own confession and acknowledgement were of the opinion that his acknowledgement and rebucke should be publicly intimated to the Congregation next Lords day, which they now intimated to him.

Cumnock May 24th 1730

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except James Mcgeachin.

Jean Paterson appeared this day in publick for the eighth time and was rebucked for her foresaid sin and scandal of adultery with Robert Foresayeth and giving satisfying expressions of sorrow for her above sin was rebucked exhorted and absolved.

James Mitchel's confession and case was this day intimated to the Congregation according to appointment.

Cumnock June 21st 1730

Session met after prayer.

Members all present (except) Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin and George McCartney.

The Minister reports that he laid the account of Mrs Logan's affair before the Presbyterie and that they have appointed both her and William Cowan, Gauger, to be summoned and what witnesses can be had against them examined in order to the Presbyterie's considering the whole affair.* Accordingly the Session order all their members against the next Lords day to make what enquiry they can where the said Cowan now resides that due application may be made to get him cited.

**Ayr Presbytery records, page 403 has the full account. This entry states that Mrs Logan (aka Margaret Campbell) is the spouse of Charles Logan in Cumnock.*

Cumnock June 28th 1730

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson.

The Session being credibly informed that the above Cowan is now gauger at St Johnstone. They appoint a letter to be wrote to the Minister and Kirk Session there or to any other place where it can be found that the said Cowan resided to cause cite him to compear before this Session against this day three weeks being the nineteenth day of July next. The care of this is left to the Minister.

Cumnock October 4th 1730

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and James Mcgeachin.

The session agree that the publick intimation of the Lords Supper to be dispensed in this Congregation shall be made this day eight days.

Cumnock October 11th 1730

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Robert Douglas, Alexander Drummond, George Murdoch, George McCartney and Andrew Hodge Elders.

This day it was publickly intimated that the Sacrament of the Lords Supper shall be dispensed in this Congregation this day twenty days being the first day of November next.

Cumnock October 4th 1730

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin and George McCartney.

The Session having wrote to the Session of St Johnstone to cause cite the above Cowan but found that he was not there but at Ayleth. And having sent once and again to that Session to cause cite him to three several dyets, have at length received the execution of their having caused cite him accordingly to the last Sabbath of this instant and the first and second Sabbaths of November next. And therefore the Session order the said Margaret Campbell – ie Mrs Logan – to be cited to compear before them the last Sabbath of this instant to answer in the above scandal.

The Session appoint Friday first for prayer and making up of the Communion Roll.

Cumnock October 25th 1730

Session met after prayer.

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Members all present.

The minister and Elders met on Friday last the 23rd instant and concerted the Communion Roll according to appointment.

Margaret Campbell being cited compeared and denied any guilt with the above Cowan, and is cited apud acta to compear before the Session this day eight days and this day fourteen days.

William Cowan being cited compeared not.

Cumnock November 1st 1730

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Robert Douglas, Alexander Drummond, Andrew Hodge and George Murdoch, Elders.

Mrs Logan being cited and called compeared not.

William Cowan being cited and called compeared not.

The Session order Elizabeth Allan, William and Jean Aikins, Isobell Wilson and Marjory Crawford as witnesses in Mrs Logan and Cowans case to be cited to compear before them this day eight days.

George Murdoch is appointed Elder to attend the Presbyterie for the next ensuing half year.

Cumnock November 8th 1730

Session met after prayer.

Members all present.

Mrs Logan (aka Margaret Campbell) being called compeared. William Cowan being cited and called compeared not. Whereupon the Session proceeded to call as witnesses Elizabeth Allan, William and Jean Aikins, Isobel Wilson and Marjory Crawford.

The last two witnesses being neglected to be cited to this Diet, the Session defer citing the till they advise with the Presbyterie, being only single witnesses.

Allan and William Aikins gave excuse why they could not compear this day.

Margaret Campbell objects against Elizabeth Aikins being admitted a witness, as having said of the said Margaret Campbell a little before Mrs Logan left Cumnock at Whitesunday last, "God curse me if she will not be in Hell before her feet be cold", and prayed that God might never let her, the said Mrs Logan, be separated from that adulterous gett, and that the said Mrs Logan held the Session of Dalgean going with Mathew Watson three years, and that she had had carnal dealing with more men than William Cowan that have not yet been named but that she should name them if she were put to it and said that if her daughter (ie Mrs Logan's daughter) had not set up her gabb against me and herself looked sowre on me I should never have spoken a word of her, and that the said Elizabeth Aiken said that John Thomson spoke with the said William Cowan at Edinburgh and that Cowan said to him that Mrs Logan was the greatest whore that ever he matched with and that the above Elizabeth said that Mrs Logan and her neighbours had a very sinful trade but that she was not to expose her neighbours.

Mrs Logan gives at witnesses in the above objections the Lady Wallacetoune, Elizabeth Drummond, Jean Baleny, Jean Aikin and Elizabeth Younge.

In regard, Mrs Logan had not her said witnesses adduced to verify her objections against the said Elizabeth Aikin, for against William and Allan Aikins the said Elizabeth's children and Isobel Wilson and Marjory Crawford Mrs Logan condescends on none, the Session not allowing her to cite her witnesses till after they have asked and got the Presbyterie's advice there anent, and for that end cites her to compear before the Session next Lords day when she is to have a warrant to cite her witnesses. As also cites Elizabeth and Jean Aikins to compear this day month, the Minister to be absent a Lords day or two.

The appointment of the above William Cowan to attend, continuing by virtue of three several citations which he hath disobeyed.

The Session likewise order the above Allan and William Aikins to be cited against this day month.

The Session hearing it reported that Agnes Murdoch, servitrix to the Lady Horsecleugh is with child in uncleanness, wherefore the Session appoint her to be cited to their next meeting upon the fifteenth instant.

Cumnock November 15th 1730

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin and George McCartney.

William Cowan notwithstanding of the obligation that lay upon him as above compeared not.

Mrs Logan being cited compeared and was acquainted that the Presbyterie are for admitting her objections against Elizabeth Aikin to probation by all the witnesses she offers except the Lady Wallacetoune, being her sister in law, and Jean Baleny, never having brought a testimonial and being a person of bad fame whereupon the Presbyterie order the other three witnesses, viz Elizabeth Drummond, Jean Aikin and Elizabeth Younge to be cited against this day three weeks and do cite the said Margaret Campbell apud acta to that Diet.

The Minister also reports from the Presbyterie that it is their opinion that Isobel Wilson and Marjory Crawford be cited and examined, wherefore the Session order them to be cited against this day three weeks.

Agnes Murdoch being cited compered not, the Session order her to be cited for a second time to compare before them this day three weeks being the 6th of December next.

Cumnock December 6th 1730

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Robert Douglas, Alexander Drummond, Andrew Hodge, George Murdoch and George McCartney, Elders.

Margaret Campbell, Elizabeth Drummond, Elizabeth Young & Jean Aikin being cited compeared. William Cowan not compearing as he was obliged.

Elizabeth Drummond, aged about twenty five years, married being solemnly sworn and purged of malice and partial counsel, depones that she knows nothing as to any of the articles except that she has heard Elizabeth Aikin say to Mrs Logan, "If ye deny what ye told me yourself I wish I may never go a good gate if there be a bad beside", and heard her say of Mrs Logan's daughter, "see as the little slutt sets up her gabb against me", and heard her say something like Cowans having said that

Mrs Logan was the greatest whore ever he matched with. And that this is the truth as she shall answer to God and because she cannot write desires the Clerk to subscribe for her.

John Steel, Moderator William Rae.

Elizabeth Young aged about twenty two years unmarried solemnly sworn and purged of malice and partial counsel depones that she knows nothing as to any of the articles, but that she heard Elizabeth Aikin say when she came down the stair, "nor a visible sight be seen on me or thee which of us is farthest in the wrong". And that this is the truth as she shall answer to God and because she cannot write desires the Clerk to subscribe for her.

John Steel, Moderator William Rae.

Jean Aikin aged about seventeen years unmarried solemnly sworn and purged of malice and partial counsel depones that she knows nothing as to any of the articles. And that this is the truth as she shall answer to God and because she cannot write desires the Clerk to subscribe for her.

John Steel, Moderator William Rae.

Which objections the Session did not sustain on any proof that was made & therefore order the witnesses against Mrs Logan to be called.

Elizabeth Aikin being cited compeared, aged about fifty six years, married, solemnly sworn and purged of malice and partial counsel depones that on one Saturdays night in Harvest was a year at eleven of the clock at night when she knew that both Mrs Logan's children were at Wallacetoune she heard somebody in the room

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with her and going to her door saw through a hole in it that it was William Cowan, late gauger here, and heard Mrs Logan say to him "How can I be concerned with you who have had to do with that filthy slutt Jenny King?" to which she heard him reply "My dear, that was nothing, I was but making a fool of her", and then the deponent saw him carry Mrs Logan in his arms to the bed and then the deponent having off her cloths went and put them on, and got a candle and then cried out "Adulterous rogue and whore. How can I suffer this at my door", upon which Mrs Logan came to the door with her clothes on, and when Mrs Logan opened the and came out, William Cowan came out at her back and leapt down the stair in the deponent's sight. Then Mrs Logan came ben to the deponent's house, and the deponent called her a vile hypocrite, to which Mrs Logan replied, "Ye may well say it, for this is three times I have been guilty with him", and that the deponent's daughter Jean was present with her, the deponent, and another daughter of the deponent's, now dead. And that this is the truth as she shall answer to God, and because she cannot write desires the Clerk to subscribe for her.

William Rae.

Jean Aikin being cited compeared, aged about seventeen years, unmarried solemnly sworn, purged of malice and partial counsel depones that on once Saturday's night Harvest was a year at eleven of the clock at night the deponent heard some tittling in Mrs Logan's, and knowing that both Mrs Logan's children were abroad at Wallacetoune went to Mrs Logan's door and looked through a hole at the bottom of it and saw the fire very dark but not so dark but that she saw William Cowan sitting with Mrs Logan and heard Mrs Logan say to him, "How can I have to do with you, who are taken up with Jenny King", that he laid his hands on her cheek, and said " My dear, I was but fooling with her." After that the deponent saw William Cowan carry Mrs Logan in his arms to the bed and thar she saw through the hole of the door what they were about, and that the deponent cried to her mother that there was some in the bed with Mrs Logan, and that he mother rose out of her bed and lighted a candle and went to the door and rainged at the door till Mrs Logan came & opened it for it was barred and then the deponent saw both Mrs Logan & William Cowan come out at Mrs Logan's door, and saw him go down the stair and heard her mother say to Mrs Logan, "Hyppocrite limmer, I have found you out now", and heard Mrs Logan reply, "So ye may well call me for this is three times I have been guilty with him". And this is the truth as she shall answer to God, and because she cannot write desires the Clerk to subscribe for her.

William Rae

Isobel Wilson being cited compeared aged about thirty six years married solemnly sworn and purged of malice and partial counsel depones that she saw William Cowan and Mrs Logan meet twice accidentally in her house without either sitting or standing together or any misbehaviour, and depones that one day a considerable while after, William Cowan came to this place the deponent having occasion to be in Mrs Logan's house when nobody else was present. Mrs Logan desired the deponent to prevail with the deponent's husband to carry Mrs Logan's husband away with him to Edinburgh and him shipped and sent off, and that she Mrs Logan, said that William Cowan would send his letter along to some friend of his, the said William Cowan's, to direct how he might be gotten shipped and where he should be sent to. And that Mrs Logan said she would give him a gunney* to bear his (the deponent's husband and Mrs Logan's husband) their expenses. And that this is the truth as she shall answer to God, and because the deponent cannot write desires the Clerk to subscribe for her.

John Steel, Moderator William Rae.

**gunney – a guinea*

Marjory Crawford being cited compeared aged about seventeen years solemnly sworn and purged of malice and partial counsel depones that she never saw any scandalous behaviour between the above William Cowan and Mrs Logan, but that about the beginning of ploughtime was a year one night between nine and ten of the clock William Cowan sent the deponent to desire Mrs Logan to come and speak to him in the deponent's sister's house in Cumnock pretending that he wanted to know if Mrs Logan, she having lately come from Edinburgh knew what was the name of the gauger that was to come her to succeed him, and depones that Mrs Logan accordingly came and that Cowan and she stayed about two hours together in a room, but that the deponent's sister who was the Goodwife of the house was with them the whole time so far as she observed, and that there was a choppin of ale and three gills of brandy with sugar drunk by them the time they were together. And that is the

truth as she shall answer to God, and because she cannot write desires the Clerk to subscribe for her.

William Rae.

Mrs Logan owns the truth of what the two last witnesses deponed. She is cited to compear before the Session this day fourteen days being the 20th instant.

Alland and William Aikens are ordered to be cited to that Diet.

Agnes Murdoch being cited did compear and owned herself with child in fornication and accused Mr George Dalrymple as guilty with her and the father of her child, and is cited to compear before the Session this day fourteen days and the Minister is to speak to Mr George Dalrymple and acquaint him of this betwixt and that time.

Cumnock December 13th 1730

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Robert Douglas, Alexander Drummond, Andrew Hodge, George Murdoch and George McCartney, Elders.

One interrogatory having been foregot the last Lord's Day to be put to Isobell Wilson anent Mrs Logan's having asked her one day in Isobel's house if she would give the gauger and her a room now and then for writing some letters to her viz to Mrs Logan. The Session therefore order Isobel Wilson to be cited to compear before them upon the twentieth instant.

John Dunbar is appointed to be cited to compear before the Session upon the twentieth day instant and have a copy of the oath of purgation* put into his hands.

*a declaration of innocence

The Session appoint Robert Douglas and Alexander Drummond to revise the Treasurers' accompts in order to his getting his discharge, and report.

Cumnock December 20th 1730

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Alexander Drummond, Andrew Hodge, George Murdoch and George McCartney, Elders.

William Cowan not appearing as he was obliged. And Mrs Logan being called appeared not.

William Aikin being cited aged about eighteen years unmarried being solemnly sworn and purged of malice and partial counsel depones that in one night Harvest was a year when it was growing dark he found the said William Cowan and Mrs Logan on the stair that goes up to her house & Cowan gripped the deponent by the breast and when he the deponent cried, Cowan run down the stair and Mrs Logan up into her own house and that is the truth as he shall answer to God.

Sic subscribitur - Will Aicken.

Isobel Wilson being cited appeared and now depones that she further remembers that about ten days after William Cowan & Mrs Logan had met in her house, Mrs Logan came into the Deponents house, and desired the deponent to send for her when the gauger came there upon his survey that

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He might write some letters for her, and that this is the truth as she shall answer to God, and because she cannot write desires the Clerk to subscribe for her.

William Rae

Alan Aikin not being yet come home the Session order the officer to cite him if come home to the next ensuing Diet of the Session.

It being reported that Jannet Paterson in Muir Dyke is with child in uncleanness the Session appoint her to be cited to their next meeting upon the 27th instant.

Cumnock December 27th 1730

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson.

The minister reports from the Presbyterie that upon reading the depositions in Mrs Logan's affair they have ordered the remaining witness to be examined and both Cowan and her to be summoned to appear before them at Air the first Wednesday of February next. Accordingly the Minister informs that he wrote by the Post from Air to the Session of Ayleth to summons Cowan and this Session delays the summoning of Mrs Logan till they hear of the remaining witness, viz Allan Aikin his being come home to this place.

Jannet Paterson being cited compeared and acknowledged herself with child in fornication and accused as the father of her child on James Mitchel, son to the deceased William Mitchel and Isobel Morton who lived in this town some time ago. She was rebucked for her sin & exhorted to repentance and is cited apud acta to compear before the Session this day eight days, further to urge her to be ingenious.

The Session being informed that the above James Mitchel hath left the bounds, they recommend to their several members to try if they can hear any account of him.

This day the Session being informed of Elizabeth McCowan in Glengayeran her being with child in uncleanness, order her to be cited before them against this day eight days.

Cumnock January 3rd 1731

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and James Mcgeachin.

Jannet Patterson being cited compeared and is delayed (after she was rebucked and exhorted to repentance) till further information be had where the above James Mitchel may be.

Elizabeth McCowan having been brought to bed of a child the officer forebore to summons her to this Diet.

The Session appoint Allan Aikin the remaining witness in Mrs Logan's affair to be cited to the next meeting of the Session on the 10th instant, he being now come to this place. They also appoint Mrs Logan to compear before them that day.

Cumnock January 10th 1731

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and James Mcgeachin.

William Cowan nor compearing as he was obliged.

Mrs Logan being cited & call compeared and is cited peremptorily to compear before the Presbyterie by come a twenty days being the third day of February ensuing*. And that tho she was present when

Allan Aikin was called and compeared yet she contemptuously went her way, and said that Elizabeth and Jean Aikins & Isobel Wilson had nor sworn three words of truth in all their depositions.

**Ayr Presbytery records for 3rd February show that neither Cowan nor Mrs Logan appeared as directed. Mr Steel, the minister, was advised to write again to Session at Aylith to attempt to summons him, and as Mrs Logan now lived in Auchinleck, she was to be cited to the next Presbiterie by the minister at Auchinleck.*

Alan Aiken being cited compeared aged about twenty years, unmarried solemnly sworn, purged of malice and partial council depones that the same night that his mother and sisters saw William Cowan and Mrs Logan together he saw him go in to Mrs Logan's house, but having occasion to go presently out of his mother's house he saw no more of them that night but that the next following Lord's day save one, he heard his mother chiding and finding fault with Mrs Logan and said she should warrand that he had been many a time guilty with her before now. And that Mrs Logan replied, this was but the third time he had been guilty with her. And depones that the same Lord's day after the above conversation with Mrs Logan and his mother that Mrs Logan desired the Deponent's sister Jean Aikin to go to William Cowan's room and fetch him to speak to her viz: Mrs Logan and that Jean Aiken returning without finding him, Mrs Logan went and brought him herself, which the deponent saw being looking out at the window and heard Mrs Logan say she would go about him and that he did not stay a doup wither her at that time and that she Mrs Logan came benn after he went out to the deponent's mother's house and discharged them to tell what she had confessed for that she had told William Cowan of it and that he threatened that he would burn their house if they should publish it. And that this is the truth as he shall answer to God.

Sic Subscribitur Allan Aiken.

Cumnock January 15th 1731

Session met after prayer.

Members all present.

The Minister informs that he spoke with Mr George Dalrymple and the he owned what he was accused of by the above Agnes Murdoch. Therefore the Session appoint a committee of their number Viz Mr John Steel, Minister, Baillie Fergusson, Robert Douglas & Alexander Drummond to take his acknowledgement thereof.

Cumnock January 17th 1731

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel, Minister, Baillie Fergusson, Robert Douglas and Alexander Drummond, Elders.

This day the abovenamed Committee met with Mr George Dalrymple according to appointment and received his acknowledgement of his above alledged fornication with Agnes Murdoch admonished him and heard him declare himself sorrowfull for his said sin and offence.

Cumnock January 24th 1731

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except James Mcgeachin and George McCartney.

The Session understanding that Mr George Dalrymple was willing and desires to appear this day in publick to profess repentance & be reproved for his sin, they met at this time and agreed thereto, and appointed accordingly and in regard of his status, very ready compliance and several other circumstances the Session agreed to his being absolved upon his once being publickly rebucked and carrying suitably under it this day.

Cumnock January 24th 1731

Session met in the afternoon, after prayer.

Members all present as in the forenoon.

Mr George Dalrymple being fully spoken to in publick this day and his ?behaviour (*page damaged*) being satisfying was absolved.

John Dunbar is ordered to be cited to the next meeting of the Session upon the seventh day of February next.

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Cumnock February 7th 1731

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Ferguson, James Mcgeachin and George McCartney.

The Minister reports from the Presbyterie that Mrs Logan did not attend their last meeting according to het peremptory appointment of the Session, nor sent any excuse and that therefore she is to be cited from the pulpit of Auchinleck in which parish she now resides to the next Presbyterie upon the third day of March next.

John Dunbar being cited compeared and persisted in his denyal wherewith the Session appoints the Presbyterie to be acquainted before they proceed any further.

Cumnock February 14th 1731

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Ferguson and George McCartney.

The Session being informed that Mary McCowan in Glengayron (Glengyron) her bedding with a man in the house of John Thomson in this town without shewing any evidence of their being married. The Session order both her and the said John Thomson and his wife Marion McCowan to be cited to compear before them this day fourteen days. The man not being in this bounds, his case is delayed.

Cumnock February 20th 1731

Session met after prayer.

The Session order John Dunbar to be cited to compear before them the next Lords day.

Mary McCowan being cited and called compeared not, appoint her to be cited pro secundo to the next meeting of the Session.

The Clerk is this day appointed to write to the Minister and Session of Ochletree to cause cite Agnes Murdoch in the Townhead of Ochletree to compear before this Session this day 14 days after sermon.

Cumnock March 7th 1731

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and Andrew Hodge.

Hugh and Elizabeth McCowans being cited compeared and having confessed their sin and scandal of fornication together before marriage were rebucked and exhorted to repentance and appointed to appear in publick next Lord's Day to make profession of repentance for their said sin and be rebucked before the Congregation.

The Session being credibly informed of Andrew Muir in the Town of Cumnock, hid habitual drunkenness upon which information they appoint him to be cited to compear before them this day eight days.

Cumnock March 13th 1731

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel, minister, Robert Douglas, Alexander Drummond, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge and George McCartney, Elders.

John Dunbar being cited compeared and now confesses his guilt of fornication with Isobel Campbell and professes his sorrow for the sin of his having so long denyed and being rebucked and exhorted to repentance was appointed to appear in public this day month, there being some difficulties in the way till then.

This day Hugh and Elizabeth McCowans appearing in publick were rebucked and exhorted to repentance and continued.

Andrew Muir being cited and called did not compear, the Session appoint him to be cited for a second time against the 28th instant.

The Session understanding that the above James Mitchel formerly accused by Jannet Paterson is returned to the Country, they therefore appoint the officer to cite him, if he can find him to compear before them this day fourteen days.

The Session having under their consideration for a considerable time a list of Elders & Deacons to be added to the Session and having set some time apart for prayer for that purpose they agreed to list the following viz: in the Town of Cumnock, Mr William Rae, precentor and schoolmaster, and Alexander Johnstone, Merchant, for Elders and James Hoat for a Deacon. In the Landward Parish, John Templeton in Pennyfaddeoch Miln, William Rankin in Milleoch, Alexander Vallance in Over Glysnock, George Muir in Boylstown and Andrew Wilson in Darmalloch for Elders and John Vallance in Over Glysnock for Deacon. And appoint their edict to be serviced this day month, the Session being to meet the Lord's in the morning that day and the Session appoint their ordination after forenoon sermon the said Lord's day and intimation thereof also to be made at the serving of the Edict.

Cumnock March 28th 1731

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and James McGeachin.

This day Hugh and Elizabeth McCowans appeared in publick were rebucked and exhorted to repentance. Hugh was continued in the making publick profession of repentance for his sin and scandal being a relapse to him, & Elizabeth was ordered to wait on the Session in the afternoon, which she observed and appearing sorrowful for her sin and the Session being pretty well satisfied as to her knowledge they agree to her being absolved next Lords day upon her giving then suitable expressions of sorrow for her sin.

Andrew Muir being cited compeared and upon his appearing sorrie for his sin of habitual drinking and promising amendment the Session agreed to rebuck him at this time for his said sin and withal certified him that if he continues in such a practice any longer they would proceed with him to further censure.

The Session being informed of James Mitchell's being in the bounds they take the occasion of causing the officer to cite him to compear before them this day eight days.

Cumnock April 4th 1731

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin and Andrew Hodge.

This day Hugh and Elizabeth McCowans appeared in publick according to appointment and were further rebucked and exhorted to repentance, he was continued and she upon what evidences of repentances she gave then and formerly was absolved.

The Session being informed that Agnes Murdoch is not able to travel they therefore forbear the citing or calling of her anew till they hear of her recovery.

The officer informs that he went to the house where the above James Mitchel had been staying for some time, and that the family told him that he had left their house and said that he was going off the country, wherefore the Session order the Presbyterie to be advised with in his and Jannet Paterson's case.

Cumnock Aprilth 1731

Session met after prayer.

Members all present.

The Edict having been served according to Appointment and this the Return made without any objection, the Session appointed to be ordained as Elders Mr William Rae, Alexander Johnstone, John Templeton, William Rankin, Alexander Vallance, George Muir and Andrew Wilson, and as Deacons James Hoat and John vallance.

Cumnock April 11th 1731

Session met after prayer.

Members all present.

This day after forenoon sermon the above named Elders and Deacons were publickly ordained according to appointment.

The minister reports that the Presbyterie advised to delay for sometime the

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declaring the above named James Mitchel a Fugitive from Discipline, seeing he hath not yet been cited.

Hugh McCowan appeared this day in publick for a fourth time and was rebucked and exhorted to repentance and continued.

Andrew Hodge is appointed Elder to attend the Presbyterie for the next half year..

This day John Dunbar appeared in publick for the fifth time according to appointment and was rebucked and exhorted to repentance and continued.

Cumnock April 18th 1731

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and George McCartney.

This day Hugh McCowan appeared in publick for a fifth time and was rebuked and exhorted to repentance and appointed to wait upon the Session after sermons which appointment he kept and upon what evidence the Session could have of his case they agree to absolve him the next Lord's day he giving further evidence of his repentance then before the congregation.

John Dunbar appeared in publick this day for a second time and was rebucked and exhorted to repentance and appointed to wait upon the Session in the afternoon and waiting then upon the

Session was further rebucked and exhorted to repentance and upon the satisfaction he gave the Session in the questions put to him they agreed to his being absolved next Lords day.

The Session being informed that Elison McCall* is residing in the Parish of New Cumnock, they appoint the Clerk to write to the Minister or Session of the said parish to cause summond her to compear before this Session against this day fourtnight to answer for her sin and scandal of fornication some time ago with Hugh McCowan who is censured and absolved according to order.

**previously recorded as Elspet McCal*

The Session appoint their officer to cite Isobel Campbell to compear before then this day eight days to answer for her sin and scandal of fornication with John Dunbar, he having now confessed.

Cumnock April 25th 1731

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and James Mcgeachin.

Hugh McCowan and John Dunbar having both appeared this day in publick according to appointment, and upon the evidences they gave of their repentance were both absolved.

Isobel Campbell being cited compeared and being again rebucked and exhorted to repentance was appointed to appear in publick the next Lord's day and be rebucked for her said sin and scandal.

Cumnock May 2nd 1731

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and George Muir.

Elison McCal being cited compeared and was rebucked for her above agravated sin and scandal, she having been formerly guilty of adultery and absolved was appointed to appear in publick to make profession of repentance and be rebucked the next Lords day.

Isobel Campbell appeared this day in publick according to appointment for a first time and was rebucked exhorted to repentance and continued, and appearing (page damaged) was further rebucked and exhorted to repentance and appointed to wait upon the Session in the afternoon which appointment she observed, and being again rebucked and exhorted to repentance, and being

very ignorance and not very tender in her walk the Session delayed her absolution and appointed her to converse with the Minister and the Elders for her improvement in knowledge.

Cumnock June 6th 1731

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except James Mcgeachin and Andrew Wilson.

Elison McCal appeared this day in publick for a fourth time and was rebucked and exhorted to repentance and appointed to wait on the Session in the afternoon, and waiting then, was further rebucked and exhorted to repentance and continued.

This day Isobel Campbell applied to the Session and after taking further pains with her and her profession of repentance and promised purpose of carefulness in time coming both as to her learning knowledge and as to her practice they agreed to appoint her to absolution next Lord's Day if she behave suitably.

The Session being informed that James Mitchel's being at the Hill appoint the officer to cite him against this day eight days to compear before them then.

There being a flagrant report of John Hamilton in Little Mure his having married a second wife in Edinburgh while his former wife was yet alive, the Session do by the Presbyterie's advice as reported by the Minister, appoint him to be cited before them against this day eight days to be interrogate thereanent. The Minister having been formerly desired to advise with the Presbyterie thereanent

Cumnock June 13th 1731

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Bailie Fergusson and James Mcgeachin.

Elison McCal not compearing this day according to appointment, the Session delay citing her till they hear what has hindered her.

Isobel Campbell having this day appeared in publick according to appointment for a third time was rebucked and exhorted to repentance and upon what evidence she gave of her repentance was absolved.

James Mitchel being cited did not compear, the Session appoint him to be cited for a second time to compear before them this day fourteen days.

John Hamilton being cited and called compeared not, appoint him to be cited for a second time against this day 14 days.

Cumnock June 27th 1731

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and James Mcgeachin.

James Mitchel being cited and called compeared not, the Session appoint him to be cited for a t hird time against this day fourteen days.

John Hamilton being cited and called compeared not, appoint him to be cited for a third time against this day fourteen days.

Cumnock Julyth 1731

Session met after prayer.

Members all present.

The ofiiicer reports that he could not hear of the above James Mitchels's being in the Bounds and therefore could not cite him.

The Session being informed that the Laird of Logan offers up the above Legacy contained in his Bill with the whole bygone annual rents, amounting stock and annual rents to six hundred and five merks. Appoint Baillie Fergusson and Robert Douglas to oversee the paying of the said money to Mr William Rae our present Treasurer who is hereby impowered to receive and (*page damaged*) the same in his custody till a fit had be found to lend it out to. The (*page damaged*) points the Minister and the said Mr William Rae to grand and sign a receipt

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of the said sum

The Session order their officer to cite James Mitchel to compear before them this day eight days if he can get notice of him.

Cumnock July 18th 1731

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin and Alexander Vallance.

The officer reports that he could not yet hear of the above Mitchel being in the Bounds.

The Session appoint the Clerk to write to the Minister and Session of New Cumnock to cause cite Elison McCall to compear her before the Session upon the eight day of August next.

This day Baillie Fergusson, Alexander Drummond and Robert Douglas arewappointed to revise the Treasurer's Accompts and report.

Cumnock August 8th 1731

Session met after prayer.

Members all present.

The above Committee viz Baillie Fergusson, Alexander Drummond & Robert Douglas met August 3rd according to appointment and revised Mr William Rae, Kirk Treasurer his accompts and it appears that there is of balance in his hands including all the bad money that he had formerly and what bad money he has received since the last clearing of his accompts, the sum of one hundred and fifty five pounds, eighteen shillings and eleven pennies Scots money and that over and above the sum of six hundred and five merks Scots received by him from Mr Allan Logan of that Ilk and Minister of the Gospel at Culross.

The Clerk informs that there is no return from the Minister of Session of New Cumnock of Elison McCall having been cited to this Diet.

Upon George Makervails application to the Session he's entered upon a publick course of Repentance.

Cumnock August 18th 1731

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson.

James Mitchel being cited called compeared not and therefore is to be delated to the Presbyterie at their next meeting.

George Makervail appeared this day in publick for the first time and made profession of Repentance for his sin and scandal of fornication with Jannett Reid, he was rebucked and exhorted to repentance and continued.

Cumnock August 22nd 1731

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, Andrew Hodge and George McCartney.

George Makervail appeared this day in publick for a second time and was rebucked, exhorted to repentance and continued.

James Mirrey and Christian Wilson in the Parish of Auchinleck desiring to wait on the Session were called in and confessed themselves guilty of fornication with one another before marriage while they were in this parish upon which they were rebucked and exhorted to repentance and appointed to appear in publick to make profession of their repentance the next Lord's day.

Cumnock August 29th 1731

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Andrew Hodge and George McCartney.

George Makervail appeared this day in publick for a third time and was rebucked, exhorted to repentance and continued.

James Murray and Christian Wilson appeared this day in publick for the first time and was rebucked and exhorted to repentance and continued.

This day the Session being informed of Alexander Vallance and Marion Palmer their having been found lying together in a bed in the house of Robert Richmond and Katherine Lang in the Town of Cumnock by Robert Douglas and Alexander Drummond, two of the Elders and that when the Elders

challenged them, she the said Palmer bad(e) the Devil take them and the Devil swell them all together, therefore the Session appoint them both to be cited to their next meeting this day eight days, & likewise cite as witnesses the said Katherine Lang and Elizabeth Makervail.

Cumnock September 5th 1731

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, Andrew Hodge and John Vallance.

James Mirrey and Christian Wilson having appeared this day in publick for a second time were rebucked & exhorted to repentance and having declared themselves sorry for their sin before the Session, they do agree to their being absolved next Lord's Day upon their giving the Congregation also evidence of sorrow for their sin.

Alexander Vallance having been summoned compeared and says that at that time he did not know of Marion Palmer's being in the bed with him having been lying sleeping in his drunkenness, but that when he went ben she followed him and sat down upon the bedside, that he put his arm about her and drew her into the bed to him, but after that she went away & he knew nothing of her returning.

Marion Palmer being cited compeared, and says she went only to the bed to lose a gravat from about Alexander's neck to get washen, owns her wicked expressions to the Elders and yet carried very insolently in the Session, and says it was nothing but malice and spite in the Elders.

Katherine Lang being cited compeared, & says she knew nothing of their lying together in the bed.

The Session cite the above Alexander Vallance, Marion Palmer and Katherine Lang apud acta to compear before them the next Lord's Day till further ennquirie be made.

Cumnock September 12th 1731

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin and Andrew Hodge.

George Makervail appeared this day in public for a fourth time and was rebucked for his above sin and exhorted to repentance and appointed to wait on the Session after Sermons which appointment he observed, and then declaring his sorrow for his sin and answering some questions that were askt him pretty satisfyingly, the Session having got the Prebyteries advice in his case consented to his being absolved the next Lord's Day upon his giving suitable testimony of his repentance before the Congregation.

James Mirrey and Christian Wilson appeared this day in public for a third time and were rebucked and exhorted to repentance and absolved upon the testimony they gave of their repentance before the Congregation.

Alexander Vallance being cited compeared and declared himself sensible of & grieved for his sin and misbehaviour. The Session considering the several circumstances thereof appoint him to appear and be rebucked before the Congregation next Lord's Day and upon his satisfying behaviour then to be absolved.

Marion Palmer being cited and called did not compear. Her contumacy is to be laid before the Presbyterie. The Session are also credibly informed that she talked very reproachfully of them the last Lord's Day.

Katherine Lang being called compeared not, her contumacy is also to be laid before the the Prebyterie.

The Session are informed that Andrew Hamilton and two of his sons were gathering nutts through the woods the last Lord's Day, therefore they appoint them to be cited to compear before them next Lord's Day.

This day it was agreed to that the public intimation of the Lord's Supper to be dispensed in this Congregation this day fourteen days, being the twenty-sixth instant shall be made, and was accordingly intimate this day.

Cumnock September 19th 1731

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and James Mcgeachin.

George Makervail appeared this day in public for a fifth time and was rebucked

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and exhorted to repentance and absolved according to appointment. *

**This incident (of two adults having a sexual relationship) took the Session five years to resolve!!*

Alexander Vallance did not appear this day in publick according to appointment, his contumacy is to be laid before the Presbyterie.

Andrew Hamilton being cited compeared and confesses that he went through the wood with his two young sons along with him this day fourteen days to bath his sore arm in the wood side well, but that he gathered no nutts. He owns that it was a sin in going thither in so publick a manner in the time of Divine Service. The Session rebucked him for his untenderness and breach of the Sabbath and for giving so bad an example to his children. His two sons not being come to the years of discretion were not brought before the Session.

The Session appoint Friday next for prayer and for making up the Commuion Roll.

Cumnock October 17th 1731

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin, George McCartney & Alexander and John Vallances.

Katherine Lang desired to wait for the Session this day and said that it was thro' ignorance that she did not compear before, and adhered to her denyal of her having known that Alexander Vallance and Marion Palmer were in bed together in her house, and that she was sorry that it should have been so. She was rebucked for her uncautiousness and negligence in keeping her house and her rebuck and profession of sorrow for her negligence appointed to be intimated to the Congregation the next Lord's Day the minister is home.

Andrew McWhirter and Margaret Brunton in the Parish of Auchinleck desiring to wait on the Session were called in and confessed themselves guilty of fornication with one another before marriage, while they were in this parish. Upon which they were rebucked and exhorted to repentance and appointed to appear in publick next Lord's Day.

John Templeton is appointed Elder to attend the Presbyterie during the next half year.

The minister and Elders met according to appointment September 26th & concerted the Communion Roll, as follows. *(There is nothing following this sentence.)*

Cumnock September 21st 1731

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and Alexander Vallance.

Andrew McWhirter and Margaret Brunton appeared this day eight days in publick for a first time and were rebucked and exhorted to repentance and continued. They appeared in publick this day also and were further rebuked and exhorted to repentance and appointed to wait on the Session in the afternoon, which they did and were rebucked and exhorted to repentance and having answered some questions that were askt their pretty satisfyingly and professing their sorrow for their sin the Session agreed to their being absolved the next Lord's Day upon their giving testimony of their repentance then in publick.

Baillie Fergusson having some time ago acquainted the Session that Colonel Dalrymple inclined to pay up the seven hundred merks principal and three years annual rent thereof now only resting since Martinmess one thousand seven hundred and twenty eight years contained in a bond granted be (by) Charles Lord Crichton to Mr Samuel Nimmo and assigned by Mr Nimmo for payment of the equivalent sum to him by the Session in favours of the Session for the behoof of the poor of this parish. The session at that time recommended to the Baillie to deal with Colonel Dalrymple that he would be pleased to retain the money in his hands and take as much more from the Session as should make it two thousand merks which was to be made up by the money received from Logan now in the Treasurer's hands and by three hundred and fifty pounds Scots and annual rent thereof contained in a bond granted be John Cochran of Waterside as Principal & William Taylor in Cronberry as Cautioner and in case the Collonel refused, to ask his advice whether or not the Session might safely send the two thousand merks to Waterside he having offered a bond be himself as principal, and Mr James Cochran Advocate, his brother as Cautioner* therefore. The Baillie reported this day that he had spoken with Collonel Dalrymple who declined to take any more of the money but gave it as his opinion that the Session might safely enough at this time lend the same to Waterside upon the security offered. Whereupon the Session unanimously resolved and agreed thereto, and authorised & appointed and hereby authorize and appoint the Minister and Mr William Rae their Treasurer to receive from Collonel Dalrymple the seven hundred merks and annual rents thereof and grant a discharge to him of the same, and deliver up to him the Bond and Assignation thereof and likeways to lend the said sums, and as much more money as with what is contained in the foresaid bond granted be Waterside and William Taylor will make up two thousand merks principal and to retire to Waterside the said bond granted be him and William Taylor upon their receiving from Waterside a bond be him as principal and the said Mr James Cochran as Cautioner to the Minister and Treasurer for themselves and in name of the remanent Members of the Kirk Session of Old Cumnock and their successors in Office for the behoof of the poor of the said Parish for the said sum of two thousand merks Principal containing a penalty and bearing annual rent from Martinmess last one thousand seven hundred thirty one.

**Cautioner – acts as security for someone else*

Cumnock January 23rd 1732

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson.

Andrew McWhirter and Margaret Brunton appeared both in publick upon the twenty eight day of November last for a third time and were rebucked & exhorted to repentance and upon the Evidence they gave of their repentance were absolved.

The Minister and Kirk Treasurer report that according to the Sessions Commission, the Treasurer delivered the sum appointed of the poor's money in loan to the Laird of Waterside making in whole with what was in his hand before, the sum of two thousand merks Scots money bearing annual rent from the terme of Martiness last, and that Mr William Rae Treasurer foresaid received Waterside's bond for the same containing Mr James Cochran Advocate, his brother as Cautioner and that the said Mr Rae hath the said bond in his custody in name of the Session for the behoof of the poor.

This day Baillie Fergusson, Robert Douglas, Alexander Drummond, Alexander Johnstone Elders and James Howat, Deacon are appointed to revise the Treasurer's accompts and report.

There being a flagrant report of Anne Hair's having come from the Town of Air with child in uncleanness therefore the Session appoint her to be cited to compear before them upon the thirtieth day of January instant.

Cumnock January 30th 1732.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and James Mcgeachin.

Ann Hair being cited compeared and acknowledged herself to be with child in uncleanness, and after she was earnestly dealt with and charged to be ingenious as to the father of her child, she said it was to John Cochran of Waterside and that she had no other to accuse and said that the child was begot when she was dwelling in the Town of Air in the service of one Lieutenant Ferguson. The Session in regard of her having had her residence in the Town of Air as

said is, do appoint an extract hereof to be sent to the Kirk session of Air that they may take course as accords with the above scandal, and in the meantime our Session did sharply rebuck her and exhort her to repentance.

This day the above Committee appointed for the revising the Treasurer's accompts made report which was appoven, whereby it appears that there is of ballance in hands of the sum of one hundred and ninety pounds five shillings and ten pennies Scots including the bad money.

Cumnock March 19th 1732.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin and George McCartney.

The above Agnes Murdoch's appearance to purge her scandal having been delayed till now through her indisposition and other occurrences, the Session being informed this day her being present and inclining to appear in publick did constitute and upon her coming before them at her desire they accordingly appointed her to appear in public this day to make profession of her sin and scandal.

Cumnock March 26th 1732.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and James Mcgeachin.

Agnes Murdoch appeared this day eight days in publick according to appointment and was rebucked and exhorted to repentance and continued and appearing in publick this day also was further rebucked and exhorted to repentance and appointed to wait in the Session in the afternoon which appointment she observed and having declared her sorrow for her sin before the Session they agreed to her absolution the next Lord's Day upon her giving the Congregation then evidence of her sorrow for her sin.

This day the Treasurer informs that John Wilson in Ward paid to him according to a former appointment of the Session fourtie pounds eight shillings and four pennies Scots money left to the poor of this parish by the deceased Hugh McCowan in Pennyfadoch Miln and was in the hands of the said John Wilson, whereof fifty marks was principal and the rest annual rent.

The Minister reports from the Presbyterie that they now order the Session to proceed to censure the above Jannet Paterson for her above sin and scandal therefore there being no further ground to expect to get the above James Mitchel whom she accuses conveyed, he being now carried off the country to be a soldier and therefor the Session order her to be summoned before them against the next Lord's Day.

Cumnock April 2nd 1732.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except James Mcgeachin and Alexander and John Vallances.

Jannet Patterson being cited compeared and was rebucked and exhorted to repentance and appointed to appear in publick next Lord's Day to make profession for her above sin and scandal before the Congregation.

Cumnock April 16th 1732.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin and George McCartney.

Jannet Paterson according to appointment appeared in publick this day eight days and was rebucked and exhorted to repentance and continued and appearing this day was further rebucked and exhorted to repentance and and appointed to wait on the Session this evening, but through inadvertency neglected to do so. She is to be warned to attend the Session the next Lord's Day that they may consider her fit to be absolved.

John Templeton is appointed Elder to attend the Presbyterie during the next ensuing half year.

Cumnock May 7th 1732.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, Alexander Vallance and William Rankin.

The above Jannet Paterson not being able to attend the Session when desired came this day and answering some questions that were askt her pritty well and professing sorrow for her said sin and scandal, the Session agreed to her being absolved the next Lord's Day upon her giving also evidence of her repentance in publick.

Cumnock May 14th 1732.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, Alexander Vallance, George McCartney and Andrew Hodge.

This day Jannet Paterson appeared in publick according to appointment and was erbucked and absolved for her above scandal and exhorted to watchfullness in all time coming.

The Session being informed of Elspeth McCrone in Holme her being with child in uncleanness wherefore they order her to compear before them next Lord's Day.

Cumnock May 20th 1732.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and James Mcgeachin.

Elspeth McCrone being cited compeared and acknowledged herself to be with child in uncleanness and accused James Makervail in Blackfold as the father of her child. She is cited apud acta to compear before the Session the next Lord's Day and appoint James Makervail to be cited to that Diet.

Cumnock May 28th 1732.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin, George McCartney and John Vallance.

Elspeth McCrone being cited compeared and adhered to her accusation. James Makervail being cited compeared and denyed guilt with the above Elspeth McCrone, but owns that at that time Elspeth condescends upon, he came from his own house with her and convoyed her near to her house being about a quarter of a mile distant about ten of the clock at night. The Session that they may make further enquiry about it cite them both apud acta to compear before them this day fourteen days.

Cumnock May 7th 1732.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel, minister, Baillie fergusson, Robert Douglas, Alexander Johnstone, James Mcgeachin, George Murdoch & William Rae, Elders & John Vallance, Deacon.

The Minister having informed that John Hamilton in Little Mure attended the Presbyterie at their last meeting anent his above scandal and they ordered him to compear before our Session this day. He being accordingly called compeared and being interrogate anent his said scandal, viz anent his marrying a second wife while his first was yet alive denied. Whereupon the Session agreed, as they had been advised by the Presbyterie that the Minister should write to any of the Ministers of Edinburgh who he expected could get best information anent this matter and to report to the Session when he gets a return, and delays the citing the said John Hamilton till that time.

Cumnock June 11th 1732.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson.

James Makervail and Elspeth McCrone being both cited compeared. She adhered to her accusation and he to his denial. They were further exhorted to be ingenous and appointed to wait upon the Session the next Lord's Day to be further dealt with toward a confession.

Cumnock June 18th 1732.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and James Mcgeachin.

James Makervail and Elspeth McCrone being cited compeared. She adhered to her accusation and he to his denial. The Session ordered a Representation of their case to be made to the Presbyterie for advice thereannent.

The Presbyterie having laid it upon this Session to conveen the Laird of Waterside and interrogate him anent a scandal of uncleanness with Ann Hair now living in this Town whereof she accuses him of being guilty with her when she

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was dwelling in the Town of Air as above. The Session being informed of Waterside's being abroad at the time, they appoint a Committee of their number, viz the Minister, Baillie Fergusson, Robert Douglas, Alexander Drummond, Alexander Johnstone and William Rae to meet at Cumnock the twenty seventh day of June instant and to interrogate him thereannent, and desired Alexander Johnstone one of their number to acquaint Waterside herewith between and that time and appointed the officer to cite Anne Hair before the committee.

The Session being informed of Marion Wilson in this Town her being with child in uncleanness wherefore they order her to be cited before them on Thursday next.

Cumnock June 22nd 1732.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel, Minister, Robert Douglas, Alexander Drummond, Alexander Johnstone, George Murdoch and William Rae, Elders and John Vallance, Deacon

Marion Wilson being cited compeared and accused Alexander Crichton present Post in this Town as the father of her child. She is cited apud acta to compear before the Session Sabbath come eight days and he is ordered to be cited against that day.

Cumnock July 2nd 1732.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin and Alexander and John Vallances.

This day the Minister reports that the Presbyterie order both James McKervail and Elspeth Mccrone to be cited to compear before them at their next meeting at Air upon the last Wednesday of this moth being the twentie sixth. In order thereto, the Session do this day appoint them to be cited to compear before them the next Lord's Day that they may cite them peremptorily to compear before the Presbyterie the said day.

This day the above committee appointed to convene the Laird of Waterside and Anne Hair as above, report that accordingly upon the 27th of June last the Committee met and after prayer they were both called, she adhered to her accusation and her peremptorily denyed after all the Committee could say to both to be ingenous. She spoke of several presumptions but by reason of the way that both he and she behaved, the Session could get nothing marked distinctly annent them at that time. This report the Session order to be laid before the Presbyterie at their next meeting upon the last Wednesday of this month and intreat that the Presbyterie would take the charge of this affair upon themselves because of the difficulties the Session foresees will attend it.

Marion Wilson being cited compeared and Alexander Crichton being cited compeared and owned guilt with the said Marion, whereupon the Session rebucked them and exhorted them to repentance and appointed them to appear in publick the next Lord's Day to make publick profession of their sin before the Congregation.

Cumnock July 9th 1732.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin, John Templeton, George McCartney and John Vallance.

Elsbeth Mccrone being cited compeared and is peremptorily cited to compear before the Presbyterie at Air upon the twenty sixth instant.

James Makervail being cited and called compeared not, the Session order him to be cited for a second time to compear before them upon Sabbath next.

Marion Wilson appeared this day for a first time in publick according to appointment and was rebucked, exhorted to repentance and continued.

Alexander Crichton not compearing to the express appointment of the Session which is to be represented to the Presbyterie at their next meeting if he make no excuse before that time.

Cumnock July 15th 1732.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and Alexander Vallance.

James Makervail being cited compeared and is peremptorily cited to compear before the Presbyterie at Air upon the twenty sixth instant.

Marion Wilson appeared this day in publick for a second time and was rebucked and exhorted to Repentance and appointed to wait on the Session in the evening and compearing then, was further rebuked and exhorted to repentance and delayed till she produced sufficient Testimonials till the time of her coming to this place, which was at Martinmess last.

Alexander Crichton compearing this day without citation is appointed to appear in publick next Lord's Day to make profession of Repentance for his said sin.

After all the enquiry the Session could make annent John Hamilton's marrying a second wife in Edinburgh while his first wife was yet alive could get no distinct account annent it.

Cumnock July 28th 1732.

Session met after prayer, in the forenoon.

Members all present.

This day it was voted and unanimously agreed to by the Session that the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper shall, God willing, be disposed in this Congregation this day fourteen days being the second Sabbath of August next.

Post Meridiem Eodem Die

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and Alexander Johnstone.

Alexander Chrichton appeared this day fourteen days in publick and was exhorted to repentance having been rebuked, was continued and having appeared likewise this day in publick was further rebuked and exhorted to repentance and appointed to wait on the Session in the afternoon which he observed to do and after some Trial annent his fitness to be absolved, the Session thought it proper to delay him til afterward, and ordered him to converse with some members of the Session, before he be absolved, in order to improve his knowledge.

The Session appoint Friday next for prayer and concerting of the Communion Roll

Cumnock August 12th 1732.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except James Mcgeachin.

The Session met upon the fourth day instant according to appointment and concerted th Communion Roll as follows.

Alexander Chrichton not having conversed with any member if the Session according to appointment the Session therefore delay him yet till they understand that he has done it and till her has produced a Testimonial from New Cumnock where he resided for some time.

Cumnock October 15th 1732.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin and John Vallance.

Alexander Crichton this day produced his testimonial before the Session which was satisfying, and upon his giving some more satisfying account of his knowledge and testimony of his sorrow for his

sin they appointed him to be absolved the next Lords Day he then giving suitable evidence of repentance before the Congregation.

This day the Session being informed of Agnes McMichen, her being with child in uncleanness order her to be cited to compear before them the next Lords Day.

This day the Session appoint Baillie Fergusson, Robert Douglas, Alexander Drummond three of their number to examine the Treasurer and Alexander Johnstone's accompts and report.

William Rankin is appointed as Elder to wait on the Presbyterie during the next half year.

Cumnock October 22nd 1732.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except John Templeton, James Mcgeachan and John Vallance.

Alexander Crichton appeared this day in publick and was rebucked and absolved.

Agnes McMichen being cited compeared and confessed herself with child in uncleanness and accused John McCrone as the father of her child. John McCrone now her husband.

John McCrone compeared voluntarily and owned her above accusation, they being both rebucked and exhorted to repentance were appointed to appear in publick next Lord's day to make profession of their repentance before the Congregation.

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Cumnock November 5th 1732.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except James Mcgeachin and Alexander Vallance.

John McCrone and Agnes McMichen having both appeared in publick and made profession of repentance for their above sin and scandal this day eight days and were rebucked and exhorted to repentance and continued, and appearing this day in publick were rebucked and exhorted to repentance and appointed to wait on the Session in the afternoon, which appointment they observed and being further exhorted to repentance and appearing sorrowful for their sin the Session agreed to absolve them next Lords Day.

This day the above Committee appointed to revise the treasurer and Alexander Johnstone's accmpts made reports, which was approven whereby it appears there is of ballance in hand the sum of two hundred and thirty five pounds ten shillings Scots, including all the bad money.

This day James Makervail voluntarily compeared before the Session and confessed his above alleged sin of fornication with Elspeth McCrone and being rebuked for his so long and obstinate denyal was appointed to appear in publick to be rebucked next Lords Day.

Cumnock November 27th 1732.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin and John Templeton.

John Mccrone and Agnes McMichen appeared in publick upon the 12th instant according to appointment and were rebucked and absolved.

James Makervail appeared in publick upon the twelvth instant and was rebucked, exhorted to repentance and continued, and appearing this day was likeways rebucked and appointed to wait on the session in the afternoon, and compearing then was further rebucked and exhorted to repentance and upon the profession of sorrow he shewed for his sin and sandal the Session condescended to his being absolved the next Lords Day he giving suitable evidence of repentance to the Congregation.

Charles Hanney and Janet Crawford appeared this day ultroneously before the Session and confessed their sin of fornication with one another before marriage, they were rebucked and exhorted to repentance and appointed to appear in publick the next Lords Day to make publick profession of their sin.

Cumnock December 8th 1732.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin, William Rankin and George Mure.

James Makervail appeared in publick this day eight days according to appointment and made profession of repentance for his above sin and was rebucked and absolved.

Charles Hanney and Jannet Crawford appeared in publick this day eight days and were rebucked exhorted to repentance and continued, they appeared likeways this day in publick and were again rebucked and exhorted to repentance, and appointed to wait on the Session in the afternoon, and appearing were further rebucked and exhorted to repentance and upon what evidence they shewed

of their sorrow for their sin and scandal, the Session agreed to their absolution next Lords day they giving then suitable evidence of their repentance before the Congregation.

Elsbeth McCrone appeared this day ultroneously and was rebucked for her above sin and scandal and exhorted to repentsnce and appointed to appear in publick the next Lords Day and make profession of her repentance.

Cumnock December 17th 1732.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin, John Templeton, George Mure and Andrew Wilson.

Charles Hanney and Jannet Crawford appeared this day in publick for a third time and were rebucked and absolved.

Elsbeth McCrone appearing for the first time this day in publick was rebucked for her above sin and scandal and exhorted to repentance and continued.

Cumnock December 17th 1732.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Robert Douglas, Alexander Drummond, Andrew Hodge, Andrew Wilson, Alexander Johnstone and William Rae, Elders and James Howat, D(eacon).

This day Elspeth Mccrone appeared in publick for a second time and was rebucked and exhorted to repentance and ordered to wait on the Session after sermons and compearing then was further rebucked and exhorted to repentance and upon what evidence she gave of her sorroe for her sin and scandal the Session desired to her absolution the next Lords Day.

Cumnock April 8th 1733.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson.

Elsbeth McCrone appeared in publick for a third time upon the thirty first day of December last and was rebucked and absolved.

Robert Forsayeth having compeared before the Presbyterie according to citation and being rebuked by them was remitted to this Session. And therefore the Session order the Clerk to write to the Minister of Muirkirk to cause cite him to compear before them this day fourteen days.

The Clerk is likeways ordered to write to the Minister of Old Cumnock to cause cite Elison McCall against this day fourteen days.

As also the Session order the Clerk to write to the Minister of Ochiltree to cause cite Agnes Murdoch to that Diet.

Cumnock April 22nd 1733.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin and John Vallance.

Robert Forsayeth being cited and called compeared not, the Session renew the appoint to the Clerk to write to the Minister of Muirkirk to cause cite him to compear before this Session eight days.

Elison McCal being cited compeared and was rebuked and exhorted to repentance and appearing sorrie for her sin having appeared four days in publick before and being in a bad state of health and living at a good distance the Session agreed to her being absolved the next Lords Day she giving them suitable evidence of her repentance before the Congregation.

There being no return yet from the Minister or Session of Ochiltree certifying the above Agnes Murdoch's being cited to this diet the Session forbear to call her.

Andrew Wilson is appointed Elder to attend the Presbyterie during the next half year,

Cumnock April 29th 1733.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel, Minister, Robert Douglas, Alexander Drummond, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge, Andrew Wilson, Alexander Johnstone and William Rae, Elders.

Robert Forsayeth being cited compeared and was rebuked for his sin and scandal of adultery with Jean Paterson and was appointed to appear this day in sackcloth in publick to make profession of his repentance.

Cumnock May 13th 1733.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin and William Rankin.

Robert Forsayeth appeared in publick according to appointment in sackcloth upon the twenty ninth of April for a first time and upon the sixth of May for the 2nd time, and this day for the third time on all which days he was rebucked and exhorted to repentance and continued.

John McCowan and Marion Dalrymple appeared this day ultroneously & confessed themselves guilty of fornication with one another before marriage. They were rebucked for their sin and exhorted to repentance and appointed to appear in publick the next Lord'd day to make profession of Repentance.

The Session order the officer to cite Anne Hair to compear before them this day eight

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days in order to cite her to compear before the Presbyterie.

Cumnock May 20th 1733.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin, William Rankin and Alexander Vallance.

Robert Forsayeth appeared this day in public for a fourth time and was rebucked and continued.

John Mccowan and Marion Dalrymple appeared this day in publick and were rebucked and continued.

Ann Hair being cited compeared and is peremptorily cited to compear before the Presbytery at Air upon the thirtieth instant.

Cumnock May 27th 1733.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin, George McCartney and William Rankin.

John McCowan and Marion Dalrymple appeared in publick this day for a second time and were rebuked and exhorted to repentance and appointed to wait on the Session in the afternoon. John compearing then was further rebuked and exhorted to repentance and the Session being pretty well satisfied with his knowledge and the evidence he shewed of his sorrow for his sin they agreed to his absolution the next Lord's Day.

Marion Dalrymple not being able through indisposition as John McCowan says to wait on the Session this afternoon. He is appointed to acquaint her that she is not to expect to be absolved till she compear before the Session, that if she be pleased to acquaint the Minister the next Sabbath morning he would convey the Session before sermon for that purpose.

Robert Forsayeth appeared this day in publick for a fifth time and was rebuked & exhorted to repentance and continued.

Cumnock June 3rd 1733.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, Robert Douglas, Andrew Hodge, George McCartney and James Mcgeachin.

Marion Dalrymple compearing as she was advertised was rebuked, exhorted to repentance and upon the evidence she gave the Session of her knowledge and sorrow of her sin they ordered her absolution this day, she giving testimony of her repentance before the Congregation.

Cumnock June 3rd 1733.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin and George McCartney.

John McCowan and Marion Dalrymple appeared in publick for a third time and were rebuked, exhorted to repentance and absolved.

Helen Sutherland appeared this day ultroneously and confessed herself guilty of uncleanness and accused James Spear now her husband, which James having also compeared ultroneously, owns to be true. They were rebuked, and exhorted to repentance and appointed to appear in publick the next Lord's Day to make profession of repentance before congregation.

Robert Forsayeth not compearing this day in publick as he was appointed therefore the Session order the Clerk to write to the Session or Minister of Muirkirk to cause cite him to compear before them upon the twenty ninth day of July next.

Cumnock June 3rd 1733.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin and John Vallance.

James Spear and Helen Sutherland appeared in publick upon the tenth day of June last according to appointment and were rebucked and exhorted to repentance and continued, and appearing upon the seventeenth day of June were further rebucked and exhorted to repentance and appointed to wait on the Session this day for their further appointment annent them, and compearing this day were further rebucked and exhorted to repentance and upon the evidence they gave of their knowledge and sorrow for their sin the Session agree to their absolution the next Lords day, they giving then suitable and becoming expressions of their sorrow and repentance before the Congregation.

Robert Forsayeth being cited compeared this daybefore the Session but they being credibly informed of some stolen goods having been found in his house in Muirkirk delay him till they receive a certificate of that scandal's being purged.

Elizabeth Williamson appeared this day ultroneously and confessed she has brought forth a child in uncleanness and gave for the father of her child William Harbert in Little Auchincross in the parish of New Cumnock. She is cited to wait on the Session at their next meeting this day eight days.

The Clerk is appointed to write to Mr Hunter the Minister of New Cumnock to cause cite William Harbert to compear before this Session this day eight days.

Cumnock August 5th 1733.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except James Mcgeachin.

James Spear and Helen Sutherland appeared this day in publick and were rebucked and exhorted to repentance and absolved.

Elizabeth Williamson being cited and called compered not, the Session appoint her to be cited pro secundo to compear before them upon Thursday next.

William Harbert being cited compeared and denyes guilt with the above Elizabeth Williamson, he is cited peremptorily to compear before the Session upon Thursday next.

Cumnock August 8th 1733.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel, Minister, Robert Douglas, Alexander Drummond, Alexander Johnstone, George Muir, Alexander Vallance, George McCartney, Andrew Wilson and William Rae, Elders and John Vallance, Deacon.

Elizabeth Williamson being cited compeared and adhered to her accusation.

William Harbert being cited compeared and adhered to his denial.

Both being confronted together, she owned she had no presumptions that she could prove, but when she said that when she went to his father's house and told him she was with child, he owned that he said he was sorry for it and that when she said he needed not to upbraid her for she should not trouble him with it, undergo what hardships she would, he owned her saying so and said before the Session that she had broken her promise, and owned that he had been often in company with her both alone and with others, and owned that he said to her seeing that she had exposed him to his sister and her aunt, she might have done it to anybody and said that there was too much ground given for believing him to be guilty, but it was not so. He owns that he spoke with her before they went out of the Town of Cumnock and denies that she was to go the rode* she was to go, but says she was speaking of it to him and that he forbade her, which she owns. He also owns that having gone out of the town a little after her he overtook her between and the Bow-house, whither she was going and they went a part of that rode together their alones being towards eight of the clock at night, where she says he was guilty with her but he still denies. This being upon Martinmess Thursday the last year, as both of them owns.

They are both peremptorily cited to compear before the Session upon Sabbath come eight days.

**rode = road*

Cumnock August 18th 1733.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and James Mcgeachin.

Elizabeth Williamson being cited compeared and adhered to her accusation and is cited to compear before the Session this day eight days.

William Harbert being cited and called compeared not. The Session delay the consideration of his case, he having been cited peremptorily, till they see if he compears the next lord's Day to make excuse for his absence.

There being a delation of Jannet Samson in Burnside, an unmarried woman her being with child in uncleanness, the Session order her to be cited to compear before them the next Lord's Day.

Cumnock August 26th 1733.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin and George Mure.

Elizabeth Williamson being cited compeared and adhered to her accusation.

William Harbert this day and excused himself for not compearing this day eight days by reason of the sickness he laboured under then that hindered him from either walking or riding, the Session sustained the cause. He still adheres to his denial. Both he and Elizabeth Williamson are peremptorily cited to compere before the Session the next lord's Day to be further dealt with towards bringing them to a confession.

Jannet Samson being cited and called compeared not, is appointed to be cited for a second time against this day eight days.

Cumnock September 2nd 1733.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except James Mcgeachin and George Mccartney.

Elizabeth Williamson being cited compeared and adheres to her accusation but William Harbert not being present, she was told that she should be advertised when it was proper for her to attend again.

William Harbert sent excuse that he was not able to attend, but that he should attend when able and in his letter he owns that he hath been guilty of keeping company with Elizabeth Williamson, and that for unchast thoughts and words he cannot swear himself clean, but denyes his lying carnally with her. But Baillie Fergusson, James Campbell, surgeon, and Robert Douglas first and last of whom being both members of the Session declare that he owned himself guilty with her to them. Baillie Fergusson and Mr Campbell being both together when he did so, but said that he would not own her child. The Session agree that the Minister and Elder lay this case before the Presbyterie to meet Wednesday next at Air, and that the Clerk write a leter to the said William Harbert to put him in mind not to fail to compear before this Session the next Lord's Day.

Janet Sampson being cited compeared and said that she did not know whether she was with child or not, that time would tryall, she was not going out of the place. The Session insisted much with her and shewed her this was really a confession of her guilt of uncleanness, but she would give it in no other terms nor give an account of anybody that had been guilty with her. The Session order her to compear before them to be further death with the next Lord's Day and in the mean time the Presbytery being to meet this week, the Minister and Elder are to lay her case before them for advice.

George Harbert and Elizabeth Reid, spouses, having been found shearing corn last Lord's Day in the morning, they came both this day without citation before the Session and owned the fact, and said it was altogether ignorance in mistake of the day, and that they were grieved for it, and that they

would have reason to be grieved for it for all their days. The Session agree that the Presbytery be advised with in this case, and cite them both to compear before them next Lord's Day.

Cumnock September 9th 1733.

Session met after prayer in the forenoon.

The Minister and Elder report that they laid the case of George Harbert and Elizabeth Reid before the Presbytery and that the Presbytery remit it to the judgment of the Session to act in it as they shall see most for the Glory of God, reclaiming the offenders and purging of the scandal, they are delayed and cited to compear before the Session the next Lord's Day.

Cumnock September 9th 1733.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except James Mcgeachin and George McCartney.

William Harbert not compearing this day, the Clerk is to desire Mr Thomas the Minister of New Cumnock to cause cite him to compear before this Session the next Lord's Day. Elizabeth Williamson is appointed to be cited to that Diet. The Presbytery's advice being to deal further with them towards bringing them to a confession.

Jannet Samson being cited compeared and continued obstinate as before, was desired to converse with skilled women as the presbytery advised and is cited to compear before the Session the next Lord's Day to be further dealt with.

Cumnock September 16th 1733.

Session met after prayer in the forenoon.

Members all present except James Mcgeachin, George Murdoch and George McCartney.

George Harbert and Elizabeth Reid being cited compeared and are appointed to appear in publick this day to make profession of repentance for their above sin and scandal before the Congregation.

This day it was voted and unanimously agreed to that the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper shall, God willing, be dispensed in this Congregation this day fourteen days, the last sabbath of this month, and that the intimation hereof shall be made this day forenoon.

Cumnock September 16th 1733.

Session met after prayer in the afternoon.

All members present.

William Harbert and Elizabeth Williamson's case is delayed because of the Sacrament approaching, and the Clerk is appointed to write to the Minister of New Cumnock to cause cite William to compear before this Session this day 20 days.

Jannet Samson being cited and was desired to converse again with the skilled women, but contemptuously refused. She is appointed to wait on the Session this day twenty days.

The Intimation of the Lords Supper's being to be dispensed in this Congregation upon the last Sabbath of this month was made this day in the forenoon and Munday come eight days being the twenty fourth instant is appointed for prayer and concerting the Communion Roll.

Cumnock October 7th 1733.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin, George McCartney and John Templeton.

William Harbert being cited compeared and now owns his sin and guilt with Elizabeth Williamson and says he is truly sorry for his sin and so long denial and Elizabeth Williamson compearing also the Session appoint them both to appear in publick the next Lord's Day to make profession of their sin and scandal and be rebucked therefore.

Jannet Samson being cited compeared not, the Session appoint her to be cited to compear before them at their next meeting upon the twenty first of October instant,

The Session met according to appointment upon Munday the twenty fourth of the last month and concerted the Communion Roll as follows.

Alexander Johnstone is appointed as Elder to wait upon the Presbytery with the Minister during the next half year.

Cumnock October 21st 1733.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except James Mcgeachin, George McCartney and John Templeton and Andrew Wilson.

Elizabeth Williamson appeared this day eight days in publick according to appointment and was rebucked and exhorted to repentance and continued and appearing this day was rebucked and exhorted to repentance and appointed to wait on the Session in the evening which appointment she observed and being

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further rebucked and exhorted to repentance and having several questions askt her which she answered them satisfyingly and appearing serious in professing sorrow for her sin, the Session appointed her to appear in publick for a third time next Lord's Day and to be absolved she giving then evidence of repentance before the Congregation.

William Harbert not appearing in publick this day eight days nor this day wherefore the Clerk is appointed to write to the Session of New Cumnock to cause cite him to compear before this Session this day eight days.

Jannet Samson being cited and called compeared not is appointed to be cited against this day eight days.

Cumnock October 22nd 1733.

Session met after prayer.

A Committee of the Sesson viz Mr John Steel, Minister, Bailie Fergusson, Alexander Drummond, Alexander Johnstone and William Rae, Elders and James Howat, Deacon met after prayer upon information of Jannet Samson her now confessing privately & of her being willing to do it publickly.

Jannet Samson came this day to the forenamed members of the Session and owned herself with child who took her judicial confession, after she was rebucked and exhorted to be ingenious as to the father of her child. She said she had none to give it to but James Campbell, brother to the Laird of Horsecleugh. She was peremptorily appointed to compear before the Session the next Lord's Day and he is first to be acquainted herewith by one of the members present and the officer after that is appointed to cite him to compear before the Session the next Lord's Day.

Cumnock October 28th 1733.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except James Mcgeachin, George McCartney and John Templeton, Andrew Wilson and John Vallance.

Elizabeth Williamson appeared this day in publick for a third time and was rebucked and absolved according to appointment.

William Harbert not compearing the Clerk is appointed to write again to the Minister if New Cumnock to cause cite him to compear before this Session this day eight days.

Jannet Samson being cited compeared and adhered to her accusation and has no presumptions but condescends only that the time of her being guilty with James Campbell was upon the first Tuesday of June last.

James Campbell being cited and called compeared not, appoint him to be cited for a second time against this day eight days and she is cited apud acta to that Diet.

Cumnock November 4th 1733.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except James Mcgeachin, William Rankin and Alexander Vallance.

Having received no execution from the Session of New Cumnock notifying William Harbert's being cited as yet, the Session therefore renews the appointment on the Clerk to write to the Session of New Cumnock to cause cite him to compear before this Session upon Sabbath next.

Jannet Samson being cited and called compeared not is appointed to be cited against the next Lord's day.

Cumnock November 8th 1733.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin, George McCartney, John Templeton, William Rankin and Andrew Wilson.

There being a flagrant report of Mary Pearson, her being with child in uncleanness and therefore the Session order her to be summonsed to compear before them the next Lord's day.

Cumnock November 11th 1733.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and James Mcgeachin.

William Harbert compearing this day before the Session and was rebucked and exhorted to repentance and appointed to appear in publick the next Lord's day.

Jannet Samson being cited compeared and adhered to her accusation.

James Campbell being cited compeared and still said that he did not mind it* after all the pains taken upon him, still again repeated that he did not mind it and that he would say no more. She condescended upon a precise day of their being guilty viz. the first Tuesday of June last, when he was going off for the Session and she alledging that it was before daylight, he owned that about day light he was in her master's house, but that he came to take his leave of her master and mistress & did not mind that he saw her. He was askt if her master and mistress were out of bed so early, he said not, but he came to take his leave of them. He owned likewise that some time ago, she told him of her being with child and said that it was to him, but that he denyed and named several others to whom she might give it. Mr Campbell being obliged this week to go to Edinburgh this affair is delayed until he returns.

**did not mind it = "did not remember it"*

Mary Pearson being cited compeared and owned herself with child in uncleanness and gives as the father of her child one Hugh Simson who, as she says, lives between the March of Nithsdale and the Town of Sanquhar. She is peremptorily cited to compear before the Session this day eight days.

Cumnock November 18th 1733.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin and Andrew Hodge.

Mary Pearson being cited and called compeared not, and therefore because of her contumacy is to be delated to the Presbytery.

William Harbert appeared this day in publick and was rebucked and exhorted to repentance and continued.

Cumnock November 25th 1733.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin, George McCartney, John templeton and John Vallance.

Mary Pearson compearing this day ultroneously was interrogate if she had yet made any enquiry after that person Hugh Simson whom she gives as the father of her child, says she had not. The Session order her to make enquiry annent him against this day fourteen days, and cite her to that Diet.

William Harbert appeared this day in publick according to appointment for the second time and was rebucked and continued.

Cumnock December 2nd 1733.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel Minister, Robert Douglas, Alexander Drummond, Alexander Johnstone, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge, William Rae, and James Howat.

This day Jean Aird came ultroneously into the Session and owned herself with child in uncleanness, and being exhorted to be ingenious as to the father of her child, declared it was to James Campbell in Horsecleugh, and that she was guilty with no other, and that the week before the May Fair here she was guilty with him. He being at Edinburgh now, the time of the Session, a line is ordered to be wrote to him there annent and his citation delayed till the Session rise. She was rebucked and exhorted to repentance and ordered to attend the Session's after appointments to her.

William Harbert appeared this day in publick for a third time and was rebucked and exhorted to repentance and continued, being a relapse to him.

Cumnock December 16th 1733.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin, William rankin, George Muir and Andrew Wilson.

William Harbert appeared in publick this day eight days and was rebucked & continued and appearing this day for a fifth time was further rebucked and exhorted to

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Repentance and appointed to wait on the Session in the evening & waiting was exhorted to repentance and answering several questions satisfyingly and appearing serious in professing repentance for his sin and scandal the Session agreed to his absolution the next Lord's Day, he giving then testimony of his repentance before the Congregation.

Mary Pearson being cited, said she had n=made no further enquiry annent the Hugh Simson whom she accuses as the father of her child, therefore the Session refer her case to the Presbytery.

Cumnock March 17th 1734.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin and William Rankin.

James Campbell writer in Edinburgh being now come home the Session order him to compear before them this day eight days.

Cumnock March 24th 1734.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin and George McCartney.

James Campbell being cited compeared and owned himself guilty with Jean Aird, and promised all due subjection to the Session in giving satisfaction ; but adheres to his denyal as to the above Jannet Samson which therefore the Session refers to the Presbyterie.

The Session ordered their officer to cite Mary pearson to compear before them upon the fourteenth day of April next that they may cite her to the Presbytery according to the Presbyteries appointment.

Cumnock April 14th 1734.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and James Mcgeachin.

Mary Pearson being cited compeared and is peremptorily cited to compear beforethe Presbytery at Air upon Wednesday the 24th instant.

George Muir is appointed as Elder to attend the Presbytery with the Minister during the next half year.

Cumnock April 28th 1734.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and James Mcgeachin.

The minster reports from the presbytery that as to James Campbell, they order further enquiry annent presumptions to be made and report.

The minister likewise reports that the Presbyterie has allowed Mary Pearson when she has recovered strength two months to seek out the person she accuses.

Cumnock May 19th 1734.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, George McCartney and William Rankin.

The above Jean is appointed to compear before the Session the next Lord's Day in order to be cited to appear in publick to make profession of repentance for her sin and scandal of fornication with James Campbell.

Cumnock May 20th 1734.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin and Alexander Vallance.

Jean Aird according to appointment appeared this day before the Session and being rebucked for her above sin and exhorted to repentance was appointed to appear in publick the next Lord's Day to make profession of repentance before the Congregation.

Cumnock 2nd June 1734.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin.

Jean Aird appeared in publick this day for a first time and was rebucked and continued.

Cumnock June 10th 1734.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except James Mcgeachin, James Howat and William Rankin.

Jean Aird appeared this day in public for a second time and was rebucked and exhorted to repentance and appointed to wait on the Session in the afternoon. She observed and being further rebucked & exhorted to repentance and upon what satisfaction she gave the Session as to her knowledge they agreed to her being absolved next Lord's Day she giving then further testimony of her sorrow and repentance before the Congregation.

Cumnock July 1st 1734.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except James Mcgeachin and George McCartney.

Jean Aird appeared in public according to appointment upon the 17th June last and was rebucked and absolved.

This day it was voted and unanimously agreed to that the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper shall, if it please God, be dispensed in this Congregation this day fourteen days being the 15th instant & that intimation hereof be made this day.

Cumnock July 8th 1734.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and James Mcgeachin.

This day the Session appoint Munday next for prayer and concerting the Communion Roll.

Cumnock August 4th 1734.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin and John Templeton.

This day the Session being informed that John Hamilton in Little Mure had been seen travelling homeward with graithed* horses on the sabbath Day, wherefore the Session order him to be cited to compear before them this day eight days.

Appoints Jannet Samson to be cited against this day eight days.

**graithed - harnessed*

Cumnock August 11th 1734.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, Alexander and John Vallances and William Rankin.

John Hamilton being cited and called compeared not, order him to be cited a 2nd time against this day 14 days.

Jannet Samson being cited compeared and alleged that Mr Campbell had acknowledged to herself that he had been guilty with her, that she condescended upon as above and said that he had made this acknowledgement since she was last before the Session when in company together there alones but said she has no witnesses to prove anything.

Cumnock August 25th 1734.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin, William Rankin and George Muir.

John Hamilton being cited and called compeared not is appointed to be cited for a 3rd time to compear before the Session this day eight days.

Cumnock September 1st 1734.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin, George McCartney and Alexander Vallance.

John Hamilton being cited and called compeared not, wherefore the Minister is to advise the Presbytery annent him.

Cumnock September 8th 1734.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin and William Rankin.

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This day compeared the above John Hamilton ultroneously & says that he could not attend the Session the last lord's Day being necessarily detained because of the storme and badness of the weather, which the Session sustains as an excuse but in the meantime rebuckles him for his travelling on the Sabbath Day, as above.

Cumnock October 6th 1734.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin and William Rankin.

The Session are credibly informed of a scandalous behaviour between William King and Agnes Anderson both in this town. Therefore they are ordered to be cited to compear before the Session this day eight days.

Alexander Vallance is appointed to attend the Presbytery with the minster during the next half year.

Cumnock October 13th 1734.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin, William Rankin and John Templeton.

William King and Jannet Anderson being cited compeared, and both denyes. Upon which the Session being informed that Edward Crichton and Bethia Duncan can give evidence of their scandalous carriage, and therefore are both ordered to be cited to compear before them this day eight days.

William King and Agnes Anderson are both cited apud acta to compear that Diet.

Cumnock October 20th 1734.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin, George Mure, William Rankin and John Vallance.

William King being cited compeared and adhered to his denial, but says when he was askt whether the door was bolted or not, he wist not.

Agnes Anderson being cited compeared and adhered likewise to her denial, upon which the witnesses were called.

Edward Crichton being cited compeared, aged about eighteen, unmarried & being solemnly sworn and purged of malice and partial counsel depones that having seen a man in the dark go in to Agnes Anderson's door and having an inclination to know who it was, he called his good-sister Bethia Duncan to come after him with a candle, and that he held the candle in a the window having found the door bolted and saw William King and Agnes Anderson lying in bed together, nobody else being in the house, but could not say he saw them in any posture that looked like any filthy action and that he could not be positive whether she had her clothes on or off, and that this is all he knows of the matter as he shall answer to God. Sic Substibitur – Edward Crichton. (Witnessed by John Steel.)

Bethia Duncan being cited compeared aged about twenty four years married and being solemnly sworn and purged of malice and partial counsel depones them with the former witness, except that

she says that Agnes Anderson's clothes were on, and that she went no further than the window, and so knows not whether the door was bolted or not, which is all she knows in the matter as she shall answer to God., and because she cannot write desires the Clerk to subscribe for her. (JohnSteel, Moderator and William Rae.)

The Presbytery being near, the Session think it fit that the Presbytery be acquainted and their advice taken annent this matter.

The above Agnes Anderson having been seen by several witnesses on Thursday drunk in a scandalous manner on the publick street, the Session refer censuring her for that till they have the Presbytery's mind annent the above scandal with William King.

The Session appoint James and Elizabet Osburns to be cited to compear before them the next Lord's Day according to the appointment of the Presbytery for their living together as man and wife without evidence of their being married.

Cumnock October 27th 1734.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin, William Rankin and Andrew Wilson.

The Session order Mary Pearson to be cited to compear before them next Lord's Day.

James and Elizabeth Osburns being cited and called compeared not, appoint them to be cited for a second time against the next Lord's Day.

Cumnock November 3rd 1734.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin, William Rankin and John Templeton and Alexander Vallance.

Mary pearson being cited compeared and said that she had found the man now that was guilty with her, that he lives in Dalmellingtoun and is called Andrew Simson. The Session order the Clerk to write to Mr Coats to cause cite him to compear before this Session this day eight days.

Mary Pearson is peremptorily cited to compear that day.

James and Elizabeth Osburns being cited and called did not compear. The Session order them to be cited for a third time to compear before them this day eight days.

The minister reports that William King and Agnes Anderson are ordered by the Presbytery to be sharply rebucked by the Session and publick intimation thereof to be made to the Congregation. The

Session order them to be cited to compear before them this day eight days that they may intimate this to them.

Cumnock November 10th 1734.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin, Andrew Wilson and George McCartney.

James Osburn and Elizabeth Osburn being cited and called did not compear and therefore the Session refer their case to the Presbytery.

The Session appoint Mary pearson, William king and Agnes Anderson to be cited to compear before them upon the eight day of December next for a second time, none of which having compeared tho cited to compear this day as above.

Cumnock December 1st 1734.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt John Steel, Minister, Alexander Drummond, Alexander Johnstone, Andrew Hodge, Robert Douglas, William Rae and James Howat.

Elizabeth Williamson being reported to be with child in uncleanness. Appoint her to be cited to compear before the Session this day eight days.

The Minister, Baillie Fergusson, Robert Douglad, Alexander Drummond are appointed this day by the Session to inspect the Treasurer's accompts and report.

Cumnock December 8th 1734.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and James Mcgeachin.

William King and Agnes Anderson being cited compeared and he said that he was sensible of no fault and had nothing to be sorry for, and denyed the truth of what the two witnesses had depon'd as to their being in bed together as did also Agnes Anderson. The Session desires that the Presbytery may be advised with annent them anew.

The Session forbear to call Mary Pearson till they hear whether Andrew Simson, who is reported to be lying sick in an ague* be recovered yet or not.

**ague – an acute fever*

Elizabeth Williamson being cited and called did not compear. The Session appoint her to be cited for a second time against this day 8 days.

The Session this day approves the report of the above Committee's revision of the treasurer's accompts.

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Cumnock December 15th 1734.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel, Minister, Alexander Drummond, Robert Douglass, Andrew Hodge, George Muir, William Rankin, Alexander Johnstone, William Rae, James Howats and John Vallance.

Elizabeth Williamson being cited called and compeared not, appoint her to be cited for a third time against this day eight days.

This day an execution of Andrew Simson's being cited to this Diet came to hand but by reason of his being now ill in a fever and ague, as the Clerk to the session of Damehellingtounne informs, could not compear this day, but promises to come over and satisfy this Session as to Mary pearson's accusation so soon as he recovers health and can ride or walk, which excuse the Session sustains.

Cumnock December 22nd 1734.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin, William Rainkin, John Templeton and John Vallance.

William King and Agnes Anderson having applied to the Minister before the meeting of the Presbytery and declared themselves sensible of their fault in what they said against what the witnesses had deponed, and that they were sorry for the offensive behaviour that they had been guilty of, whereupon the Minister delayed informing the Presbytery till the first meeting of the Session, who were willing to hear them again themselves and they accordingly waiting on the Session this day and owned as they had done above to the Minister and were further rebucked, and the rebuck appointed to be intimated to the Congregation (according to the Presbytery's orders) upon the twelvth day of January next.

The officer informs the Session that he could not find Elizabeth Williamson and therefore could not cite her last week: appoint her to be cited against Thursday twenty days being the 12th of January next.

Cumnock January 12th 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, William Rankin and George Mure.

William King and Agnes Anderson's rebuck was publicly intimated this day before the Congregation.

Elizabeth Williamson not comparing this day is appointed to be cited to compare before a committee of the Session upon Thursday next.

Cumnock January 16th 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel, Minister, Alexander Drummond, Robert Douglas, George Muir and William Rae.

This day Elizabeth Williamson having conversed with the Minister and some other members of the Session, after their having caused several skill'd women to converse with her annent her pregnancy. A quorum of the session above being constitute, she confesses herself with child in uncleanness, and accuses James Campbell, brother to the Laird of Horsecleugh as the father of her child*. Upon which the committee thought her comparing before the Session useless till they considered what was to be done with respect to the man she accuses, he not being in the bounds at present, and so after rebucking and exhorting her to repentance dismissed her till she should be advertised.

**Elizabeth is the third woman to accuse James Campbell of fathering a child in the space of a year.*

Cumnock February 9th 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, William Rankin, Andrew Wilson and John Templeton.

Andrew Simson in Damehellingtoun compared this day ultroneously and also Mary Pearson, having been informed that he was to compare. She averr'd* that he was the man who had been guilty with her and was the father of her child, that he met with her at her father's house the hinder end of May one thousand, seven hundred and thirty three years and that he was travelling with a pack upon his back, and says that no body saw him but she, the rest of the family being at the peat moss. All which he denies. The only presumptions she offers is that before Michaelmess Fair last, in Air, in the house of John Robb, Innkeeper in the south end of the town he said before the said John Robb's wife, a daughter of his and Margaret Mirrey who lives hard by the same house, that he had been guilty of uncleanness in the old parish of Cumnock. The woman not being in a condition to condescend upon the names of two of the witnesses, the Session delay any thing further till she make condescendency.

Cumnock February 23rd 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and James Mcgeachin.

Jannet Patterson appearing ultroneously this day (a flagrant report having gone abroad of her being with child in uncleanness) confessed she was with child in uncleanness and having been much dealt with to be ingenuous, she accused one George Dunbar, lately gone out of the country to be a soldier, the Session appoint her to attend upon them next Lord's Day that they may deal further with her conscience.

Cumnock March 2nd 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and William Rankin.

Jannet Paterson being cited compeared and acknowledged her self guilty with George Dunbar and John Mcgeachin both. And in regard George Dunbar is out of the country a soldier, the Session delay doing anything annent him till they get the Presbytery's advice and appoint John Mcgeachin to be cited to compear them the next Lord's Day and summoned the said Jannet Paterson apud acta to compear likewise that Diet.

Cumnock March 9th 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson, James Mcgeachin and William Rankin.

Jannet Patterson being cited compeared and adheres to her accusation and is cited apud acta to compear next Lord's Day.

John Mcgeachin being cited compeared not, appoint him to be cited against this day eight days.

Cumnock March 16th 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and William Rankin.

Agnes Murdoch this day on obedience to the Session's appointment having been delayed through inability and other occurrences, appeared before the Congregation, and upon what further evidences she gave of her repentance was absolved.

Jannet Patterson and John Mcgeachin being cited compeared. Jannet adheres to her accusation and says that about the last Michaelmess Fair in Air at supper time when it was very dark John Mcgeachin came into James Wallace's in Hillhead where she was dwelling and askt her if she would go out to convoy him. But that she did not go with him: and says that James Wallace and his wife will prove this and says he came back to her in an outhouse where she lay and was guilty with her, but hath no proof of that. As to what she offers to prove by James Wallace and his wife John Mcgeachin acknowledges except that he says it was about daylight going and says it was in harvest. She further

alleges that about Beltan* last he came in Gavin Dalziel's where she was after it was grown dark askt her to go out with him to speak with him and stayed about an hour & that then he was guilty with her, likewise he acknowledges her having gone out with him at his desire and says that they stayed but about a quarter of an hour and that he was not guilty wither her. She likewise alleges another

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time about eight days before Beltan last, he came and took her out of Gavin Dalziels pretending to get money from her that she owed him, and took her down betwixt and Logan Hill and kept her there about an hour and was guilty with her and says it was about twelve hours of the day, and says she owed him no money. He acknowledges he came there and took her out and says it was to get money from her that she owed him and that they stayed but about half a quarter of an hour. The Session cite them apud acta to compear before them next Lord's Day for further dealing with them towards a confession.

*Beltan = Beltane – a Gaelic festival celebrated on 1st May to mark the beginning of summer, traditionally with bonfires and feasting.

Cumnock March 23rd 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Baillie Fergusson and William Rankin.

Jannet Patterson and John mcGeachin being cited compeared. She adhered to her accusation and he to his denial. Therefore the Session order this matter to be laid before the Presbytery for their advice.

Ann Hair having got notice that the presbytery advised this Session to take her to the publick profession of repentance for her sin and scandal of fornication with John Cochran of Waterside, her residence being her tho' the scandal was committed in Air. She applied this day to the Session to that effect, they accordingly after rebucking her and exhorting her to repentance appointed her to appear before the Congregation next Lord's Day.

Cumnock April 6th 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except James Mcgeachin and William Rankin.

Ann Hair appeared in public according to appointment this day eight days and was rebucked and exhorted to repentance and continued and appearing this day likewise in publick was rebucked and appointed to wait on the Session after sermons and waiting then was further rebucked and exhorted to repentance and watchfullness against all manner of sin for the future and answering some questions pretty satisfyingly, the session agreed to her absolution next Lord's Day upon her giving some suitable satisfaction before the Congregation.

The Session appoint Elizabeth Williamson and Jannet Samson to be cited to compear before them this day eight days. And the Clerk is ordered to write to James Campbell to be present likewise this day eight days, he being now come home.

Cumnock April 13th 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except James Mcgeachin and William Rankin.

Ann Hair appeared this day in publick for a third time and was rebucked, exhorted to repentance and absolved.

Jannet Samson and Elizabeth Williamson being cited compeared and adhered to their accusation. They are cited apud acta to compear before the Session the next Lord's Day.

The Clerks leter to Mr Campbell being delivered by a second hand the Session forbear at this time to call him and order their officer to cite him against the next Lord's Day.

Cumnock March 2nd 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except William Rankin, James Mcgeachin and George McCartney.

Jannet Samson and Elizabeth Williamson being cited compeared, and adhered to their accusations.

James Campbell sent an excuse that he was not very well and that it would be a favour done him if the Session would appoint a Committee any week day and that he would attend. The Session accordingly appoint for a Committee to meet at Mr Rae's house on Saturday next at ten of the clock in the forenoon viz: the Minister, Alexander Drummond, Robert Douglas, Alexander Johnstone, Mr Rae and James Howat.

Alexander Johnstone is to acquaint Mr Campbell hereof and Jannet Samson and Elizabeth Williamson are cited apud acta to attend that Diet.

Cumnock April 26th 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel, Minister, Alexander Drummond, Robert Douglas, Alexander Johnstone, William Rae and James Howat.

Mr Campbell appeared this day and confessed guilt of fornication both with Jannet Samson and Elizabeth Williamson upon which he was rebucked and exhorted to repentance and appointed to appear in publick next Lord's Day to make profession of repentance before the Congregation.

The Committee likewise order Jannet Samson and Elizabeth Williamson to appear in publick next Lord's Day to make profession of repentance for their sin and scandal of fornication with the above James Campbell.

Cumnock April 27th 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except James Mcgeachin, Robert Douglas, William Rankin, John Templeton and Alexander Johnstone.

Jannet Samson and Elizabeth Williamson appeared both in publick this day and were rebucked for a first time and continued.

The Session being informed of Marion Wilson in this town her being with child in uncleanness; therefore the Session order her to be cited to compear before them next Lord's Day.

Cumnock May 11th 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except John Templeton, William Rankin, George McCartney and George Muir.

Jannet Samson appeared not in publick this day according to appointment.

Marion Wilson being cited compeared and confessed herself with child in uncleanness and accuses Alexander Crichton present post in this town as the father of her child*. She is cited apud acta to compear before the Session the next Lord's Day and Alexander Crichton is appointed to be cited to that Diet.

**This appears to be the couple's second child - in June 1732, Marion Wilson and Alexander Crichton had a child together, and both were dealt with by the Session for that "offence".*

Cumnock May 18th 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except William Rankin and John Vallance.

Marion Wilson being cited compeared and adhered to her accusation. She condescends no presumptions that she can prove.

Alexander Crichton being cited compeared and denyes guilt with the above Marion Wilson. He owns that he was twice in her house, but says that there was somebody with him, and that she was sometimes in his house, and particularly that

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he desired her to come and keep him when he was sick which she accordingly di, and the Session are informed by some of their own members that are door neighbours to them that she uses to go frequently out and in to his house. They are both cited to compear before the Session upon sabbath come a fourteen days that they may be further dealt with in order to a confession.

The Minister reports from the Presbytery that they have advised this Session to deal with John Mcgeachin towards a confession and for that end the Session order the officer to cite the said Mcgeachin and Jannet Paterson against this day fourteen days, being the 15th of June next.

Cumnock June 1st 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel, Minister, Robert Douglas, Alexander Drummond, Alexander Johnstone, George Murdoch, George Muir, Andrew Wilson and William Rae.

Marion Wilson being cited compeared & adhered to her accusation.

Alexander Crichton being cited and called compeared not. Appoint him to be cited against this day fourteen days and she is cited apud acta to that Diet.

The Session forebear to call Jannet Paterson and John Mcgeachin because of Jannet's indisposition at this time.

Cumnock June 15th 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except William Rankin and George McCartney.

Marion Wilson being cited compeared and adhered to her accusation.

Alexander Crichton being cited compered and adhered to his denial wherefore the session refer them to the Presbytery for advice.

Elizabeth Williamson appeared this day without citation before the Session having neglected to appear in public as she was ordered upon the fourth day of May last for which she was rebucked and admonished and appointed to appear in publick the 22nd instant.

The Session order Mary Pearson to be cited to compear before them next Lord'sDay in order to be cited to the Presbytery.

Cumnock June 22nd 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except James Mcgeachin and William Rankin.

Elizabeth Williamson appeared in publick for a 2nd time and was rebucked and continued.

Mary Pearson being cited compeared and is cited to compear before the Presbytery at their next meeting.

Cumnock July 20th 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except James Mcgeachin, William Rankin and John Templeton.

Elizabeth Williamson appeared in publick upon the sixth instant for a 3rd time, upon the thirteenth for a fourth time, and this day for a fifth time on all which days she was rebucked and exhorted and this day appointed further to wait on the Session in the afternoon. She waited according to appointment and was rebucked and exhorted to repentance and having given the Session evidence of her knowledge they agreed to her being absolved this day fourteen days upon her giving then suitable satisfaction to the Congregation on expressions of sorrow for her said sin.

There being a flagrant report of Jean Wallace her being with child in uncleanness, wherefore the Session order her to be cited to compear before them this day fourteen days being the third day of April next.

Cumnock August 3rd 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except William Rankin and John Vallance.

It is unanimously agreed to that the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper shall, God willing, be dispensed in this Congregation this day fourteen days and the intimation thereof shall be made this forenoon.

Eodem Die the Session met in the afternoon

Members all present except James Mcgeachin and William Rankin.

The Intimation of the Lord's Supper being to be dispensed in this Congregation was made in the forenoon according to appointment.

Jean Wallace being cited compeared and owned her self with child in uncleanness and being much dealt with to be ingenous she gave as the father of her child John Dalziel in Dykes.

The Session order John Dalziel to be cited to compear before them upon Thursday next and she the said Jean Wallace is cited apud acta to that Diet.

Elizabeth Williamson compeared not in publick this day according to appointment.

Cumnock August 7th 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except James Mcgeachin and William Rankin.

Jean Wallace being cited compeared and adhered to her accusation.

John Dalziel being cited compeared and denied guilt with the above Jean Wallace and because of the approaching of the Communion, the session delay them till Sabbath come a fourth night and cites them both apud acta to that Diet. The Session appoint Munday next for prayer and concerting of the Communion Roll.

Cumnock August 8th 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except James Mcgeachin.

The Minister and Elders met and after prayer concerted the Communion Roll as follows.

Cumnock August 24th 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except James Mcgeachin and William Rankin.

Jean Wallace and John Dalziel being cited and compeared, she adhered to her accusation and he to his denial. The Session incline to refer them for sometime.

Cumnock September 7th 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except John Templeton, William Rankin & George McCartney.

The Minister reports annent John Dalziel and Jean Wallace that the Presbytery order John to converse with the Ministers of Ochiltree & Auchinleck towards his conviction and confession and both to be cited to compear before the Session this day eight days to have this intimated to them, and accordingly the Session order them to be cited to that Diet.

The Session order James Campbell to be cited to compear before them this day eight days in order to his being appointed to appear in publick to make profession of repentance and be rebuked for his sin and scandal of fornication with Jannet Samson, Jean Aird and Elizabeth Williamson.

Cumnock September 14th 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except James Mcgeachin, John Templeton, George Muir & Andrew Wilson.

John Dalziel and Jean Wallace being cited compeared, she still adheres to her accusation and he to his denial, whereupon the Presbytery's appointment annent them was intimated to them.

James Campbell being cited compeared and was appointed to appear in public the next Lord's Day.

There being a flagrant report of Agnes Dunlop's being with child in uncleanness wherefore the Session appoint her to be cited to compear before them this day eight days.

Cumnock September 21st 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except William Rankin and George McCartney.

James Campbell appeared this day in publick for the first time and was rebucked and continued.

Agnes Dunlop being cited compeared and owned her self with child in uncleanness

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and being much dealt with to be ingenuous, gave as to the father of her child a Kilmarnock lad, who as she says was taken on to be a soldier and had been an apprentice to a shoemaker in Kilmarnock,

but could not give his name, but promises to get notice of his name against the next Lord's Day on which day she is cited to compear before the Session.

Cumnock September 25th 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except James Mcgeachin, William Rankin and Andrew Wilson.

James Campbell not appearing this day in publick according to appointment wherefore the Session ordered him to be cited to compear before them this day eight days.

Agnes Dunlop being cited compeared and offered a bit of written paper (alleging that she had forgot the name that was contained in it), bearing the name of one John Shaw, son to one John Shaw, Fetcher in Kilmarnock now a soldier in Effingham Howard's Regiment. She is now ordered to get the name of his Captain and Sergeant with whom he was recruiting and to give an account before the Session this day three weeks.

Cumnock October 6th 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except William Rankin and Andrew Wilson.

James Campbell being cited compeared not order him to be cited for a second time against this day eight days.

Cumnock October 13th 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except William Rankin and John Templeton.

James Campbell being cited compeared not order him to be cited for a third time against this day eight days.

This day Robert Douglas is chosen to attend the Presbytery with the Minister as Ruling Elder til the next Synod.

Cumnock October 13th 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except James Mcgeachin, William Rankin and George Muir.

James Campbell being cited compeared not, wherefore the Session refer him to the Presbytery for advice.

Agnes Dunlop being cited compeared not, order her to be cited to compear this day eight days.

Cumnock October 26th 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel, Minister, Robert Douglas, Alexander Drummond, Alexander Vallance, George Murdoch, Andrew Wilson, John Vallance and William Rae.

The Session appoint Jannet Paterson, John Mcgeachin and Agnes Dunlop to be cited to compear before them this day eight days, Agnes Dunlop having not compeared this day according to the citation.

Cumnock November 2nd 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except William Rankin and George Muir.

Jannet Paterson being cited compeared and adhered to her accusation and had nothing further to add to what she said.

John Mcgeachin being cited compeared not and therefore the Session refer them again to the Session for advice.

Agnes Dunlop being ill could not compear this day, appoint her if she recovers health to be cited to compear before the Session this day eight days.

There being a flagrant report of Jannet Cadow and Ann Hair their being with child in uncleanness wherefore the Session order them to be cited to compear before them this day eight days.

Cumnock November 9th 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except William Rankin, George McCartney and George Muir.

Agnes Dunlop being cited compeared and adhered to her former accusation and said that she had no other marks to give, but said that when the above Shaw was guilty with her he was with one Sergeant Green in Captain Maen's company in the Regiment above named when he was recruiting in this town. She is referred to the Presbytery for advice.

Jannet Cadow being cited compeared and owned her self with child in uncleanness and being much dealt with to be ingenuous gave as the father of her child John Fergusson in this town. The Session

appointed John Fergusson to be cited to compear before them upon Sabbath next and Jannet Cadow is cited apud acta to that Diet.

Ann Hair being cited compeared and after she was much press'd to be ingenuous she owned her self with child in uncleanness and accused James Campbell brother of the Laird of Horescleugh as the father of her child, and said she had no presumptions but that he having caught her in the way coming by Horsecleugh when it was dark about the beginning of Jume last, that she had told Margaret Forrest servitrix to George Tennant in Cumnock that the above James Campbell had abused her and that he had Helen Weir, servitrix in Horsecleugh come to her the said Anne and ask her if she was with child several times, and that in the house of David Murdoch, Taylor in this town before the said David and his wife and their son William Murdoch, Thomas Wallace, son to Hugh Wallace in this town being also present when he i.e. James Campbell said the word was going that Ann Hair was with child and threatened her if she should give it to him.

It's also informed by a member of the Session that Isobel Moor in this town said she heard him talking of the said Anne's being with child and threatened that if she presumed to give it to him he would send her to the Correction house. Ann Hair is cited apud acta to compear before the Session upon Thursday and James Campbell is appointed to be cited to that Diet if at home.

The Minister reports from the Presbytery that the above James Campbell is by their advice and appointment to be cited to compear before them so soon as he comes to the country in the time of the March **vaxance?? (vacance? holiday?)**

The minister likewise reports that Mary Pearson is to be cited to compear before the Presbytery upon the seventh day of January next.

The minister reports also that the Presbytery not having time to consider the case of John Mcgeachin and Jannet Patterson and the case of Alexander Crichton and Marion Wilson are to do it at their next meeting the 7th January next.

The Session order Alexander Crichton and Marion Wilson, notwithstanding their case was referred to the Presbytery to be cited to compear before them next Lord's Day that they may deal further with their consciences in order to bring them to a confession.

Cumnock November 13th 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel, Minister, Alexander Drummonde, George Murdoch, Andrew Hodge, George McCartney, John Templeton, William Rae and John Vallance.

Anne Hair being cited compeared and adhered to her accusation.

James Campbell being cited compeared and said that Anne Hair was an infamous woman and a common whore and that he would prove her to be so, and was not obliged to answer her accusation. The Session told him that that was not the right way to answer them and that he would do well to answer directly to the questions and presumptions that was laid before him. He said that as to having threatened her in case she should give him the child, it was true. But as to his bidding Helen Weir ask her if she was with child, he denys it and denyes his having been guilty with her at all or his having met with her in that place viz: in the way, coming by Horsecleugh.

Mr Campbell upon his coming in again desired the session would mark that the manner of his threatening her the above Anne in David Murdoch's house was by bidding David's wife go tell that infamous whore that if she offered to him that child he would gar* put her into the Correction House.

**gar = to force or compel/make a person do something*

Ann Hair alledges in Mr Campbell's presence for further presumptions that at ?Cumnock (page damaged) Fair in October last at night (she being in John Thomson's in the town)

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(some) one whistled at the back door and she was sent to answer and found Mr Campbell with whom she went in to a little house by themselves at the back side of John Thomson's house and that Marion McCowan, John Thomson's wife came in there and heard her accusing Mr Campbell of being guilty of uncleanness with her and he denying and saying if she gave her child to him he would cause put her in the correction house.

Mr Campbell owns that he did whistle at the back door wanting John Thomson or his wife, and Anne Hair coming to answer Mr Campbell said to her how come ye to give your child to me as I am told up and down the town and ye know that I had never any thing to do with you and if ye skeak* any more of my name that way, I will cause put you in the correction house.

**skeak = Possibly sheek/sheak – insincere chatter.*

And for presumptions Anne further alledges, that Mr Campbell in his way from Air Fair last desired Agnes Donald in this town to get a word of Anne Hair to him, but Agnes sent not for her, and that then he said to Agnes that he had been guilty with Anne Hair but not at the time she alledged which he intirely denies.

James Campbell and Anne Hair are peremptorily cited to compear before the Session the next Lord's Day.

Helen Weir, Marion Mccowan, and Agnes Donald are appointed to be cited to that Diet.

Cumnock November 16th 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except William Rankin and George Muir.

James Campbell and Anne Hair being cited compeared.

Helen Weir being cited compeared aged about eighteen unmarried and being solemnly sworn and purged of malice and partial council depones that James Campbell never bad(e) her come and ask the above Anne if she was with child, and that this is the truth as she shall answer to God, and because she cannot write desires the Clerk to subscribe for her – John Steel, Moderator. William Rae.

Mr Campbell desired that Helen Weir might be asked whether or not at Cumnock Fair last Ann Hair came to her, and touched on her and said I have a crow to pluck with you and said how come you and Mr James and the rest of the Horsecleugh family to say that I am with child, and said, if I be

neither you nor he shall ever be troubled with it. Which the Session are not clear to interrogate the witness upon, because she had declared the thing before she was askt.

Marion McCowan being cited compeared aged about fifty married and being solemnly sworn and purged of malice and partial counsel depones that she does not remember any such thing and this is the truth as she shall answer to God, and declares she cannot write & desires the Clerk to subscribe for her. John Steel, moderator. William Rae.

Mr Campbell desired Marion McCowan to be interrogate if that about an year or an half ago when Anne Hair came in to the said Marion's House, there being a sergeant and two soldiers present, Marion took the above Anne by the shoulders and put her to the door, and said ye common limmer ye shall not be here, it being your practice to follow soldiers and strangers that come to the town, which the Session delayed, it not having been proposed nor the relevancy judged before.

Agnes Donald being cited compeared aged about fifty, married and being solemnly sworn and purged of malice and partial counsel depones that at the time alledged Mr Campbell was in their house and desired her to cause Anne Hair to come and speak to him, which Agnes did not do, and depones that she cannot be positive whether he said he was not guilty with her for these three or four years past or not. Which is all she has to say as she shall answer to God, and because she cannot write desires the Clerk to subscribe for her. John Steel, Moderator. William Rae.

The Session delays Margaret Forrest being a single witness

In regard Mr Campbell is to go shortly to Edinburgh this affair is delayed till he return, as is believed in March next.

Janet Cadow being cited compeared and adhered to her accusation.

John Fergusson being cited compeared and owned guilt with Jannet Cadow. The Session rebuked and exhorted them to repentance, appointed them to appear in publick next Lord's Day to make profession of repentance.

Marion Wilson being cited compeared and adhered to her accusation.

Alexander Crichton being cited compeared and continues his denyal and says that he had forgot when formerly he affirmed that he was in the house of William Mccrone in Hole all night that night she alledges the child was begot, and to which the birth of the child comes within three days. And now alleges that upon Munday's night of the week of Mauchline Fair last year he was all night in the house of George Mortan in Barnmalloch in Dalegean Parish and offers to prove it by John and Hugh Mortans, shoe makers in this town.

Marion alledges further presumptions that one Jannet Pearson, daughter to James Pearson, late in Wattstoune will prove that Alexander Crichton came in to Marion's house in the night time when the said Jannet & she were in bed and that when she told him the said Jannet was in bed with her, he went away, whereas he had said he was never in her house since he was formerly guilty with her but in publick company. The Session delay them for some time.

John Mcgeachin appeared this day ultroneously and owns guilt with the above Jannet Paterson. He is cited peremptorily to compear before the Session this day eight days and Jannet is appointed to be cited to that Diet.

Cumnock November 23rd 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except William Rankin, George Muir and Andrew Wilson.

This day Jannet Cadow appeared in publick for a first time & was rebucked and continued.

John Fergusson compeared not according to appointment.

Jannet Paterson and John Mcgeachin being cited compeared and were rebucked for their above sin and scandal of fornication and appointed to appear in publick the next Lord's Day to make profession of repentance.

Cumnock November 30th 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except William Rankin and John Templeton

Janet Cadow appeared this day in publick for a second time and was rebucked and appointed to wait on the Session in the afternoon which appointment she kept and answering several questions satisfyngly the Session condescended to her absolution this day fourteen days, she giving then suitable words and satisfaction to the Congregation.

Jannet Paterson appeared this day in publick for a first time and was rebucked and continued.

The Session appoint Alexander Crichton and Marion Wilson to be cited to compear before them this day fourteen days.

Cumnock December 14th 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except William Rankin and Andrew Wilson

(Page damaged) Jannet Cadow compeared this day in publick... was rebucked & continued

Alexander Crichton being cited and called compeared not. The Session order him to be cited to compear before them this day eight days.

Marion Wilson being cited compeared and is cited against this day eight days.

Jannet Paterson appeared this day in publick for a 2nd time & was rebucked and continued.

Cumnock December 21st 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except John Templeton, William Rankin and George Muir.

Alexander Crichton being cited compeared not and is appointed to be cited for a third time to compear before the Session this day eight days, and

Marion Wilon being cited compeared and is cited apud acta to that Diet.

Jannet Paterson being continued compeared in publick this day for a third time being to her a relapse & and she was rebucked and continued.

Cumnock December 28th 1735.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except William Rankin , John Templeton and John Vallance.

Alexander Crichton appeared neither this day eight days not this day in publick as he should have done according to appointment.

Marion Wilson appeared this day eight days in publick and was rebucked and continued appearing likewise this day in publick and was rebucked and continued.

Jannet Paterson appeared in publick this day for a fifth time and was rebucked and exhorted to repentance and appointed to wait on the Session in the Evening which she did and being then further rebucked and exhorted to repentance , but she being found to be ignorant and not appearing to be sensible of her sin, the Session therefore order her to converse with the Minister or some other members of the Session in order to improve her knowledge and make her more sensible of her sin and delays her for some time for that purpose.

Elizabeth Williamson compeared this day ultroneously before the Session and was rebucked for her above sin and too long delaying her appearing in publick according to the above appointment annent her & is now appointed to appear in publick for a sixth time the next Lord's Day in order to her being absolved.

Cumnock January 18th 1736.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except William Rankin, John Templeton, George Muir, Andrew Wilson and John Vallance.

Marion Wilson appeared this day in publick for a third time and was rebucked & continued, being a relapse.

Elizabeth Williamson appeared this day in publick for a sixth time and was rebucked and absolved.

Cumnock January 29th 1736.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel, Minister, Robert Douglas, Alexander Drummond, William Rae and James Howat.

Marion Wilson appeared this day in publick and was continued.

(Page damaged) The Session appoint John Dalziel to be cited to appear before them... both next that they may further deal with his conscience towards a confession.

Jean Wallace is appointed to be cited likewise to that Diet.

The Session appoint Mary Pearson to compear before them upon Sabbath next.

Cumnock February 1st 1736.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except William Rankin, George Muir and Alexander Vallance.

Marion Wilson appeared this day in publick for a fifth time and was rebucked and appointed to wait on the Session in the Evening and waiting according to appointment and being further rebucked and exhorted to repentance and was told that Presbytery was to be advised with in her case before she could be absolved.

Mary Pearson being cited compeared and was told that Andrew Simson the person whom she accused was assolzied* by the Presbytery and that the Presbytery was to be advised with anew in her case.

**assolzied = assolzied – a legal term in Scotland meaning to be absolved or forgiven*

The Session order Alexander Crichton and John Fergusson to be cited to compear before them this day fourteen days being the fifteenth instant.

Jean Wallace and John Dalziel being cited compeared. She adhered to her accusation and he to his denial. They were told that this matter is to be laid before the Presbytery anew.

Cumnock February 15th 1736.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel, Minister, Robert Douglas, Alexander Drummond, Alexander Johnstone and James Howat.

Alexander Crichton being cited and called compeared not, the Session appoint him to be cited for a second time to compear before them this day eight days.

John Ferguson being cited compeared and after he was rebucked for his said sin, and exhorted to repentance was appointed to appear in publick next Lord's Day to make profession of repentance.

Jannet Paterson having conversed with some of the members of the Session according to appointment and she appearing to be more sensible of her case was appointed by the Session to appear in public the next Lord's Day for a sixth time, and upon her giving satisfying expressions of her sorrow for her sin to be then absolved.

Cumnock February 22nd 736.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel, Minister, Robert Douglas, Alexander Drummond, Alexander Johnstone, George Murdoch and James Howat.

Alexander Crichton being cited and called compeared not, appoint him to be cited for a third time against this day eight days.

John Ferguson appeared this day in publick for a first time and was rebucked and continued.

Jannet Patterson appeared this day in publick for a sixth time and giving satisfying expressions of her sorrow for her said sin was rebucked, exhorted and absolved.

The Minister reports that the Presbytery have appointed Marion Wilson to be absolved.

Cumnock February 29th 1736.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except William Rankin and George McCartney.

Alexander Crichton being cited compeared and was rebucked and exhorted to repentance and appointed to appear in publick next Lord's Day to make profession of repentance for his said sin.

John Fergusson appeared this day in publick for a second time and was rebucked and exhorted to repentance & appointed to wait on the Session in the afternoon which he did and being further rebucked and exhorted and satisfying the Session as to his knowledge and appearing serious and grieved for his said sin the Session agreed to his being absolved the next Lord's Dy he giving then satisfying expressions of sorrow before the Congregation.

The Session appoint John Mcgeachin to be cited to compear before them this day eight days.

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Cumnock March 6th 1736.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except William Rankin, John Templeton and John Vallance.

Alexander Crichton appeared this day in publick for a first time and was rebucked exhorted to repentance and continued.

John Fergusson appeared this day in publick for a third time and was rebucked and exhorted to repentance and absolved having given suitable satisfying expressions of his sorrow for his said sin before the Congregation.

John Mcgeachin being cited compeared and is appointed to appear in publick the next Lord's Day to make profession of repentance and be rebucked for his above sin and scandal of fornication with Jannet Paterson.

The case of Jean Wallace and John Dalziel not being yet laid before the Presbytery therefore the Session appoint the said Jean and John to be cited to compear before them this day eight days that they may cite them to appear before the Presbytery upon the fifth day of May next.

Cumnock March 14th 1736.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except William Rankin and George Muir.

Alexander Crichton appeared this day in publick for a second time and was rebucked and continued.

Jean Wallace and John Dalziel being cited and called compeared. She adhered to her accusation and he to his denial. Therefore the Session desire the minister and Elder that is to attend th Prebytery with him to lay this matter before the Presbytery upon Wednesday next at Air for their final advice.

John Mcgeachin appeared this day in publick for a first time and was rebucked & exhorted to repentance and continued.

The Session order Ann Hair and Robert Campbell he being now come home, to be cited to compear before them this day eight days.

Cumnock March 21st 1736.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except William Rankin, Andrew Hodge and Alexander Vallance.

Alexander Crichton appeared this day in public for a third time and was rebuked and continued being a relapse to him.

John Mcgeachin appeared this day in public for a second time and was rebuked and exhorted to repentance and appointed to wait on the Session in the afternoon, he waited on the Session and was further rebuked and exhorted to repentance and upon what evidence he gave the Session of his knowledge they agreed to his absolution next Lord's Day he giving then further Testimony of his sorrow for his sin and repentance before the Congregation.

Ann Hair and James Campbell being cited compeared, she adhered to her allegation and he to his denyal therefore the Session refer them to the Presbytery next after the Synod being to meet on the fifth day of May next to which Dyet of the Presbytery they are cited.

The Session order Mary Pearson to be cited to compear before them this day fourteen days in order to be appointed to appear in public.

Cumnock April 4th 1736.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except William Rankin.

Alexander Crichton appeared in public for a fourth time and was rebuked and continued.

Mary Pearson being cited compeared and after serious exhortation was appointed to appear in publick the next Lord's Day to make profession of repentance and to be rebuked for her above sin and scandal.

Cumnock April 11th 1736.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except William Rankin, John Templeton, Alexander Drummond, Alexander Vallance and George Muir.

Alexander Crichton appeared this day in publick for a fifth time and was rebuked, exhorted to repentance and appointed to wait on the Session in the afternoon which he did and after he was further rebuked and exhorted to repentance the Session upon what evidence he gave them as to his knowledge and appearance of seriousness agreed to his absolution the next Lord's Day he giving then some suitable expressions of sorrow for his said sin before the Congregation.

Mary Pearson appeared this day in publick for a first time and was rebuked and exhorted to repentance and continued.

The Minister reports now from the Presbytery that having neglected to lay the affair of Jean Wallave and John Dalziel before the preceeding Presbytery, he did it at the last, upon the Session ordered the said Jean and John to be cited to compear before them this day eight days being the 18th instant that they may hear if she has any further presumptions and cite them to compear before the Presbytery at Air upon the fifth day of Air next.

Cumnock April 18th 1736.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except William Rankin and Andrew Wilson.

Alexander Crichton appeared this day in publick for a sixth time and was rebuked exhorted to repentance and absolved.

Mary Pearson appeared this day in publick for a second time and was rebuked, exhorted to repentance an, and appointed to wait on the Session in the afternoon which she did and being further rebuked and exhorted to repentance and answering several questions that were put to her tollerably well, but her case being singular the Session thin it fit to advise the Presbytery before they put her to absolution.

(John) Jean Wallace and John Dalziel being cited compeared. She adhered to her accusation and he to his denial. Jean Wallace give a presumption of her having been imposed upon to accuse another person before she accused John Dalziel. That the said John's father on the Lord's Day following the accusing of another person in presence of Alexander Mccrone and his wife Margaret Mitchel, and James McCally threatened that unless Jean Wallace would go to the Session and accuse him whom she had accused before, he would not suffer her to stay in Alexander Mccrone's house, nor him to give her either meat or drink, Robert Dalziel being the said Alexander Mccrone's master and offers the above three persons for proof. And that after her first accusing another person, John Dalziel owns that his mother, his brother William and his sister Anne were all present and that his father being present and joined with his brother William in sending for the nearest Elder to hear Jean Wallace's accusation. And that after Jean Wallace's being with child broke out she went off and left the family, and after she had gone the length of Garralland Hillhead about half a mile distant, John's brother William followed her upon a horse and brought her back again, and after that the same day, missing his brother and Jean Wallace he went out and found them conversing together between two **bear* ?ridys** and the very same day also they met in their Colliers Alexander Mccrones house as above, and heard her accuse another person. The Session cite them peremptorily to compear before them this day fourteen days being the second day of May next and order the Officer to cite Alexander Mccrone and his wife Margaret Mitchel to that Dyet for proving what relates to Robert Dalziel.

James McCally being out of the country and therefore cannot be got cited.

The above Jean Wallace and John Dalziel are likewise preremptorily cited to compear before the Presbytery at Air upon the fifth day of May next.

George McCartney is appointed as ruling Elder to attend the Presbytery with the Minister till the next Synod.

**bear – probably barley*

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From this date there is a new scribe/clerk – from the entry on 23rd May, it appears that this is Mr Robert Douglas.

Cumnock May 2nd 1736.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except John Templeton, William Rankin, Andrew Hodge and John Vallance.

(Mcgeachin absolved)

John Mcgeachin appeared in publick this day eight days being the twinty fifth day of April and was rebuked exhorted and on what further he then gave of his repentance was absolved.

(Jean Wallace continues to accuse, John Dalziel to deny. Alexander McCrone and Margaret Mitchel their declaration anent John Dalziel and Jean Wallace.)

Jean Wallace and John Dalziel being cited compeared. She adhered to her accusation and he to his denial.

Alexander Mccrone and his wife Margaret Mitchell being cited compeared and being exhorted to be ingenuous upon the above allegiance both owned that Robert Dalziel came to their house, upon the Sabbath morning and discharged them to harbour Jean Wallace because she would not go to the Session and tell the truth as she had done the foregoing Friday, befor George McCartney, the latter clause of the sentence viz, as she had done the foregoing Friday befor George McCartney was remembered only by Margaret Mitchell.

John Dalziel desired George McCartney and Margaret Mitchell to be askt if the time she accused another person Robert Dalziel did not ask her, if it was any of his sons, she was guilty with, and if she did not answer that none of his familie should be troubled with it both of them being askt accordingly said it was so.

Cumnock May 2nd 1736.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except William Rankin.

The Minister reports from the Presbytery, as to Mary Pearson that the Session might delay her absolution for several days if they thought it for edification.

As to John Dalziel and Jean Wallace, the Presbytery advise that he be yet further dealt with, and try as to his willingness to purge himself by oath and that the of purgation be shewed to him to consider to that effect.

As to James Campbell and Anne Hair, she offering what proof Marion Mccowan was adduced to prove as above, Isbell Mair, Janet Sutor her daughter and Janet Weir all in Cumnock, with Hugh Good, smith at the Kirk of Auchinleck, the Presbytery appoint them to be examined. She likewise offering to prove that about the time of her taking with child James Campbell chapping one night at her mother's door when it was late, Margaret Forrest, Servant to George Tennant in Cumnock who lives hard by Anne Hair's mother's house, not being gone to bed went to their door or window, and Mr Campbell when she heard him chapping as above asked him what he wanted, that he answered that he wanted Anne Hair, that Margaret told him that she was not in her mother's house but was (being to ly with her the said Margaret that night) gone to bed, and that James Campbell desired Margaret to raise her, and cause her come and speak to him in the Laigh Room, which Margaret accordingly did, and Ann accordingly went, & her offering for proof the said Margaret Forrest the Presbytery advise that Margaret be also examined at James Campbell's desire anent what she knows of James Campbell and Ann Hair's meeting together at the time and place Anne alledges he was guilty with her, accordingly the Session now appoint all the said witnesses to be summoned to

compear before them this day fourteen days. Hugh Good in the Parish of Auchinleck being to be cited by their own Session as the Minister was advertised by the Presbytery.

Appoints tomorrow the following committee to meet for revising Treasurer's Accompts: Robert Douglas, Alexander Johnstone, Alexander Drummond and James Howat and that upon the said Committee's satisfaction he being discharged being obliged to leave this place this week and go to officiate as schoolmaster at Kirkcudbright and James Howat is chosen Treasurer in his place.

Cumnock May 23rd 1736.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Alexander Vallance, George Muir, George McCartney and Alexander Drummond.

This Day Mr Robert Douglas was admitted Session Clerk.

This day it is reported by the Committee that Mr William Rae Treasurer, his accompts were revised and approven and he discharged according to appointment.

James Campbell being called compeared not, Anne Hair being called compeared. They both having been cited peremptorily by the Presbytery and no excuse from him they proceed to call the witnesses and accordingly

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Isbell Mair being call'd compear'd and contemptuously refused to depone, wherewith the Magistrate is to be acquainted by the Minister and if the Session think fit the Presbytery.

Margaret Forrest being call'd compear'd aged about eighteen, unmarried, being purged pf malice and partial counsil depones that one evening about the beginning of June last, Anne Hair told her that in coming from Glaisnock home she had seen James Campbell in the park and that that Margaret asked her if sge went to him, and that she then denyed but afterwards before the word og her being with child broke out, she told the said Margaret that she had the above night been guilty with James Campbell.

Margaret Forrest likewise depones that she does not positively remember wheither or not she heard James Campbell knocking at Ann Hair's mother's door or window, but remembers that he and another gentleman being along with him, came to Margaret's master's doot and knock'd, and Margaret answering him asked whom he wanted and that he asked if Ann Hair was there, and when Margaret told him she was there he desired her to cause Anne come into the Close head Chamber, and get a drink of ale with him, which she accordingly did, but does not remember whither she told him that Anne was gone to bed or not, but says that her master went in with Anne but is not positive whither he stayed till Anne came out or not, but says that she stayed not long.

As to Margaret having said that James Campbell was not within the breadth of the park of Anne at that time, Margaret does not remember: either her or Anne saying any such thing depones she

cannot write and desires the Clerk to subscribe for her. – John Steel, Moderator. Robert Douglas, Clerk.

Janet Weir being called compeared not, is appointed to be cited gainst next Lord's Day and the Clerk is to write to the Minister of Auchinleck to cause cite Janet Sutor, servant in Wallacetoun, to compear before this Session Sabbath next, or Sabbath come eight days which he first can, and to get his notice, as also Hugh Good of that paroch.

Cumnock May 30th 1736.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except John Templeton and Andrew Wilson.

James Campbell being call'd compear'd, Anne Hair being call'd also compear'd.

Compear'd Hugh Good as a witness excusing himself that he could not compear last Lord's Day because of their Communion, aged about forty eight years, married, purg'd of malice and partial counsel, depones that the time lybelled the deponent bing in the house of the said John Thomson, he saw Mr Campbell there taking a chopping of ale with some company and saw Ann Hair there serving as he thought, that he saw Mr Campbell go out and Anne Hair go out some little time after, but did not see them speak or give any sign to one another and staid out the time the deponent and two other with him drank a chopping of ale and then he returned and sh some little time after and depones that this is the truth as he shall answer to God. Sic Scribitur – Hugh Good. John Steel, Moderator.

Janet Weir being called compear'd aged about sixty, unmarried purged of malice and partial counsel depones that she neither heard not saw Mr Campbell and Anne Hair together in the little house at that time as is alledged but only heard Janet Sutor say it and this is the truth as she shall answer to God and declares she cannot write and desires the Clerk to subscribe for her Sic Subscibitur – John Steel, Moderator, Robert Douglas, Clerk.

The Session having received no execution cannot call Janet Sutor but order the Clerk to write to the Minister of Auchinleck to cause cite her gainst next Lord's Day.

The Session agree to lend to Hugh Brown (*unreadable*) Scotts money till Martinmess next to come.

John Dalziel desiring to speak to the Session, was called in, and confest his alleged guilt with Jean Wallace and profess'd himself grieved for it, and for his long denyall and being rebuked, is appointed to appear in publick next Lord's Day, to make profession of his repentance

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Cumnock June 6th 1736.

Session met after prayer.

Sederunt Mr John Steel, Robert Douglass, George Murdoch, George Muir, Alexander Vallance and Andrew Wilson.

It being informed that Janet Sutor cannot attend for sickness but will as soon as she is able they excuse her and delay till she be present and order Isbell Mair to be cited to attend next Lord's Day in case she may become sensible of her folly.

John Dalziel appeared this day in publick for the first time was rebuked and continued.

Cumnock June 15th 1736.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Alexander Vallance.

This day John Dalziel appeared in publick for a second time, was rebuked and appointed to wait on the Session, where he was further rebuked, and exhorted to repentance, and the Session, upon what evidence he gave of his repentance agree to his being absolved this day fourtnight upon giving some suitable expression of his sorrow for his sin and scandal before the Congregation.

Janet Sutor was call'd this day and compeared, aged about eighteen, unmarried, being purged of malice and partial coustell depones that she standing the night lybelled in her mother's door heard Anne Hair greeting* loud in John Thomson's little house, but knows not who was with her, and this is the truth as she shall answer to God, depones she cannot write and desired the Clerk to subscribe for her. Sic Subscritur – Robert Douglass, Session Clerk.

**greeting - crying*

Isbell Mair being call'd compeared, aged about sixty seven, purged of malice and partial counsel depones that being in her own house she heard Ann Hair greeting but knows not where she was nor who was with her and depones that this is the truth as she shall answer to God. Declares she cannot write and desires the Clerk to subscribe for her. Sic Subscritur – John Steel, Moderator. Robert Douglass, Session Clerk.

Cumnock June 27th 1736.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present.

This day John Dalziel appeared in publick for a third time and was rebuk'd and absolved.

Cumnock July 11th 1736.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except George Muir.

This day it is resolved that the Sacrament on the Lord's Supper be dispensed in this place this day fourtnight and the members are to meet on the 12th instant for o=prayer and for concerting their Roll.

Cumnock July 12th 1736.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Andrew Wilson.

This day after prayer by several members they agreed to concert their Role wick Roll being drawn up and contain'd in a separate paper is approven by all their members.

Cumnock July 25th 1736.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present.

This day Jean Wallace applyed to the Session desiring to be absolved was call'd in and appointed to appear in publick this day fourtnight.

There being a flagrant report of James Finlay, carier in this town, his having gone away with Agnes Mitchell and there being married irregularly, the Session order them to be cited gainst this fourtnight.

There being a flagrant report of Robert Richmond, his being lately drunk the Session order him to be cited gainst this day fourtnight.

Cumnock August 8th 1736.

Members all present except George McCartney.

James Finley and Agnes Mitchell being called compear'd, own'd their marriage & were rebuked for their disorder and professed themselves sorry for it, produced a certificate of their marriage which is to be laid before the Presbytery for advice.

Robert Richmond being called compeared, owned himself overtaken in drink, profess'd himself sorry for it, was rebuked and dismissed.

This day Jean Wallace appeared in publick for the first time and was rebuked and continued.

P.130**Cumnock August 22nd 1736.**

Session mett and constitute*.

Members all present.

**constitute – opened formally*

This day Jean Wallace compeared in publick for a second time, was further rebuked ad ordered to wait upon the Session; and having done so accordingly on evidence of her repentance given by her she is ordered to compear next Lord's Day, and upon her suitable behaviour then to be absolved.

Cumnock August 29th 1736.

Session mett and constitute.

Members all present except George McCartney.

This day Jean Wallace appeared in publick for athird time and upon professing repentance for her sin and scandal was rebuked, absolved and dismiss'd.

Cumnock September 12th 1736.

Session mett and constitute.

Members all present.

The Session order the Officer to cite James Campbell and Anne Hair gainst this day fourtnight.

Marion Wilson desirung to speak to the Session was call'd in and being examined as to her knowledge and professing repentance for her sin was ordain'd to compear in publick this day fourtnight in order to be absolved upon then giving suitable evidence of her repentance.

There being a flagrant report of Mary Pearson, her being guilty of uncleanness the Session appoint her to be cited gainst this day fourtnight.

Cumnock September 26th 1736.

Session mett and constitute.

Members all present except George McCartney.

This day Marion Wilson appeared in publick for a sixth time, and upon professing repentance was absolved and dismissed.

James Campbell being call'd compeared not.

Anne Hair being call'd compeared. She was appointed to compear befor the Presbytery at Ayr the last Wednesday of October next.

Mary Pearson being call'd compeared and own'd her self with child in uncleanness and being much dealth with to act genuously, she gave up John Dunbar in Auchingibbet as father of her child. The Session appoint him to be cited gainst next Lord's Day and they cite her apud acta.

The Officer is ordained to cite Mr Campbell gainst next Lord's Day.

Cumnock October 3rd 1736.

Members all present except John Templeton.

Mr Campbell being called compeared and was appointed to compear befor the Presbytery at Ayr the last Wednesday of October next.

Mary Pearson being call'd compeared, adhered to her former accusation.

John Dunbar being call'd compeared and being much dealt with to act genouously denyed guilt with the above Mary Pearson, who being askt if had any presumptions that she could alledge against him answered she had none but said it was the last Saturday of May he was guilty with her, they are both cited to compear before the Session next Lord's Day.

Cumnock October 18th 1736.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Alexander Vallance.

The Minister not having been present last Lord's Day but a probationer in his room*, the Session could not call John Dunbar but now appoint him and Mary Pearson to be cited to compear gainst next Lord's Day.

**room - place*

Cumnock July 25th 1736.

Session mett and constitute.

Members all present except John Templeton.

Mary Samson being call'd compeared adhered to her accusation, and John Dunbar being call'd compeared adhered to his denyall. They are both cited to compear befor the Session this day fourtnight.

The Session this day constitute George McKairtney ruling elder for the following half year.

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Cumnock 31st October 1736.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except John Vallance.

Mary Pearson and John Dunbar were both call'd and compeared she adhered to her accusation and he to his denyall. That after the Session's endeavours proving ineffectuall they think fit that the Minister and Elder lay there case befor the presbytery at their next meeting for advice.

Cumnock November 15th 1736.

Session met and constitute.

This day the Session appoints the following committee to revise the Treasurer's accompts viz: Mr John Steel, Minister, Robert Douglass, Session Clerk with Robert Douglass, Alexander Drummond, Alexander Johnstoun Elders, and accordingly to report.

Cumnock December 26th 1736.

Session mett after prayer.

Members all present except George Muir, George McKairtney.

The committee appointed to revise James Howat the Treasurer's accompts this day report that they find the same just, and accordingly discharge him for the past half year.

There being a flagrant report of Jean Morton, late servant in Leifnorris her being with child in uncleanness, the Session order her to be cited gainst next Lord's Day.

And also that Hugh Thomson in this town his having gone away and been irregularly married to Mary Fleeming, late servant in Borland the Session appoint them to be cited to the said Dyet.

Cumnock January 3rd 1737.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except Andre Wilson.

Jean Morton being called compeared own'd her being guilty of uncleanness with James Morton, cook in Leifnorris who also compeared and own'd his being guilty with the above Jean Morton they both professing themselves sorry for their sin and scandal were rebuked and ordained to compear in publick next Lord's Day.

Hugh Thomson compearing but not Mary Fleeming, they cite them apud acta to compear befor the Session next Lord's Day and order the Officer to cite them to the said Dyet.

The minister reports from the presbytery that they should ... deal with Mary Pearson and John Dunbar... delay them till her labour in child bed.

... to Hugh Thomson and Mary Fleming that they should do with them as seem'd most fit for edification.

Cumnock January 9th 1737.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except John Templeton. Alexander vallance, John Vallance, Andrew Wilson and George Muir.

Hugh Thomson being called compeared not, Mary Fleeming being call'd compear'd. The session cite her apud acta, and ordain the officer to cite Hugh Thomson gainst next Lord's Day because their marriage cannot be judged upon till both be present.

James and Jean Mortons appeared this day in publick for the first time, were rebuked for their sin and scandal of fornication with one another and were continued.

Cumnock January 16th 1737.

Session met after prayer.

Members all present except John templeton, Alexander vallance and John Vallance.

This day James and Jean Mortons appear'd in publick for a 2nd time and were rebuked for their sin and scandal and were ordered to wait upon the Session where being called they both compeared and were further rebuked and exhorted to repentance and upon the evidence they gave of their repentance the Session order'd them to compear in publick next Lord's Day and upon their suitable behaviour then to be absolved.

Hugh Thomson and Mary Fleeming being both called, neither of them compeared having both been peremptorily cited and each of them twice by the officer, the Session order their case to be laid before the Presbytery.

Cumnock January 3rd 1737.

Session mett and constitute.

Members all present.

This day James and Jean Morton appeared in publick for a 3rd time, were further rebuked, absolved and dismissed.

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This entry is not part of the actual Kirk Sessions but appears to be a copy of a Testimonial or referral letter to the Presbytery for James Campbell of Horscleugh, who came to notice in 1735/6 for apparently getting three (possibly four) women pregnant within a few months.

Rev Sir

I send you the following appointment as an extract it being represented by the Session of Cumnock that James Campbell, brother to the Laird of Horscleugh had been sometime ago accused and convicted of his guilt of fornication three severall times with three severall women which he had judicially acknowledged & that he had once appeared in the public place to be rebuked for these.... scandals, whom appointed to appear a 2nd time to be rebuked in the publick place last Lord's Day he had refused to doo it, & did not obey their appointment which contumacy they desired should be laid befor the Presb. the 24th instant which the Presbytery having considered, the did appoint the Session to lay him under the sentence of the lesser ex-communication... same to the (*Page torn off at this point. No further text.*)